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SEPTEMBER 2025



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EDITOR'S NOTE

iCelebremos!

From September 15 to October 15 is Hispanic Heritage Month, with the start date being significant as it marks the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In 1968, the national observation began as Hispanic Heritage Week, and it expanded in 1988 to recognize the Hispanic culture's influence on U.S. history.

In Texas, the Hispanic and Latino population has reached more than 12 million, making it the state's largest demographic, or, about 40 percent of the total population. Despite an increasing percentage of Hispanic, Latina and Latino students, studies suggest their history is widely overlooked in U.S. textbooks. Hispanic Heritage Month is a time to highlight the rich histories, colorful

cultures and significant contributions of this diverse community, by taking time to learn more — www.hispanicheritagemonth.gov is a place to start. At this site, you can read about achievements and advancements, and visit virtual exhibits about Civil Rights activists, Hispanic American veterans, renowned artists and more.

Hispanic history is intertwined with Texas history. This month is an opportunity to appreciate the bond between the two.

Todos juntos.

September 2025
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ON THE COVER



Teacher of the Year is theater instructor Eric Craddock's latest role.

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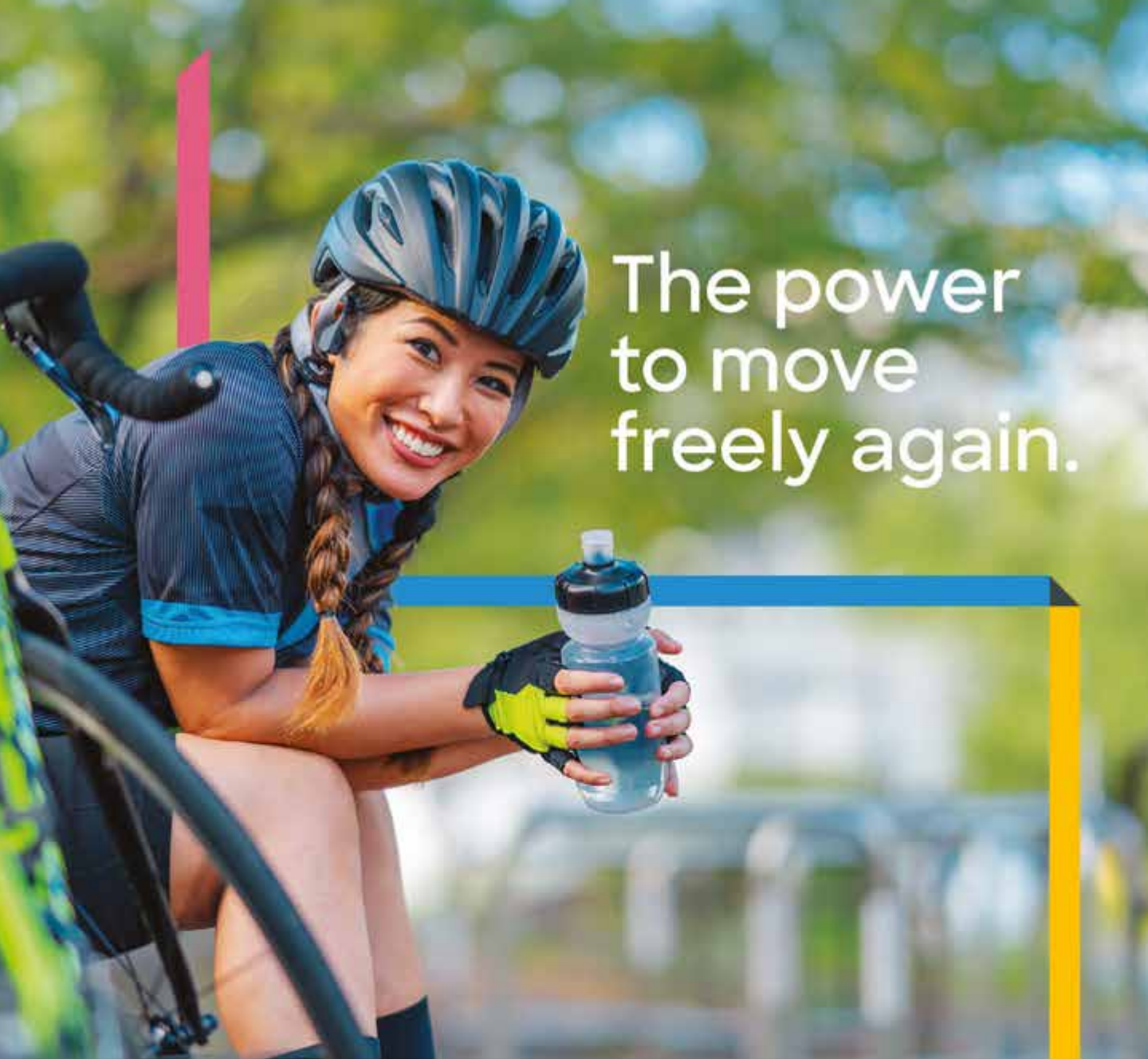
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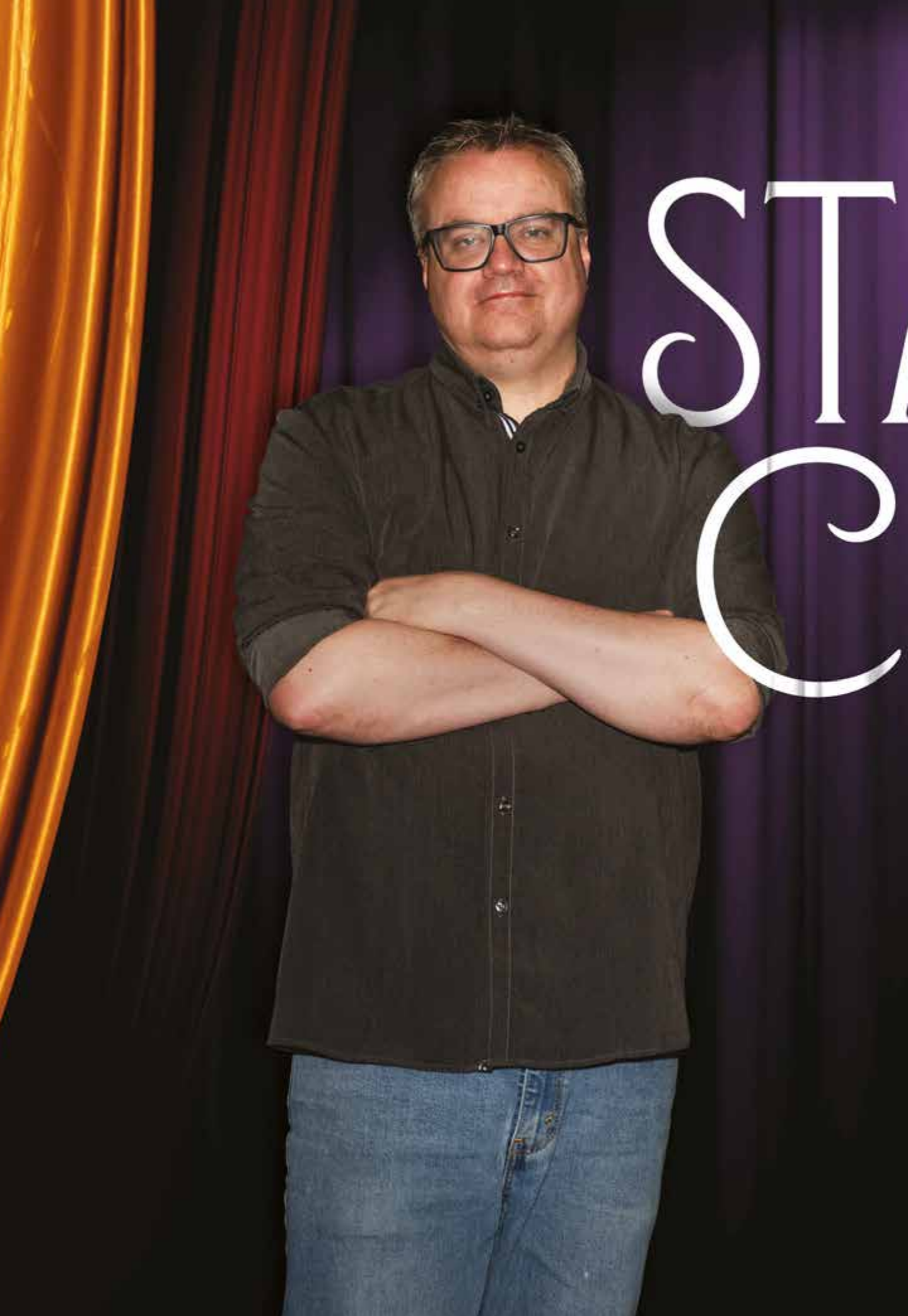


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AGE OACH

— By Angel Morris

Being a little bit of a misfit has worked out for Eric Craddock. From finding his place in a junior high drama class to teaching middle school drama, the local educator can't be upstaged. "Theater allowed me to excel in something other than sports, which I was never great at. Of course, applause makes a person feel good, but any theater kid will tell you it's the other theater kids and directors that really keep you coming back," Eric credited.

Eric recalled early involvement with elementary and church programs, plus his junior high and high school teachers in Duncanville as sparking his theater enthusiasm. "My years at Duncanville High School under the direction of the legend, Jerry Ayers, were the most formative years of my life. The level of creativity that he instilled in me was unmatched."

Eric earned his bachelor's degree in theater arts from Texas State University, where he also performed. "This was during the years that, I feel, were the foundation of what has now become the premier theater school in the state," he recalled.

Receiving his teacher certification from The University of Texas at Arlington, Eric began his career at Duncanville Ninth Grade School, then taught in Mansfield, Dallas and Waxahachie, before landing in Midlothian. He has been at Walnut Grove Middle School since 2015, where he was named Teacher of the Year last year. "When the superintendent and my principal 'invaded' my classroom with the drumline and cheerleaders and everyone, I wasn't sure what was going on," Eric admitted. "I found my home at Walnut Grove, so it's just icing on the cake to have been honored in that way."

Eric is honored to have performed in a number of productions himself through the years, including *Werewolf of London* at Pocket Sandwich Theatre in Dallas. "Written by the legendary Joe Dickinson, this was so much fun for me. We improvised a lot during this production, interacting with the audience each night."

As for special shows he's directed, a few come to mind. "*Exit the Body* at the Duncanville Ninth Grade School with freshmen during my first year

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teaching. This group has stayed very special to me through the years, and I'm still in contact with a lot of them (now in their 40s!).

"*Shipwrecked! An Entertainment* is the One-Act Play that we competed with last school year at contest, and Walnut Grove won first place," Eric continued. "The scale of this production challenged the kids, and they rose to the occasion wonderfully!"

Many other plays have been special. "I've treasured the memories of every single play, and there's literally just too many to list. I wish I could mention every single kid because I've learned so much from all of them," he said.

One student, in particular, impacted Eric. "Having my son, Luke, in my Advanced Theatre class is a year I'll always cherish," he shared. "This experience sort of came full circle when he was hired to head the theater department at Heritage High School. It's super meaningful and kind of surreal.

"I mean, isn't it every dad's dream for his kids to follow in his footsteps? It's a huge honor to know that something he saw in what I was doing made him want to do it also."

Eric and his wife of 29 years, Rebekah, also have a daughter, Gracie, who's on staff at FBC Midlothian, and a daughter-in-law, Shelby, newly married to Luke. The family enjoys tabletop gaming, owning hundreds of games. "We attend the BoardGameGeek Con every year. It's a fantastic way to unplug and spend quality time with each other," Eric said.

Another of Eric's interests is improv comedy. "I perform on the side with

a group called Fish Sticks Comedy. We're a national troupe touring all over the country. It helps me to scratch the performance itch and keeps me on stage a little bit."

Eric — who reveals he was once in a rap group — has even tried his hand at stand-up comedy. "I've done it four times, and the third time wasn't abysmally terrible," he joked.

He also has an interest in becoming an author. "I've had a lifelong goal of writing a novel, and although I'm not close to that, I did recently have a short story published. It was glorified fan fiction for an anthology of short stories published by Holmgard Press, set in the world of an '80s UK gamebook series that I grew up reading called *Lone Wolf*," Eric outlined. "I submitted, they chose my story, and I got paid and everything! The anthology came out in the fall of 2024 and has been well received."

Such willingness to try new things helps educators reach students. "In my first year of teaching, we were training on email, and I remember some older teachers vowing they would never use it. The Internet was brand new, and we were all trying to figure out ways to utilize it in classrooms," he recalled. "Teachers now are constantly finding super creative ways to engage their students and make learning interesting, using cutting-edge technology."

For Eric, engaging students means giving them a stage. "Theater gives confidence, discipline, courage. It allows us to briefly experience love, loss, anger, fear, joy, excitement and gives us experiences we would never have otherwise. It helps practically with things like time management, memorization, observation, following directions, respect for authority and building up and supporting other people. Hire a theater kid for any job, especially a tech theater kid, and you won't regret it," he said. "Some of my students have gone on to theater careers in different ways, but most will spend their lives doing other things. Still, theater will have given them experiences that will help them in every aspect of their lives. When I discovered theater, it was a place of belonging for a bunch of misfits, and that's what I liked. And I found it to be a place where I could encourage others, which brings me a lot of joy." **NOW**



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COMPANION ^{vs.} WORKING DOG TRAINING

— By Virginia Riddle



The beauty and grace with which a herding dog moves, the necessary use of bomb-sniffing dogs to keep humans safe or a dog laying nestled lovingly in its owner's arms — these are roles humans can expect of their canine working partner and/or best fur friend. With proper training from their owner/handler, dogs can become that best friend, and can even perform many helpful tasks for sport or in service to mankind.

When purchasing or adopting a dog, it's best for the new owner to know exactly what expectations he or she has for their new canine. Such decisions begin with breed choice, followed by choices in training/preparation. General breed classification characteristics are:

1. *Herding dogs:* Highly intelligent, energetic and bred to control livestock. Breeds include Shepherds, Sheepdogs and Collies.
2. *Hunting, competitive eventing and sporting dogs:* Bred for speed, stamina, super scent and vision. Breeds include Hounds, Retrievers, Setters and Spaniels.
3. *Terriers:* Bred to dig up and chase pests burrowed in the soil. Breeds include all types of Terriers and Schnauzers.

4. *Protection dogs:* Bred to work with police, military or home and personal protection. Breeds include Boxers, Rottweilers, Pit Bulls and German Shepherds.

5. *Handicap-friendly dogs:* This breed category depends mostly on how the dog is going to aid the person. And any dog breed can help in this category if they have had the proper training. All of the above traits are considered when selecting a handicap-friendly dog.

6. *Toy Breeds:* Bred to be companion or emotional support dogs. Breeds include the Pekingese, Chihuahua and Pomeranian.

7. *Mixed breeds:* Often found in animal shelters, these dogs will commonly exhibit some of the traits of their ancestors and less of their ancestors' common health problems. A dog-of-several-breeds can be very trainable, even-tempered and loyal.

All dogs need basic command training, crate training and socialization with humans when at home or in public. Puppies, starting at about 10 weeks old with house training, are easiest to train, but don't discount the older or senior dogs who can learn "new tricks" with a little more repetition and positive reinforcements, such as treats. Most dogs are eager to please their owner/handler and yearn for a purpose.

Working dogs need to be daily trained and worked physically and mentally at their chosen tasks or they can become bored and destructive. The training enhances their drive and breeding. Focusing on their owner/handler while training and doing the job is critical. Confidence and building trust are other key training elements. Working dogs will

always be on the job. Typically, they don't have an off-duty switch. However, working dogs can be wonderful companion dogs when at home. They are usually very bonded to their human partner and are sensitive to voice commands and inflections.

With a companion dog, training must involve building socialization skills since the dog will likely be taken to strange places and be expected to behave with new situations, new people and meet other dogs appropriately. Barking inappropriately and for prolonged periods, pulling on a leash or showing aggression when none is needed, for instance, are behaviors which must be addressed. A family pet must behave well with children, which may require repetitive training of how children should act around the dog, as well. Preschool children, with their quick movements, can seem large and threatening to small dogs and shouldn't be left unsupervised with a dog. Treats, positive reinforcement and petting, daily attention and exercise are all necessary elements. The goal is to have a calm, loving, companion with whom many joyful moments can be shared. Companion dogs are usually very intuitive to their human's body language, facial expressions, feelings and voice inflections.

With all dogs, the owner/handler must take training slowly, be patient and stay calm. A hand held up, a foot stomp and/or a firmly voiced command will help maintain or regain the dog's focus. A slightly hungry dog will appreciate food rewards, and if things aren't going well, giving the dog a break and then returning to training may work well. Always use the same command words and signals, such as a clicker. Don't confuse the dog with changes. Stay consistent and in control. With training, love, trust building, patience and bonding, a dog can become a working partner, fellow athlete and treasured family member. **NOW**

Sources:

1. www.keendogtraining.com.
2. McMillan, Brandon. *Lucky Dog Lessons*, HarperCollins Publishers, New York, N.Y., 2016.
3. Linden, Scott. *Training and Hunting Bird Dogs*, Skyhorse Publishing, New York, N.Y., 2022.
4. <https://www.ada.gov/resources/service-animals-faqs/>.



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Zoomed In: Ethan Boyd

By Angel Morris

Midlothian Rotary Club recently sent students to Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Camp, which is designed to build leadership, teamwork and problem-solving skills. “The criteria wasn’t so much about being the perfect student and leader but knowing that you’re not perfect and want to get better,” said Midlothian High School Senior Ethan Boyd.

Ethan called Camp RYLA, “... nonstop fun and memories. If we were not learning ways to strengthen our skills, we were putting those skills to the test. The cabin groups were like mini families, filled with people that I’ll always remember. I would 100 percent recommend anyone to apply and experience it for themselves.”

Currently participating in Student Council, varsity wrestling, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, National Honor Society and serving as a math tutor, Ethan plans to study mechanical engineering in college.



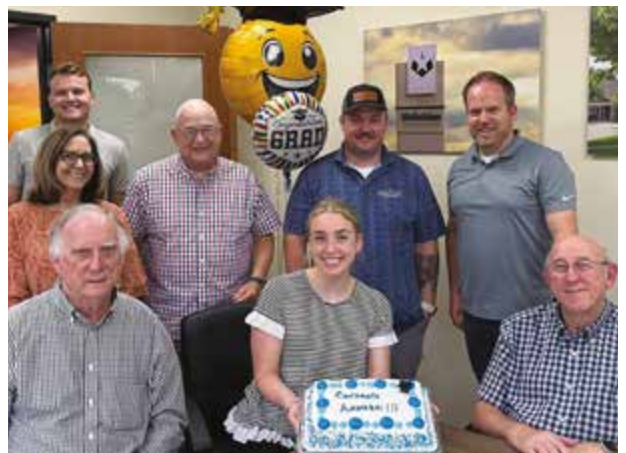
Coming all the way from Round Rock, Heidi and Marc Tucker serve as extras in season 6 of *The Chosen*, filmed locally.



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BusinessNOW

Weed Solutions, Inc.

— By Angel Morris



Weed Solutions, Inc.

Owners: Kevin and January Seeton

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beweefree@yahoo.com

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Facebook: Weed Solutions Inc.

Hours: Monday-Friday: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

After working full-time as an Arlington firefighter for several years, Kevin Seeton spent many days off beautifying lawns. “When I was about 11 years old, my father taught me how to mow the lawn. I enjoyed it, so as an adult, I continued,” he recalled. “Eventually, I started a lawn care and landscaping business.”

In 2000, Kevin started Weed Solutions, Inc. with his wife, January. “Family is everything to us. January and our

daughter, Makenzie, play vital roles in the daily operations of our business. We don’t see this as a job. We see it as working with the community. Unlike large corporations, where customers are just another account, we treat every client like a neighbor because that’s exactly who they are,” Kevin promised.

Located in the neighboring city of Mansfield, Weed Solutions, Inc. provides personalized, affordable lawn care options, free lawn assessments and a comprehensive lawn care program designed to improve soil health. “I became fascinated with plant health, so I researched the science behind it and quickly realized that fertilization and soil treatments don’t work the same way every year,” Kevin explained.

By creating an optimal environment for turfgrass roots to thrive, Weed Solutions helps lawns grow thick enough to shade the soil and prevent weeds from germinating. Primary services include fertilization, weed control, pre- and post-emergents, lawn pest control and indoor pest control.

“Our business has been known for paying attention to details for 25 years. We don’t simply check the grass and

leave. Our technicians are trained to look at trees and shrubs for insect and fungus damage,” Kevin shared. “People are extremely busy these days and appreciate when we make them aware of landscape problems before they get out of control.”

If a technician notices something that needs to be addressed, they leave a report on the customer’s door, also offering reminders throughout the season about insects such as grub worms and fire ants, as well as deep root fertilization for trees and shrubs services. “Our customers are top priority. We’re not trying to be the biggest company around, just the best,” Kevin said. “Our goal is to make Weed Solutions a well-known name in and around Midlothian. I want the citizens to have total trust in our company and employees.”

“Our business has been known for paying attention to details for 25 years. We don’t simply check the grass and leave. Our technicians are trained to look at trees and shrubs for insect and fungus damage.”

One faithful customer shared this review: “I have been using Weed Solutions for many years. I was a customer when they first started out. They provide excellent service, and my grass is always green and beautiful. Their prices are very reasonable compared to other weed control services. I highly recommend Weed Solutions!”

Committed to client satisfaction, Kevin personally oversees every project. His firefighter training further drives his inclination to help others, and he expects the same mentality from his employees. “We believe in leaving a place better than we found it,” he said. “That may not be the norm, but why not take the initiative?”

At the end of the day, the Seetons’ promise is simple: to deliver trustworthy, high-quality service that makes a difference. “Weed Solutions, Inc. is eager to help you improve your lawn,” Kevin noted, “and we look forward to hearing from you!” **NOW**

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Vanilla Velvet Cake

Photo by Jen Symes

CookingNOW

IN THE KITCHEN WITH

ASHLEY GOSSETT

— By Angel Morris



Ashley Gossett's baking journey began in 2011. "It started as a hobby and a personal goal because I enjoyed entertaining and was tired of relying on store-bought desserts," Ashley recalled. "I found a Martha Stewart cupcake book and set out to bake everything in it."

Encouraged by the enthusiasm of family and friends, Ashley ventured into cake-making. "I used my children's birthdays as opportunities to practice." Today, she's the owner and operator of Ashton Marie Cakes, a home-based bakery.

A Certified Pastry Chef of Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts, Ashley also graduated from Tint School of Makeup and Cosmetology. Ashley loves crocheting and coloring with her daughters. She added, "I also love spending time with my seven children and being a grandmother of three." **NOW**

Vanilla Velvet Cake

- 1 1/2 sticks unsalted butter, softened**
- 8 oz. cream cheese, softened**
- 2 cups sugar**
- 4 large eggs, room temperature**
- 3 cups cake flour**
- 2 tsp. baking powder**
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda**
- 1/2 tsp. salt**
- 1 cup buttermilk**
- 1/4 cup vegetable or canola oil**
- 1 Tbsp. vanilla extract**

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F. Cream the butter, cream cheese and sugar until light,

fluffy and pale in color, about 4-5 minutes. Proper creaming is crucial.

2. Add the eggs, one at a time, fully incorporating before adding the next. Scrape down the sides of the bowl as needed.

3. In a separate bowl, whisk together the cake flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt.

4. With your mixer on low speed, alternate adding the dry ingredients and buttermilk to the creamed butter and sugar mixture. Start with dry and end with dry. Add the oil and vanilla extract gently until just combined. Avoid overmixing at this stage to keep the cake light.

5. The batter should be thick, yet pourable.

If it feels too thick, add more buttermilk 1 Tbsp. at a time.

6. Grease 2 9-inch round cake pans with butter or baking spray; line them with parchment paper. Divide the batter equally between the pans.

7. Bake 30-35 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean.

8. Let the cakes cool about 10 minutes, then remove them from the pans. Transfer to a wire rack to cool completely before frosting.

Red Velvet Cake

2 cups all-purpose flour

1 tsp. baking soda

1 tsp. baking powder

2 Tbsp. unsweetened cocoa powder

1/2 tsp. salt

2 cups sugar

1 cup vegetable oil

2 eggs

1 cup buttermilk

2 tsp. vanilla extract

1-2 oz. red food coloring

1/2 cup plain hot coffee, prepared

1 tsp. white distilled white vinegar

1. Preheat the oven to 325 F. Generously grease and flour 2 9-inch pans.

In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda, baking powder, cocoa powder and salt; set aside.

2. In a large bowl, combine the sugar and vegetable oil. Mix in the eggs, buttermilk, vanilla and food coloring. Stir in the coffee and white vinegar.

3. Combine the wet and dry ingredients a bit at a time, mixing after each addition, just until combined (batter will be thin). Pour the batter evenly into the prepared pans.

4. Bake on the middle rack 30-40 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out with moist crumbs attached. Do not overbake.

5. Cool on a cooling rack until the pans are warm to the touch. Slide a knife or offset spatula around the inside of the pan to loosen the cake. Frost with cream cheese frosting when cooled completely.



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— By Amber D. Browne

COLORFUL CRAFT TIME



Now that summer fun has wound down, and youngsters have skipped off to school, why not add a do-it-yourself craft to family entertainment this month? Adding a little color can brighten anyone's day, and one DIY idea families can try at home is a tin can unicorn. Children can bring this unicorn to life with just a few supplies and a little rainbow magic.

Supplies

For this craft, you will need the following:

- A tin can (a vegetable can or small coffee can will do).
- Several colors of yarn skeins for the unicorn's mane (preferably the colors of the rainbow).
- A paint brush or paint sponge and your favorite color acrylic craft paint.

- Felt for the muzzle, ears and eyelashes (preferably white, black, pink or the color of your paint selection).
- A piece of yellow construction paper for the unicorn's horn.
- Scissors.
- Glue.
- A pencil.
- A ruler.

DIY CONSTRUCTION

Remove any paper or glue from the tin can, then wash and dry it thoroughly. Use the paint brush or paint sponge to cover the entire can's exterior with paint. While it dries, cut the yarn into pieces. Beginning with purple, cut 2 1/2 feet of yarn. Cut the blue yarn at 3 1/2 feet, the green at 4 1/2 feet, yellow at 5 1/2 feet, and so on.

You or your child can wrap the yarn around four fingers on one hand, starting with the purple yarn. Continue wrapping

each color of yarn in order of the colors of the rainbow, spreading the fingers to make the loop larger for each consecutive color. End with red, which will have the longest loop. Cut a smaller piece of yarn for each color to tie the corresponding-colored loops near the top, leaving the longer loop at the bottom.

Cut a half circle from the white felt sheet, large enough to make the unicorn's muzzle. Glue it to the bottom of one side of the can, flat side down. At the top of the can to the left of the muzzle, glue the tied section of the red yarn. Glue the orange yarn to the right of the red, and so on. Allow time to dry.

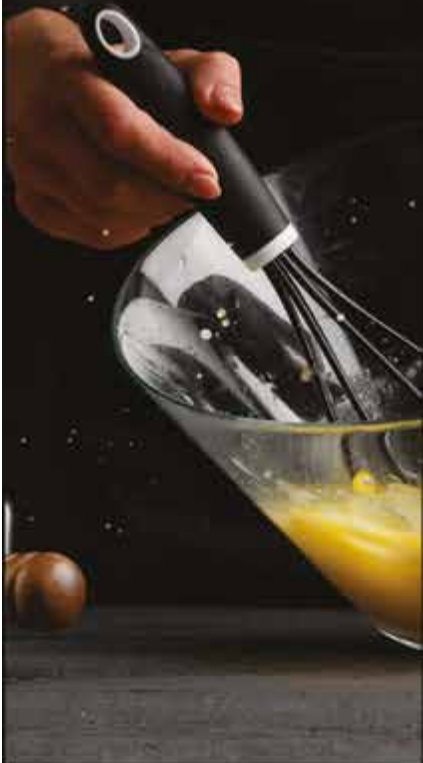
Cut an elongated triangle from the yellow construction paper for a unicorn horn, about 4 inches tall. Glue it to the top interior side of the can in the middle of the mane. Cut two elongated triangles, about 2 inches tall, from the paint-colored felt for the ears. Cut two smaller elongated triangles from the light pink felt. Glue the smaller, light pink triangles onto the fronts of the other felt triangles. Once dry, glue the ears to the can's interior on either side of the unicorn horn. For each color of the unicorn's mane, cut the bottom loop. Trim as necessary in a diagonal line, leaving the red yarn as the longest side.

Using the remaining yellow construction paper, draw patterns for the eyelashes, interior oval muzzle and nostrils. Trace the eyelash and nostril pattern onto the black felt. The pencil line will be faint, but it will provide an outline for you or your child to cut. Correctly space the eyelashes and then glue them to the can.

Trace and cut the small oval for the interior muzzle from the light pink felt. Glue on top of the white muzzle, and then glue the black nostrils on top of the pink muzzle. Allow time to dry. Use the unicorn to plant seeds or colorful flowers, as a pencil or crayon holder or as a fun decorative piece. **NOW**

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High Road

Will Rogers once said of Durango, Colorado, "It's out of the way and glad of it." The town, established in 1880 as a railroad town, celebrates its heritage as the home of the popular Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad. Its 1920s steam locomotive travels through the Animas River Valley, up steep grades through the San Juan Mountains and canyons, offering travelers spectacular views. Several stops along the way let hikers start their climbs or descents and other travelers to stretch their legs before boarding again for lunch in Silverton.

Festivals celebrate Durango's Wild West and multicultural heritage. The Durango Wine Experience is held each spring with Durango Fiesta Days and Rodeo each summer, followed by the Durango Cowboy Poetry Gathering in October.

September brings the change of color to the aspen and other trees in the San Juan Mountains. A popular month due to cooler weather and vast colors, hikers enjoy the many mountain trails. Visitors can walk along the banks of Durango's Animas River or its tree-lined streets framed with Victorian architecture straight out of Durango's gold rush days. Jeeping, camping, biking, ziplining, ropes courses, bungee jumping, rock climbing, fly fishing and water sports

are offered to adventurers of all ages. Spring and summer rafting trips sport Class III-V rapids on the Animas River. For nature lovers, there are over 200 bird species, black bears and 640 plant species. Durango offers restored-to-their-former-glory Victorian hotels and saloons, world-class dining and glamping. Purgatory, about 25 miles north of Durango, is the area's winter ski area.

Drive the Million Dollar Highway loop from Durango to Mesa Verde National Park, Dolores, Telluride and Silverton, Colorado. The drive goes through these 19th century mining towns and over the San Juan Mountains through its forests, canyons and streams. It was so named either for the gold in the gravel used to build the highway or the amount of money spent doing so.

For more than 700 years, beginning around 550 AD, the high mesa overlooking the Montezuma Valley was home to Puebloan people who built the well-preserved cliff dwellings that visitors to Mesa Verde National Park enjoy today. Named by Spanish explorers in the 1700s, the name means "green table." Begin the self-guided driving tour at the Mesa Verde Visitor and Research Center and the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum. Ranger-guided tours are also available. Appropriately named, Far View Lodge offers sunset views, and its restaurant offers Native American and area favorites, such as prickly pear pork belly. Enjoy beautiful views of heaven's dark skies while camping. One campground is available near the Visitor's Center. While visiting, be respectful to the customs of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation on which much of the parkland lies.

Among the dwellings are the Cliff Palace with its 150 rooms, making it the largest cliff dwelling discovered in North America. Carving of the dwelling began around 1200, and



— By Virginia Riddle

it was vacated about 75 years later. The 23 kivas in the Cliff Palace are indicative of different clans. The Spruce Tree House is a three-story structure, and for the more adventurous, the Balcony House trail leads to a three-ladder climb. It is exited by crawling through a tunnel. The Square Tower House is a vertical stack of houses used also for ceremonies. The Wetherill Mesa Long House is named for the rancher who found the Cliff Palace in the 1880s.

History buffs, foodies and nature lovers alike can discover enjoyable adventures in Durango and at Mesa Verde National Park. To enjoy all this area has to offer, travelers should add a Southwest Colorado getaway to their bucket list. **NOW**

Photos by Virginia Riddle, LLC.

Sources:

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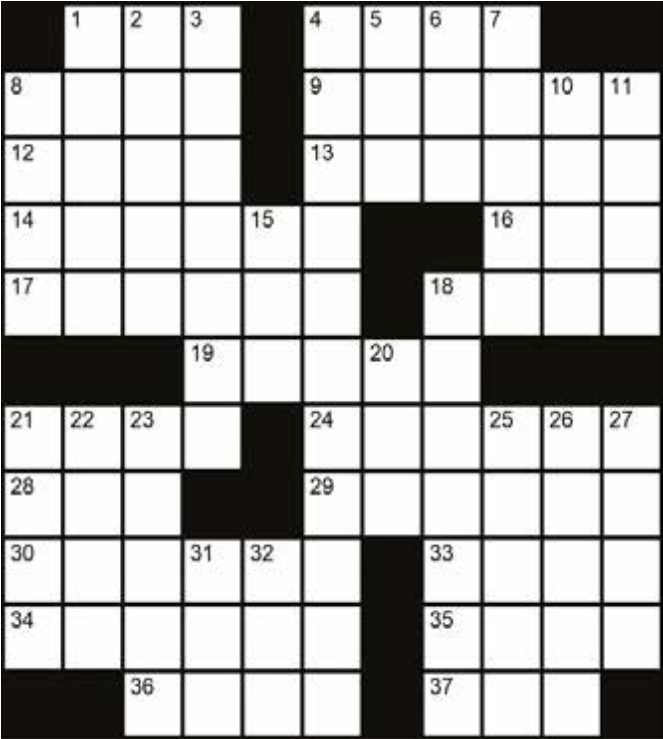


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- Across**
1 Part of formerly Portuguese India
4 "Boy, it's hot!"
8 Ireland's --- Fein
9 Funeral speech
12 "--- calling!"
13 Texas border town
14 Bucks back
16 Teetotal
17 Adventurous expedition
18 In Norway, it used to be Christiania
19 Pressure-washer maker
21 Ornerly guy
24 NYC
28 Exclamation of disgust
29 End of existence
30 It's in the blood
33 Omar --- of "House"
34 Sweet
35 Imitates
36 Corny or pony, maybe
37 Old horror actor --- Chaney
- Down**
1 "--- man a fish and you feed him for a day ..."
2 Kind of switch
3 Certain flowers
4 When single lives come to an end
5 Tint
6 90° bend
7 Bent sword leads to argument
8 COVID-19 predecessor
10 Peripatetic Ipanema resident?
11 Spool-like toy
15 F D R's short-lived Blue Eagle agency
18 Breakfast mush
20 She may be fawning
21 Stanley and Ryder
22 Ominous
23 Expert swindler
25 River horse
26 Trembling poplar
27 Military refectory
31 Not a good boy's name, according to Johnny Cash
32 Car economy statistic

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

Medium

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

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9/6

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9/13

St. Jude Car Show:

This car show, featuring 11 classes, benefits St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. \$20 cash per entry. Spectators: Free. Gates open: 8:30 a.m.; registration closes and judging starts: noon; awards: 1:00 p.m., Getzendaner Park, 400 S. Grand Ave., Waxahachie. <https://midlothianclassicwheels.org/yflyer>.

Public Safety Facility Grand Opening:

Ribbon-cutting and open house. 9:00 a.m.-noon, 1111 George W. Raffield Jr. Way. (Park at City Hall and shuttle to event.)

National Night Out Kick-Off:

Emergency vehicles, first-responders, bounce house, refreshments. Learn how your neighborhood can get involved in Midlothian's communitywide National Night Out which takes place **October 7** 5:30-8:00

p.m., Community Park, 3601 S. 14th St. For more information, contact Curtis.Hughes@Midlothian.tx.us.

9/18

A Night United:

The United Way of West Ellis County's fundraising event to support seniors, children and families in need featuring Pete's Dueling Piano Bar. 6:00-9:00 p.m., Midlothian Conference Center, 1 Community Dr. Find more details at www.redoakchamber.org.

9/20

Wildflower Walk:

1/2-mile nature walk, led by the Indian Trail Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists. Free. 9:00-10:30 a.m., Mockingbird Nature Park, 1361 Onward Rd. In the event of rain, the walk is canceled.

9/21

Farm Heritage Day:

Outdoor games, hayrides, farm vendors, farm animals and farm living history activities. Free admission, activities, and snacks (while they last). 2:00-5:00 p.m., Ellis County Rural Heritage Farm, 130 Cunningham Meadows Rd., Waxahachie. Learn more at www.ruralheritagefarm.org.

9/27

Fall Fun Festival:

Costume contest for kids 12 and under, vendors, food, shopping, kids' activities (bean bag toss, trick or treating at the vendor booth, face painting) and more. Contest: 11:00 a.m.; event: 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Midlothian Civic Center, 224 S. 11th St. For details, visit www.midlothiantxciviccenter.com.

Weekdays

Library Events:

Daily events for a range of ages, from Book Babies and Disney Trivia, to Dungeons and Dragons, Adult Yoga and more. Midlothian Public Library, 215 N. 8th St. Visit midlothian.libcal.com for schedules.

First Mondays

Ellis County Art Association:

Open to all. Refreshments: 6:00 p.m.; announcements and business: 6:30; art demonstration: 6:45 p.m., First Baptist Church, 450 Hwy. 287 Bypass, Waxahachie.

Wednesdays

DivorceCare:

Group sharing for those who have gone through or are going through divorce. DivorceCare for Kids ages 5-12 meets at the same time. Care for younger children available. 6:30-8:00 p.m., First Methodist Church Family Life Center, 800 S. 9th St. Call (972) 775-3993 for details.

Thursdays

Midway Composite Squadron of Civil Air Patrol/ U.S. Air Force Auxiliary:

Cadets ages 12-18 and Senior Members 18-plus. 6:45-9:00 p.m., Mid-Way Regional Airport, 131 Airport Dr. Visit www.gocivilairpatrol.com.

Celebrate Recovery Meeting:

A Christ-centered recovery program designed to help those struggling with hurts, habits and hang-ups. 7:00 p.m., The Lighthouse Church, 1400 N. 9th St. For more details, email CR@dfwlighthouse.org.

Saturdays

Midlothian Farmers Market:

Saturdays through November. 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Downtown Heritage Park, 234 N. 8th St.

Third Saturdays

Urban Well Food Pantry:

Everyone receives a large box of fresh foods while supplies last. 9:30-10:30 a.m., Creekside Church, 5491 E. Hwy. 287 Text (817) 944-0318 to volunteer.

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

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KEYNOTE TITLE:

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AUTUMN BEATS

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September 6 | The Redwine Band

October 4 | 4 Ever Young & the Reflections

November 1 | Lost Shaker of Salt Band

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