

# The Weston Post

Issue № 2

Spring 2020



## INTRODUCING ALDERMAN MARIA WHITWORTH

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Maria, tell us about yourself.

I've been married 40 years, and we have 4 children and 3 grandchildren. Plus, we have a really cool rescue dog who just turned 11 years old. I consider myself both a free thinking, intelligent, fiscal conservative and social humanitarian. I am also what you might call home-centric: our children were born at home and unschooled at home, and we ran a successful business at home for much of that time. Doing all this stuff at home is not something everyone is able to do, but it's been a priority for us to integrate family, work, and play into an interesting and happy home lifestyle.

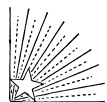


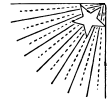
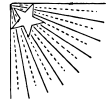
Our marketing and advertising business thrived for many of the 25 years we were in business. During that part of my career, I also followed my personal passion for helping people make money doing what they love. I called this "unjobbing"—and I developed and taught a unique process for people who wanted to leave their job-driven life, and succeed with their own heart-driven business. Unjobbing is about aligning all aspects of your life, including work, with your personal values.

In 2010, I went to work for Whole Foods Market and for the next 8 years, our marketing team implemented programs to increase community engagement and participation. Through local events and crucial non-profit partnerships, we strengthened the Whole Foods Market brand in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. In mid-2018, Whole Foods shifted their focus and eliminated local marketing which gave me the amazing opportunity to become part of the Edible Dallas & Fort Worth magazine team as Director of Marketing & Advertising. My role includes all social media and digital marketing, event coordination and management, and collaborating with new advertising partners.

In addition to my focus on family and community connection, one of my top core values is being a good steward of the Earth. I try to stay aware of and use the most natural and sustainable methods of caring for the land and our water, while being supportive of wildlife and pollinators. I am a member of the National Wildlife Federation, and our Weston property is Wildlife Habitat Certified.

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**What brought you to Weston and what do you like most about living here?**

My husband is a native Texan, and I became an honorary Texan when we moved to Dallas in 1982. I absolutely fell in love with the open, friendly, and independent spirit of the good people in this part of Texas! In 2010, we moved to rural McKinney to be closer to one of our kids and we got hooked on rural, country living. As development was encroaching, we started looking for what we hoped would be our “forever home” in the woods and in 2017 found our beautiful, 2 acre forest in Weston. I love the dark skies at night and the open country landscape here!

**Why did you decide to run for Weston city alderman?**

Not that I needed anything more on my plate, because I was already really busy in my work and home life. But out of interest in what was being planned for the future of Weston, I began attending city council and Weston Water Supply meetings in early 2018. Hardly any residents attended these meetings, and I was curious as to why more locals were not involved. I found out that many residents weren’t aware of the high-density developments being planned, and didn’t know they could voice an opinion. I felt it was vital that Weston have community involvement in planning its future, and that’s why I jumped into running for an alderman position on the city council.

**Tell us about the Weston Beautification and Historical Designation Community Advisory Board.**

I am excited to be part of this volunteer committee project that prioritizes, in part, the beautification and conservation of our unique greenbelt area. I hope to involve local volunteers to develop community gardens, wildflower roadsides, institute native plant ordinances, and find other opportunities to enhance our area’s natural beauty. Additionally, we want to identify sites in our city limits and extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) that qualify for historic designation. If anyone reading this has ideas or input, please reach out to me!

**What are the board’s immediate goals?**

Initially, we are working to collaborate with state and local resources to educate and inform Westoners with the knowledge of how beautification, conservation, watershed safety, and sustainability can increase livability (and property values!). We want to involve residents in implementing this know-how on their own property, and help interested neighbors to do the same. We are also looking to identify and qualify potential historic sites and landmarks—buildings, cemeteries, and historical sites that include historic trees—as they are prevalent throughout the Weston area.

**What is your long term vision for Weston?**

I personally envision Weston as a rural greenbelt in the middle of high-density growth in Collin County, not unlike the Rural Crescent area in Virginia. But more importantly, my vision is to involve community residents working together to create a common vision that the majority is excited to be part of.

**Tell us about your recent work with Edible Dallas & Fort Worth magazine, helping farmers and customers continue business in the wake of supply chain disruption from the COVID-19 outbreak.**

Most of the farms, ranches, and food producers in North Texas have relied on two important ways of getting their products out: first, the weekly area farmers markets that so many of us love, and second, they’ve relied on area chefs to buy and use ingredients for their restaurant menus. Restaurants and farmers markets have either dramatically pared down or closed for a time because of COVID-19, and food producers were left with no options to sell products and earn an income.

*The Weston Post*

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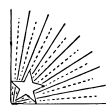
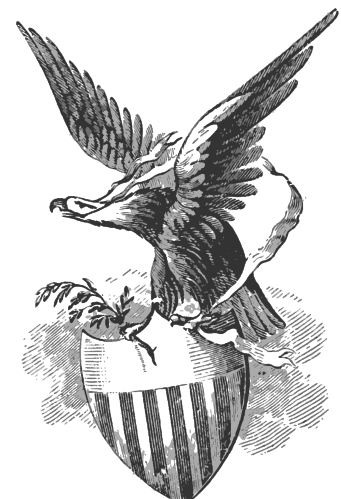
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## We're In This Together

If you live alone, are over 65, or have a medical condition and want someone to check on you periodically (during this pandemic crisis), then contact City Hall at (972) 382-1001 or [cityhall@westontexas.com](mailto:cityhall@westontexas.com) with your contact information and we'll make sure you are not forgotten.

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## Slow Down!


Speed limits have been reduced to 15 mph on Chicken, North and Short Streets, Weston Creek Court, and Weston Creek Trail. Watch out for kids playing, too!

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## Weston Community Center Fees

Due to rising maintenance costs, the city council has voted to raise the community center rental fee from \$75 per day to \$100 per day. Non-profit organizations are exempt from any rental fees.

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Because of my important connection with farms and local producers, I had to do something to help. I put together a resource for people in North Texas who want local produce, meats, cheeses, breads, jams, and other goodness available to them during these strange times. This resource list includes food producers and groups who are offering either direct home deliveries, farm pick-ups, local drop-off locations, or other innovative ways to bring fresh food to your table. You can easily access this Local Farm & Producer Resource list online: <https://www.edibledfw.com/local-farm-producer-resource-list/>.

**The COVID-19 outbreak has forced many parents into the world of homeschooling. What advice would you give to homeschooling families in Weston?**

Homeschooling is NOT the same as kids being at home during a crisis and needing educational support. Parents need to go easy on themselves during this time—don't expect to replace your kids' teachers but do try to focus on simply creating good communication and connection with your kids.

We homeschooled/unschooled our children while living in North Dallas in the late 80s and early 90s. At that time, we frequently connected with other families on interesting activities, and put together a cooperative educational group for fun science and math explorations. But, because you currently can't be in large groups with other homeschooling families, try to find ways that fulfill your kids' needs like opportunities to be active and involved with other children in whatever safe ways are possible.

**What do you think is important for Weston residents to keep in mind during this viral outbreak and quarantine period?**

Stay home and stay safe! If you need any help at all, please call City Hall and tell us what you need. Please, please keep an eye on your neighbors, especially the elderly and those living alone. We need to take care of each other (from a distance, of course!), and do our best to keep Weston COVID-free.

**What is the future of the Clean Up Weston campaign?**

Sadly, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we had to postpone the April 4<sup>th</sup> Clean Up Weston Day, and I hope we can reschedule for later this year. Ideally, I'd like Weston to become part of the statewide Keep Texas Beautiful program. I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the commitment to participate in Clean Up Weston from our partners at Van Buren Estates, Alford Services, United Electronics Recycling, and Champion Waste & Recycling Services—they were crucial in helping us put together a potentially successful event, and thankfully will be ready again when we are.

You can email Maria at [mwhitworth@westontexas.com](mailto:mwhitworth@westontexas.com) and can follow her on Instagram [@unjobber](#) and [@EdibleDFW](#).

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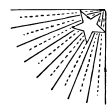
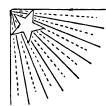
## Donations

It costs about \$500 to print copies of *The Weston Post* each season. *The Weston Post* is a civics engagement project of the 501(c)(3) charity Classroom Counterpoints. Classroom Counterpoints and, by extension, *The Weston Post* is funded entirely by donations. If you are interested in contributing a tax-deductible donation to support this project, then please consider donating through our website <http://classroomcounterpoints.org/donate> or mail us a check made payable to Classroom Counterpoints to the following address:

Classroom Counterpoints  
P.O. Box 216  
Weston, TX 75097







## MAYOR'S CORNER

Dear residents of Weston and our ETJ,

I hope you all are safe and virus free. As your mayor, I have been participating on the Collin County Emergency Management Team headed up by Judge Chris Hill. All of the county's mayors want to make sure the Stay-at-Home order is being followed as we begin to safely reopen the Texas economy.

Remember, the ultimate intent of this order is to slow down the spread of the COVID-19 virus and enable our medical and emergency teams to adequately treat the sick, give our scientists time to create medicinal therapies, and keep you from getting the virus. We do not want to repeat the horrors of hot spots like New York City and New Orleans and we want to help the North Texas region fight the alarming spread happening in Dallas County.

Please be careful. I want all of us to come out of this pandemic safely. No one from Weston is reported to have the virus, but our folks may be included in the Celina count. Collin County is experiencing around 20-30 cases per day and we would like to see this decreased. If you

have any of the COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, nausea, diarrhea, decrease in taste or smell) call your doctor to get set up for a test, and quarantine yourself.

Keep healthy and exercise as much as possible. Taking walks around the neighborhood or working on the lawn or garden is great, but be sure to keep socially distanced from others. If you have to go out for food or other necessities, be sure to wear both gloves and a mask or bandana that covers your mouth and nose. Please look out for your neighbors; check on them to be sure that they are healthy and have what they need to withstand this pandemic.

If you need any assistance from the city on answering any questions, call City Hall and we will get back to you. If you are elderly, live alone, or need any assistance of any kind, contact us at (972) 382-1001 or email [cityhall@westontexas.com](mailto:cityhall@westontexas.com) and we will assist you.

Sincerely,

Jim Marischen

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## GROWING STRONG DURING SOCIAL DISTANCING

By Nancy Gemaehlich

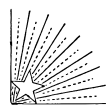


Photo: Nancy Gemaehlich

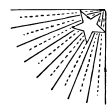
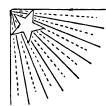
*When it rains it pours.* That's what I was thinking as I drove home one Thursday after mopping up rainwater that had seeped onto the church floor. It wasn't just coronavirus lockdowns, toilet paper scares, or the spring downpours that challenged me; there was now a tornado warning being announced. Like I said, when it rains it pours. With words like "pandemic" and "lock down" tossed around incessantly, we can all get a little edgy. But thankfully, there's much that we can do to counteract the stress.

As I'm practicing social distancing, I'm finding that it gives me a chance to step away from my rush-rush life and engage in activities that nourish my spirit, soul, and body. One of the ways that any of us can become a more resilient individual is by enriching ourselves spiritually. This ideally includes keeping in touch with the people in our community of faith. However, we may need to be the one who reaches out and starts a conversation. The camaraderie among our church family can be a lifeline. If you don't have a faith community, consider contacting one of Weston's three churches, Calvary Chapel Honey Creek ([www.calvarychapelhoneycreek.org](http://www.calvarychapelhoneycreek.org)), First Baptist Church of Weston ([www.fbcwestontx.org](http://www.fbcwestontx.org)), and First Christian Church of Weston ([www.firstchristianweston.com](http://www.firstchristianweston.com)).

Additionally, we can fortify ourselves spiritually in difficult times by reading Scriptures that remind us of God's care. For instance, Psalm 23 offers us assurance through the image of God as the Shepherd, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me" (Ps. 23:1-4). God's word is a constant source of spiritual strength and comfort for us.







As well as spiritual encouragement, strengthening our souls in times of crisis is important, too. We can determine to do something that puts a smile on our faces and the faces of those around us. For instance, we can practice generosity. This could include finding one affirming thing a day to say to the people that you live with or talk to regularly. Another idea for serving others might be to pick up garbage in our neighborhoods or on roadsides (with gloves for virus safety). We can also strengthen our souls through creativity. This might include listening to some new music or engaging in art or crafts that you've never tried before. Perhaps cooking (even with limited ingredients) can become an adventure during this stressful time of having to stay at home.

Lastly, we can consider strengthening our physical bodies during times of stress for maximum health. If possible, get out and walk in uncrowded places; be refreshed by the beauty of the countryside. Living in the Weston area, we have many opportunities to do this. Check out the bluebonnets in downtown Weston yards. And don't forget the dog; pets benefit from outdoor exercising, as well. Additionally, you might want to start a garden or some other out-of-doors project. We can take some nature photos and share them online. People love the uplifting posts!

These are a few ways that I have found to strengthen myself spirit, soul, and body during this pandemic. When we are dealing with sickness in our families these ideas may seem out of reach, but they also just might be what helps carry us through this current health crisis.

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## HELPING HANDS

By Michael Hill

In the short span of a few months, COVID-19 has become the elephant in the room. It's easy to be overwhelmed by the constant news coverage on every media outlet. It's important we take some time to focus on the stories of humanity and compassion from people locally and across the nation.


Even though many of us are mandated to "shelter in place", it is heart-warming to see people express joy and gratitude during these tough times. Despite the quarantine measures, there are many videos of people joyfully singing from their balconies in Italy and New York City. The tributes to nurses, doctors, and first responders have been inspirational. Residential communities are coming together, too. One family brought out a flag to the end of their driveway as neighbors stood outside and they all recited the Pledge of Allegiance together.

Other heroes of the day include teachers and grocery store workers. Teachers are trying hard to provide for their students by quickly setting up lessons online. Here in North Texas, schools are continuing their efforts to see that all eligible children can have access to meals. Grocery store workers, more than most, are putting themselves at risk to keep the food supply lines open. Daycare facilities are continuing to provide services for the children of health care workers as they man the front lines of this crisis.

Sadly, many restaurants, though open for take-out and delivery, have had to lay off servers and other inside staff. Fortunately, some Dallas restaurants, like 8020 Hospitality and Furlough Kitchen, are serving free meals to affected staff from the restaurant industry. Other restaurants are donating unused food to local food banks and charities. Furthermore, I am so grateful for the brave businesses out there that remain open as they provide essential services like phone repair and hardware that you don't know you need until you need them.

Weston residents are also using [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com) to reach out to one another. Carol Moss has created a group to promote the Weston Cooperative Market while others offer to sew masks or grocery shop for vulnerable people in town. There are many posts sharing insights on how to stay calm and mindful in this trying time. Coronavirus reminds us of what's important in life and it's reassuring to see the community coming together in this time of need.

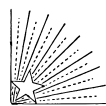
**Attention Citizen and Student Writers!**

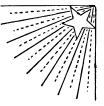
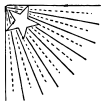


Do you want to write an article about a cool project or tell us about farm life? Interested in contributing a piece about homeschooling or local history? Want to cover a current event?

*The Weston Post* wants to hear from you. We are very interested in showcasing your writing and we encourage student journalism. Please contact [thewestonpost@protonmail.com](mailto:thewestonpost@protonmail.com) for more information.

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# LOCAL SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL PROBLEMS

By Brittany Yurkovitch

Once upon a time, our thriving American economy boasted a strong manufacturing base that championed workers' rights. Small rural towns were an integral part of the American landscape and farmers were cherished for their ability to feed the nation. America's money contained real gold and silver; we were an independent people and a beacon of light to the rest of the world.

Over time, our nation strayed away from the core principles that maintained our free and robust society. Piece by piece our nation's manufacturing base was sold off largely to communist China and our nation's food supply was consolidated into the hands of a few mega corporations. The bustling main streets of America's small towns disappeared as did the precious metal in our currency. Distracted by cheap Chinese products and endless entertainment, decadent America seemed all but lost.

But then the coronavirus pandemic happened which woke many Americans up from their slumber. People are questioning our dependency on China for critical goods and are noticing that our just-in-time grocery delivery system cannot cope under stress. In short, many folks yearn for a more independent America and desire more secure and local food resources.

Securing our food supply is critical, especially as many of us find ourselves both out of work and concerned about disease transmission and shortages at the grocery store. Perhaps it is time to reintroduce the victory garden. Also called war gardens, victory gardens were vegetable and herb gardens grown either in private residences or on public land during both world wars. These gardens supplemented civilian food rations and boosted morale within the community.

Many of us in Weston enjoy gardening and have quite the green thumb. We should strongly consider producing our own food and raising livestock, if possible, to supplement our grocery haul. Not only will we be securing our community's food supply but we will have so much fun trading gardening tips, vegetables, and homemade canned recipes with our neighbors.

Americans are resilient and will find creative solutions to address these supply chain problems. Carol Moss is one such innovative American who has created the Weston Cooperative Market. Her goal is to meet "the need for a local market that connects farmers with the community without the exposure of a traditional farmers market or grocery store. With restaurants closing their dining rooms and farmers markets closing as well, local producers need another, safer way to continue their offerings to the general public."

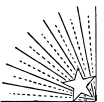
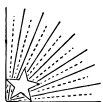
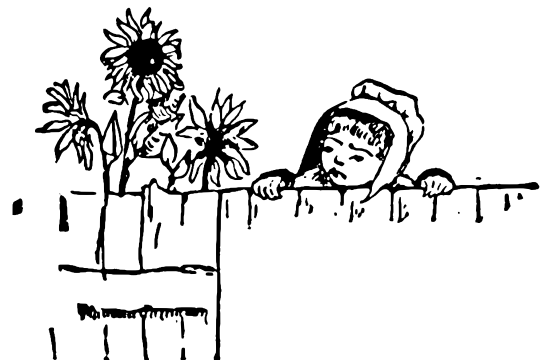
The Weston Cooperative Market connects you directly to local farmers to bring you the healthiest, freshest and most delicious foods possible. It invites local farms to list their availability and pricing each week. Customers can enjoy the convenience of online shopping and local pickup. Are you a farm or a customer interested in joining the Weston Cooperative Market? Please contact Carol Moss at [mossgather@gmail.com](mailto:mossgather@gmail.com) and check out the Weston Cooperative Market website at <https://weston.locallygrown.net/>.



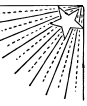
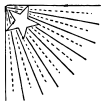
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## Coloring Page Submissions

Do you like to draw? We would like to include a coloring page that celebrates life in Weston. We are looking for simple, black-and-white line drawings with a one-sentence statement about the picture. We are hoping to receive submissions featuring local farm life, city buildings, scenes from our 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, or historical pictures. Please contact [thewestonpost@protonmail.com](mailto:thewestonpost@protonmail.com) or *The Weston Post* on Nextdoor.com for more information.







## CHEERS TO TEN YEARS

By Sue Verrill



Fifteen years ago, when we moved out to Weston to start our vineyard and farm, we never imagined that we would be celebrating 10 years of being in business so soon. We love living and working in Weston. Ray and I have never been city people as we grew up in rural England; the Weston area is reminiscent of the English countryside that we called home.

I'm writing this blurb while we are on lock down for the COVID-19 pandemic. Interestingly, the idea for our vineyard and winery came during another stressful time for our nation: the aftermath of the attacks on September 11, 2001. Like many businesses, we have had to get creative during the lockdown period. Besides limiting customers in our wine tasting room, we are taking wine orders by phone for takeout and delivery.

In the meantime, we will continue to tend the vines, raise the goats and make wine. Ray has made many award winning wines and our music evenings on the patio have proved very popular. People visiting the tasting room are always surprised by the diversity and quality of our wines, all of them made from fruit from our own property or from local vineyards. We currently produce around 1,000 cases a year on the property—everything is made by Ray's hands!

We plan to host a Weston open-house day on Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup> from 11a.m. to 4p.m. so folks can stop by and see what we do. Join our celebration of the last 10 years—there will be food, fun, and of course, wine!!

Please visit [www.goatsNgrapes.com](http://www.goatsNgrapes.com) to check out the wine selection and get the scoop on Caudalie Crest Winery events.

### 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade and Bake Sale



Want to join in Weston's famous parade? Stay tuned to the [www.westontexas.com](http://www.westontexas.com) website for information about participating in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade and bake sale.

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## A SMALL FARM WITH BIG IDEAS

By Erin Robbins

Our mission at Stonebranch Microfarm is to supply our local customers with the most nutrient dense foods possible. We believe that how your food is grown is just as important as the food you eat. We create nutrient dense food by never tilling the soil, which destroys the soil biology that feed the plants; encouraging biodiversity, which means no monocropping; and creating permaculture environments for insects, birds, and animals. We never spray any chemical fertilizers or pesticides.

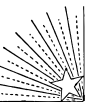
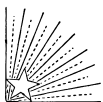
We also try to offer variety. While there are over 8000 different edible plants world-wide, Americans eat on average only 7 different kinds of vegetables. Here at Stonebranch Microfarm, we are growing greens and vegetables that are grown around the world in areas that

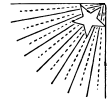
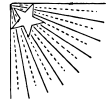
have very similar climates to North Texas. We grow edibles originating from Africa, Israel, Afghanistan, Southeast Asia, Mexico, and the Mediterranean. And we are always looking for something new to try!

At Stonebranch Microfarm we hope to encourage everyone to take control of their food supply and their health and we are here to help you do just that.

In response to the COVID-19 emergency, the McKinney farmers market is hosting mini-markets throughout the week. You can find Stonebranch Microfarms from 8a.m. to 12p.m. at the Thursday and Saturday markets. Contact us at [erinrobbsins@yahoo.com](mailto:erinrobbsins@yahoo.com) or call (469) 735-0735. You can also reach out to Stonebranch Microfarm on Facebook.

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# COLLIN COUNTY COMBATS MODERN SLAVERY

By Brittany Yurkovitch

Most of us remember learning about slavery in history class: we examined the American experience with African slavery and celebrated the achievements of abolitionist heroes like William Lloyd Garrison and Harriet Tubman. Our culture evolved from one that accepted human bondage as a norm to one that categorically rejected slavery. Despite the triumph of the European and American abolition movements, many of us had little to no exposure of the universality of slavery throughout world history and are unaware that slavery persists today.

Human trafficking is modern slavery. It is a crisis faced by millions of men, women, and children today. According to the U.S. Department of State's June 2019 Trafficking In Persons report, traffickers are robbing a staggering 24.9 million people of their freedom and basic human dignity. Victims are bought and sold either for sex, labor, or both. Additionally, some people are trafficked for organ harvesting.

This grim phenomenon is not something that occurs only in the third world; human trafficking occurs right here in the north Texas area, too. Texas has the second highest number of reports to the National Human Trafficking Hotline. Trafficking in Texas is facilitated by our extensive highway system and our unsecured border which means that sadly, these crimes occur in Collin County.

## Sheriff Skinner Goes to Washington



Fortunately, local law enforcement takes this issue very seriously and is committed to ending the scourge of human trafficking. In January, Collin County's Sheriff Jim Skinner was invited to the White House to attend the Human Trafficking Summit. He sat on a panel of six speakers, which included various state and local officials, including an attorney general, a county commissioner, a state legislator, and a tribal chief judge from different states around the nation.

At the summit, Sheriff Skinner discussed the collaborative work of multiple Texas county sheriffs to tackle human trafficking and explained that "Governor Abbott and the legislature passed laws that now allow [law enforcement] to work across county lines... and we are taking advantage of it."

Sheriff Skinner graciously sat down with *The Weston Post* and shared his thoughts on human trafficking and his trip to the White House. "Participating in the panel and hearing how the others are addressing human trafficking in their areas was the most memorable part of my trip. It gave me a chance to

look at the fight against human trafficking from perspectives other than law enforcement. I can see why both the federal government and Texas government take a whole-of-government approach to fighting human trafficking."

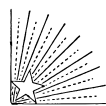
## Law Enforcement Alliances

At the summit, Sheriff Skinner spoke about the work of eight sheriffs in northeast Texas, called the North Texas Criminal Interdiction Unit (NTXCIU), and their fight against human trafficking. The NTXCIU is a cooperative effort between the sheriffs of Collin, Grayson, Hunt, Parker, Rockwall, Smith, Tarrant, and Wise counties. A select number of deputies from each of the participating counties receive specialized highway-interdiction training and learn how to identify signs of human trafficking on the road.

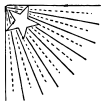
Sheriff Skinner affirms that the NTXCIU law enforcement alliance "allows each county's deputies to make traffic stops and investigate crimes in the jurisdictions of each of the member counties." Skinner says, "in short, some reasonable training, a straightforward agreement, cooperation and good sense permit nearby sheriffs to cooperate and extend the effectiveness and reach of their interdiction deputies."

This collaborative effort has been effective at targeting criminals in Collin County. Sheriff Skinner explained, "In just over two years of operations, NTXCIU has arrested over 130 traffickers; seized tons of illegal drugs, a good number of military-style weapons, and over \$1.5 million in bulk cash; recovered nearly 100 stolen vehicles; and rescued two or three loads of human cargo in tractor trailers. More importantly, NTXCIU deputies rescued a 5-year-old boy from a Los Angeles murder suspect and a 15-year-old girl who was in a vehicle with a group of men who didn't know her name (she didn't know theirs either)."

*Continued on Page 9*







## Raising Awareness

Sadly, the average ages for child sex slavery are between 11 and 14. Vulnerable young people are targeted by human traffickers often through social media and are lured by a false sense of trust. Sheriff Skinner acknowledges that “public outreach and education, including how to spot and properly report possible signs of human trafficking, are important parts of the fight against trafficking.” If you have a concern that someone is being trafficked, please call the U.S. Human Trafficking Hotline at (888) 373-7888 or text HELP to 233733 (BeFree).

Classroom Counterpoints, the charity that publishes *The Weston Post*, agrees that raising awareness of human trafficking among our youth is crucial. Unfortunately, most students are largely unfamiliar with the fact that historically, slavery has been accepted in most places across the globe and that it continues to persist today. It is only a modern phenomenon, mostly spearheaded by Christian human rights activists in Western Civilization, where mass movements against slavery gained real traction.

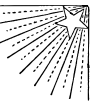
## Education Solutions

Classroom Counterpoints has joined forces with Resurrect Life, a 501(c)(3) charity committed to developing solutions that will end human slavery, to educate students on this important topic. We have taken our message to history students in Gunter, exposing students to slavery as both a historical global phenomenon and as a modern crisis faced by millions of men, women, and children today.

As we talk with students, we challenge many myths about the history of human enslavement and highlight the achievements of the past and present abolition movement. We then transition our focus from the historical picture of slavery to the plight millions face in the modern human trafficking crisis and tailor our conversation to discuss trafficking in the local Dallas and Collin County community. We help students identify the red flags of human trafficking and give practical advice on how to use social media technology responsibly so kids can avoid falling into the typical traps set by traffickers.

If you are interested in learning more about the human trafficking education program created by Classroom Counterpoints and Resurrect Life, then please email Brittany at [classroomcounterpoints@protonmail.com](mailto:classroomcounterpoints@protonmail.com).

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## Lights at Night

Despite the dark cloud hanging over our world right now, Weston stays bright and cheery. The Mayor has turned on our Weston Town Center Christmas lights to show our hope and faith that we will all get through the COVID-19 pandemic. He encourages everyone to do the same. Please stay safe.

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## Sound the Alarm!

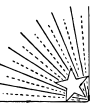
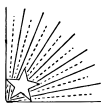
Weston has fixed the emergency siren system. Siren testing is performed on the first Wednesday of the month at noon. Instead of the usual 16 second alarm, the test runs for 90 seconds and consists of an 8 second increasing tone followed by an 8 second decreasing tone.

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## Post Office Museum Search

Steve and Epi continue their search for Weston family treasures to display in the historic post office museum during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Do you have a piece of Weston history that you'd like the community to see? If you want to display Weston photographs and other family treasures, then please contact Epi at [epi@dfwair.net](mailto:epi@dfwair.net) to help Weston showcase its history.

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# HOMEGROWN IN WESTON

By Michelle Balch

There's something sacred about childhood that seems to have disappeared in the hustle and bustle of modern living: the magnificence of wonder. When Daniel and I had our first child, we knew immediately that we wanted to instill in him a sense of wonder for the world. Eventually, we settled here, in Weston, to grow our family, our business, and our homestead. We knew that in order to spark the joy of learning, our children would need to be fully immersed in our lives. Thus, we decided to homeschool.

Running an auto repair business, developing relationships with customers, managing a work schedule, and prioritizing projects will help our boys learn real world skills along with a profound sense of independence. Running a family business in a small town will model for them the importance of contributing to the needs within our community.

However, we also want our children to be in touch with the natural world. We are striving to teach them about sustainable living by growing food for our table and raising our growing flock of chickens, ducks, and turkeys. They will learn of the blessing of life itself while observing the intricacies of nature surrounding them.

We want our boys to grow into strong men who will have the essential skills necessary to provide everything they need for themselves, their families, and their community. We are so thankful to be blessed with the opportunity to truly live life with our children and dig our roots into the Weston community.

*Balch Automotive is a family-owned full-service auto repair shop in Weston and can be reached at (469) 631-6393.*

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## Need Homeschool Help?

Many of us find ourselves unexpectedly thrown into the homeschool world. Weston has a thriving homeschool community that is willing to help you meet your learning goals. If you need help evolving your child's crisis education into a true homeschool plan, then please contact Brittany at [classroomcounterpoints@protonmail.com](mailto:classroomcounterpoints@protonmail.com).

## BASICS OF BEE STING ALLERGIES



*The following piece is written by Kaitlyn Huckle. She is a junior at Celina High School and serves as the 2020 Honey Princess for the Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Association.*

There are benefits to being a young beekeeper, one of which is that I haven't been stung nearly as many times as my dad who has been in the bee business for years. Besides learning how to care for bees, it is also important to learn how to care for bee stings, which is an inevitable part of the beekeeping journey.

There are four basic categories of bee stings that range from mild to severe. Fortunately, allergy skin tests can help reveal the severity of reactions to different types of bee stings. While you may be only mildly allergic to honey bee venom, you may be highly allergic to wasp venoms.

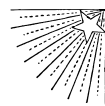
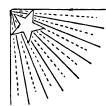
The most common and least severe bee sting reaction involves pain, swelling, and itching at the puncture site. The second type of reaction involves a large area of swelling (greater than 10 centimeters) at the sting site with tenderness and itching lasts for several days. While my dad falls into this category, I haven't been stung in years so I don't know where I fall on the bee sting spectrum.

The third kind of bee sting reaction is the generalized reaction. In this case, hives break out and away from the sting site. For those people who fall into this category, the good news is that almost all cases resolve without treatment, although Benadryl (diphenhydramine) can be helpful for managing the allergic response. However, if you are stung in the face or other sensitive area, then steroid injections or prednisone pills could help speed up the healing process.

Finally, the most dangerous category of bee sting reaction is anaphylaxis. Symptoms of an anaphylactic reaction after a sting include hives, swelling of the face and oral airway, wheezing and low blood pressure (shock). A severely allergic person may experience problems with the central nervous system such as headache, anxiety, confusion, lightheadedness, and even loss of consciousness. He or she may face respiratory issues like shortness of breath and may have pain in the pelvic area, suffer from abdominal cramps, and experience bladder control issues. Needless to say, if you are worried about how you may react to a bee sting, it may be worthwhile to get an allergy tested before a crisis occurs.

*Continued on Page 11*





Fortunately, only a small percentage of the population falls into the anaphylaxis category and studies indicate that death from honey bee stings is rare at about 25 fatalities per year. While tragic, studies also show that death from being struck by lightning is greater than death by honey bee stings.

Interestingly, research indicates that the majority of a bee's venom is pumped into the victim within twenty seconds. Scraping off the barbed stinger as quickly as possible reduces the amount of venom administered.

Venom immunotherapy is an option for those who suffer with a systemic response to bee stings. Once the responsible venom is identified, a patient is injected with low venom doses that increase over time. These injections help the body reduce the severity of allergic response.

If you have been diagnosed or suspect being severely allergic to bee stings, you may want to take preventative steps to avoid being stung. Some of these measures include wearing a medical alert bracelet, avoiding bright colors and perfumes, wearing closed toe shoes, not eating foods like bananas outdoors, and always carrying a cell phone just in case you need to call for help. For most folks dealing with the milder form of bee sting reaction, a dose of Benadryl will suffice but those who suffer from anaphylaxis will need to have an EpiPen (epinephrine) as prescribed from a doctor.

With spring's arrival and the addition of beehives to many homesteads in Weston, it is wise to consider how we may react to and treat any bee sting.

*Huckle Bee Farm is a Celina family business with over 60 colonies in bee yards throughout the metroplex. They offer beekeeping classes and a bee management program to help farmers maintain their agricultural exemption status. Please visit [www.hucklebeefarm.com](http://www.hucklebeefarm.com) for more information.*

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## PIONEER EGG PRESERVATION



Nothing beats starting the morning with a breakfast of farm fresh eggs, especially when they come from your own chickens. During the spring, chickens produce an abundance of eggs, sometimes yielding more than one family can eat. However, as the year progresses and the days grow shorter, chickens naturally slow down their egg production and families may find that they have to purchase eggs from the store. As we have seen over the past several weeks, eggs are sometimes difficult to find and it is wise to consider long term egg storage for those of us with chickens.

Fortunately, there's an easy egg preservation technique that allows families to take advantage of excess production so they can avoid purchasing eggs at the grocery store during the winter. This preservation method relies

on calcium hydroxide, commonly known as hydrated lime or pickling lime. To preserve your eggs, you will need a large food safe bucket with a lid, water, food grade hydrated lime, a scale for measuring the lime, and unwashed but clean eggs.

In your bucket, stir 8 weighted ounces of hydrated lime per quart of water. Your eggs will be submerged in the lime water so make a quantity of solution that fits your needs. Next, carefully add your unwashed but clean eggs into your bucket, pointed side down. Continue to add your surplus chicken eggs to the bucket and keep the lid on to ensure the solution doesn't evaporate. Make sure you have enough solution to keep the eggs fully submerged.

Voilà, you're done! Simply grab an egg from your bucket and enjoy. The lime solution will keep them fresh for many months. This low-tech preservation technique can help you have a more self-sufficient homestead and allow you to enjoy your yummy eggs throughout the year.

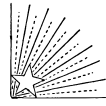
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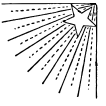
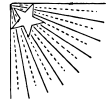
### Winner's Corner!



Congratulations to John Lewellen! He has won a four person Introduction to Beekeeping course at Celina's Huckle Bee Farm.

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# THE BARN QUILTS OF WESTON TEXAS

By Patti Harrington

Barn quilts are single quilt block squares, usually geometric shapes, painted on boards and mounted on barns, sheds, garages, or other buildings. The first barn quilt is said to have been hung in Ohio in 2001. The collection of painted quilts, those part of an organized trail, or painted by individuals is estimated to be more than 3,000. There are 100 organized trails in the U. S. offering driving maps for viewing.

The American Quilt Trail Movement has spread to 43 states and 3 provinces in Canada. Texas has mapped trails in: Terry County, Brazos County, and Fannin County (Bonham and Honey Grove). Weston's trail can now add Collin County to that list. We view our trail as an homage to early Weston, when cloth quilts traveled in settlers' wagons from Weston, Missouri in 1842. Will you be inspired to paint one for your property? Let's expand the Weston trail!

## THE WESTON TRAIL

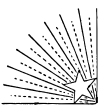
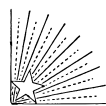
- 1 Weston Community Center - 117 Main Street  
Broken Star variation (East Court side, left)  
Eight Pointed Star (East Court side, center)  
Missouri Star variation (East Court side, right)  
Wyoming Valley (south side)
- 2 Weston City Hall - 301 Main Street  
Texas Pride (free standing)  
Stars and Stripes (rear entrance)  
Sister's Choice (rear entrance)
- 3 First Baptist Church - 300 Main Street  
Variation of Christmas Star
- 4 Calvary Chapel Honey Creek - 115 West Street  
Carolina Lilies  
Cross and Crown variation
- 5 Private Residence - 317 Main Street  
Maple Leaves (garage)
- 6 Private Residence - 9335 Lake Trail  
Bridget's Chicken
- 7 Private Residence - 9433 Lake Trail  
Ohio Star (driveway workshop)
- 8 Private Residence - 4270 Weston Creek Trail  
Sunflower (driveway fence)

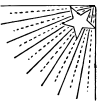
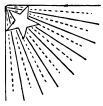


Weston Artists: Anne Marie Bonzo - Patti Harrington - Janet Sweet



*Continued on bottom of Page 14*





## THE GOOD OL' DAYS

Bonnie and Clyde, along with their gang of outlaws, loosely joined together to commit crimes throughout the central part of the United States, including Collin County. The following article recounts a battle near Weston between police officers and gang member Raymond Hamilton. Minor spelling and formatting edits have been made.

# **Extra** **The** **Extra** **Celina Record**

MONDAY, FEB. 25, 1934

### HAMILTON KIDNAPS LOCAL MEN

Wounded in Battle Near Weston Sunday Evening,  
Spends Night At Bill Mayes Home, Four  
Miles Northeast of Celina—Left At 6  
This Morning

Within less than a year Raymond Hamilton has visited this community twice, the first visit occurring April 26, [1933], and the second Sunday night, Feb. 24.

Collin and Grayson officers engaged Raymond and a pal in a gun battle near Weston Sunday evening.

Word had been received that Hamilton would pass over a little travelled road between McKinney and Weston Sunday evening, and lay in wait. When the pair approached and were commanded to halt the command was answered by a burst of machine gun fire from the bandit car and was returned by the officers, who used automatic rifles and shotguns.

The bandits escaped and at about 8p.m. drove up to the home of Bill Mayes, who lives 4 miles northeast of Celina on the Weston road, at the C.B. Smith old home place, having commandeered the car of J.C. Loftice, taking J.C. Loftice Jr. and L.B. Harlow with them.

Arriving at the Mayes home, they had one of the boys call for Mr. Mayes, who came out with his hands in his pockets. Hamilton said to his pal, a big strong man apparently about 25 years old, "Grab him. He's got a gun." The large man threw his arms about Mr. Mayes' shoulders while Hamilton held a .45 calibre pistol on him.

Mr. Mayes asked what it all meant and was told who his distinguished guests were, being at the same time assured that nobody would be harmed, if they did as they were told. Hamilton assured Mr. Mayes that he had never robbed a poor man and had never killed anyone.

The car in which they arrived was parked back of the house so it would not be noticed.

The bandits took time about sleeping, one guarding the family while the other slept. They had two machine guns and a .45 automatic pistol.

Mrs. Mayes prepared supper for the men and they ate lightly, Hamilton remarking that he was so nervous he did not know whether he could eat or not.

When supper was ready the whole family, Mr. Mayes, his wife, their son, Roy W. Mayes, and wife were forced to accompany the bandits to the dining room, where the automatic pistol and a machine gun were kept ready for action, should anything occur.

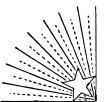
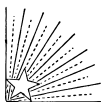
But nothing occurred. Mr. Mayes said the men made good their word to treat the family nicely.

During the night the bandits talked and laughed about the battle they had just had with officers, remarking that when the big man turned loose his machine gun fire while Hamilton drove, the officers scurried for cover.

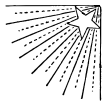
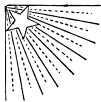
The V-8 Ford the bandits were in was abandoned just the other side of Wes Culwell's and was found to have been struck by many bullets.

Not only the car was struck, but Hamilton, Mr. Mayes said, had a flesh wound on the cheek and another on the top of the shoulder, but that neither was serious. His pal's hat crown was shot full of holes.

*Continued on Page 14*







The two men left about 6 o'clock this morning in Mr. Mayes' 1929 Chevrolet car, taking with them Mr. Mayes's son Roy, aged 22, J.C. Loftice, 18, and L.B. Harlow, son of Jess Harlow, all of whom resided in the community.

Hamilton told Mr. Mayes that they were going to Denton via Celina, Frisco, and Lake Dallas, and that they would turn the three young men loose at Denton. He said he had a Ford V-8 spotted at Denton and that he would get it as soon as he got there.

Mr. Mayes said Hamilton's hair was black and that Hamilton said he had dyed it.

Mr. Mayes said he was assured that his car would be left at Denton.

Roy Mayes was driving when the bandits left his home.

Mr. Mayes arrived in Celina about 8 o'clock and told what had happened. Constable S.L. Betty at once informed the office of the sheriff at McKinney and the hunt for Texas' most noted bandit was renewed. McKinney officers had not learned that the bandits spent Sunday night at the home of Mr. Mayes.

Mr. Mayes feared that officers might attempt to halt

the pair and that the three hostages might be killed or injured.

It seems that the bad luck of Hamilton on his visit to Celina on April 26, [1933], when he was captured at Howe, came near being duplicated Sunday night.

On the former visit word was received that two men had robbed the Lewisville bank and were headed this way travelling on Highway 14, and a crowd gathered at Douglas & Son's service station to get a glimpse of them, but, seeing the crowd, the bandits ducked west and came back into the highway in the north part of town. When the two were captured at Howe by Grayson County officers one of them proved to be Raymond Hamilton, who was later given the death penalty for killing a prison guard in a break at the Eastham prison farm.

The following July Hamilton, with others again escaped from the state prison and has since been hunted.

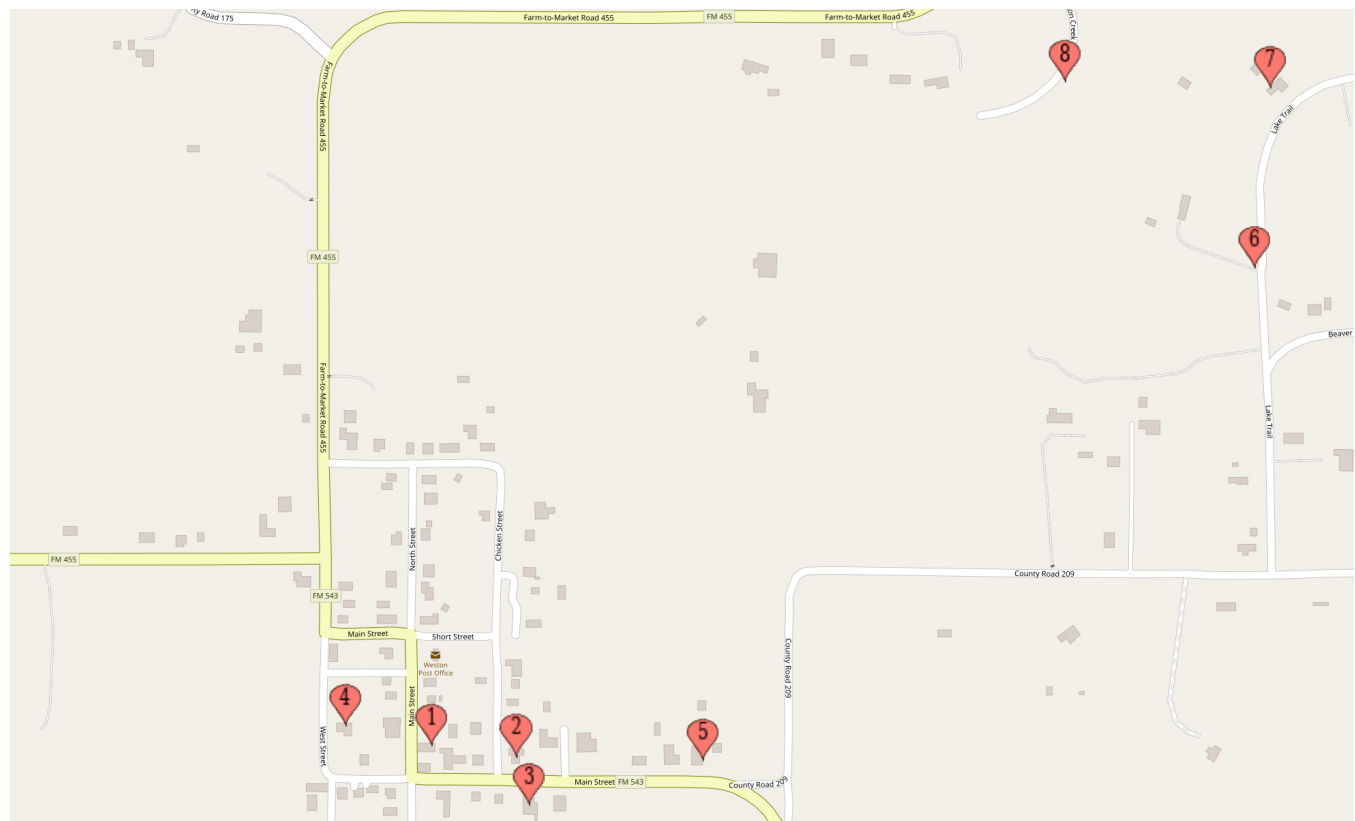
Officers who took part in the Sunday evening battle were Sheriff G.J.S. Walker, and his deputies, Arlie Sparlin and Stony Allen, Constable John Record of McKinney, and Highway Patrolmen J.B. Truelock and K.D. Carr of Sherman.

Source: <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph773685/m1/1/>

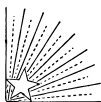
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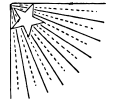


### THE WESTON TRAIL MAP

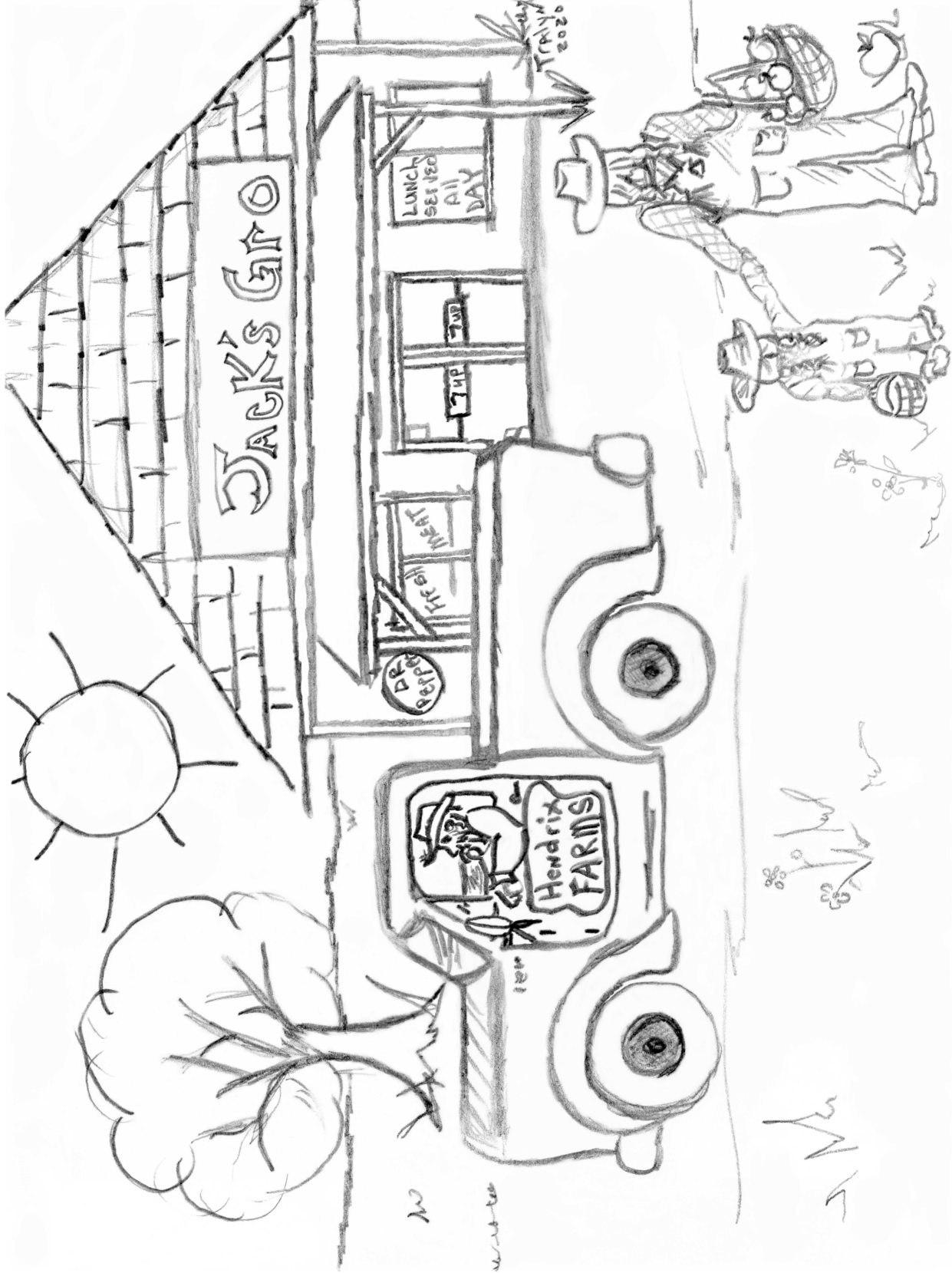
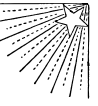


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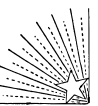
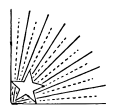
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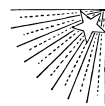
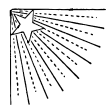


By Tralyn Tadlock

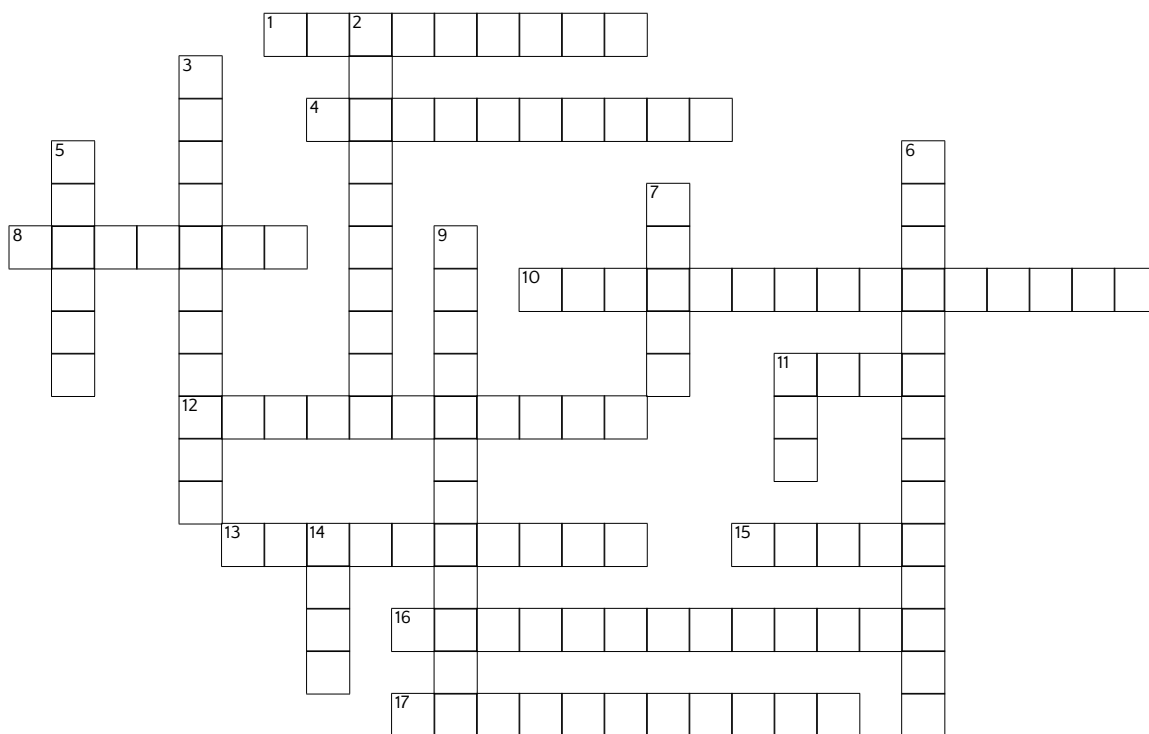
Sis Mugg owned Jack's Gro, Weston's main grocery shop.

Many of us have fond memories waiting for the school bus at Sis' store and eating her delicious sandwiches.





# CROSSWORD



### Across

- 1 Ingredient in nontoxic weed killer
- 4 Collin County Sheriff
- 8 Speed limits reduced to \_\_\_\_ mph on downtown Weston roads
- 10 Dallas eatery serving free meals
- 11 Stonebranch Microfarm doesn't \_\_\_\_ the soil
- 12 Cate Robbins is a local \_\_\_\_ and art teacher
- 13 Classroom Counterpoints offers \_\_\_\_ help
- 15 Item carried in a settler's wagon
- 16 Land used to grow food during the world wars
- 17 Most severe kind of bee allergy

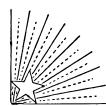
### Down

- 2 Pioneer women used \_\_\_\_ to stop bleeding
- 3 Weston \_\_\_\_ Market connects farmers and residents
- 5 Magazine helping connect farmers to customers
- 6 Maintaining 6 feet of space between people
- 7 \_\_\_\_ Automotive is the local auto shop
- 9 North Texas Criminal \_\_\_\_ Unit
- 11 Caudalie Crest Winery is celebrating their \_\_\_\_ year anniversary
- 14 Sis \_\_\_\_ owned Jack's Gro

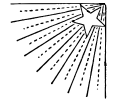
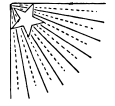
Answers found at bottom of last page.

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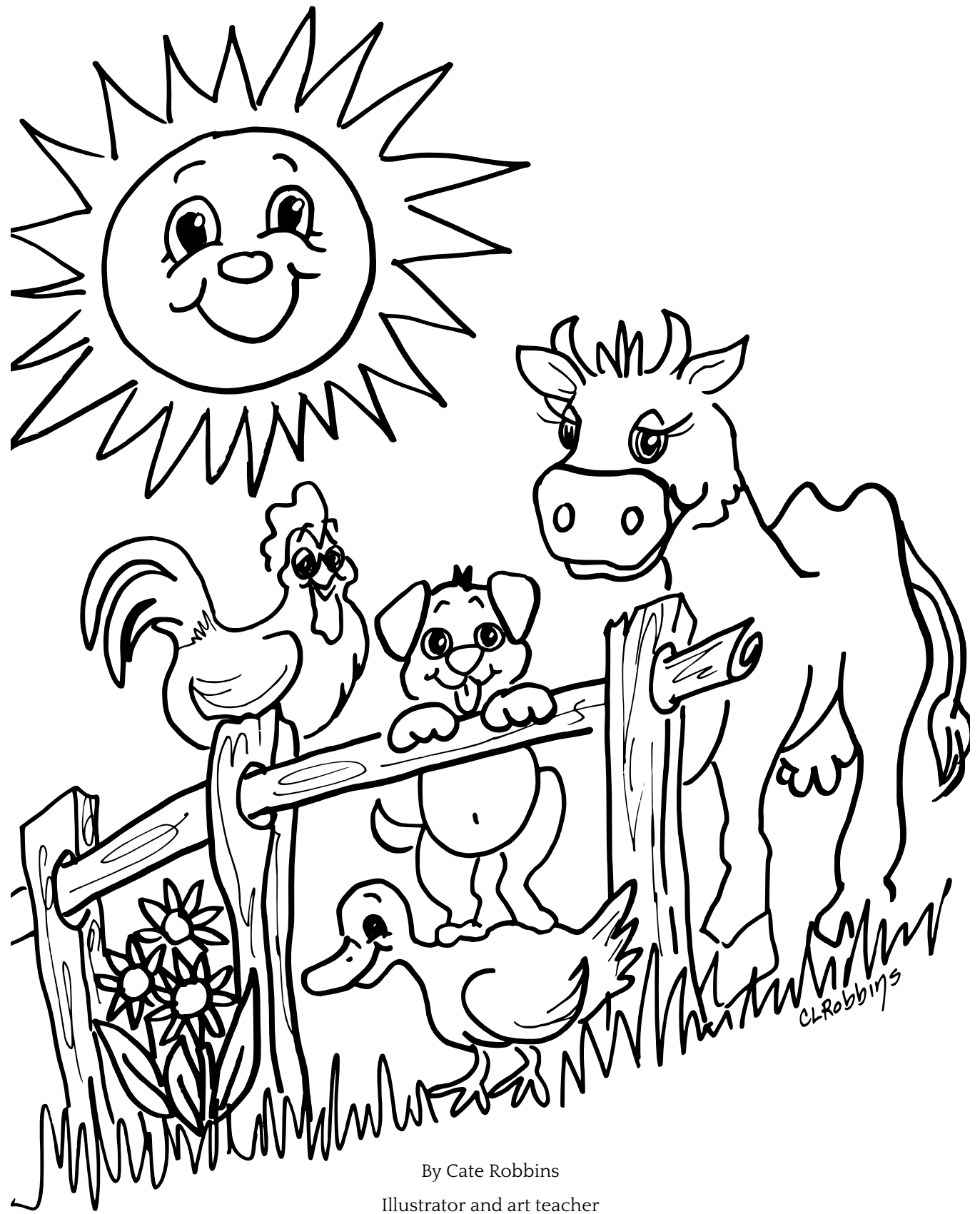
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# COLORING PAGE

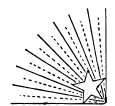
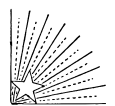


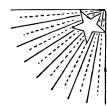
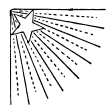
By Cate Robbins

Illustrator and art teacher

Springtime is always a good time for the farm animals in Weston.

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# WORD SEARCH



Find the 17 solutions to the crossword hidden in the word search.

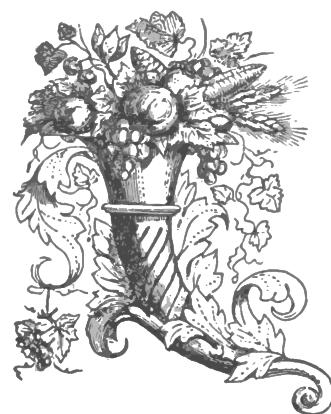
Q D V V W Z A N Q W I Z C A I V V R K S I S L  
 U W E I B X N J S A S L C G E D I B L E W A B  
 I L Y C H R A O Z O L P L E A Q B T Y W K T L  
 L R O T R V P U J V C V I U P J K D S K P C D  
 T L L O E N H Y K S A I M D S S Y A S R U O N  
 A V B R W X Y P C F P A A U E T O B E V L O O  
 D D C Y A W L D G Y T O L L G R R M H U R P L  
 G Z A G J C A E K E Z H B U D G W A S F A E O  
 F B W A F I X Q O A F S U A E I N E T A J R O  
 H M B R V J I A M K R I H C L E S C B O L A H  
 X T Z D W G S L A N U F J K B C R T Z S R T C  
 E T M E I N T E R D I C T I O N H F A Z H I S  
 B M I N U T U N E E T F I F P F A K U N C V E  
 B T W L U V P F Z J B S Y R S E V R X P C E M  
 U X G Z L M P R E N N I K S M I J H T U K E O  
 N E H C T I K H G U O L R U F A P R V G Z R H

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## SUDOKU

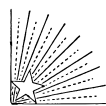


	6				8			
7	5						4	
8	2			6		5		
		5				2	8	
	9			5	7		1	
				8	7	4	9	
	1						6	
				6	8	2	7	3
			3	5	2	1	4	



Answers found at bottom of last page.

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# TEXAS LORE

by Patrick M. Reynolds

## Frontier First Aid

DOCTORS WERE FEW AND FAR BETWEEN DURING TEXAS' EARLY YEARS SO PIONEERS RELIED ON **HOME REMEDIES** KNOWN BY THE **WOMEN** OF THE FAMILY. FOR EXAMPLE—WOUNDS WERE



ALLOWED TO BLEED FREELY TO PREVENT INFECTION THEN COVERED WITH SPIDER WEBS OR CHIMNEY SOOT TO STOP THE BLEEDING. A POULTICE OF CORN MEAL SOAKED IN PEACH LEAF TEA DREW OUT PUS OR SPLINTERS AND REDUCED SWELLING.

BARLEY TEA RELIEVED DIARRHEA. **SHEEP TEA** FOR PNEUMONIA WAS MADE BY STEEPING SHEEP DROPPINGS WHICH PROBABLY CONTAINED SOME OF THE MOLD FROM WHICH PENICILLIN WAS MADE.

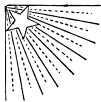


MOST OF THESE REMEDIES WORKED BUT SCIENTISTS ARE STILL DISCOVERING HOW AND WHY.

For 20 years, Patrick M. Reynolds researched, wrote, and illustrated *Texas Lore*, which appeared weekly in *The Dallas Morning News* and other publications. Reynolds has given *The Weston Post* permission to use his images.

You can purchase his illustrated *Texas Lore* books at <http://www.redrosetudio.com/texas.html>.





## UPCOMING EVENTS

- ★ **May 5** Cinco De Mayo
- ★ **May 12** Weston City Council Meeting at City Hall 7:30p.m.
- ★ **May 25** Memorial Day
- ★ **June 9** Weston City Council Meeting at City Hall 7:30p.m.
- ★ **June 19** Emancipation Day
- ★ **July 4** Independence Day  
4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade and Bake Sale on Main Street 10a.m.
- ★ **July 5** Open House at Caudalie Crest Winery 11a.m. to 4p.m.
- ★ **July 14** Weston City Council Meeting at City Hall 7:30p.m.

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## FILING DEADLINES FOR NOVEMBER 3, 2020 GENERAL ELECTION

Do you want to serve your community as a member of Weston's city council? If you live within the city limits, then consider running for alderman. The city of Weston will hold an election November 3, 2020, to elect 3 aldermen.

- ★ **July 18** First Day to File for Place on the General Election Ballot
- ★ **August 17** Last Day to File for Place on the General Election Ballot 5p.m.
- ★ **August 21** Last Day to File a Declaration of Write-in Candidacy
- ★ **October 5** Last Day to Register to Vote
- ★ **November 3** Election Day

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### Meeting Schedule



**Weston Volunteer  
Fire Dept**  
1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday  
7p.m.  
203 Main Street



**Weston Water  
Supply Corp**  
Last Monday  
7p.m.  
406 Chicken Street



**Weston  
Women's Group**  
4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday  
7p.m.  
117 Main Street

*"We should be careful to get out of an experience only the wisdom that is in it—and stop there; lest we be like the cat that sits down on a hot stove-lid. She will never sit down on a hot stove-lid again—and that is well; but also she will never sit down on a cold one any more."*

—Mark Twain

## Gardening Tip



Use the following recipe as an alternative to toxic weed killer. It will kill any unwanted plants that get sprayed and is cheaper than conventional herbicides. Simply mix the ingredients and spray the solution in the morning after the dew has evaporated. Your weeds will be gone by dinnertime!

- 1 gallon vinegar
- 2 cups Epsom salt
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup eco-friendly dish soap

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

Answers: 1. EPSOMSALT 2. SPIDERWEBS 3. COOPERATIVE 4. JIMSKINNER 5. EDIBLE 6. SOCIALDISTANCE 7. BATCH 8. FIFTEEN 9. INTERDICTION 10. FURLOUGHKITCHEN 11. TILL 12. ILLUSTRATOR 13. HOMESCHOOL 14. MUGG 15. QUILT 16. VICTORYGARDEN 17. ANAPHYLAXIS

