

The Weston Post

Issue № 5

Winter 2021



INTRODUCING ALDERMAN MICHAEL HILL

In This Issue

- 1 **Introducing Alderman Michael Hill**
- 4 **Mayor's Corner**
- 4 **Whose Mark Do You Bear?**
- 5 **Know the Signs**
- 6 **How to Choose the Perfect Cowboy Boot**
- 8 **Homeschooling Hot Topics**
- 10 **Who was Collin McKinney?**
- 10 **Winning the Rat Race**
- 11 **Parenting Stress: Don't Dial 911 Yet**
- 12 **The Parker Homestead Academy**
- 13 **Thankful, Grateful and Blessed**
- 14 **Christmas at First Christian Church**
- 15 **Fourth Annual Weston Village Christmas Storytime**
- 15 **Light up Weston!**
- 16 **Celina's Christmas on the Square**
- 17 **MicroGreen Living**
- 18 **What's New at Cartermere Farms?**
- 19 **Barbara's Banana Nut Bread**
- 20 **Join Our Team**
- 21 **The Good Ol' Days**
- 23 **Coloring Page**
- 24 **Crossword**
- 25 **Coloring Page**
- 26 **Word Search**
- 26 **Sudoku**
- 27 **Texas Lore**
- 28 **Upcoming Events**

Tell us about yourself.

Since 1966, I've lived in the Dallas area including Richardson. After graduating from Richardson High School, I attended both the University of Texas and Texas Tech. Thinking that I would be drafted to Vietnam, I quit school and prepared to go to war. When the draft was suspended, I found a job as a tile setter helper and then became an apprentice. In 1983, I started my own business, Quality Custom Tile Contracting, which I still operate today. 1983 was also the year that I bought my land here in Weston. I moved here in 1984 precisely because I didn't want to live in a suburban setting of miles of houses crammed together.

I was married for thirty years to my wife, Linda, who passed away just three years ago. We raised five children, three of whom graduated from Celina High School. We were involved in every group from Kindergarten room mother and PTO to Band Boosters, with Scouts and Pee Wee Football in between. Though we became empty nesters in 2007, we were always involved with our family, which now includes four grandchildren. I always thought that I would get more involved in Weston, so I started attending city council and water board meetings in early 2018.



Photo: Brittany Yurkovitch

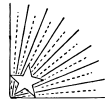
Why did you run for Weston city alderman?

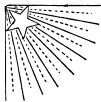
I was always keenly aware of development as I saw the suburban sprawl from Richardson to Plano, Allen and McKinney on I-75 and Plano, Frisco, Prosper, and Celina on Preston Road. As the sprawl creeps north of McKinney, I have discovered others who wanted to steer the growth in a way that retains our rural character. My desire to be a part of the movement to keep Weston rural is why I ran for alderman.

You are very passionate about local history and have written historical articles for *The Weston Post*. How will your interest in history impact your decisions as alderman?

I am an avid student of history and I'm always reading something interesting about the past. I have discovered many exciting things about Collin County and the Weston area along the way. I've lived here since the 1980s, so I have some knowledge of how Weston came to be as it is today. I've been to many places in the United States and Europe and I honestly believe there's no better place to live than Weston. My personal story of being an observer of growth patterns, my travels, and my interest in history gives me valuable insight into what might be possible as we plan Weston's future.

Continued on Page 2





Tell us about Weston's new road plan.

It wasn't long ago when the old city council revealed the County Thoroughfare Plan for Weston. At that meeting, there was a sense that the plan was designed by people who had no knowledge of our town and who drew lines to accomplish a certain kind of traffic flow. Most of the locals were shocked to see plans for massive roads crisscrossing through businesses and homes in the Weston downtown area.

Fortunately, the old council delayed approving that thoroughfare plan and allowed the new mayor and council to decide on the road issues. Mayor Jim Marischen formed a citizen committee, of which I was a member, to make suggestions on how our town's road plan could accomplish what needed to be done in a Weston-friendly way. The committee suggested some great common sense alternatives that preserves our downtown, encourages traffic flow away from the city, and is minimally disruptive to homesteads.

The plan we generated was reviewed at a public hearing and was approved by the city council with some minor changes. The next steps will be for the mayor to meet with our neighboring cities and discuss Weston's road plan, followed by county approval and integration with all relevant jurisdictions.

What are your goals and vision for Weston?

My overall goal is to help mitigate the possible negative effects of the inevitable development pressures like those we are already experiencing.

My vision for Weston has always been to see homes on five or ten acres lots along with nicer estates on more acreage. It would be great to maintain our farming and ranching heritage and keep a rural feel to downtown Weston. I believe that vision still can exist with small businesses and restaurants and perhaps a pedestrian mall on Main Street. There is plenty of room for developing houses and businesses to serve those areas and still create a welcoming destination around Weston that will be attractive for everyone.

What would you like residents to know?

Residents should know that now is the time to get involved with helping Weston maintain its rural character and uphold its traditions. There is a core group of people that are working hard to achieve this goal. While we are passionate, we need more help from our community. Also, residents outside the Weston city limits should know that city council decisions have an impact on your interests. Please, come to city council meetings and let your voice be heard.

Continued on Page 3



The Weston Post

Issue № 5

Winter 2021

Publisher

Classroom Counterpoints

Printer

Legacy Print Group
legacyprintgroup.com

Editor in Chief

Brittany Yurkovitch

Contributing Writers

Michelle Balch
Abby Christian
Lori L. Ellis
Nancy Gemaehlich
Karen Gonzalez
Anni Jezek
Ransom Lewellen
Angela Logsdon
Donna Lynch
Jim Marischen
Amanda Mchenry
Morgan Rizzo
Kimberly Tisserand
Jennie Turnell
Brittany Yurkovitch

Contributing Artists

Patrick M. Reynolds
Cate Robbins
Tralyn Tadlock

Design & Layout

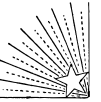
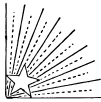
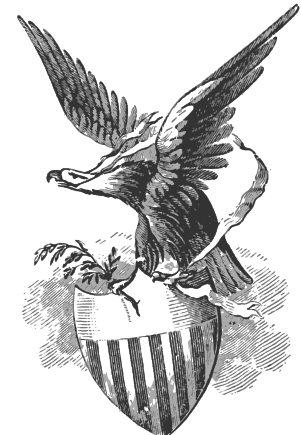
Mitch Levine

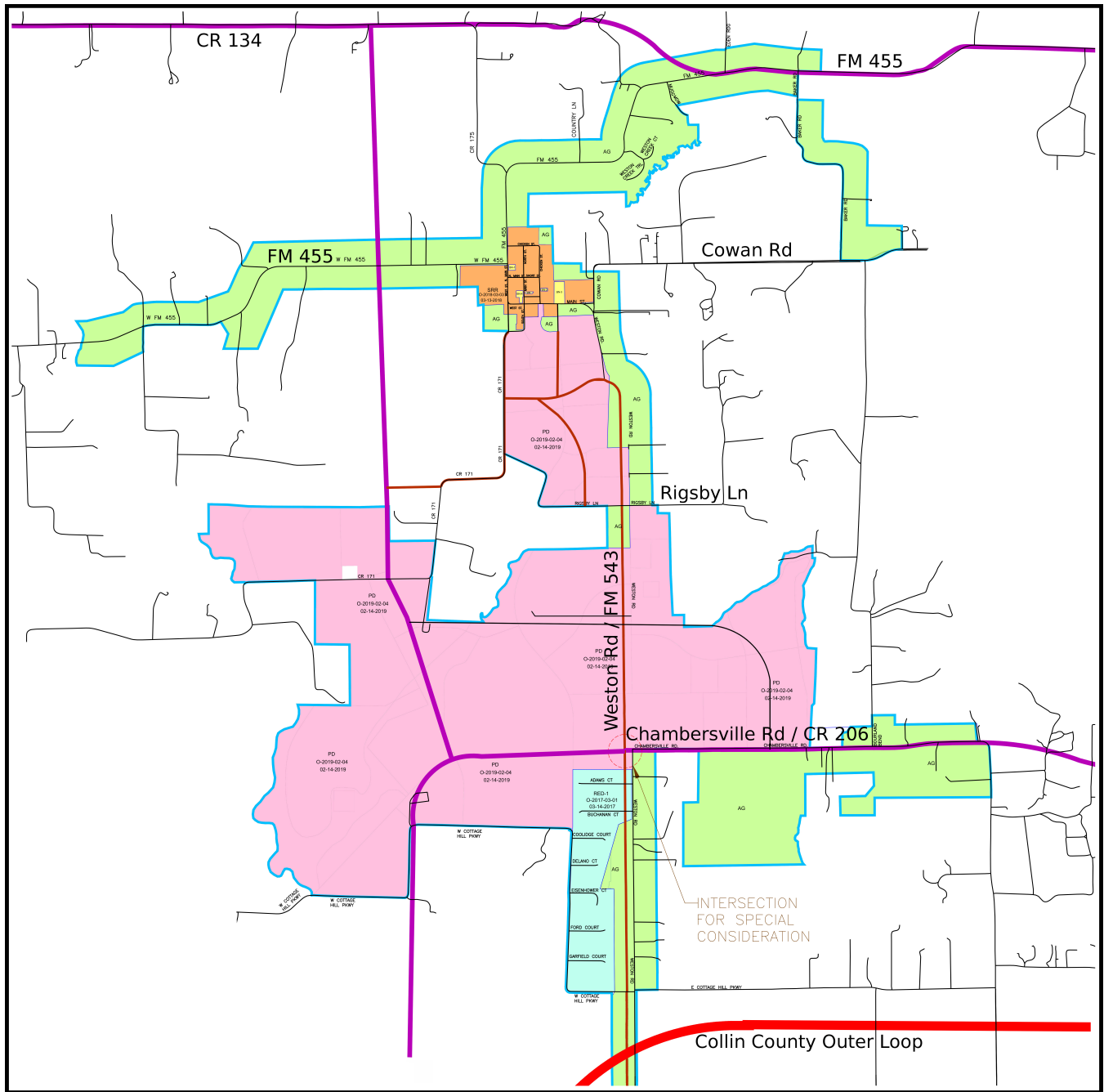
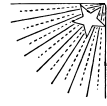
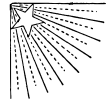
Contact

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

thewestonpost.com
thewestonpost@protonmail.com






Typeset with LATEX



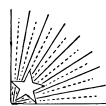


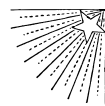
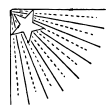
Weston Thoroughfare Map

LEGEND:

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
|  AG | AGRICULTURE |  | FREEWAY |
|  BN | BUSINESS NEIGHBORHOOD |  | STATE HIGHWAY |
|  PD | PLANNED DEVELOPMENT |  | FM = FARM TO MARKET |
|  RED-1 | RED-1 RESIDENTIAL ESTATE DISTRICT |  | CR = COUNTY ROAD |
|  SRR | SPECIAL REVITALIZATION DISTRICT |  | M4D = MAJOR 4 LANE DIVIDED |
|  | CITY LIMITS |  | M4U = MAJOR 4 LANE UNDIVIDED |
| | |  | 2 LANE |

ADOPTED BY THE CITY OF WESTON ON DECEMBER 8, 2020.
ORDINANCE NO. 2020-12-01





MAYOR'S CORNER

By Jim Marischen

Residents of Weston and our surrounding area, I want to wish everyone a safe and virus free new year. I don't know about you, but I am really happy to put 2020 behind me. However, don't let your guard down waiting for the COVID-19 vaccine. It may be mid-year before it gets distributed enough to make a difference. Weston is a member of the Collin County partnership to provide you the vaccine. If you are in the 1A (front-line healthcare worker or resident of a long term care facility) or 1B (over 65 years of age or have a underlying medical condition) categories, then please register to get the vaccine at <https://apps2.collincountytx.gov/Forms/VaccineRequest>. Since there are over 90,000 Collin County residents already on this list, be sure to also contact your local pharmacy to see if they have the vaccine.

It was a frustrating year for meeting the Mayor's Goals. I provided these goals in *The Weston Post's* first winter edition in 2020. COVID-19 prevented us from forming many of the teams needed to implement these plans. However, we were able to complete the Weston Thoroughfare Plan and begin the reengineering of the city ordinances. We also held several successful events: the 4th of July Parade, Clean up Weston, and Light up Weston. Also, we upgraded both the Community Center and City Hall and we automated the city's warning siren. Finally, we hired a new legal team to help us manage the new developer, Megatel, who has broken ground on Phase I of Weston Trails.

I expect the New Year to bring greater results for the city in 2021. With the help of a new city planner, we will complete an updated vision for Weston and will upgrade to the Comprehensive Plan to reflect our rural roots. We should complete our streamlining of the Weston ordinances later in the year. We will complete the design of the Weston Wastewater Treatment Plant by May and then will start to build. It will include the Weston city sewer lines and pump station. Discussions continue on the Venetian Lagoon and new potential developers, like Robson Ranch. For additional Mayor's Goals, please visit www.westontexas.com/page/Mayor_Goals.

Please provide any questions for me either through the Weston website or directly to Susan at the City Hall.

[Back to Contents](#)



WHOSE MARK DO YOU BEAR?

By Nancy Gemæhlich

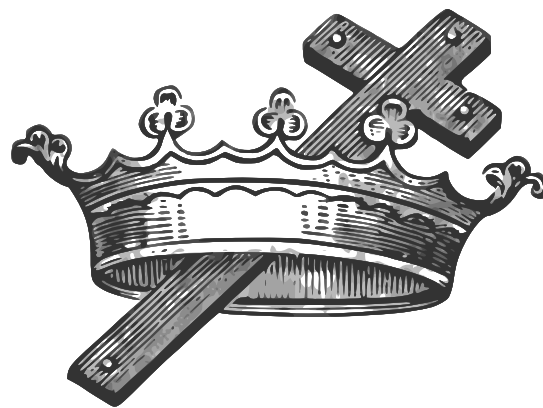
When people turn their attention to end-time events, they often talk of the mark of the Beast. They might ask: What will this mark be? How will believers in the Tribulation avoid getting it? With today's move towards developing a secure way to access all of one's accounts and identity, we can see how the mark of the Beast could be used in the future.

But all things considered, I think the more compelling question is, Have I been marked or sealed by the Holy Spirit? Revelation chapter 14 shows us that whether one is marked with the name of God or with the name of the Beast is the determining factor of their eternal destiny.

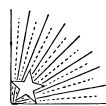
In our lives today, we can be marked by outward things like injuries or illness, which might leave scars in our flesh, reminding us of the occurrence. We can also be marked inwardly by traumatic losses, and words spoken over us that sear themselves into our soul. The Lord cares about the effects of these marks on our lives. He sent the Holy Spirit as a comforter to help us heal and grow. God has also given us the body of Christ to encourage and build each other up.

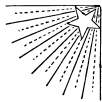
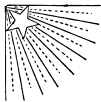
However, as Christians, these physical and emotional marks in our body and soul, though very real, are temporary. This is because we bear another mark or seal given to us by the Lord through the Holy Spirit. This seal guarantees whose we are and our future redemption—spirit, body, and soul—at the Lord's return (2 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30).

"In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory" (Eph. 1:13-14).



Continued on Page 5





It is this seal that defines us. It makes us overcomers, co-heirs with Christ, and kings and priests of our God. Our real joy is found not just in overcoming Satan’s work in our lives but in the fact that we are sealed for redemption—our names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life (Luke 10:20; Rev. 21:27). So, when many are talking about the mark of the Beast in light of our times, it’s important to remember and encourage one another that we bear the mark of the Lord!

Nancy Gemaehlich is the author of the women’s Bible study, Come Lord Jesus: A Woman’s Walk—Spirit, Body & Soul—Through the Book of Revelation. She is the Director of Women’s Ministries at Weston’s Calvary Chapel Honey Creek. Learn more about her writing/blog at www.nancygemaehlich-author.com.

[Back to Contents](#)



KNOW THE SIGNS

By Amanda Mchenry

Amanda serves on the Board of Directors for the C7 Human Trafficking Coalition. C7 Texoma Anti-Trafficking Coalition is a satellite group that is committed to working together to eradicate human trafficking in North Texas.

According to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, the federal definition of sex trafficking is “a commercial sex act that is induced by force, fraud, or coercion or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age.” While it is a hidden trade, trafficking is happening all around us. Identifying victims can be challenging—some of the signs of trafficking can be quite subtle. However, once we know what to look for, then it becomes easier to identify and help victims.

First, it is helpful to understand some of the recruitment tactics when looking for signs of human trafficking. As discussed in our article in the fall edition of *The Weston Post*, young people are often targeted by predators on social media. The trafficker, who is usually older, gets intimately involved with their victim online and may dangle a promise of marriage or shower the victim with gifts. A younger person in the company of a much older person can be a sign that something is amiss. The older person may appear to shield the younger one who is not allowed to speak for his or herself. The youth may be reluctant to make eye contact and may appear fearful.



Online vigilance is not only useful for avoiding getting roped in to a trafficking scam, but can be helpful for identifying those who are already victims. Our young trafficking victim may leave clues of the crime on their social media account. The victim may be preoccupied with money and post pictures of cash and flashy jewelry on social media. The victim may use language like “trick,” “the life,” or “the game” in their posts while displaying overtly sexual online behavior.

In a school situation, unexplained absences could be an indicator of trafficking. One may notice dramatic changes in a student’s behavior or isolation from the school community. The victim may provide scripted stories or inconsistent answers to questions. Furthermore, a child suddenly coming to school with designer items like purses or jewelry, that they previously would not have been able to afford, could signal concern.

On the Lookout

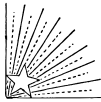
When we do learn the possible indicators of human trafficking, we see everything in a different light. Activity that may not have raised suspicions in the past may set off alarm bells big time. Consider travelling to a motel or hotel. Frequent activity or people in and out of multiple rooms could be a clue. The contrast of fancy vehicles with fancy rims at very modest motels could be a sign that something is amiss.

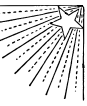
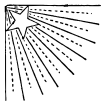
Victims have no control and are often kept in the dark about their own whereabouts. In some cases, victims may not even know what city that they are in or where they may be traveling. The victim may appear drugged or disoriented and may be afraid of armed security.

There are also physical signs to look for such as branding or tattoos. Some common tattoos include crowns, their pimp’s name, words like “daddy”, and money signs. A person being trafficked may also have various stages of bruising, burns and scars.

Some other things to look for are the possession of motel cards, condoms, and escort service cards. Also, large amounts of cash, gift cards and prepaid credit cards can be an indicator. Perhaps the person has no luggage or is in possession of multiple cell phones.

Being inappropriately dressed for the weather is another sign that a person may be being trafficked. If it’s a cold January day and a person is dressed for a hot Texas July afternoon, it could be a clue that something is wrong. Multiple sexually transmitted diseases are another indicator that a person may be being trafficked.





Awareness Saves Lives

We are not usually in a position to see all the signs that a person is being trafficked. These are just some possible indicators. That’s why education among a wide audience of people and professions is important. Simply, being on the lookout for what looks out of place is extremely important. Parents are in a position to see certain signs while teachers are able to see other signs. Medical professionals and those in the travel industry are in a unique position to notice specific indicators if they are properly educated.

In 2011, Shelia Fedick, an Alaska Airlines flight attendant, saved a teenage girl from a human trafficker during a flight from Seattle to San Francisco. She noticed a dirty and disheveled teenage girl flying with a well-groomed businessman. Fedick said the girl appeared as if “she had been through pure hell” and noticed that the young lady refused to make eye contact. Fedick observed that the girl was constantly interrupted by the older man accompanying her.

Fedick had a bad feeling about the situation and convinced the girl to go to the bathroom. Fedick left a note for the teen in the bathroom asking if she needed help. The girl replied that she needed help and by the time the plane landed, police were waiting at the gate to intervene. It turned out that the girl was a victim of trafficking and was in fear for her life. Fedick’s quick thinking saved the teen from a trafficking nightmare. Fortunately, many industries, including the airlines, are training their employees to identify the signs of human trafficking so more victims may be rescued.



Photo: Tomás Del Coro

It takes all of us being on the lookout for those who are vulnerable. If we have some idea of what to look for, we are in a better position to try and help. Awareness is the key. If it’s not practical to call the police when trafficking is suspected, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733).

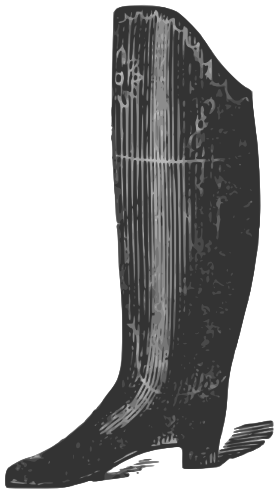
Some of our member organizations give talks to groups about social media safety. For more information about these educational talks, trafficking resources, and a list of our member organizations, please visit www.c7htc.org.

[Back to Contents](#)



HOW TO CHOOSE THE PERFECT COWBOY BOOT

By Angela Logsdon



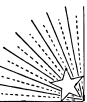
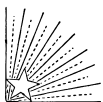
I collect boots the way most women collect purses. I previously owned a cutting horse ranch and went through tons of boots in my day. Without a doubt, my boots were put to the test on a daily basis so let me give you a little cowgirl advice on what to look for when searching for your perfect boots.

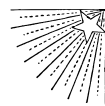
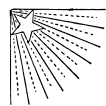
One of my favorite sayings is “Good boots ain’t cheap and cheap boots ain’t good.” If you are buying your first pair of boots, I understand you may not want to spend a fortune on your first pair. However, my first suggestion is to buy real leather. There are many cheap boot companies that use pleather, an oil-based synthetic fabric that is made to look like leather. Pleather will begin to peel and deteriorate in a matter of months, while real leather can last for decades if taken care of.

Now let’s consider what you are going to do with those new boots? Are you going dancing? Are you riding a horse? Are you working in construction? These are important questions to think about when choosing the new beauties you are about to put on your feet. If you and your friends are going out on the town for a night of dancing, then a leather sole is a must! A rubber sole will stick to the floor and you may fall on the dance floor!

If you are going to ride a horse for the first time and decide to buy some boots, then please do not buy rubber soled boots. This advice is coming from a retired cowgirl: a leather slick-bottom cowboy boot can save you or your child from getting caught in a stirrup. Now, most blue-collar, hard-working people in construction type jobs prefer a rubber sole with a round toe or square toed boot. The rubber sole keeps feet safe from objects penetrating the foot. Some cowboy boots come with a steel toe, which is a safety requirement on many job sites.

Continued on Page 7





Furthermore, the type of leather you choose is extremely important. For example, if you are working in these boots, you wouldn't want to buy snakeskin. Here is a quick rundown on your best options for everyday footwear as well as those which are higher maintenance:

Cowhide Leather: This option is a great, everyday boot for work and pairs well with either casual or dressy styles. Cowhide leather is a very durable and low maintenance.

Goat Leather: This leather falls somewhere between luxury and inexpensive. It has lots of pores, making it a soft leather that is breathable and will continue to soften over time and with wear.

Ostrich Leather: This exotic leather can be very pricey. It is a durable leather that contains some natural oils in the skin. However, you do have to maintain this skin to keep it looking in top shape since you paid a pretty penny for those boots. The bonus with ostrich leather is that they are usually super soft right off the shelf.

Snakeskin: These beautiful boots can be extremely high maintenance as the scales must be conditioned on a regular basis. Snakeskin is not a good choice for a work boot.

Elephant Skin: These boots are made with an extremely tough hide and can be very expensive. While they require some maintenance, they make for excellent dress and work boots.

Lizard & Caiman Alligator Leather: These luxury leathers are absolutely beautiful and require regular care and maintenance. While they are a tougher leather, I wouldn't advise working in these.

Finally, let's talk about how those new boots are supposed to fit. One of the most important things to remember when trying on boots is to wear socks that you would normally wear on a daily basis. Do not wear a thin sock to buy your boots then go home and put on a thick boot sock. You will most definitely be upset that your boots are super tight. I suggest a calf length, athletic type boot sock when trying on boots. You should always stand up once you get your boot on and it should feel as if it's a firm handshake around your foot.

Most people experience $\frac{1}{4}$ " to $\frac{1}{2}$ " slip round the heel which is normal. Your new boots will eventually break in quite nicely and that slip will eventually stop. Cowboy boots come in multiple widths. The men's boots widths are B (narrow), D (average), E (wide), EE (extra wide) and EEE (etc.). The women's boots are A (narrow), B (average) and C (wide). Make sure your new purchase is not extremely loose or too tight.



Photo: Angela Logsdon

Once a year I usually display and disperse part of this collection of mine so if you are ever in Weston during one of my boot purges come by and see me. This ol' cowgirl wishes you the best on finding your perfect pair of cowboy boots.

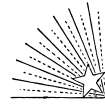
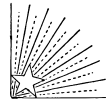
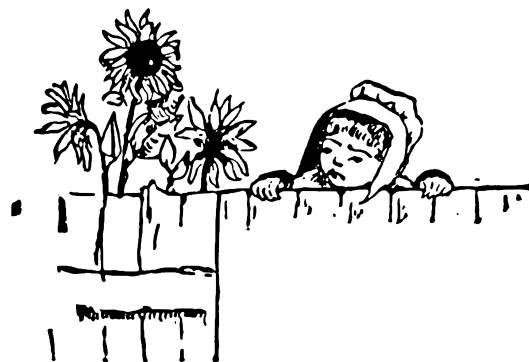
Angela lives right outside of Weston on FM 543 and plans to host a boot sale at her home in the spring. She will post an announcement in the post office, on Facebook Marketplace, and Nextdoor.com prior to her sale.

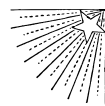
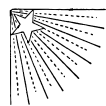
[Back to Contents](#)

Coloring Page, Art, and Photo Submissions

Do you like to draw? Do you have any great paintings or photos showing life in Weston? If so, we would like to showcase your art in *The Weston Post*. For coloring pages, 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, folks enjoying the country life, scenes from our 4th of July parade, and historical pictures.

Please email Brittany at thewestonpost@protonmail.com for more information about submissions.





HOMESCHOOLING HOT TOPICS

By Brittany Yurkovitch

Brittany is a homeschool mom and the editor of The Weston Post. She recently began her term serving on Collin County's Historical Commission.

It seems as though I was destined to become a social studies teacher. As a youngster, I wasn't a huge fan of the kids' table and I always wanted to participate with the grownups talking politics at the dinner table. In school, I excelled in all my history courses and loved debating controversial issues in class. I would stay up late researching arguments to have a good comeback at whatever hot topic came up in class that day.



In college, I studied philosophy and political science and worked towards becoming a social studies teacher. My goal was to offer students a thought-provoking classroom experience in the pursuit of truth—one that was full of creative projects, interesting perspectives on historical events, and vigorous classroom debate. I naively assumed that this kind of course would be encouraged by school administrators and the larger school culture. While I hosted many debates and fun projects, like a town hall with our U.S. Congressman and his primary challenger, I encountered many roadblocks and bureaucratic conflicts on the path to allowing kids to explore controversial historical and political topics in the classroom. Eventually, the stifling school culture and my desire to raise a family led me out of the public school environment. I made the commitment to homeschool because I learned that my children were unlikely to receive the kind of civics education I would want for them.

While students love to debate the hot topics of the day, the current cultural and political environment makes honest inquiry and genuine debate almost impossible. Truly, I do not imagine it would be easy for a current social studies teacher to host student debates on issues like the government's response to COVID-19. Holding a Socratic seminar questioning the various perspectives surrounding major social movements like the Black Lives Matter and Antifa uprisings or the recent unrest at the Capitol could spell disaster for a teacher's career. Even history, itself, has become controversial. Appraising the value of historical statues and honestly examining the perspective of the "losers" in conflicts like World War II or the Civil War would be relevant, engaging, and fun for students to discuss. However, the current social environment stifles debate and inquiry on these topics.

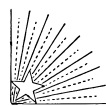
Avoiding the Civil War guilt trip

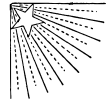
Like most parents, I want my children to grow up loving their nation and their history. Sadly, it is difficult to achieve this kind of an education in a typical classroom. Fortunately, homeschooling offers limitless opportunities for providing kids with a rich civics education—one that exalts the achievements of Western Civilization and values inquiry without heaping shame upon students for the events of the past. After all, Western Civilization is unparalleled in its commitment to liberty and the abolition of slavery.

Economics professor Walter Williams explains, "Completely ignored in most discussions of slavery is the fact that slavery was mankind's standard fare throughout history. Centuries before blacks were enslaved, Europeans were enslaved. The word slavery comes from Slavs, referring to the Slavic people, who were early slaves. What distinguishes the West, namely Britain and the U.S., from other nations are the extraordinary measures they took to abolish slavery." Abolition in America is extremely worthy and is righteously honored. Americans paid a heavy price to free those in bondage and consolidate the union; today, we celebrate the triumph of the Union over the Confederacy and the abolition of slavery in the United States.

However, the causes of the American Civil War are complex and extend beyond the issue of slavery including state's rights, Southerner's fears of a violent Haitian-style slave revolt, heavy-handed taxation of the South by the North, the election of Abraham Lincoln, and cultural disagreements between the Union and the Confederacy. Sadly, both sides of the Civil War suffered tremendous casualties; it was America's bloodiest conflict and about 2% of the 1860 population perished during the war.

Continued on Page 9





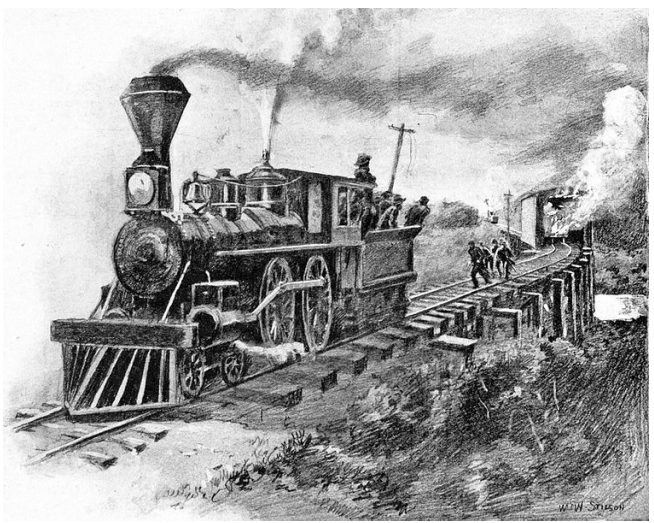
Today, it is estimated that about 50 to 80 million Americans have an ancestor who fought in the Confederacy during the American Civil War and several states honor their fallen Confederate soldiers on a specific day. January 19 is General Robert E Lee’s birthday and the day Texas celebrates the 258,000 soldiers who died fighting on the side of the Confederacy. This historical holiday has its origins in the grave-tending activities by women in the southern states following the end of the Civil War. Sadly, many Texas students have never heard of Confederate Heroes Day and today’s cultural environment makes discussing this topic in a modern classroom difficult. Fortunately, homeschoolers have the opportunity to examine the southern perspective as they learn about the American Civil War.

A Confederate win to remember

This Confederate Heroes Day, I hosted a group of homeschoolers to learn about a true tale in Civil War history: the Great Locomotive Chase or Andrew’s Raid. This locomotive adventure was considered the most dramatic incident of the Civil War and has been the subject of books and films. During the Great Locomotive Chase, civilians and soldiers from the Union secretly infiltrated the South and stole the General, a passenger train, in Georgia. They intended to destroy the railway in order to disrupt the Confederacy’s supply and communication lines. The raiders were soon pursued by Southern conductors who followed the General north. Eventually, the Union spies were captured and several of them were executed by the Confederacy. While these Union soldiers, some posthumously, were awarded with the first Congressional Medals of Honor, the raid was considered a failure.

Prior to our lesson, the students spent some time researching the background about the historic train incident. On the day of the lesson, the students enjoyed some beef stew with hard tack, a survival food that any Union or Confederate soldier would have carried on their person. One of the students, Jimmy, was very intrigued by the hard tack and learned that “hardtack stores well and may look like crackers [but] it is not a cracker. It is as hard as a brick and you often have to beat it with a stone to get bite sized pieces. I would rather just eat flour and I give it a four out of ten [for taste].”

After our Civil War lunch, we discussed their at-home research and then read an article discussing *The General*, one of the most fantastic movies of the silent film era. Starring and directed by Buster Keaton, this film takes the perspective of the South. Johnnie Gray, the Southern underdog train engineer, is the hero and the film ends with a Confederate triumph. As we watched *The General*, which can be found for free on youtube, the kids giggled at the goofy gags and marveled at the impressive stunt work. Students Warren and Cedar enjoyed the movie and Cedar said his favorite part “was when the poor, unlucky engineer got left behind from his train and...he tried to catch up with it.” Warren, noted “the old movie was so artistic and brilliant for the time and had the most expensive scene in silent movie history.”



Union raiders lit a train car ablaze in an attempt to set a covered railway bridge on fire and avoid pursuit by the Confederates.

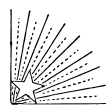
All together, the lesson was a success and the kids had great time learning about an exciting Civil War battle win by the South. Despite the calls to erase any trace of the Confederacy and the ideological conformity in the classroom, it is still possible to offer students exciting learning opportunities respecting Confederate Heroes Day while honoring the West’s commitment to abolition.

[Back to Contents](#)



Get in the Loop

Weston is requesting contact information for all of its residents, city and ETJ, to be used for emergency notifications and informational messages. Your help with this is very important. If your phone number is not in the database, you cannot be notified. Please call City Hall at (972) 382-1001, email cityhall@westontexas.com, or fill out the contact form at www.westontexas.com/page/Resident_Contact_Information.



WHO WAS COLLIN MCKINNEY?

By Ransom Lewellen

Ransom is a 6th grade student in Melissa ISD who loves farming and history. You can find Ransom and his family's business, Lewellen Farm, at the McKinney farmers market on Saturday mornings.

Have you ever wondered why Texas county borders tend to become more and more straight as they move north, or who the five drafters of the Texas declaration of independence were? Well I sure have, and when I researched it, I found fascinating answers that led me to a man named Collin McKinney, the namesake of our county and a nearby city.

Collin McKinney was born on April 17, 1766 in Hunterdon County, New Jersey. He later moved to Virginia in the early 1770s. He accepted a lot of responsibility and took care of his family while his father was fighting in the American Revolution. Later on, McKinney and his family moved to an outpost in Kentucky, founded by his cousin. In 1792, Collin married Annie Moore, and after her death, he married Elizabeth Coleman in 1805. He then moved with his family and several other relatives to Hempstead County, Arkansas Territory and, in 1827, was elected the justice of the peace. McKinney was also friends with a land agent introducing settlers to the new Red River County. McKinney was so impressed with the land offers that he signed contracts for the land, even though the Texas land was a disputed territory with Mexico.

McKinney was also one of the five individuals to draft the Texas Declaration of Independence from the Republic of Mexico. Other signers include, George C. Childress, Bailey Hardman, James Gaines, and Edward Conrad. Being the oldest of them all at 70, McKinney was honored with the pen after signing it. He also was part of the committee that created the Constitution of the Republic of Texas. Collin McKinney is also credited for insisting that as new counties were created in North Texas their boundaries should be straight. He did this because he wanted it to be easy for a traveler to go from any point in the county to the county seat, do what they came to do, and return home in one day. In order to do this, he insisted the counties should be a maximum of 30 miles squared. McKinney died on September 9, 1861, and was buried in Van Alstyne, Texas.

[Back to Contents](#)



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 or have an announcement to share?

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 for more information.



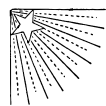
WINNING THE RAT RACE

By Michelle Balch

As the weather blows with biting cold winds and soggy forecasts, rats will do anything to find a dry, clean nest. Often, this can mean building a nest in your car as it offers total shelter from harsh weather and it is high above ground level where it is always dry. Unfortunately, rats and mice can damage your car or truck and can result in a vehicle that cannot be driven. Luckily, there are a few preventatives you can take to avoid this fate.

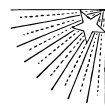
Running the vehicle daily is the most important rodent deterrent. This simple action is especially important for those sitting cars that don't get driven regularly (especially now as many of us are working from home and leave the house less frequently). The second preventative is a rodent repellent, such as Fresh Cab or Mouse Magic. Should you find yourself stuck with a rat freeloading in your car, or if your car is due for general winter maintenance, don't hesitate to call Balch Automotive on Honey Creek Road, at (469) 631-6393.

[Back to Contents](#)



PARENTING STRESS: DON'T DIAL 911 YET

By Lori L. Ellis, PhD



Lori is retired and lives in Celina. In 2019, Lori closed her private practice, The Behavioral Advantage LLC. However, she still helps parents who periodically contact her about helping their family learn behavioral strategies to bring peace to their home.

Last year proved to be a traumatic year for many people, especially for families with small children. While parenting has always been a bit hectic, many families are dealing with the added burdens of economic pressure, disrupted routines, family separation, and homeschooling or remote schooling challenges. Sadly, children pick up on this stress, too, which can contribute to behavioral problems leading to further disharmony in the household.



Although many families are struggling on the home front, I can provide strategies to parents so they can learn to manage and reduce their parental stress and thereby reduce the effects of stress on their children. This reduction in stress can be an important step in increasing the effectiveness of administering a plan for changing their child's behavior. In my experience, peace in the home brings about family unity and a united family possesses a strength that can successfully handle any crisis.

The first step in establishing peace in the home can be done by creating a family schedule. A schedule communicates structure and expectations for the family's day while preserving a routine that the family can rely upon. The kids feel safer, and everyone's stress level, particularly the parent's, goes down tremendously.

Setting Boundaries

Like creating a family schedule, setting limits or providing boundaries is vital to addressing problematic behavior in children, which will eventually lead to a more relaxed family environment. Imagine a young boy not being able to swim and not knowing the defined line that separates the shallow end from the deep end of the pool. Not knowing where this defining line is located yet knowing there is deep water in the pool would be scary and stressful. In fact, he would probably decide to avoid the pool altogether. What would be wrong with the boy's decision? He would never experience fun in the pool and maybe, he would avoid pools forever and never learn to swim. Think of all those great pool parties he would miss!

The first step in helping our reluctant swimmer is to provide a boundary line that separates the deep end from the shallow end of the pool. At first, he may not trust this boundary line and or trust the person who provided it. Maybe he questions why there is now a boundary line and where was the boundary line when he needed it yesterday? The fear he had before the boundary line was provided is still present. Willingness to get in the pool doesn't just show up with the boundary line in place.

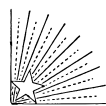
Setting boundaries or "lines" for children doesn't lead to acceptance from the beginning. Fear and reluctance is strong. They need to experience repeated success with the persistent presence of the line. They want to see that line day after day. Knowledge of the boundary's consistency finally gives them security and leads to acceptance of the line or limit. Over time, they learn that positive consequences come from respecting the boundary. They also learn that negative consequences come from not respecting the boundary. Another benefit for the provider of the "line" is trust from the child for this boundary and other boundaries that will be put into place in the future.

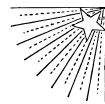
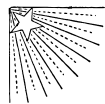
Be Consistent

Even the greatest strategies implemented in a home to address behavioral concerns can fail. The key to success for implementation of behavior plans is consistency. As discussed in the pool example, the boundary line doesn't disappear on the weekend and reappear on Monday in a different spot in the pool. This lack of persistence or consistency of the line will cause stress and create a feeling of insecurity not knowing where the deep end is located. The same lack of consistency in any boundary leads children to return to unproductive behavior. Once a child trusts that a boundary is fixed, he will feel a greater sense of security and will engage in more productive and positive behaviors.

It is important for all family members to be involved in a consistent approach for a behavior plan or boundary setting strategy taking place in the home. Family unity on consistent boundaries benefits every family member.

Continued on Page 12





Be Clear and Specific

Let's say you have a rule in the home such as, "No talking at the table during meals." What would this rule communicate to a child? Would she think she could never talk during a meal with the family? Would she think no one wants to hear what she has to say during dinnertime? Would she think no one values her as a member of the family?

Of course, this is not what you wanted to communicate to the child, but the absence of clarity and specificity in the rule causes a breakdown in the communication of expectations to the child. The family can expect to see poor behavior from the child who doesn't value or understand this rule.

Posting rules in house should be like posting pool rules. Rules should be clear, specific and enforceable. It is important to be clear and specific in the rule you put in place (e.g. clear and specific on the circumstances when you can talk or not talk at the table). Make the rule as simple as possible so all family members supporting the rule experience success. It's also important to have a rule you are able to enforce. If you can't enforce the rule, the rule will be ineffective.

Are you interested in getting some personalized help from Dr. Ellis? Please email her at docellis50@gmail.com or call (469) 446-1027 and leave a message.

[Back to Contents](#)

THE PARKER HOMESTEAD ACADEMY

By Morgan Rizzo

Morgan is married to Dan Rizzo, a local physician, and is a mother to seven children ranging in age from 2-18 years old. She is the director of a large 501(c)(3) homeschool group called "North Dallas Christian Homeschool Network" which hosts a weekly co-op, field trips, park days, holiday parties, and more across DFW.



**PARKER
HOMESTEAD
ACADEMY**

This summer, our family moved to a five acre farm in north McKinney and established the Parker Homestead. We are a small, family business that was created for the purpose of providing homeschooled students with opportunities to grow and learn together in a farm environment. In the wake of COVID, we have decided to launch our outdoor farm school as an opportunity for kids to get together outdoors in a small setting, enjoy nature, and foster relationships with other homeschooled kids.



Photos: Morgan Rizzo

Because most homeschoolers live on a quarter-acre lot without much space, our classes give suburban students an opportunity to experience the farm life. Kids can handle and hand-feed the animals while learning how to care for the critters. Most of the kids enjoy exploring our five acres of land and experiencing the peace and quiet of the farm. Not only is a trip to Parker Homestead a welcome break from the busyness of the city, but homeschoolers also appreciate the social interaction that they're able to have with others.

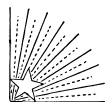
Right now, we offer two different options for families: open farm days for the whole family and drop-off classes for students. Open farm days cost \$40 per family and folks stay for about 2 hours. We do a short tour, pet and feed the animals, and then have free time where families can explore and play. Our drop-off classes vary between both two and four hours. These class prices range from about \$25-\$40 per student.

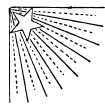
Besides teaching farm education classes, we also offer seasonal and creative courses, like a Halloween cookie decorating class. Recently, we hosted a canvas painting course and classes where kids painted Christmas trees, mugs, and other ceramic items. Our Lego course was a ton of fun; the kids broke into teams and competed to see who could build objects the fastest. We hosted an exciting capture-the-flag (with dinner) event featuring games

where the kids worked together to try to locate clues around the property before capturing the other team's flag.

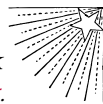
We plan to offer similar courses and open farm days in the spring and are considering adding yoga and gardening classes. We generally cater to the homeschool community, but we teach classes over school breaks and plan to offer them over the summer too. In the longer term, we would like to try to see if we can put together a student group of about eight or ten kids for a regularly scheduled two day a week school program from 10a.m. to 2p.m.

Continued on Page 13





Interested in signing up for a class at Parker Homestead? Keep up with class offering at their facebook page www.facebook.com/ParkerHomesteadMcKinney and check out their website at parkerhomestead.org.



Thinking about Homeschooling?

Many families are new to the homeschool world. Weston has a thriving homeschool community that is willing to help you meet your learning goals. If you need help navigating curriculum or locating enriching activities locally, then please contact Brittany at classroomcounterpoints@protonmail.com.

Weston Trash-Off

Spring cleaning is on the horizon! Weston is hosting another clean-up day on April 17 so be sure to gather your trash and items for donation.

[Back to Contents](#)

THANKFUL, GRATEFUL AND BLESSED

By Anni Jezek

As the holiday season came to an end and we felt the whispers of 2020 leave our lives, it is only natural for us to look back and take inventory. Thankful, grateful and blessed are words that come to mind as I reflect on last year. However, all too often, we hear these words clumped together without distinction. From my personal experience, I have been able to find a distinctive, yet subtle line between each of those words. I have been thankful, grateful and blessed to have the freedom to open the Lone Star Schoolhouse and select the curriculum that meets the needs of my students.

Thankfulness is fueled by our perception. Our interpretations of events in our daily lives are the whispers from the Holy Spirit. Whether we view these events either through rose colored glasses or black shades, our perception leads us to make decisions that we hope will bear fruit. Sometimes, our decisions result in failure. However, each failed attempt can indeed be categorized as a new opportunity, or as an insurmountable setback. During this pandemic, I opened my door to the schoolhouse. While I could have allowed myself to view the challenges with fear, I chose, instead, to lean into my thankful perspective and amazing moments appeared.

Gratefulness is the projection of actions that springs forth after our thankful perception has been acknowledged within. Jesus certainly “showed” us how to live and love. Gratefulness is found in actions such as the paying-it-forward movement, performing good deeds, giving charitable contributions and simply saying a kind word of thanks. When our hearts overflow with abundant emotions we have no choice but to be of service to others. Living a life of gratitude for me personally propelled the creation of the Lone Star Schoolhouse.

The phrase “You are blessed” brings forth the reminder of our abundant treasures. These treasures are not earned but instead are bestowed upon us by the grace of our heavenly father. To be blessed is to have a sense of recognition of God’s influence in your life. It is a humble acknowledgement that without his presence in our life, we would not be able to feel such true joy over the gifts bestowed onto us. For me, the Lone Star Schoolhouse was truly such a gift.

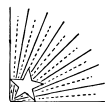


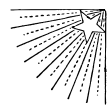
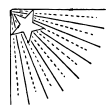
Photo: Lone Star Schoolhouse

With 2021 here, I sit with anticipation in my heart, mind and soul. Truly, I am thankful that the Lone Star Schoolhouse has been received with such grateful hearts by so many blessed families. As classes resume in January, I look forward to teaching about intentional goal setting strategies with the triangle of thankful, grateful and blessed always reflected in our lessons.

Want to learn more about the Lone Star Schoolhouse and their course schedule? Please visit www.lonestarschoolhouse.com to learn more about the courses and events offered.

[Back to Contents](#)





CHRISTMAS AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

By Kimberly Tisserand

Despite COVID, hope abides in the little town of Weston. The First Christian Church of Weston welcomed many guests on December 12 who came to see their live nativity. The performance follows many of the original traditions started more than 35 years ago like constructing the manger scene, playing the different roles in handmade costumes, sharing in fellowship, and providing snacks and drinks for visitors.

Sandra Zimmerbner, who had the idea for the live nativity over three decades ago, stopped by First Christian Church and was elated to see that the church is continuing to do this wonderful tradition for the Weston community. The live nativity included live animals as well. A big 'thank you' goes to church member, Larry Lambert, who has provided a donkey and goat for as long as he can remember. Daisy the donkey is a staple for First Christian Church as she also makes an appearance on Palm Sunday each year.



Photos: Kimberly Tisserand

First Christian Church's live nativity tradition provided a sense of normalcy and purpose after so many months of unexpected events in 2020. Our church felt that with everything the community had been through this year, it was important to maintain our traditions. Therefore, First Christian Church decided to hold its annual live nativity with restrictions in place to keep everyone safe. All the actors wore masks and individually packaged cookies and water were provided outside in lieu of the normal feast served inside for guests. Many visitors came that Saturday night to join in the outdoor, socially distanced celebration. It was the perfect way to remember the true meaning of Christmas and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

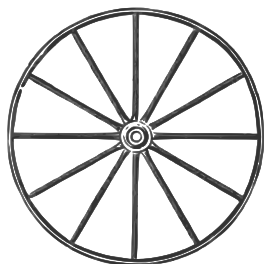
About two weeks later, First Christian Church hosted another great outdoor event. Over sixty people braved the cold on Christmas Eve and headed to the historic tabernacle behind First Christian Church for a candlelight service. Like many of our other traditions this year, we modified the candlelight service this year in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

One of the biggest changes to our Christmas Eve service was that it was held outside. Church member, Marilyn Chamberlin, strung Christmas lights under the tabernacle which provided the perfect ambience for the special service. Gloria Kautz played beautiful music on the keyboard while Brad Chilton led the congregation in singing Christmas Carols. Ginger Gardner sang an amazing solo of "Hallelujah" and afterward Pastor Doc Gardner preached a short, hope-filled Christmas Eve sermon stating that Christmas will be different for many families this year. He reminded the faithful that circumstances surrounding the first Christmas were not idyllic either.

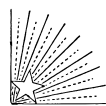
In a normal year, the Christmas Eve service at First Christian Church takes place in the sanctuary, and the lights are dimmed following the sermon, leaving only the Advent candles to illuminate the darkness. Light from the Christ candle is then passed to the parishioners' candles, and as they share the light with each other, the room brightens. This year everyone attending was given an LED candle. Everyone walked, while maintaining social distance, from the tabernacle to the front of the church where they saw church members playing the roles of Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus in the manger scene. "Silent Night" was sung and created a beautiful scene outside the church as each candle was turned on. Holding the service in a different manor was rather fitting for this year given all the changes we have all had to embrace. It might possibly be the most poignant service in our long history of great traditions for the First Christian Church of Weston.

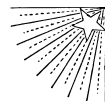
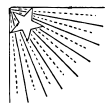
[Back to Contents](#)

Weston Heritage Day



During the spring, Weston plans to host its first Weston Heritage Day. Keep on the lookout for the city's announcement of the date of the event.





FOURTH ANNUAL WESTON VILLAGE CHRISTMAS STORYTIME

By Jennie Turnell

Monday, December 21, was the fourth annual Weston Village Christmas Storytime. And despite being in the middle of a pandemic, this year's attendance was the best yet! Christmas Storytime was the brainchild of Nancy Gemaehlich, a longtime Weston resident, who thought it would be a fun and simple way to bring our community together during the Christmas season. As a former classroom teacher turned full time private tutor, making literature come alive for kids is one of my favorite things to do so I was thrilled when Nancy invited me to help.

Cookies, crafts, a simple story, Christmas costumes and animals have become the main ingredients of this new tradition. We are especially grateful to the Richardson family for bringing baby goats for the kids to see and to the Aultman family for bringing sheep to go along with our story, "The Crippled Lamb". If you missed it this year, keep an eye out for next year's event. Wishing you all a happy, healthy and blessed 2021!!



Photos: Mitch Levine

[Back to Contents](#)

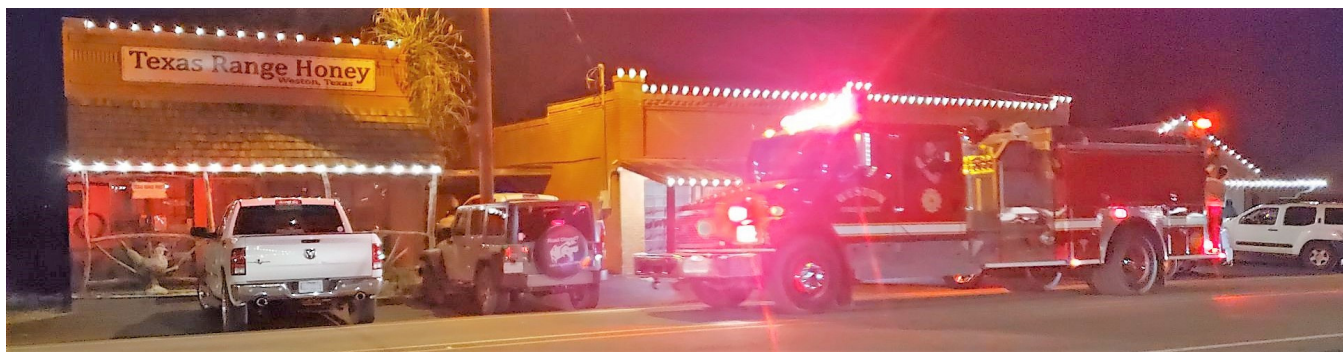
LIGHT UP WESTON!

On November 29th, families in Weston came to together to inaugurate the Christmas Season with hot cider, cookies, twinkling lights, and good company. As the Weston fire truck drove down Main Street, the downtown buildings lit up in festive Christmas lights. Steve and Epi Goldstein decorated a historic pioneer wagon and placed it outside their Texas Range Honey store which lit up in colorful lights, too.

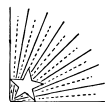
Thank you to the Weston City Council, City Secretary Susan Coffer, the Weston Volunteer Fire Department and all the volunteers who made this event a success. What a great beginning to the Christmas season!



Photos: Brittany Yurkovitch



Continued on Page 16





[Back to Contents](#)

CELINA'S CHRISTMAS ON THE SQUARE

By Donna Lynch

Donna is the Director of Marketing and Public Information for the City of Celina.

This year's Christmas on the Square welcomed in the spirit of the holidays, Celina-style. With the addition of the new Pecan Street lights, enhanced lighting on and around the square, horse-drawn carriage rides, and family entertainment, our annual event delighted residents and visitors alike. The holiday sights and sounds were much akin to a Hallmark movie scene.

Santa arrived to light the tree via the Celina Fire Department's shiny but rugged brush truck and live reindeer visited and posed for pictures. Mrs. Claus made an appearance and invited kiddos to decorate cupcakes in the library. Santa and his crew may have gone back to the North Pole for now, but through early January, folks were still encouraged to stroll through downtown and discover the holiday magic that is Celina.

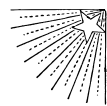
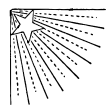
For more information on the upcoming events, visit the [LifeInCelinaTX Facebook page](#) and click on events.



Photos: Cassie Lee



[Back to Contents](#)



MICROGREEN LIVING

By Karen Gonzalez

Most of us who live in the Weston area either grew up here or moved out here because we were looking for something different than what the urban areas offered. For my family, it was two-fold. We had a young daughter dreaming about vet school and we wanted to give her a hands-on experience. The other, more pressing, reason concerned my husband and his health issues. After over a decade of suffering and modern medicine failing him in two countries and five cities, we decided we had to implement significant lifestyle changes to help my husband heal. A few major changes on our new healthcare journey included limiting our exposure to toxins in cleaning and personal care products, using a more holistic approach to medicine, employing essential oils, using supplements, and eating higher quality foods.

With a healthy lifestyle in mind, we bought our tiny farm almost 8 years ago. In an effort to improve our access to nutrient dense food, I started teaching myself how to garden and learned a great deal about human nutrition. Did you know that most Americans, even those who avoid processed foods, tend to be very deficient in many critical vitamins, minerals and other nutrients? Most of us are severely deficient in magnesium, which is critical to maintaining healthy blood pressure, blood sugar levels, and a consistent sleep cycle. Over 21 million of us are fully deficient in vitamin C, a critical antioxidant. About 42% are massively deficient in vitamin D, which we primarily get from sunshine, and a new study shows that 80% of COVID-19 patients are vitamin D deficient.

Additionally, about 40% of Americans are deficient in zinc, a vital nutrient that helps the immune system fight viruses and bacteria. Unfortunately, most nutrients in supplements are not bioavailable and your body ends up processing them out before it can actually use them. You are literally flushing money down the toilet with most supplements on the market. The best way to get these important nutrients into your body is through diet—as well as sunshine in the case of vitamin D.



Photos: Karen Gonzalez

This, my friends, is why I started my garden. And my, how I have come to love my garden! Few things entice me more than having my hands in the rich soil and feeling the warmth of the sunshine on my face. Seeing those little seedlings beaming up at me just as they have broken through the soil and sending my kids outside to harvest their own afternoon snack and ingredients to prepare with dinner brings me immense joy. However, in the winter months, there isn't much I can produce in my garden, so I often found myself depending on the subpar offerings at the grocery stores. Anyone who has ever had a home grown, organic tomato knows exactly what I mean!

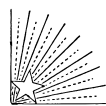
Fortunately, I recently discovered a remedy to my winter veggie blues: homegrown microgreens. Microgreens are essentially baby plants that follow the sprouting stage, but are harvested well before full maturity. They are ready when the first true leaves appear.

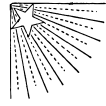
Now, I am a newcomer to this world of teeny-tiny vegetables and simply stumbled upon this information a few months ago. One late night in August, I was searching online for some rare pineapple ground cherry seeds when I curiously clicked a link referring to microgreens. One click led to another, then another and I fell into the rabbit hole of microgreens research. Before I knew it, it was 3a.m. and I had spent a whopping \$84.89 on supplies to get me started. It was just going to be an experiment because I was certain it would end up being too complicated and time consuming. I mean, an indoor garden? There is no way someone as busy as me could pull that off, right?

Boy, was I wrong. Like many things in life, you can make your indoor garden as simple or as elaborate as you want it to be! This is something almost anyone can do even if you only have a 2x2 foot space to work with. Depending on the variety, the greens can be ready anywhere from 7 to 21 days. For people like me, who love seeing the fruits of their labor as quickly as possible, the short growth cycle ends up being a huge benefit. As far as food production goes, a microgreen harvest is about as close to instant gratification as it gets! It is a lot of fun for the kids to experience and they can learn about the growth cycle of plants, too.

There are many reasons to jump into the adventure of growing this lovely veggie confetti. We love being able to grow greens in our house year-round. We eat them fresh in salads, sandwiches, soups and sautéed depending on the type of green. Since you cut them right before you consume, you will not find anything fresher than that!

Continued on Page 18





Perhaps, the biggest advantage is the high nutritional value—the nutrient profile of microgreens is mind-blowing! A study from 2012 measured the nutritional value of 25 commonly available microgreens and, using the USDA National Nutrient Database, discovered that while levels varied, many varieties had up to 40 times the nutrients in comparison to their full-grown versions! Some of the nutrients found in microgreens include vitamin A, vitamin C, vitamin E, Omega-3s, copper, potassium, iron, zinc, magnesium, fiber, amino acids, protein, and antioxidants. Holy cow!

Microgreens have drastically changed my views on year-round, indoor gardening because it is much easier and so much healthier than I originally imagined. Microgreen farming is simple, fun, fast, nutrient dense, and delicious. It is also relatively inexpensive, especially when you consider that they cost about \$35 per pound at Whole Foods. Growing microgreens has made me love kale for goodness sake!

I've only had about six months of experience growing microgreens yet have had tremendous success growing many, many trays and pounds worth of these little beauties to share with my friends. I promise that you can do this, too. Give microgreens a good hard look; you might like what you see! You can even reach out to me at OilyRevolution@yahoo.com if you'd like to chat more about growing your own.

[Back to Contents](#)



WHAT'S NEW AT CARTERMERE FARMS?

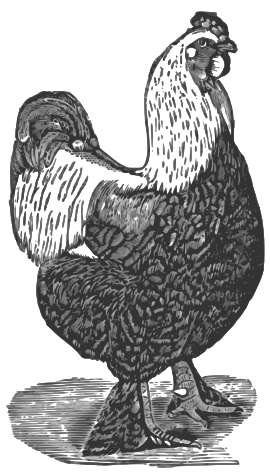
By Abby Christian



Thank you Legacy Print Group for supporting the print edition of *The Weston Post*. Legacy Print Group is owned by Weston residents. Shop local and visit legacyprintgroup.com for your printing needs.

Cartermere Farms is a local Celina farm specializing in pastured eggs, seasonal vegetables, chicken, and lamb. We pride ourselves on our happy chickens! Both our egg and meat chickens are pastured once they are old enough to fare in the open. We constantly move them so they are exposed to new grass and exclusively use certified non-GMO feed brought to us from Georgia.

This upcoming spring, Cartermere Farms is excited to host several local homeschool and public school groups to visit our farm, learn more about raising animals, and discover how healthy food is grown. Our tours are very hands on, encouraging all participants to help out with daily chores such as collecting eggs and feeding animals. When the weather will cooperate, we love inviting our students to work in the garden with us. The kids will be able to plant a seed to take home with them.

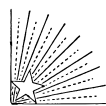


Donation Appreciation!

Thank you to Legacy Print Group, Jim Marischen, the Levine family, John Stufflebeam, and Michael Hill for your contributions to Classroom Counterpoints and keeping this print edition of *The Weston Post* alive.

We have already lined up several student groups that will learn how to care for baby chickens. They will incubate and hatch chicks that will be returned to the farm in March and April. We'll also be offering more Boy Scout and Girl Scout badges, and will host some camping opportunities. Limited garden volunteer opportunities are available as well through our website. Feel free to reach out to info@cartermerefarms.com to ask about any of our public and private tours and educational activities. We love to share our knowledge with kids and adults alike!

[Back to Contents](#)



BARBARA'S BANANA NUT BREAD

You know it's winter in Weston when you get a friendly knock on the door from Barbara Emmons gifting her famous banana nut bread. Folks enjoy her banana bread so much that a businessman once paid Barbara to make sixty loaves as gifts for his employees. Transform those overripe bananas sitting on the counter into your new family-favorite recipe!

Ingredients:

- 2 cups sifted flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon nutmeg
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon cloves
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup butter or margarine (1 stick)
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3 large or 4 small bananas (mashed)
- 1 cup walnuts



Photo: Barbara Emmons

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350°F.

Measure and sift flour, baking soda, salt, and spices. Then, mix them all together.

Cream the butter and sugar together. Next, add the eggs and vanilla extract. Stir until mixed well. Add in mashed bananas and fold in dry ingredients and lastly add the nuts.

Place dough in a well-greased 9×5 loaf pan and bake for 55-60 minutes.

Do you have a great family recipe you'd like to share with us? Email thewestonpost@protonmail.com and let us know about it!

[Back to Contents](#)

Help Print the Post

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 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

Gotta Have Faith



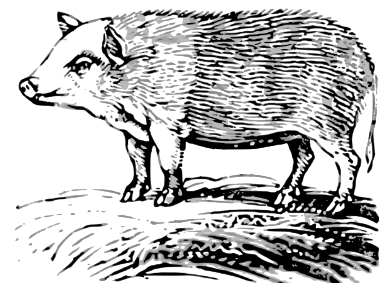
If you don't have a local faith community, then consider contacting one of Weston's three churches: Calvary Chapel Honey Creek (www.calvarychapelhoneycreek.org); First Baptist Church of Weston (www.fbcwestontx.org); or First Christian Church of Weston (www.firstchristianweston.com).

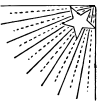
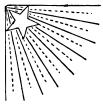


Congratulations to *The Weston Post's* editor, Brittany Yurkovitch, on her appointment by the Commissioners Court to the Collin County Historical Commission. She is looking forward to helping Weston and Collin County preserve its unique history.

Mask Mandates

In accordance with Governor Greg Abbott's executive order GA 29, every person age 10 and over is required to wear covering over the nose and mouth when entering City Hall. Certain exceptions apply. During council meetings, all attendees not of the same household must remain a minimum of 6 feet apart.





JOIN OUR TEAM

Volunteering with the Weston Volunteer Fire Department is your chance to truly make a difference in your community and get involved in something rewarding and meaningful.



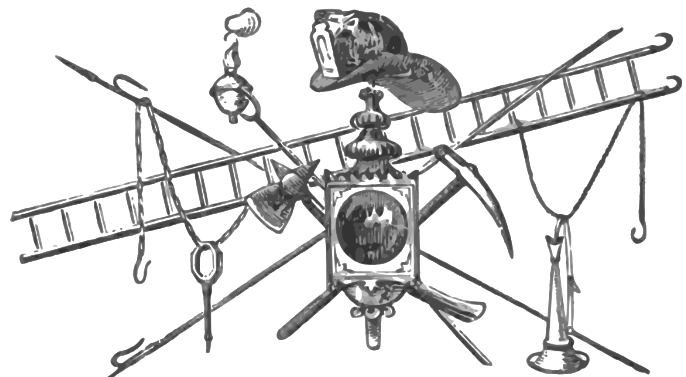
The Weston Volunteer Fire Department is currently asking the residents of Weston Fire District to become volunteers. You will receive training in firefighting or emergency medical services. All the training provided to you is FREE of charge and is always ongoing. Your responsibilities as a member will include responding to emergencies (either fire, rescue, or ambulance calls), attending monthly meetings, and training exercises.

If you think you are ready to take the next step, visit westontxfd.org/services/ and complete the application. You are also encouraged to attend one of our bi-monthly meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7p.m. at the Weston Fire Station just behind the Weston Community Center.

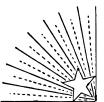
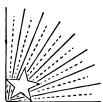


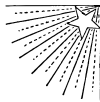
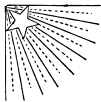
Photos: First Responders Photography

You must remember that you will be volunteering your time and that we provide emergency service 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In becoming a volunteer you will be providing the residents of your community, possibly your friends and neighbors, with an outstanding and dedicated fire department. You can make a big difference in your life and the lives of others by volunteering your time.



[Back to Contents](#)





THE GOOD OL' DAYS

The following piece is a Christmas Special Edition of *The McKinney Gazette* from 1897. This historical article describes *Weston* and its people at the turn of the 20th century.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EDITION. FIVE THOUSAND COPIES. PAGES 9 TO 16.

THE MCKINNEY GAZETTE.

TOM W. PERKINS, Publisher.

MCKINNEY, COLLIN COUNTY, TEXAS. SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1897.

VOL. 10, NO. 15.

WESTON. THE QUEEN OF THE PRAIRIE.

WESTON IS situated on a high plane, ten miles north of McKinney. This is one of the oldest inland towns in the county. [Larkin] Adamson laid the town off forty-three years ago, surveying it from the tracts of Melton Mugg, Wm. Caldwell and John Choate. Mr. Adamson opened the first store.

Several cotton and grain buyers are located here and considerable [f]arm produce is marketed.

The town was first incorporated in 1887, with Wm. Denny as its first mayor. Dr. B. F. Spencer served in that capacity the second term. G. A. C. Turner was marshal. Geo. Luck is justice of the peace forth at precinct now.

The community is one of the foremost in the county, both in the way of schools and churches. The Weston High school accommodates 150 pupils. Prof. Warren is principal, and has for his assistant Prof. Crowder. Miss Tommy Hale has charge of the musical department.

The Baptist congregation has a membership of 95, Rev. Airheart pastor.

The Methodist have a membership of 200. Rev. Bounds is pastor.

The Masonic order and Odd Fellow's lodge each have a membership of twenty-six.

The business portion of the town consists of thirteen firms. Most every line of mercantile business being represented.

Four doctors are located at Weston.

There are two good gins there. F.M. Douglas operates one, and Thos. Robinson the other. At the former place 1200 bales have been ginned and 700 bales turned out

at the latter.

Weston only lacks three enterprises to become one of the largest towns in Collin county. viz: A railroad, good newspaper and telephone connection.

Dr. B. F. Spencer, physician and surgeon, has been in Weston 22 years. He was born in Alabama in 1852, attended the University of Murfreesboro, Tenn., and in 1874 graduated at the Louisville (Ky.), Medical college.

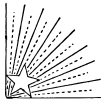
In December 1884 Dr. Spencer led to the hymenial altar Miss Alla Hubbard, with whom he lived happily until her death, which sad event occurred December 1st, 1889. No children were born to them. In January 1893 he was again married, this time to Miss Cora Sutton. This union has been blessed with two children, a boy and a girl.

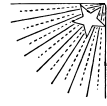
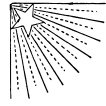
Besides being an eminent physician and enjoying a large praction, Dr. Spencer is one of Weston's most enterprising citizens, always taking a leading part in the affairs of the community. Especially does he take an active part in politics. He is a free silver democrat and yields a great influence in his balawick. He is congenial, social and cultured and it is indeed a pleasure to meet with him.

B. A. Comer, the druggist, makes a specialty of physicians' prescriptions, having had an experience of ten years in this line of work. He has been in business ten years in Weston and carries groceries and drugs. He enjoys a large trade.

A. T. Robertson carries everything in the dry goods and grocery line, shelf hardware, tinware, etc. He has been in business here seven years. His trade has increased steadily, and he has enlarged his stock from an investment of \$50.00 to \$6,000.

Continued on Page 22





J. B. Breech is just opening a large stock of notions, which he will carry in connection with millinery. Mr. Breech opened a millinery store in Weston last March and has had a good trade all along. His Christmas stock is immense.

T. H. Stamps dealer in drugs and school books, does a good business. He is one of the best known and most highly respected men in the Weston community, and has a host of friends.

Tansil & Douglas enjoy a large drug trade.

Dr. J. A. Avant has resided in Weston nine years. He came from Alabama. Dr. Avant received his literary education at Auburn, Ala. He took his first course in medicine at New Orleans in 1875. He enjoys a splendid practice.

A. W. Runion has been in business at Weston for 18 years. He carries, groceries, leather goods, tinware, etc. He is one of the most enterprising men of the community and has always enjoyed a liberal trade. Has been a notary public for Weston precinct, is a Christian minister and a most excellent gentleman.

H. W. Simmons has been in this section for 32 years. He farmed until 12 years ago, when he entered the drug and grocery business, which he carried on success[f]ully until two months ago, when he sold his drug business to Tansie & Douglas. Mr. Simmons will still conduct his grocery business. He has a large stock, replete with everything to be desired by the good housewife. His [C]hristmas stock is especially fine. He will also handle hardware. He has been postmaster at Weston for the past four years.

F. M. Douglas has been a resident of Collin county forty-five years and has run a general merchandise business almost ever since he came here. In 1869 there were only four stores in Weston, and Mr. Douglas owned one of them. When he opened for business, he had only \$450. His business has always flourished, and he now carries a \$15,000 stock, consisting of groceries, dry goods, hardware, furniture, farming implements, wagons and leather goods, and he has recently added drugs. His business averages from \$35,000 to \$40,000 per year. Mr. Douglas also deals in cotton buying about 3000 bales per year and grain, hogs, cattle, and has large farming interests. He owns a gin and generally turns out about 1300 bales of cotton per season. He owns 700 acres of the best land in Collin county. He has bought and shipped 30 cars of hogs this year.

Esquire G. W. Luck has been in Weston seventeen years. He was elected justice of the peace in 1891 and again last fall. He is a good citizen and gives satisfaction as justice of the peace.

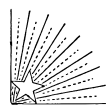
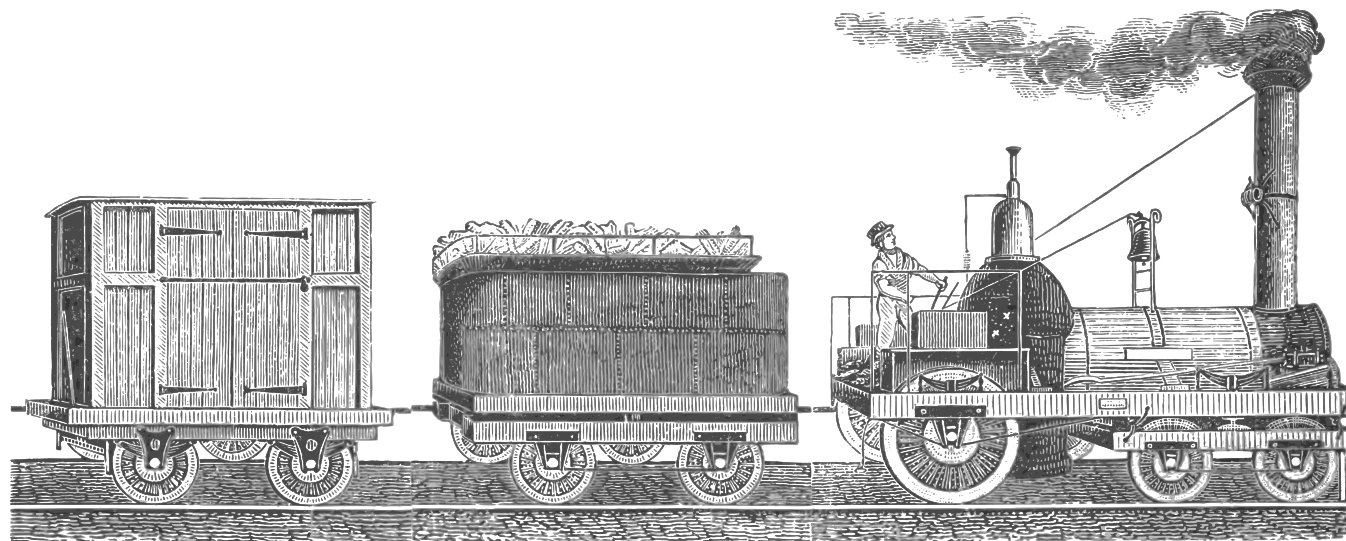
O. A. Brown opened the Weston hotel in March 1896, also runs a first class livery stable in connection. He has the only hotel in town and furnishes an excellent table. Traveling men would do well to stop with him.

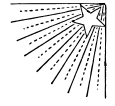
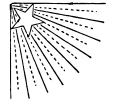
G. A. C. Turner is well known as an all round machinist. He will repair your buggies, wagons, and machines. He has a good patronage.

B. F. Dougherty has recently opened up a machine and general repair shop. He makes machine work a specialty, making and repairing all kinds of springs. He is a skillful horseshoer. He solicits your patronage and insures you prompt and satisfactory work.

Source: texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph192231/m1/2/

[Back to Contents](#)

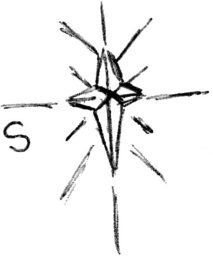




COLORING PAGE



All
CREATURES



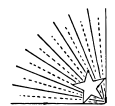
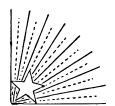
Great and Small
PSALM: 148:1-14

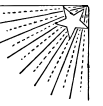
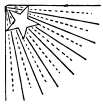


IN LOVING memory: Cindy Russell
Debbie Reno - Brad Cave - Jess Glen Harlow

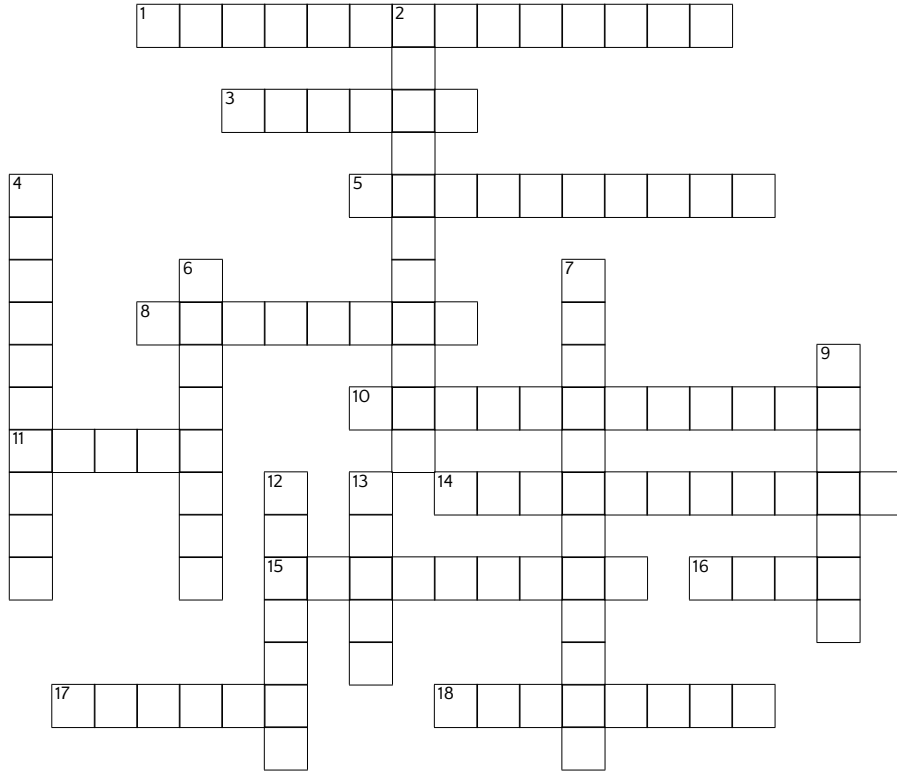
Tralyn
2021

By Tralyn Tadlock





CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Signer of Texas Declaration of Independence
- 3 Flight attendant who saved victim
- 5 Vital for children
- 8 "The ____ Lamb" read at Weston Storytime
- 10 March 2nd is Texas ____ Day
- 11 Garden covering that retains moisture
- 14 Barbara's delicious treat
- 15 Not a good leather for work boots
- 16 Vehicle nuisance
- 17 Homestead hosting open farm days
- 18 Thankful, ____, and Blessed

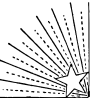
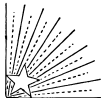
Down

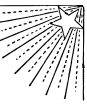
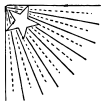
- 2 Baby plants
- 4 Farm proud of their fresh eggs
- 6 April 17th is Weston's Spring ____
- 7 First Christian Church tradition
- 9 Weston developer
- 12 Michael Hill's passion
- 13 End times mark

Answers found at bottom of last page.

[Back to Contents](#)

Thank you www.superteacherworksheets.com for permission to use their crossword and word search generators.

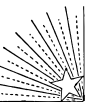
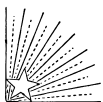


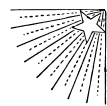
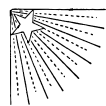


COLORING PAGE



By Cate Robbins
www.caterobbins.net





WORD SEARCH



Find the 18 solutions to the crossword hidden in the word search.

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

Thank you www.superteacherworksheets.com for permission to use their crossword and word search generators.

SUDOKU

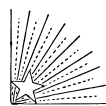


		7		3		1	6	
	1		7				9	
		3						
1	9	2			5	4		7
			9	1		6		2
5			4					
	6		3	4	8	5		
8	5	1		7		9		
7			5					



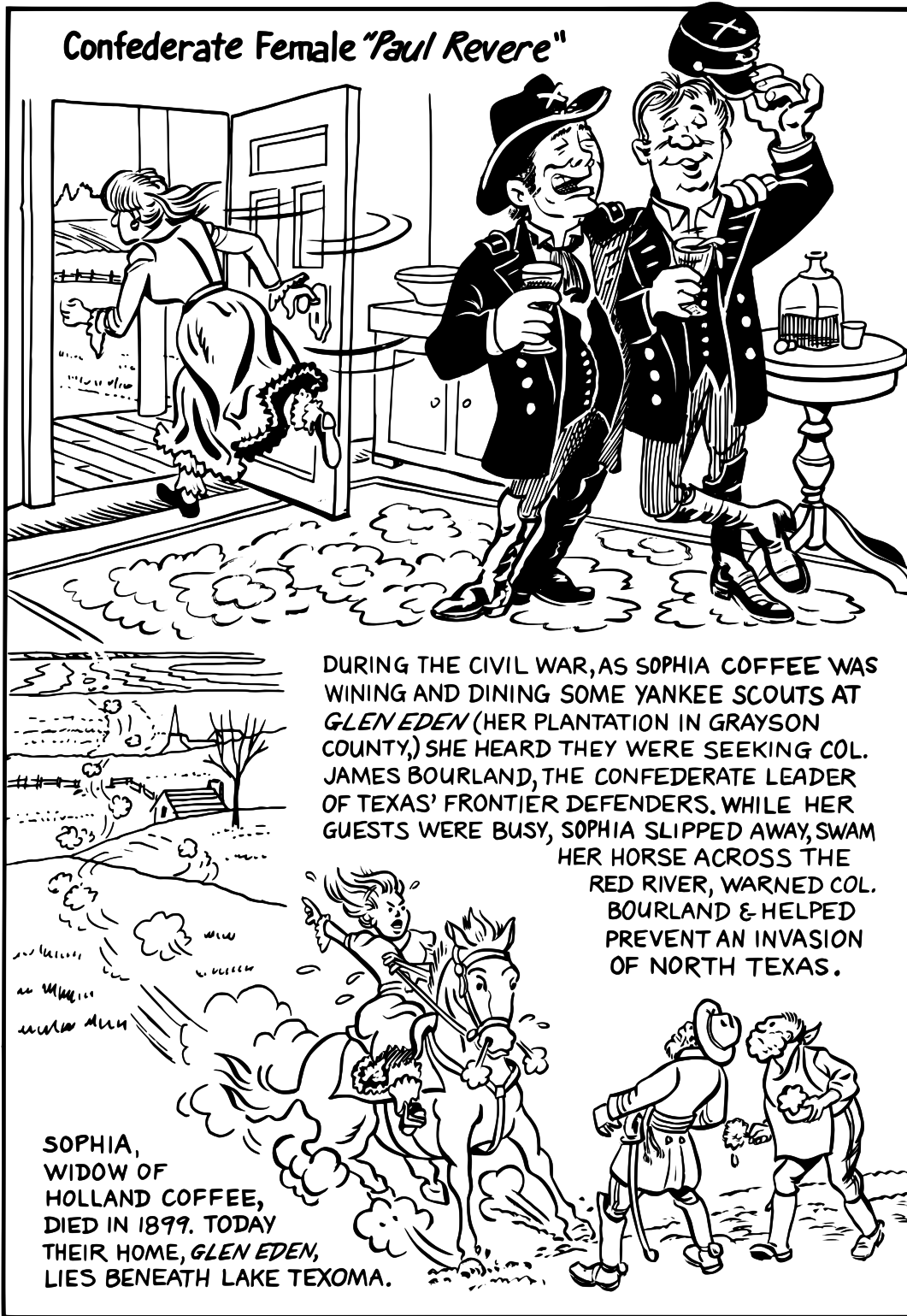
Answers found at bottom of last page.

[Back to Contents](#)



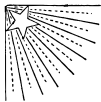
TEXAS LORE

by Patrick M. Reynolds



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 www.redrosetudio.com/texas.html.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ★ **February 9** Weston City Council Meeting at City Hall 7:30p.m.
- ★ **February 14** Valentine's Day
- ★ **February 15** President's Day
- ★ **March 2** Texas Independence Day
- ★ **March 9** Weston City Council Meeting at City Hall 7:30p.m.
- ★ **March 31** Cesar Chavez Day
- ★ **April 2** Good Friday
- ★ **April 4** Easter
- ★ **April 13** Weston City Council Meeting at City Hall 7:30p.m.
- ★ **April 17** Weston's Spring Trash Off
- ★ **April 21** San Jacinto Day
- ★ **May 11** Weston City Council Meeting at City Hall 7:30p.m.
- ★ **May 31** Memorial Day

[Back to Contents](#)

FILING DEADLINES FOR NOVEMBER 2, 2021 GENERAL ELECTION

Do you want to serve your community as mayor or as a member of Weston's city council? If you live within the city limits, then consider running for election. The City of Weston will hold an election on November 2, 2021, for mayor and two aldermen.

- ★ **July 17** First Day to File for Place on the General Election Ballot
- ★ **August 16** Last Day to File for Place on the General Election Ballot
- ★ **August 20** Last Day to File a Declaration of Write-in Candidacy
- ★ **October 4** Last Day to Register to Vote
- ★ **November 2** Election Day

[Back to Contents](#)

Meeting Schedule

 <p>Weston Volunteer Fire Dept 1st and 3rd Tuesday 7p.m. 203 Main Street</p>	 <p>Weston Water Supply Corp Last Monday 7p.m. 406 Chicken Street</p>
--	---

*"What On Earth Would A Man Do With Himself
If Something Did Not Stand In His Way?"*

—H.G. Wells

Gardening Tip



Insulate your plants' roots from both cold and hot weather by mulching your garden beds and flower pots with a 2 to 3 inch covering. Mulch will retain moisture loss from evaporation, reduce temperature fluctuations, and protect necessary soil microbes from extreme sun and weather. Don't worry if you forgot to mulch in the fall, it's still not too late!



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

Answers: 1. COLLINMCKINNEY 2. MICROGREENS 3. FEDICK 4. CARTERMERE 5. BOUNDARIES 6. TRASHOFF 7. LIVENATIVITY 8. CRIPPLED 9. MEGATEL 10. INDEPENDENCE 11. MULCH 12. HISTORY 13. BEAST 14. BANANABREAD 15. SNAKESKIN 16. MICE 17. PARKER 18. GRATEFUL

