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SEPTEMBER 2022

Spring Baking Championship With a Twist

Stephon Cook
celebrates life through
the art of taste

Why Dallas?

The State Fair of
Texas took
a meandering
route to Big D

In the Kitchen With
Isabel Burton

Also inside:
Scavenger Hunt
Crossword

Featured Business:
Trimlight DFW

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Subscriptions are available at the rate of \$35 per year or \$3.50 per issue. Subscriptions should be sent to: NOW Magazines, P.O. Box 1071, Waxahachie, TX 75168. For advertising rates or editorial correspondence, call (817) 477-0990 or visit www.nowmagazines.com.

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Sandra

Sandra Walters
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Mansfield Family ...

As we start the month of September, I'm reminded that Hispanic Heritage Month officially begins on September 15 and concludes October 15. The Hispanic culture is rich and complex. There are a variety of people who identify as Hispanic. Today, this ethnic group is the largest minority in the United States of America.

I always wondered why this celebration took place in the middle of September, so after some research, I discovered September 15 marks the independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Additionally, Mexico's Independence Day is the 16th and Chile's is the 18th. I also learned in 1968 President Lyndon B. Johnson signed a bill to commemorate National Hispanic Heritage Week, and approximately 20 years later, Representative Esteban Torres submitted a bill for Hispanic Heritage Month. Obviously, he took into consideration the independence days of many Latin-American countries.

This month, find out more about the Hispanic culture of individuals who live around us. Some of you possibly celebrate everyday through food, music, art, traditions, education and American contributions. I'm curious about how people observe during this time. I would love to feature them in the future. Please send information of individuals or families who celebrate in distinct ways to sandra.walters@nowmagazines.com. Also, take a look at the cooking feature of Isabel Burton who shares authentic Hispanic dishes.

Let's honor Hispanic heritage!

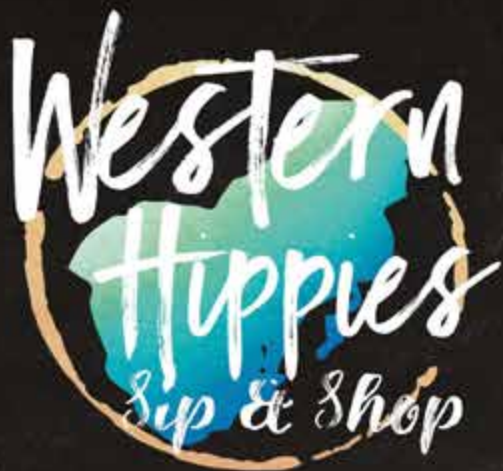
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Spring Baking Championship *With a Twist*

— By Sandra Walters

New Orleans is where Stephon Cook was born and raised. Since he could remember, he has been cooking with his grandmother. “I wanted an Easy-Bake Oven when I was 7 years old, but I was told I couldn’t have one because it was for girls,” he said. “On Christmas Day, my sister received the Easy-Bake Oven that I put on her wish list for Christmas. I sneaked the oven into my room and started baking.”

While cooking with his grandma, he continued to hone his skills. Stephon remarked, “Food brought the family together. All my life, my grandma prepared a Mardi Gras feast for us, especially for those who danced and sang by celebrating the Indian influence in our culture. I

handcrafted costumes and performed with cousins, aunts and uncles by entertaining on the streets of New Orleans. I enjoy dancing because my environment shaped me. I’ve been cooking and dancing simultaneously forever.” He believes a person’s love for cooking is reflected in the dish he or she produces.

“I struggled in school because I am dyslexic,” Stephon admitted. “However, my freshman year of high school I took home economics as an elective, and it gave me more confidence to learn. I started applying my cooking skills to biology and other subjects.” He found cooking to be a universal language, which he applied to everything, and this skill created opportunities for him. School was challenging for him most of his life, but he graduated at the top of his class after learning to manage his academic difficulties.

Following graduation, Stephon prepared to attend Southern University and major in family and consumer science. As he entered college, he joined the Southern University Human Jukebox Marching Band. After late practices, he cooked dinner for fellow band members, preparing them on his hot plate. He learned he could generate income by selling food from his dorm room, and he used this money to assist him in getting by as a college student. The love of band and cooking derailed academic concentration and ultimately encouraged him to pursue his passion as a career.

He eventually discovered a chance to enroll at the soon-to-open Louisiana Culinary Institute, which only had 30 spots available. This





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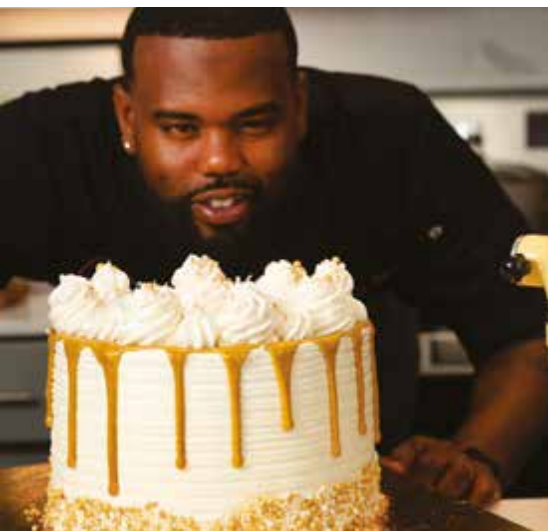


small setting would allow him to focus, so he applied and auditioned. His plan of action worked well, and Stephon received an acceptance letter and the National Restaurant Association scholarship to Louisiana Culinary Institute. There, he intended to pursue a degree in Culinary of Arts in advanced Baking and Pastry. "But soon after, I was in a car accident and declared dead at the scene. However, they revived me at the hospital. I spent weeks in the hospital and was informed if I wasn't in attendance on the first day of classes, I would lose my position. At first, I couldn't walk, but the idea of attending school motivated me to improve. I showed up on the first day using a walker, but I was there," Stephon stated.

He remembers the instructor asking them a question. "What do you want to do in life?" People came to the front of the class and answered the question. "After a few students, I shared my story of almost dying, and I told them that I wanted to open my own cooking school. They laughed almost immediately. To my surprise, they mocked my dreams, but I learned to move forward no matter the discouragement of others. I graduated top of my class. I initially wanted to be a pastry chef, but this experience forced me to explore," Stephon stated.

He talked of making culinary videos and hash tagging shows where he wanted to be featured as a guest. Eventually, Food Network reached out to him, and everything happened quickly. "I was interviewed twice by phone. Then, I received an invitation to fly out to be a contestant on *Spring Baking Championship* Season 8. I didn't get a lot of details, but I packed my things to travel to the big stage. Originally, I thought I would be one of the 12 contestants." However, Stephon

and another contestant were selected to add a twist to the show by having the opportunity to obtain an additional spot. They competed against each other by creating a Mardi Gras float cake. "We engaged in competition with one another, and this was extremely intense," he shared. So much so he thought he burned his cake, but he didn't. One of the contestants had a panic attack. "Although it was difficult, I won a seat at the *Spring Baking Championship* Challenge Table and got my name plate to hang on my station. I made it!"



The next assignment included baking a teacup or saucer as a center piece dessert while working with a partner to complete this task. Also, they were required to make two baked items to accompany the tea party theme. Stephon said, "I made an espresso romano lemon cookie stuffed with white chocolate, a macaroon with fresh raspberries and a cookie topped with a truffle. The contestants and coaches were encouraging and supportive. My time was short, but I will remember one of the judges saying, 'You're going places.' That will stay with me. This was just the beginning!"

"I didn't win overall, but it was one of the best experiences of my life. My name is Stephon Cook which means Crown Cook, so I will live my name out. Cooking with the best bakers in America was an honor. I'm excited about what my journey will bring. I recently moved to the Mansfield area this year, looking for opportunities." Stephon lives by his favorite motto: Celebrating life through the art of taste! **NOW**

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TALES OF TEXAS

WHY DALLAS?

— By Sandra Walters



Did you know the State Fair of Texas didn't originate in Dallas? Actually, it started in Corpus Christi in 1852 as the Lone Star Fair. At that time, there were a few small businesses and roughly 700 people living in this town. The Lone Star Fair event is thought to have primarily occurred on Corpus Christi's beach. Although it is difficult to fathom, this is how and where the tradition began.

One of Corpus Christi's founders, Colonel Henry L. Kinney, desired to share this beautiful area because he thought not many Texans knew about this location. He believed a state fair held by the town would attract people, and once they saw the paradise, they would be sold. He became the fair's manager and convinced a number of well-known citizens to participate in the project.

The Lone Star Fair advertised extensively by distributing flyers throughout the world, promising a variety of entertainment, food and contests. Appealing awards were

offered to promote competitive displays and excellent agricultural entries at the fair. Many of the ranchers, farmers and inventors from across the state showed up to the festivities with a spirit of competition ready to perform or exhibit their creations.

After the fair, there were mixed reviews from the press and significant financial losses. Since the negative outweighed the positive, Corpus Christi didn't move forward with the fair the next year. Also, decades later, a story of a man being shot in the final hours of the Lone Star Fair was revealed, shedding light on the behaviors during the celebration.

The next Texas state fair was held in Dallas seven years later, in 1859. About 2,000 participants took part. The exhibits featured items from rural life, such as farming tools, basic clothing and fresh crops. However, it ended because of financial difficulties, just like the Lone Star Fair.

The following fair wasn't held for some time, but it finally happened in Houston on the Buffalo Bayou in 1870. As a result of the event's instant success, organizers moved to a larger location north of the city two years later and developed a grandstand and racetrack. In order to transport residents from downtown to the festival's entrance, Houston constructed a streetcar line. However, as fate would have it, an economic collapse and a yellow fever epidemic in the late 1870s resulted in the cancellation of the fair.

The state fair moved from Houston to Dallas in 1886 because of the foresight of Dallas business leaders. One of them bought 80 acres in East Dallas for the fair, but other organizers preferred a location farther north. Arguments soon ensued between the businessmen, and they were unable to come to terms. On October 26, 1886, the site of the current Fair Park became the new location of William H. Gaston's Dallas State Fair. The previous day, in what is now Uptown, the competing Texas State Fair and Exposition occurred. Despite both fairs boasting good attendance, the competition resulted in neither of them being able to cover costs, so the next year, the two groups amalgamated to form the State Fair of Texas.

Today, the State Fair of Texas consistently attracts over 2 million attendees yearly. Such enthusiasm from the public has served as motivation to grow the fair's activities over the years. The fair offers opportunities to take part in football games, pig races, pee wee stampedes, pumpkin painting, walking through the livestock barns, visits to the green house, backyard circus, little hands on the farm, children's barnyard, illumination sensation, starlight parade, riding the Ferris wheel, auto shows, taking a picture with Big Tex and more. Another appealing aspect of the fair is the food. Over the years, the corn dog, smoked turkey leg and funnel cake have become the classics, whereas new creative food vendors make unique fried items each year — like fried peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, fried Coke, fried cookie dough, fried beer and fried bubblegum. This intrigues many attendees. These things keep the people attending because they desire to taste or encounter the next big thing or keep the tradition going for the next generation. **NOW**

Sources:

1. bigtex.com
2. texasmnthly.com
3. dmagazine.com
4. texasproud.com

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Zoomed In: Barrett Albright

By Sandra Walters

With the Fieldhouse USA Mansfield courts being prepared for the yearly pickleball event, Barrett Albright and others set up for the 2022 Mansfield Summer Slam-Pickleball Competition. "Pickleball is a fun, sociable activity that mixes elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong utilizing a paddle and a plastic ball with holes," according to Barrett. "Players of all ages and ability levels can enjoy this game."

Pickleball has straightforward rules, making it an ideal sport for beginners. When players gain more expertise, the game may also be highly difficult, competitive and fast-paced. Barrett encourages people to give it a try.



Frankie Goodyear shops in one of Mansfield's local stores.



Andrew Fernandez sports his Brunch 360 shirt with pride.



Zaniyah Brown and David Anderson greet customers with a smile at The UPS Store.



Volunteers set up backpacks for the Mansfield ISD Back to School Bash.



Heather, Collier and Crosby Adams pose for a picture while school shopping.



Natalie Ramirez eats goodies while mom shops.



Tim Cannon catches fish in one of the Mansfield ponds.



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— By Sandra Walters

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Justin Parr's entrepreneurial path began at a very young age. "I started my first business at the age of 11," he said. "My dad offered a 50/50 deal to help me purchase lawn care equipment to get started on my own mowing yards. I continued to cut lawns through college." This is where Justin's business mind was first established. He learned to engage with clients at a young age while creating a strong work ethic.

"I am a product of Mansfield," he added. "I was born and raised here. I graduated from Mansfield Timberview High School, and my parents still live in this area." Justin attended Tarrant County College. Afterwards, he pursued a degree in

finance at Brigham Young University and was hired as an analyst for a development company. While he continued to work there, his business mind worked in overdrive because he could see everything from the owner's perspective. He considered what he would do next in his career.

Justin talked to a friend about a unique way of installing lighting and became intrigued, especially since he and his wife always loved lights. He used to assist his dad with putting the lights on the roof for Christmas. He said, "Since my father was scared of heights, I was the only one who would jump on the roof to install the lights for the holidays."

Eventually, Justin became the general manager for Trimlight in the Seattle area and was shortly after offered an opportunity to open his own location in Texas — Trimlight DFW. He accepted the challenge. Now, they have been in business for six years. "This is a family business," he said. "I am the numbers guy, and my wife, McKayla Parr, does all of the

marketing. Also, one of my cousins, my brother and an aunt work in the business, along with my excellent staff.”

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CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With

ISABEL BURTON

— By Sandra Walters

“I was born in Mexico, but at the age of 17 I moved to Texas,” Isabel Burton said. “I love this country even though I was not born here. I feel blessed because I have Latin and American roots. Now, I’ve lived here longer than my native country.”

Isabel learned to cook and make homemade flour tortillas and desserts with her mother. She said, “I love my culture and wonderful traditions. I’m hoping that one day I will fulfill my dream of having my own baking business. I have been cooking and baking for more than 27 years.” Isabel relates to everything baking, such as cakes and cookies. She enjoys seeing the joy it brings. As she concluded, Isabel said, “I love baking!” **NOW**

Banana Nut Bread

9 cups all-purpose flour
6 tsp. baking soda
3 tsp. salt
3 tsp. cinnamon
3 cups brown sugar
3 cups regular sugar
3/4 cup oil
12 eggs, room temperature

4 Tbsp. vanilla extract
18 bananas
2 cups walnuts

1. Heat the oven to 350 F
2. Place all the ingredients into a mixer; combine.
3. Spray a loaf pan with PAM cooking spray to prevent sticking.
4. Transfer the batter to the pan; bake for 45-50 minutes.

5. Insert a toothpick into the center of the bread. If it is clean, it’s ready to eat.

Orange Cranberry Scones

Scones:

5 Tbsp. butter
5 Tbsp. granulated sugar
2 cups all-purpose flour
1 Tbsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. salt
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 cup heavy whipping cream
1 cup dry cranberries
1 orange, zested

Glaze:

1 Tbsp. powdered sugar
1 medium orange, freshly squeezed
1 orange, zested
1 tsp. milk

1. For scones: Heat the oven to 335 F
2. In a large bowl, whisk together the butter,

sugar, flour, baking powder, salt, vanilla extract, heavy whipping cream, cranberries and the zest of the orange. Gently stir to combine.

- Use a rolling pin to roll the dough into a circle about 1-inch thick.
- Cut the dough into 8 wedges; place the scones on a baking sheet. Brush a little bit of heavy cream onto the wedges.
- Bake 20-25 minutes, or until golden.
- Allow the scones to cool for 10 minutes while preparing the glaze.
- For glaze:* Combine the glaze ingredients. Spread the glaze on the scones; allow to harden and serve.

Mexican Mole Rojo con Pollo (Mexican Red Mole With Chicken)

Chicken:

1 whole chicken, cut in pieces
1 tsp. garlic
1/2 onion, chopped
1 Tbsp. chicken bouillon
Pinch of salt
8 cups water

Sauce:

6 dried guajillo
6 dried chile ancho
5 dried chile pasilla
1/2 cup sesame seeds (divided use)
1/2 pkg. crackers
1 tsp. cumin
2 oz. Abuelita Mexican Chocolate, chopped
5 Tbsp. sugar, to taste
1 tsp. salt, or to taste
2 Tbsp. oil

- For chicken:* Place the chicken, garlic, onion, chicken bouillon, salt and water in a pot; bring to a low boil over medium heat until the chicken is cooked.
- For sauce:* Soak the dried chiles for 2 hours or the day before.
- Grind the chiles in a blender; add the sesame seeds, crackers, cumin, chocolate, sugar and salt. Blend all the ingredients.
- Strain in a large saucepan; add the oil.
- Put the chiles in the pan to simmer; add the shredded chicken. Cook approximately 3 to 5 minutes.
- Garnish the chicken with sesame seeds; serve with white rice.

Chiles Rellenos With Cheese and Ground Beef

6 poblano peppers
1 cup vegetable oil, plus extra for browning (divided use)
1 lb. ground beef
1/2 onion, chopped

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Chiles Rellenos With
Cheese and Ground Beef

Garlic powder, to taste
Pepper, to taste
Salt, to taste
10 oz. Jack cheese and mozzarella
cheese, shredded
6 eggs, separated
1 tsp. salt for seasoning
1/2 cup all-purpose flour

1. Char the peppers over the open flame of a gas grill or stove, turning occasionally until all sides are charred.

- 2.** Transfer the peppers to a bowl; cover with plastic wrap. Allow the peppers to rest for 5 minutes.
- 3.** Remove the skins and seeds of the poblano peppers.
- 4.** Cut a slit down the side of each pepper.
- 5.** Place a skillet on the stove; add a little oil to brown the ground beef; season with onions, garlic powder, pepper and salt.
- 6.** Put the shredded cheese and beef mixture inside the peppers. Seal closed with a toothpick.
- 7.** Make a batter by beating egg whites in the bowl of a stand mixer with the whisk on medium, until they turn stiff. Turn the mixer on low; add the yolks, one at a time, until all are added. Add the salt.
- 8.** Heat the 1 cup oil in a large frying pan on medium-high. Place flour on a plate; coat the chiles in the flour. Dust off the excess flour; dip the chiles into the mixing bowl and cover with the egg batter.
- 9.** Get a spatula. Place the chiles in the hot oil. Brown on both sides. Remove from the pan; drain the excess oil on a paper towel; serve.

Arroz con Leche (Mexican Rice Pudding)

7 cups water
1 1/2 cups long grain white rice
2 Mexican cinnamon sticks

1 12-oz. can evaporated milk
2 1/2 cups whole milk
2 1/2 cups regular sugar
1 Tbsp. vanilla extract
Cinnamon, to taste

- 1.** Place the water, rice and cinnamon sticks in a large saucepan; cook on medium until it comes to a boil. Cook for 18 minutes until the rice is done.
- 2.** Add the evaporated milk and whole milk to the pot; let it come to a boil.
- 3.** Add the sugar and vanilla extract. Reduce the heat to low; cook for about 15 minutes.
- 4.** Pour the rice into cups; sprinkle with cinnamon to taste.
- 5.** Serve hot or cold.

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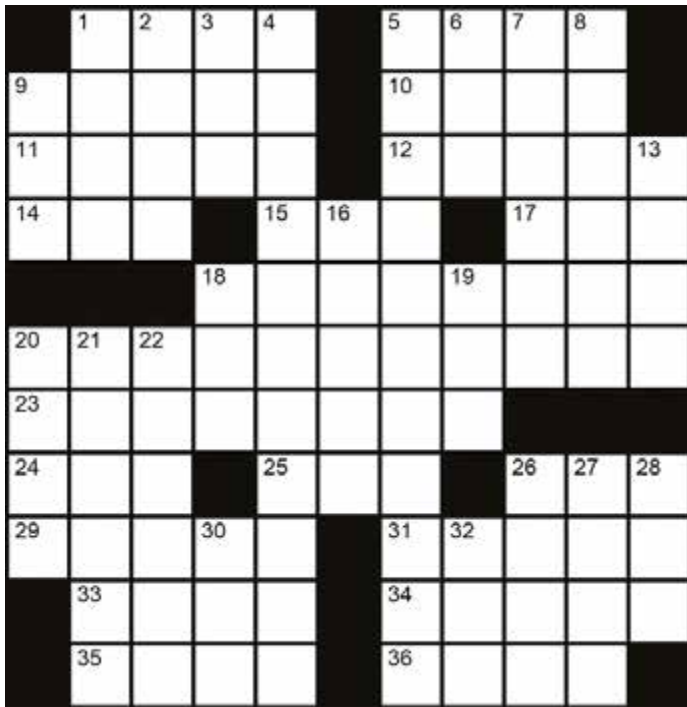
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Across

- 1 It's good from a crow's nest
- 5 Young ceremonial attendant
- 9 Spiny desert features
- 10 Wickedness
- 11 Oscar winner Tatum ---
- 12 Celebrate noisily
- 14 Affirmative reply
- 15 You have one only when seated
- 17 Gabrielle Solis player Longoria
- 18 Called the shots
- 20 Concise explanations
- 23 --- to (concerning)
- 24 Not-for-profit TV spot
- 25 Edward Snowden's former employer
- 26 Bolt's partner
- 29 The Everlys woke her
- 31 Tantalize
- 33 Cabernets, for example
- 34 Versifier Nash
- 35 Times which include periods
- 36 Laugh loudly

Down

- 1 Arrow tailfeather
- 2 Cold confections
- 3 7th Greek letter
- 4 Biddability
- 5 Criminal
- 6 Madison or Lexington, in NYC
- 7 "But to --- you and to --- me, ..." (Cole Porter, "High Society")
- 8 Craps natural
- 9 Bashful
- 13 Young 'uns
- 16 Divas' solos
- 18 Croak
- 19 El --- (Charlton Heston role)
- 20 Pickpockets
- 21 Make certain
- 22 "The Mummy" star
- 26 Nothing
- 27 Employer
- 28 Maximum Scrabble tile value
- 30 First Lady McKinley
- 32 Self-esteem

Online versions and solutions available at www.nowmagazines.com. From our Homepage, click on the Crossword-Sudoku tab. Click on a puzzle. Click on the See All button to view solutions.

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9/4

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9/8

Mansfield Reads! Kick-off:

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9/10

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9/16

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