

The Weston Post

Issue № 7

Summer 2021



COUNTING ON ALDERMAN CAROL DECKER

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Tell us about yourself and why you chose to live in Weston.

I grew up on the east coast and attended Virginia Tech getting a BS degree in Mathematics. Initially, I planned to teach secondary mathematics, but every job I interviewed for thought I was too tiny to teach high school students. So, instead, I went into commercial insurance underwriting and marketing. I spent over 40 years in the insurance industry, living in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and then Dallas. During this time, I was one of the few female underwriters in a man's world. So having experienced discrimination first hand from professors at Virginia Tech, education administrators, and agents that did not want a female underwriter, I developed a pretty tough skin and a lot of determination. I had to work harder and be better than my male counterparts.

I moved to Dallas in 1978 to manage the local Inland Marine Underwriting Department. Over the years, I handled the 4 state areas around Texas. I then managed an Excess Property Department that covered Texas to the east coast. This job required extensive travel. In 2003 Floyd and I moved to Weston so we could build a 3000 sq. ft. garage to house our toys. Moving to Weston was like coming home as I had grown up in small towns and never was comfortable in the bigger towns and cities. From day one I fell in love with Weston.

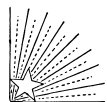


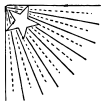
In 2005, the department I managed was closed down and all operations were moved to Cincinnati. Deciding to remain in Texas, another chapter of my life began as a business analysis working with programmers: investigating, writing and testing on-line quoting systems for insurance agents and companies. This was great fun as it was like solving a puzzle every day to put all the pieces together and get paid for doing it. For the last seven years before I retired in 2016, I was able to work from home and I really enjoyed not having to commute. After all the years of travel, hotels, and restaurants I could just relax and be myself: a natural homebody.

Explain your passion for serving on the Weston City Council and why you chose to run.

Growing up, my parents always encouraged us to serve others. They were good examples of how you can help others. Whether it was tutoring in southwest Virginia during college, raising scholarship money as part of the Plano ABWA chapter or volunteering at the Celina Library, I have always tried to give back to the community. In 2008, when I first served on the Weston City Council, the city was in a real crisis. The prior mayor and city council had de-annexed a large portion of the city. The mayor and city council had to resign as they de-annexed themselves. They also spent most of the city money and removed a large portion of the tax base.

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I was asked to run at that time and work with the new mayor and city council to keep the city from going bankrupt. Through a lot of hard work, tight budgeting and a negotiated settlement with Oncor, the city is now on firm financial footing. I vowed at that time I would not sit idly by and let a group of people with an adverse agenda ever put the city in that position again. The alderman on the city council should not all be composed by those of one mindset or all be old time residents or new residents but should instead be a mixture that fosters discussion and debate. Furthermore, I firmly believe that the members of the city council should not be from one area of the city. The citizens of Weston should be very careful in electing their alderman so that there is a good cross section of the city represented. At the present time, we have a member who lives south of town, one who lives just south of downtown, one who lives just north of downtown, one east of town and one in the Weston Creek area.

Local government is one of the few areas that citizens can make a big difference and be heard. Weston is just starting to see the development that other areas have experienced and it is prudent that everyone gets involved to keep Weston as unchanged as possible. I encourage everyone who lives in the city proper or the ETJ to attend the city council meetings, town hall meetings, read the city website and become informed about the changes coming our way. I encourage you to speak up. I encourage and challenge you to make your voices heard. I encourage you to run for office. It is not an easy job but can be very rewarding.

Describe your volunteer work within Weston, including your role in organizing the 4th of July parade.

Floyd and I moved to Weston in June 2003 and a month later was the 4th of July parade. It was also the day our house air conditioner decided to break when the temperature was 100°F. While Floyd stayed home to work with the repairman, I went to the parade. I met two very nice ladies, Genie Hendrix and Loretta Fisher, who were manning the bake sale for the Weston Women's Group. In talking to them, I decided to join the Weston Women's Group. Over the years, this group held Halloween parties for the kids, tree lighting and Christmas get-togethers with Santa, Weston Wide Sale Days (mapped garage sales throughout the local area), bake sales at the 4th of July parade, organized a book exchange, donated to local food banks and the Samaritan Inn, and financially helped local residents that needed short term assistance due to fire, job loss, medical emergencies or other assistance.

The Women's Group, in conjunction with the fire department and the city, had organized the 4th of July parade. I love parades. From the ages of 10 to 16, I was a member of a majorette, drum, and bugle corps and we performed in parades and state held competitions along the east coast from Rhode Island to Washington DC. So it was just natural that I would represent the Women's Group in planning the parade. Over the years my involvement has increased to being this year's coordinator of the committee that is organizing the parade. This year, the city and the fire department, along with a number of volunteers, worked really hard to put on a fabulous parade. In addition to the parade, there was a bake sale, raffle, food stands, face painting, cowboys, and a fishing pond.

The parade this year was decidedly different from last year. During COVID, we were the only city in the area that staged a parade. With safety in mind, face masks, sanitizer, and 6 foot separation, the parade went on. The number of participants was less than usual and the number of spectators was smaller than normal but the parade went on without any adverse effects. In contrast, this year, the streets were full of happy spectators.

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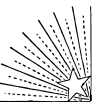
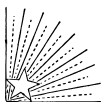
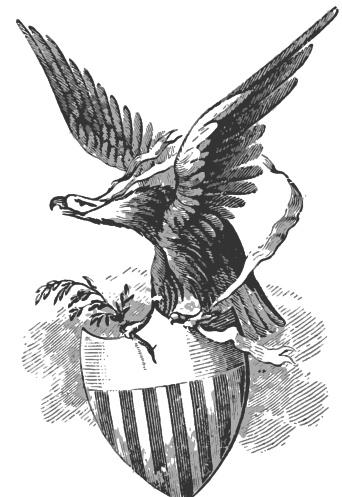
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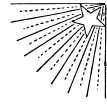
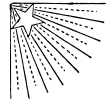
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A part of volunteering is supporting local businesses. Gracy's restaurant was operating when we moved here and it was great to stop by for a quick meal when I was too tired to cook. At Gracy's you usually ran into some one you knew. There are other businesses in town and I try to support them to help keep them going. If I need signs I call Underdog; I buy my honey and salsa at Steve and Epi's store; I bought produce every Saturday when the produce market was here; I call John for my plumbing, Tralyn for my hair, and James when I need handyman work done.

You have served on the city council for 13 years. What are some of the struggles you have encountered and what are the lessons learned?

The biggest struggle at the beginning was finding enough money to run the city. As I mentioned earlier, the prior administration had left the city with little money and a depleted tax base. With roads and city buildings needing repair and the city's obligations we were left with little choice but to slowly increase the property tax rate over a number of years. The current tax rate of 0.36% has been in effect for quite some time and should not need to be increased in the foreseeable future.

Weston is a General Law city and as such we have to abide by the laws set out by the state of Texas for General Law cities. We cannot do what larger cities can do that operate under Home Rule. Also, each year the state legislature enacts new laws that seem to limit more and more what any city can do. For example, the council wants to encourage developments with one-acre or larger lot sizes. Our ordinance for Subdivisions in the ETJ was written to not allow any lots less than 2 acres. However the state passed a law forbidding cities from being able to limit lot sizes in their ETJ so we had to remove it from the ordinance. Luckily, our consultants try to keep us legal.

As an alderman, you are constantly trying to do the best you can for all the citizens of Weston based on the information available at that point in time from city attorney, city engineer, accountants and city planners. You cannot please everyone and learning to govern against your personal philosophies is hard to do, but you have to function based on the good for the entire city. Furthermore, like a Monday morning quarterback, someone years later is going to complain about what you did so it can be a thankless job.

How has Weston changed over time and what do you hope to see in Weston's future?

Having lived in Weston for only 18 years, I am a newbie as far as a lot of residents are concerned. However in the time I have lived here, many businesses we had are no longer here. I am hoping that when the sewer lines come to downtown that business can be revitalized.

We cannot avoid the development that is coming but I plan to work very hard to encourage a less dense housing situation. We cannot control what is developed in the ETJ as well as what is developed in the City so encouraging development to annex into the city is a big priority.

Finally I would like to see us be nicer to each other. I think COVID reminded us that life can change in an instant and I would like us to be more forgiving and nicer to each other.

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MAYOR'S CORNER

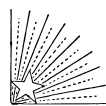
By Jim Marischen

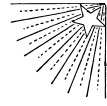
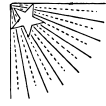
Residents of Weston and our surrounding area, Collin County has been named as the healthiest county in Texas, and the 32nd in the United States. What a change from this time last year. Because of this, the City and Weston Fire & Rescue were able to hold a very successful 4th of July parade. Over 1500 viewers watched a lengthy parade while enjoying good food and desserts. Two highlights included the Lone Star Legacy Cowboys and our grand marshals, David and Denise Hensler. I was most impressed with the history of Weston that was contained in the new Weston Post Office Museum.



The last three months haven't been all play, however. We have been very busy making progress at City Hall. We held a successful final design review of the Weston Wastewater Treatment Plant which will go out for construction bids once the state TCEQ gives its approval. The Weston Town Center sewer hook up has also been authorized and the money will soon be committed by the developer. The plan is to have the plant built and running by March of next year, and bring sewer to Weston later in 2022.

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Unfortunately, the Subdivision Ordinance change to hold ETJ subdivides to 2 acres had to be rescinded since it did not meet Texas law. In response, the team has rewritten key portions of the Subdivision Ordinance to allow the City to apply heavier restrictions that assure the rights and safety of our citizens. The ordinance team is now focusing on simplifying the City Zoning Ordinance. The City of Weston is also partnering with the Weston Fire and Rescue to participate in the implementation of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan in accordance with the Healthy Forests Restoration Act. You will soon see more on this from the new Fire Chief, Bart Chambers.

The Venetian at Weston Phase I development continues to make progress. The City has recently received a new site plan for the Laguna at Weston that is going through the review process with our city engineer. We have also finished a draft Public Safety Services Plan to define the Fire/EMS/Police support needed for the entire Venetian at Weston development. Both of these efforts are in progress and will continue for the next few months. These are important times for the future of Weston. It is critical that everyone be aware of what is happening and how they can help keep our town rural.

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

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QUALIFIED IMMUNITY: MYTH VS. FACTS

By Sheriff Jim Skinner

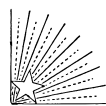
In this era of calls for police reform, Congress is currently considering proposals to eliminate or otherwise change qualified immunity. This is a terrible idea. I am a member of the Major Counties Sheriff's Association and serve as a member of the Board of Directors for the National Sheriffs' Association, where I chair their Governmental Affairs Committee. MCSA and NSA has been working with Sheriffs from around the Nation to educate Congress about significant risks related to the elimination of qualified immunity and other proposed changes including shifting civil liability to law enforcement agencies. Below is information taken from excerpts offered by the MCSA and NSA for America's Sheriffs to help educate others about qualified immunity and its role in keeping our communities safe.

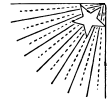
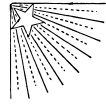


Qualified immunity protects officers from personal liability while doing their jobs within the bounds of the law and the Constitution. Qualified immunity does not protect officers who intentionally or knowingly deprive a person of his or her constitutional rights. While citizens rightfully want law enforcement officers held accountable for improper behavior, the elimination of qualified immunity does nothing to advance accountability. Law enforcement officers who knowingly violate a person's civil rights must be held accountable. Qualified immunity allows for that—it is not absolute immunity. At the same time, officers who conduct themselves within the law should be reasonably protected from civil lawsuits. Qualified immunity also allows for that.

There is a prevailing myth that our current law provides law enforcement officers with immunity and allows them to use excessive force without facing personal financial consequences for unlawful acts. This myth would have one believe the law must change to eliminate immunity so that officers are held accountable. But the facts are that law enforcement officers can be held personally financially responsible for using force in violation of a person's civil rights. They might receive immunity under federal law if their actions had not previously been determined by a judge to be unlawful, and the officer was not on notice that the act was unlawful. Even if a law enforcement officer receives immunity because the officer was not on notice under federal law that that the officer's conduct violated civil rights, an injured person may still be able to sue the officer in state court in some circumstances. Thus, it is false and misleading to say that the law must change because police officers have immunity that allows them to use excessive force with impunity.

Another popular myth is that the current law makes it unduly difficult for a plaintiff's lawyer to successfully sue an individual police officer or law enforcement agency, and the law must change so that more lawsuits may be filed to punish officers and agencies and hold them accountable. But the truth is that current federal law allows successful lawsuits against law enforcement agencies where there was something that the agency did that caused or contributed to the officer's unlawful act. Where the officer acted, but the action was not put in motion by agency policy or custom, then the law enforcement agency is not responsible. For example, if a rogue officer acts contrary to agency policy, custom, and practice, and plants evidence on a suspect he falsely arrested, the legal responsibility for those wrongful acts rests with that officer and not the agency that employs him, as it should.





There are many in this country suggesting to our lawmakers that it is a good idea to change the law, remove individual-officer liability and replace it with strict agency liability, meaning a law enforcement agency would be financially responsible for bad acts committed by rogue officers without any limits on damages to be paid or fees that may have to be paid to plaintiff's lawyers. It is a fact that removing "filters" in current law (like Congress is now contemplating) that require police officers be on notice that what they did was unlawful, and that the officer's actions be caused or influenced by the agency in order to bring a federal lawsuit, will allow plaintiff's lawyers to sue law enforcement agencies simply because rogue officers acted unlawfully and they happened to work for that agency.

A plaintiff could recover millions of dollars from the city or county and these entities may be required to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars to plaintiff's lawyers because under current law there are no statutory limits on such attorney's fees. All a plaintiff would have to do is to prove that a law enforcement officer violated his or her rights, regardless of whether the officer knew that the officer's conduct violated civil rights or whether the agency contributed to the officer's actions in any way. If Congress removed the filters that prevent frivolous lawsuits, local governments or their surrogates would be required to pay for defense of all cases and also pay the judgments and plaintiffs' attorney's fees in many of those cases.

There is a path forward on many reform issues that will improve training, enhance community trust, and protect law enforcement officers. But eliminating qualified immunity or fully shifting liability to law enforcement agencies would be a detriment to our ability to protect the public. Eliminating qualified immunity or shifting liability to law enforcement agencies wouldn't just affect the police. It would affect all local taxpayers and impose significant financial risks to city and county governments. To do so is a bad idea. It is important that our lawmakers in the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate hear your voice on this important issue. These decisions that will be made in the next few days will affect the communities in which we live.

Jim Skinner is a Master Peace Officer in the State of Texas and was elected as the 39th Sheriff of Collin County in November 2016. Jim Skinner is serving his second term as Sheriff of Collin County. The Collin County Sheriff's Office is comprised of almost 600 personnel, houses over 1,000 inmates and provides law enforcement services to 500 square miles of unincorporated territory across Collin County.

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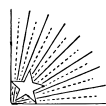
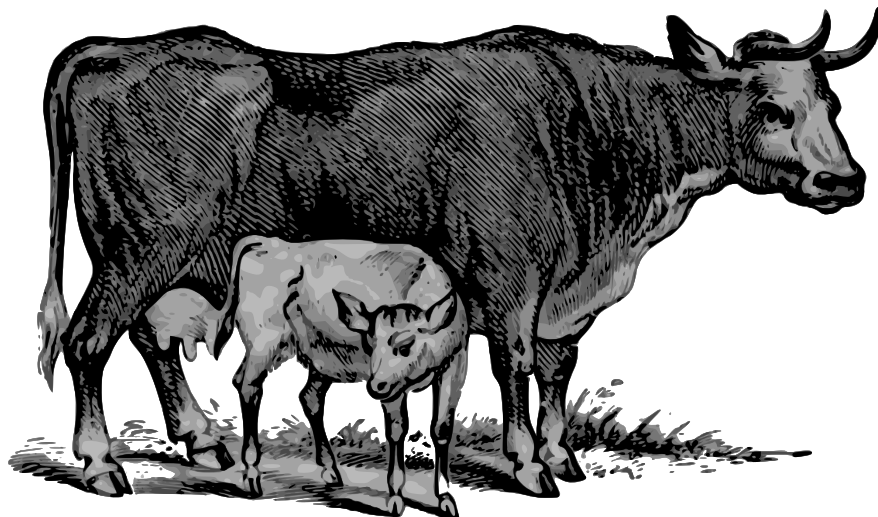


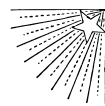
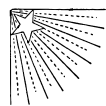
Good News for Dairy Farmers

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has revised rules for raw milk producers in Texas opening new opportunities for farmers. While it has been legal for dairy farmers to sell raw milk directly to consumers on their farms, it is now legal for farmers to deliver raw milk anywhere in Texas that the farmer and consumer wishes to arrange. While sales directly at farmers' markets are still forbidden, it is legal for a farmers' market booth to serve as the point-of-delivery for pre-purchased raw dairy.

While you can still get your Grade A raw cow and goat milk from the N&P Farm and Dairy in Farmersville, you can now pick up your pre-ordered milk from N&P at the Chestnut Square Farmers Market in McKinney on Saturdays from 8a.m. to 12p.m. Text them at (972) 658-0291 by 8p.m. on the Thursday before the market to order your milk for pickup. Please note, that they do not accept any credit or debit cards.

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LORD, TEACH US HOW TO PRAY

By Nancy Gemaehlich

Where does the “Our Father” prayer come from? Obviously, from the Bible but more specifically, what’s its backstory? From the pen of Luke, the physician, we learn that Jesus was traveling around Israel training his crew of twelve disciples. They had already been instructed in the necessity of following Christ without looking back; they had been sent out to various towns to minister in His name. Then came the moment when Jesus was praying to His Father, and afterwards the disciples asked Him to teach them how to pray. Just as Jesus got away often to pray alone, so would His disciples need to do the same. And this is the pattern that He gave them (and us):

Our Father who is in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

(Matt. 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4)



Let’s take a moment to notice a few key things that will help us pray in Jesus’s way. First, this prayer is for those who call God their Father. Access to God Almighty is open to all who place their trust in Jesus Christ (Rom. 10:13). So, this prayer is for those who belong to God as His children.

A second thing to notice is that the God who spoke creation into existence, who is above all and through all things, relates to His people as a loving Father! He is patient. He is giving. He corrects us for our good. He is the loving Father with a perfect heart. Therefore, we can entrust ourselves fully to Him.

After the familial conversation is started, the prayer goes on to include three responses/affirmations to the perfections and the plans of God. As His child, we acknowledge that He is above, holy, awesome, and so we hallow or reverence His name. We bow our hearts before Him, knowing that He alone is God. From this posture before our mighty Lord, the rest of the prayer flows freely.

Next, we join in agreement with God’s plan for His good will to be accomplished on earth. What will that look like? It will look like heaven on earth! No more sorrow. No more pain. No more death (Rev. 21:4). Until Christ returns to usher in this kingdom, the church is called to live in the light of these realities and to endeavor towards its advancement in the earth.

After affirming the Lord and His will, the prayer moves on to three petitions regarding the Father’s care for our lives. The Lord knows all our requirements before we pray them. Yet, He calls us to turn to Him with our requests. In this way, we draw near to Him and remember that He is the source of all good gifts (Jas. 1:17).

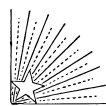
Our next petition for God to forgive our sins, to remove them as far as the east is from the west, to remember them no more, is tied to a responsibility. We are commanded to forgive our debtor’s sin against us. How could we fail to give the forgiveness that we have been freely given through Christ’s death on our behalf (Eph. 1:7; Acts 2:38)? We are to forgive our debtors and leave the rest to God.

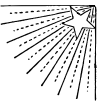
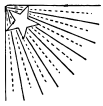
Lastly, we ask God to lead us not into temptation, but rather to deliver us from evil. God is all powerful. He can deliver us from any temptation to sin that we will face. But we are required to turn to Him and call upon His name. The Psalms of the Bible are filled with examples that we can use to call on God when we are tempted to go in the wrong direction. Ask the Lord of the universe to keep you in His care (Psalm 61).

What a privilege it is to have such a wonderful Father who calls us to draw near, to lift up His name, to take part in His plans, and to ask Him for our every necessity! PRAY ON!

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.

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REMEMBERING SIS MUGG

By Michael Hill

Michael Hill lives in Weston and currently serves as alderman on the Weston city council.

Can you imagine a time when Main Street in Weston was not paved? As recently as 1950, it was an unpaved road. The late Sis Mugg remembered her store opening in June 1950 just before the paving began, much to the delight of downtown store owners.

Sis' store, Jack's Grocery, sat in what is now known as the Blue Door. The metal roofed building is on the west side of Main Street right across the street from the Old Weston Post Office. There was another grocery store in the brick building next door to Jack's on the south side named Harlow's Grocery. After Harlow's Grocery closed in the 1990s, the building became Gracy's Restaurant. Also, there was another grocery store to the north that burned down in the 1950's. At one point, Weston had three grocery stores in a row; it seems strange how that could happen.

Sis was interviewed in 1978 and told the reporter that her name was Mattie Juanita and insisted that everyone knew her as Sis. Indeed, they did. She remarked how in earlier times, most people bought a week's worth of groceries on their trip to Weston. However, the trend had become to visit the store more often, sometimes once a day. I remember Sis' store being an every day visit for the local kids as the bus to Celina schools stopped right at her doorstep. The kids loved the ice cream, candy and sodas waiting for them inside the welcoming store. Sis also sold milk and other perishables along with many canned and jarred goods. She also sold animal feed out of her back door that she insisted on loading herself onto local farmer's trucks (although she was not much bigger than a bag of feed herself).



Photo: Wofford Thompson Jr.

Sis also provided services such as taking electric bill payments, selling stamps, cashing checks, taking funeral insurance payments, and water bill payments. She said "Of course, if they want to buy a few groceries when paying their bills, that's fine, too." She also ordered flowers for local funerals and churches. The bench in front of the store was often filled with old timers watching the slow pace of Weston life drift by and telling stories to pass the time.

Sis lived for many years on South Street at the last house on the right, and walked to her store six days a week in every kind of weather. In the 1990's, her brother, Ed Luscombe, built her a house right across the street from her beloved First Baptist Church. She taught kindergarten Sunday school for many years. I remember hearing that Sis had a wire installed from the church to her house so that she could listen to the sermon when she wasn't able to attend services anymore.

Sis's family tree reads like a Peters Colony list. Sis was born a Luscombe in Anna in 1913, likely on or near the Luscombe Farm Store. She married a Bilderback from the Honey Creek area north of 455 and, after her first husband died at age 41, Sis, with two children, married a Mugg who's family settled just east of town near where the Mugg Cemetery sits today. Both families were Peters Colony settlers and helped found Weston in the mid 1800's.

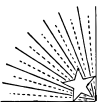
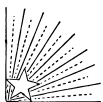
Sis was truly a pillar of the Weston community. Anyone that found out I was from Weston would seem to know of Sis Mugg. She was known widely and remembered fondly.

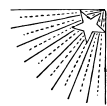
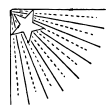
Do you have a story to tell about the old families of Weston? Or would like to share a story about Weston history? Please email thewestonpost@protonmail.com or contact Michael Hill at weston.hill@hotmail.com.

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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.





LONE STAR SCHOOL

By Pansy Jones Hundley

Pansy was the long time librarian of the Farmersville library. Pansy submitted this article for the Historic Assets survey with the Collin County Historic Commission. The Lone Star School was behind the John Herrington House on Lone Star Road.

The Lone Star School was a 1-room school, located about four miles north of Weston. All the surrounding country side was filled with children who lived on a farm or just “out in the country.” Most of those children walked to school, whatever the distance or the weather. They carried a sack lunch, and drank from the dipper hanging by the water bucket, at the school. The outhouse was located behind the schoolhouse, and permission was asked for—and granted—before a student even thought of leaving the room.

Wood came from somewhere, to fuel the wood-burning stove. But, coats were left on if it was really cold. Grades one through four were taught at Lone Star. During the years [I] attended school there, 1944 through 1947, Mrs. Timmons was the teacher. She taught all subjects to all four grades.

Teaching was quietly done. There was order always in the classroom. The authority of the teacher was never questioned, never challenged. If it was necessary for Mrs. Timmons to be gone, for sickness or other reasons, one of the student’s mother would be the substitute teacher for the day. That student’s father was on the School Board.

At recess time, students quietly left the room. When recess ended, Mrs. Timmons would ring the bell that she kept on her desk, to call everyone back to class. It was a privilege to be allowed to clean the blackboard or take the erasers outside and beat them on the concrete or the wood until they were clean.

[My] parents ...attended Lone Star School in the early 20’s. They are in the picture of the school body, taken in 1921, that is shown. Then, on April 6, 1937, the first born son of [my] parents was accidentally killed at that same Lone Star School. He was eight years old. He was spinning his top at recess. It went into an area where older boys were playing ball. One boy was swinging a bat, and as my brother, Rudy, bent to pick up his top, he was struck in the back of the head with the bat, killing him instantly.



Carl Rudolph Jones—Rudy

In the fall of the year, many times, a student would not start to school in September, when school opened. These children had to help get a crop in before winter came. Whether there was cotton to be picked, which was usual, or some other crop to harvest, it was necessary for the whole family to help in doing their part.

Even with one teacher teaching all subjects to all four classes in that one room, the students learned those subjects, whether handwriting, geography or memorizing multiplication tables. That teacher laid the proper foundation and then built on that foundation to educate those young minds.



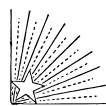
Photo: Lone Star School circa 1921

It is not known how many more years there were classes at Lone Star School. [I] went on to Weston School after completing the fourth grade.

At some later date, the Lone Star School building was moved to the Weston School, attached to it and used a lunchroom for that school. My younger brother remembers that happening.

The land is empty now where the Lone Star School building once stood. There is no sign at the location, nothing to indicate, to remember, the place where hundreds of children were educated over a long period of time—over many years.

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FIREWORKS, WAR, AND FAMILY

By Kyleigh Goldstein

Kyleigh is a 8th grade student at Celina Middle School.

The 4th of July is the day we celebrate every year which is dedicated to our country's independence. Family, celebration, and history all help make this day so much better. Last year's Independence Day may have been a little different but none the less it was still great. This past July 4th was of a lot of fun and was a time for making tons of memories.

Celebration and Family

People celebrated Independence Day in many different ways. Some people dressed up in full red, white, and blue and lit more fireworks than you can count. Others gathered all their family and friends and had a backyard barbecue. Some stayed inside and gathered all their chips and dips and watched Netflix. July 4th is always filled with excitement and joy. No matter how you celebrated, all that matters is that you had fun.

Family plays a big role in our lives and plays a pretty big part in the 4th of July. All the families in our little town of Weston gather around Main Street and watch the parade. Some people even participate in it; it's fun and joy for everyone! I love seeing family and friends, it makes me so thankful for all those around me who i love so very much.

My family and I have our own way of celebrating. Every year, we get ready for the Weston parade and then my grandpa opens up the honey store. Meanwhile my brother and I meet up with our aunt and uncle and ride in the parade! Afterwards we visit our family, eat tons of food, and blast fireworks. This past Independence Day, my family and I gathered around Weston's Main Street and watched the parade. We saw some cowboys and cowgirls in the parade and they did a skit of the bank being robbed; everyone loved it! We ate hamburgers and hotdogs provided by the fire station and had ice cream which was delicious. The people, candy, and laughter was amazing!

History

Our founding fathers gathered angry colonists who were tired of King George's unfair rule and formed a militia to resist the English. They fought many battles including the Battles of Lexington and Concord and the Battle of Yorktown. These battles and all the battles in between were long and hard; we lost some and won some. This all took place between 1775 and 1781.

On July 4th 1776, our founding fathers came together and created the Declaration of Independence. This document declared to King George that we wanted independence and we were going to get it. After many years and a lot of hard work, the 1783 Treaty of Paris ended the long war for our independence. I'm sure all those who helped get us to where we are today are so glad to see us all come together on the 4th of July to celebrate our nation.

Family, celebration, and history make up this beloved American holiday. All the colors, food, and memories make for a joyful celebration. Never be afraid to celebrate with family and learn a little more about how we got to where we are today. I hope everyone had an awesome Independence Day!

Attention Citizen and Student Writers!



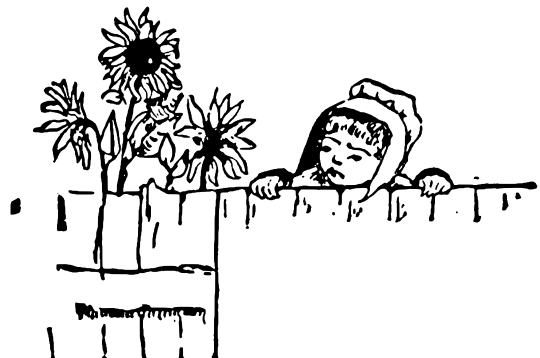
Do you want to write an article about a cool project or tell us about farm life? Interested in contributing a piece about homeschooling or local history? Want to cover a current event?

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

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Coloring Page Submissions

Do you like to draw? We would like to include a coloring page that celebrates life in Weston. We are looking for simple, black-and-white line drawings with a one-sentence statement about the picture. We are hoping to receive submissions featuring local farm life, city buildings, scenes from our 4th of July parade, or historical pictures. Please contact thewestonpost@protonmail.com for more information.



SUMMER FIRE SAFETY MESSAGE

As we approach Labor Day weekend, many of us find ourselves enjoying the pool and grilling outside with friends and family. According to the Hearth, Patio and Barbecue Association, about 70% of adults in the U.S. have a grill or a smoker, which means there will be lots of fun Labor Day cookouts. However, increased outdoor cooking also means an increased risk of home fires.

The National Fire Protection Association reports that between 2014 and 2018, fire departments responded to an average of about 9,000 home fires each year that involved a grill, barbecue or hibachi. During that same period, over 9,500 patients are seen by emergency room personnel for injuries involving grills. Sadly, thousands of children receive contact burns resulting from bumping into hot grills and barbecues.

Grilling Safety Tips

Never grill inside the home and be sure that your grill is located away from your home's exterior, deck railings, and away from drooping branches. Always keep your grill tidy by removing grease buildup from the grills and trays and ensure your gas grill lid is open prior to lighting it. You grill should always be supervised, especially when children and pets are nearby.

When using a charcoal grill, be mindful to keep flammable starter fluid out of reach of children and away from heat sources. When you are finished cooking, let the coals cool completely before disposing of them safely in a metal container. For gas grills, be sure to check the gas tank hose for any leaks before using it at the start of each grilling season. You can detect leaks by looking for bubbles after applying a bit of soap and water mixture to the hose.

Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety

You will also want to consider the inside of your home when thinking about fire safety. This year, the NFPA is focusing on smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors and asking folks to recognize the different sounds they make when they are active. Monthly, you should test all smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. If the alarm starts to chirp, you likely need to replace the batteries or the alarm altogether.

A carbon monoxide alarm and a smoke alarm sound a bit different so you want to know the difference between the two—three beeps for smoke and four beeps for carbon monoxide. You should leave your home immediately when you hear either of those alarms. Fortunately, there are options like bed shakers and strobe light alarms for the deaf or hearing impaired.

Weston Fire and Rescue wants to ensure you are keeping fire safety in mind as you enjoy your outdoor summer and fall celebrations, especially when cooking outside. Please consider this fire safety advice to keep your family protected from fire dangers as we head from summer into fall.

Want to learn more about Weston Fire and Rescue? Check out westontxfd.org and follow them on Facebook, too.

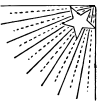
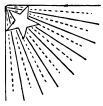


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Sewer News

Check out the slide presentation from Mayor Jim Marischen's Town Hall regarding the downtown area and sewer installation.

<http://www.westontexas.com/upload/page/0001/Weston%20Sewer%20Town%20Hall%20Mtg.pdf>



LEMONADE FOR LIFE

Harrison and Tinsley Tingle have been working hard this summer selling lemonade for a great cause donating their sales to AquaShare. Founded by Shayne Tingle, a cousin of the Tingle family, Aquashare is a 501(c)(3) charity that digs wells to provide clean water to villages in Cambodia. Digging a well in Cambodia costs \$575 and will provide fresh water to an entire village for life. Thanks to lemonade lovers and our generous community, they met their goal and were able to provide a Cambodian community with a new well. Many people who have stopped by for a glass of lemonade have shared their own stories about helping people in Cambodia. This experience has made Harrison and Tinsley more determined to reach all their goals. For more information about Aqua Share visit <http://everydropcounts.us>.

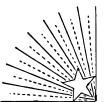
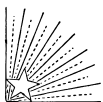


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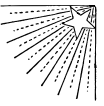
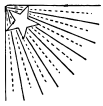


COFFEE WITH THE CHIEF

On Saturday, June 12 residents met at the Weston Fire Station to talk with Fire Chief Bart Chambers. Local kids had a blast hanging out at the station learning about fire safety and hanging out with the firefighters.



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CAJUNFEST 2021

By Aly Jones

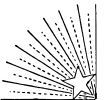
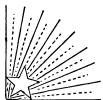
Aly is the Marketing and Design Assistant for the City of Celina.

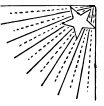
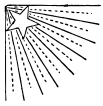
Celina kicked off crawfish season in style with a massive 6,000-pound crawfish boil at the 9th Annual Celina Cajun Fest on Saturday, May 8th. The event boasted record attendance, with over 13,000 people making their way to Downtown Celina for a wealth of entertainment with a Cajun flair. Shopping, food and beverage vendors, kid's activities, and live gators offered something for everyone. But it didn't stop there! The city welcomed four distinct performers to the stage throughout the day, from southern rock to Zydeco.

This year's lineup was truly the best yet, starting with North Texas natives and red dirt boys, Southern Brave. This energetic performance was followed by the incredible music and presence of country music and internet sensation Coffey Anderson. After an intermission for an educational and thrilling gator show, crowds returned to the stage for Grammy Award Winner Wayne Toups, one of the most successful American Cajun singers. Finally, country music legend Tracy Byrd took the stage by storm and had people of all ages on their feet dancing along. This event continues to grow and blossom with each year that passes, and the city promises to deliver the best Cajun Fest yet with next year's celebration of a decade of the festival.



Photos: Cassie Lee





FALL FUN WITH 5G FARM

By Brian Giles

Our family farm, 5G Farm, sits on ten beautiful acres just outside McKinney. We have been growing beautiful, fresh produce and raising delicious healthy meats for the past eight years. Last year, during the COVID-19 outbreak, we shifted away from farmer’s markets and, instead, offered home deliveries throughout Collin County and surrounding areas. We’ve begun offering classes, including several introductory beekeeping courses taught by Stephen Ross of Ross’s Rowdy Bees, and we will open gardening and cooking classes later this year. We also opened our farm to shoppers looking for local products while serving up BBQ in our farm store on the weekend.

When you visit the farm store, you can meet me, Brian—the Pit Master, head farmer, and chief dishwasher—along with my wife, Debbie, and our children (most of the time). I start the smoker every Friday morning at 2a.m. and produce some of the best BBQ you can find. All your favorite meats like brisket, ribs, pork, chicken and sausage are on the menu along with smoked veggies, corn on the cob, fries, and lots more. Also, we cater parties either on the farm or at your home. Our holiday schedule is filling up, so get in touch with us soon to get on the schedule.



We have tons of fun activities for the little ones. Along with the bounce house and tetherball, kids can feed the turkeys, Hans and Franz, and gobble back and forth with them. Hans and Franz, the two big toms, love to talk to everyone while strutting around showing off. They are always a huge hit!

This year, we will be hosting our pumpkin patch which will be bigger and better than last year’s. It will run from September 17th thru October 31st and will be open Wednesday thru Sunday every week. We will have a ton a great activities including lots of vendors on the weekends, kettle corn, hayrides, picture booths, a huge corn maze, spectacular BBQ, games for the kids, face painting, tetherball, frisbee golf, animals to feed, a bounce house, and of course tons (literally) of pumpkins!!!

Furthermore, we raise a small number of turkeys every year for Thanksgiving. We sell about half in the late spring and then, starting in October, we open the rest up for sale. If you’re interested, watch our Facebook page to see when we will start taking deposits. They go quick, so please get your orders in ASAP.

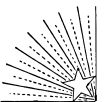
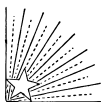
Currently, our farm store is open every Friday from 4p.m. to 7:30p.m. and Saturday from 9a.m. to 2p.m. where we serve up our delicious BBQ along with other products. Come out and eat at the farm and enjoy the country while the kids play. Feel free to bring your own beer or wine to enjoy with dinner!

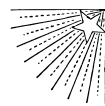
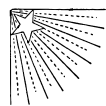
5G Farm is located near Myers Park at 6601 County Rd 166, McKinney, TX 75071. You can keep up with all the happenings on the farm by following them on Facebook and Instagram at 5gfarmtx. Their products and complete BBQ menu can be found on their website, www.5gfarmtx.com.



Photos: 5G Farm

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SUMMERTIME FORAGING

By Courtney Taylor

The following piece is the second article in her foraging series and is adapted from Courtney's ebook Edible Wild Plant Basics. She has been interested in foraging for many years and taught foraging classes to hundreds of students. Courtney now lives in Weston with her husband and children.

In the spring edition, I discussed the responsibilities and etiquette every forager must consider when exploring and consuming wild plants. Please refer to the spring article (or my ebook) to fully understand the rules of foraging before trying any new plants. Remember, the following information is not meant to serve as an identification guide. Rather, my purpose is to introduce you to new friends. As with all friend introductions, I can introduce you, but it is up to you to develop your own relationship with the plant.

Introducing Prickly Pear/Nopal Cactus (*Opuntia* spp.)

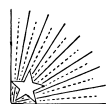


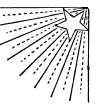
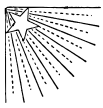
I have known of the edibility of prickly pear fruits for decades, but it took a while to learn how to utilize them as a food with ease and enjoyment! Both the prickly pear cactus pads and their fruits (aka “tunas”), are covered with spines—two different types. One kind of spine is large and extremely obvious; these spines are easy to remove by simply pulling them off. The other kind of spine is sneaky; they are tiny orange hairs called “glochids”. When they lodge into your skin, you itch and burn and wonder how they even got there because they’re so discreet and very hard to see! Fortunately, with a little bit of patience, the glochids are easy to remove from your skin with tweezers, and the itchy burn will go away when you get them all out. But it’s better to avoid contact with glochids altogether, which I learned is entirely possible!

Here’s how: when you venture out to harvest the ripe pink-purple prickly pear fruits, bring a pair of tongs, and a grocery sack. Grab the tunas with the tongs, twist them off, and put them into the bag. When you get home, dump the fruits directly into your blender at 2-3 cups of fruits at a time. There’s no need to touch them or modify them in any way. You can blend them up whole, with water. Once blended well, pour the mixture through a fine strainer or nut milk bag. You can then drink the pulpy juice and compost the fibers in the strainer.

You can even touch the remaining fibers, as the blender seems to deactivate the glochids’ irritation. The green, young cactus pads can also be blended into a drink, but you will have to cut off the “eyes” with the big spines on them. If the pad is really young, the skin will be tender and you can leave that on, but if it’s a little older, find a way to cut or peel off the skin without getting spines in your hands.

Prickly pear cactus, also known as nopal cactus, or nopales, was a staple food for many Native American tribes. Prickly pear fruits and pads are rich in vitamin C, magnesium, calcium, potassium, fiber, and antioxidants. They contain 17 amino acids, and because of the specific type of mucilage fiber they contain, they are excellent at regulating blood sugar levels.





Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)



Elderberry is a shrub or small tree that grows up to 10 feet tall. The leaves are pinnately compound (5 to 9 leaflets per leaf), fine-toothed, and opposite. In the summer, very large, flat-topped, brightly white flower clusters appear. The flowers continue to open throughout the summer. In the autumn, the flowers turn into clusters of green berries, which ripen to a dark purplish black. The stems of the berry clusters are pink.

Elderflower and elderberry have dozens of medicinal uses, and there are probably hundreds of recipes that use the flowers and berries. They can be used to make syrups, jellies, jams, pies, wine, champagne, and more. The flowers can be eaten raw or cooked. The berries can potentially be eaten raw in small amounts, but they most often require being dried or cooked to be edible. Dehydrating elderberries is a great way to preserve them and render them edible without having to cook them! All other parts of the elder—the stems, leaves and bark—are toxic, as are the unripe, green berries.

Final Thoughts

These are just two out of several wonderful wild fruits that North Texas has to offer in the fall! Autumn is known as the season of harvest as plants ripen their fruits or go to seed in preparation for the dormancy of winter. Some fruits come earlier and some later—for example, mulberries and dewberries ripen during the summer months, and wild persimmons in the late fall (usually November). Other wild fruits that ripen in North Texas throughout the fall include wild grapes and hackberries.

Want to learn more about foraging? Email Courtney at chocotrixie@gmail.com to get her ebook and request to join the Wild Foraging North Texas facebook group to learn more about this skill.

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Get in the Loop

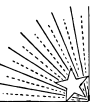
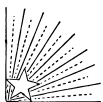
Weston is requesting contact information for all of its residents, city and ETJ, to be used for emergency notifications and informational messages. Your help with this is very important. If your phone number is not in the database, you cannot be notified. Please call City Hall at (972) 382-1001, email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



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 <http://classroomcounterpoints.org/donate> or mail us a check made payable to Classroom Counterpoints to the following address:

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





COLLIN COUNTY HISTORY ESSAY COMPETITION

The Collin County Historical Commission is hosting an essay competition for all K-12 students. We encourage all students to participate, including homeschoolers. A cash prize of \$100 will be offered to the best elementary, middle, and high school essays. Winners and runner-ups will also have their essay published in *The Weston Post* and on the Historical Commission's Facebook page.

Along with using proper grammar and spelling, we encourage students to research and use evidence to support their thesis. Your essay needs to be a minimum of 500 words, double spaced, and typed in Times New Roman font size 12. Please include a title and list your name, age, grade, school, contact phone/email and add a bibliography page. Note: these items are NOT included in the word minimum for your essay. Submissions are due by midnight on September 30, 2021. Please email your submission to Jan Samuels at windmillc@aol.com.

Please write an essay on ONE of the following topics:

1. Climate, geography and natural resources play a large role in the development of a civilization. How did these factors help shape the history of Collin County?
2. Explain how Collin County history is significant to the history of the state of Texas, as a whole.
3. Collin County is experiencing major population growth as people relocate from other parts of the country and the world. Given this trend, do you think it is more important for students to study local, national or world history? Explain.
4. Select a person who played a noteworthy role in Collin County history. Describe your historical figure and explain why he or she is significant. Consider writing about one of the following people:

James Webb Throckmorton, Audie Murphy, Kathryn "Katie" Heard Craig, Ray Roberts, Collin McKinney, Robert Cannon Horn, Augustus 'Gus' Wilson, Joseph 'J.B' Wilmeth, Henry Oliver Hedgcoxe, Sam Rayburn, Ebert Wiley 'E.W.' Kirpatrick, Sam Bass, Bess Heard, Ammie Wilson, Russell A. Steindam, Kiowa chief Spotted Tail, John Abston, Raymond Hamilton, Ralph Fults

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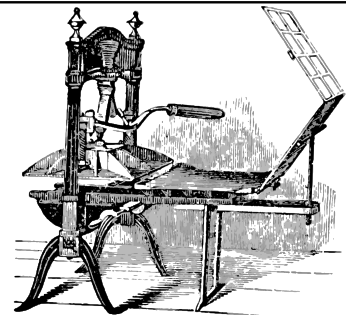
Gotta Have Faith



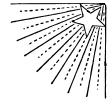
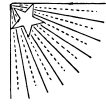
If you don't have a local faith community, then consider contacting one of Weston's three churches: Calvary Chapel Honey Creek (www.calvarychapelhoneycreek.org); First Baptist Church of Weston (www.fbcwestontx.org); or First Christian Church of Weston (www.firstchristianweston.com).

Donation Appreciation!

Thank you to Celina's Buff City Soaps, Susan Coffey, the Creative Connections quilting group, Bart Chambers, Carol Decker, the Estep family, the Goldsteins, Legacy Print Group, the Levine family, the Richardsons, Cate Robbins, Jan Samuels, Jan Stovall, Jan Thatcher, and all the folks who bought raffle tickets for your contributions to Classroom Counterpoints and keeping the summer print edition alive!



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.

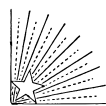


RAFFLE

On Saturday, July 3, Classroom Counterpoints held a raffle to raise funds for *The Weston Post*. We had many lovely wonderful items donated to make this raffle a smashing success and earned \$975! Homeschool student Warren Richardson contributed a beautiful wine holder he created using horseshoes. The Levine family donated a large framed poster of Patrick Reynolds' Weston Texas Lore illustration. City Secretary Susan Coffe crocheted a patriotic blanket and the Creative Connections group at Weston's Calvary Chapel Honey Creek donated a fabulous quilt.

City Alderman Carol Decker donated a lovely crystal bowl and Texas Range Honey filled it with delicious honey products. Local artist Cate Robbins crafted an adorable basket filled with artsy kid-friendly creations and her illustrated children's book "Jake the Parakeet." Celina's Buff City Soap graciously donated a patriotic soap basket which smelled amazing. Fire Chief Bart Chambers contributed several fantastic pieces of firefighting décor and toy fire engines.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the raffle and bought a ticket. Your support keeps the print edition of *The Weston Post* alive!



INDEPENDENCE DAY FUN

On Saturday, July 3rd, Weston celebrated America's independence with its 36th annual parade. While it drizzled a bit in the early morning, the skies cleared and the sun shined brightly on Weston. Parade goers relished the unusually cool 74°F weather and enjoyed the extra activities offered this year.

Mayor Jim Marischen, the color guard, and Megyn Fancher's singing of the national anthem kicked off the festivities. A stream of classic cars, fire trucks, motorcycles, decorated tractors and vehicles, clever floats, horseback riders, and other patriotic participants lined Weston's streets and wowed the audience. Four year old Sarah Levine loved catching the treats tossed out to kids at this year's parade. She says, "we got candy—I was so excited! The fire trucks were pretty." During the parade, the audience witnessed a reenactment of the old Weston bank robbery which was Cedar Clay's favorite part of the parade. He thought it was awesome to experience "the reenactment of the Weston bank robbery at the exact same site that it was held."

Besides the classic parade of floats, tractors, classic cars and family participants, visitors enjoyed lots of other activities. The Goldsteins opened the historic post office museum to visitors looking to learn a little bit more about our sweet town. Donna Estep hosted a fantastic bake sale raising \$1075 for Weston Fire and Rescue; the community center was filled with delicious pies, cookies and other baked goods that were snapped up by the end of the morning. The kids had a blast playing a fishing game with Lee Estep and then eagerly waited to get their face painted by the talented Alice Yeager.

Zuzu's Sweet Creamery satisfied the sweet tooth of parade goers and Weston's Fire and Rescue fed hungry folks with a cookout. The fire department also sold lots of great t-shirts. Between the cookout, bake sale, t-shirts and donations, the fire department raised \$2500! Classroom Counterpoints hosted a raffle to raise money for the printing of *The Weston Post*. Buff City Soaps, Bart Chambers, Susan Coffey, Creative Connections quilting group, Carol Decker, the Levine family, the Richardson family, Cate Robbins and Texas Range Honey, generously contributed fantastic raffle items that truly celebrated the pioneer spirit of Weston. The raffle raised \$975 which will go a long way towards the printing of the newsletter.

This year's parade was a smashing success thanks to the City of Weston, fire department, parade participants, vendors, and many volunteers who came together to organize the event. Thank you to Sheriff Deputies Castillo and Gill who helped guide traffic so smoothly that even with a much larger turnout than last year's socially distanced endeavor, the traffic control went smoothly. Estimates range as high as 1300 for attendance which was much larger than last year's parade. The parade volunteers are already talking about how to make next year's event bigger and better than ever!

Do you want to help get involved organizing next year's parade? Please contact City Hall at (972) 382-1001 or email City Secretary Susan Coffey at cityhall@westontexas.com to learn how you can help next year.



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Weston ANNUAL 3RD of JULY PARADE













PARADE WINNERS

WALKERS/BIKES & WAGONS – CHILDREN

Judge: Roxanne

- 1st Savannah Joy
- 2nd Brooke Marthiljohni
- 3rd Lane Joy

FLOATS

Judge: Larry McNeny

- 1st 1st Christian Church Weston
- 2nd Bless Our Nurses Weston
- 3rd Caudalie Crest Winery Weston

CARS / TRUCKS

Judge: Tony Del Plato

- 1st Matt Rogers Celina
- 2nd David Barnes Celina
- 3rd Phil Maternowski McKinney

ATV (4 WHEELERS)

Judge: Larry Lambert

- 1st Carter Gee Weston
- 2nd Bob Via Weston
- 3rd Tyler Barron Weston

MOTORCYCLES

Judge: Joe Kellum

- 1st Steve Duran
- 2nd Tony Miller
- 3rd Emil Meintjes

HORSES – GROUPS

Judge: Pamela Herzberg

- 1st Trinity Trail Lucas
- 2nd Twin Mallots McKinney
- 3rd Hope Trails Celina

HORSES (WITH OR WITHOUT BUGGIES) – JUNIORS

Judge: Pamela Herzberg

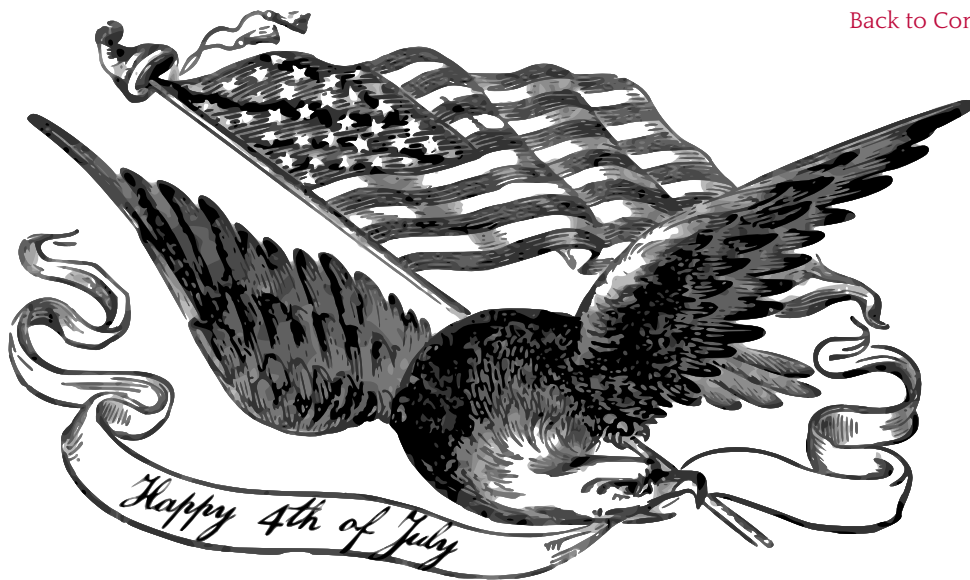
- 1st Kira Clark Weston

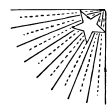
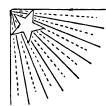
HORSES (WITH OR WITHOUT BUGGIES) – ADULTS

Judge: Pamela Herzberg

- 1st Tom Pollard Farmersville
- 2nd Paula Buysse Gunter
- 3rd Kathy Erickson Weston

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JOIN OUR TEAM

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



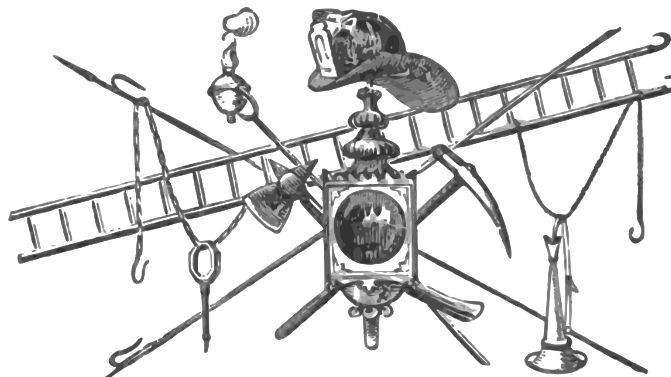
Weston Fire and Rescue is currently asking the residents of Weston Fire District to become volunteers. You will receive training in firefighting or emergency medical services. All the training provided to you is FREE of charge and is always ongoing. Your responsibilities as a member will include responding 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.

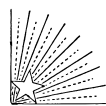


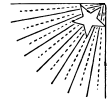
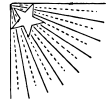
Photos: First Responders Photography

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.



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THE GOOD OL' DAYS

In 1886, Minnie Ha Ha, a teenager from Weston, wrote a letter to *The McKinney Gazette* to inform readers about happenings in Weston. *The Weston Post* carries on this tradition of encouraging local young people to contribute to the newsletter and write about interesting things happening around the county. Please contact thewestonpost@protonmail.com if you would like to write something for *The Weston Post*.

Use "KITCHEN QUEEN"
BAKING POWDER.
Manufactured By
BABCOCK, FOOT & BROWN,
DALLAS, TEXAS.

The McKinney Gazette.

USE HERMOSA COFFEE.
For Sale By All Grocers.
Put up by
BABCOCK, FOOT & BROWN,
DALLAS, TEXAS.

VOLUME 1. NO. 6.

MCKINNEY, COLLIN COUNTY, TEXAS, THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 1886.

\$1.50 A YEAR.

Letter from Weston.

Mr. Editor:

I see in your last issue an invitation to persons situated in the different parts of the county for reports of the local happenings in their respective neighborhoods. I am a school girl in my teens, and have never written for the press.

We had a good rain last night, suplimented by more to-day, which will be very beneficial to the growing crops but detrimental to the wheat if continued many days.

We have a flourishing Literary School here, conducted by Prof. J. B. Tolbert. We also have a lively and interesting Sabbath School, and are preparing for a concert at the last of the present quarter, ending June 30.

Madam Rumor says there will be a wedding in the near future in our little village.

The health of the community is very good.

Mr. V. B. Turner, who has been sick for some months, is slowly convalescing, and it is hoped that he will soon be himself again.

Weston is improving slowly and business is rather dull at present.

Prof. Simpson, who has been teaching school at San Angelo, for some seven months, is now visiting friends in Weston.

There is a crowd of Weston young people talking of taking a fishing and hunting trip over in the Nation. Hope they will have an enjoyable time, and catch lots of fish and "dear".

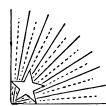
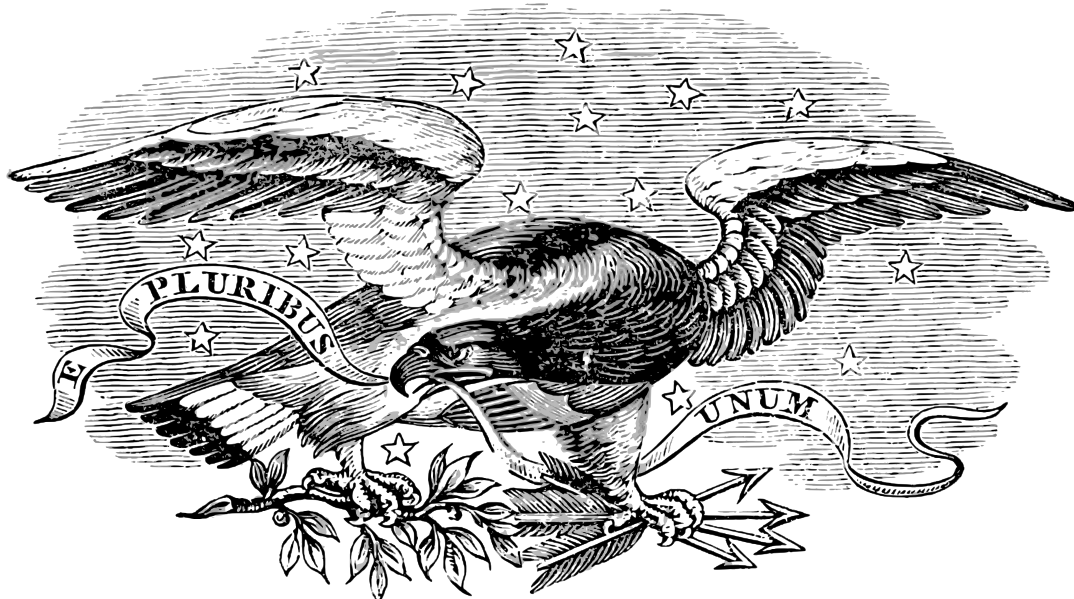
Several horses of our neighborhood are affected with a very peculiar disease, never known in the country before, something like pink eye. So far it has not proven very fatal.

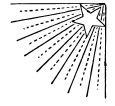
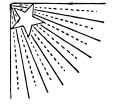
We have preaching here three Sundays in each month. The first by Rev. McComb, at the Baptist Church. Second by Rev. Stevenson, at the Methodist Church. The fourth by Rev. Kerr, at the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, also at the Methodist Church, which are generally well attended although Weston has two saloons, which don't add much to the credit of the place.

MINNIE HA HA.
Weston, Texas, June 10, '86.

Source: <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph192213/m1/2/>

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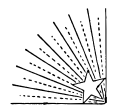
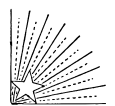


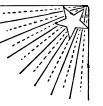
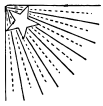
Psalm 84:11
 He is your sun
 and shield. He
 will not
 withhold any-
 thing from you.

TRALYN
 2021

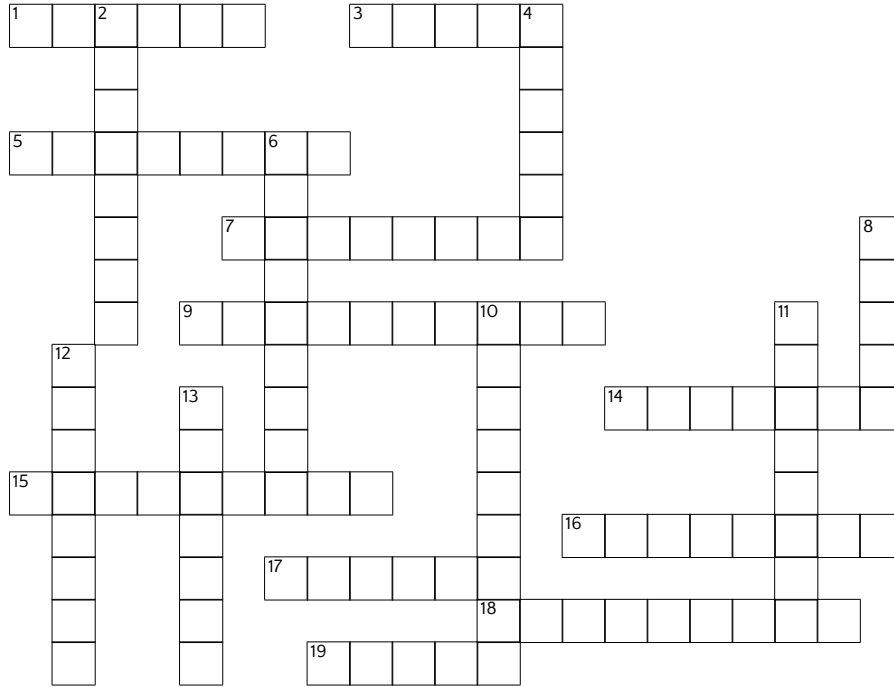
By Tralyn Tadlock

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CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Parade committee leader
- 3 Weston plans to install ____ lines downtown
- 5 ____ school was a 1 room schoolhouse
- 7 Sis Mugg was born a ____
- 9 Opened at Weston's 4th of July parade
- 14 Lone Star teacher
- 15 Enjoyed riding in Weston's parade
- 16 Congress may end qualified ____ for police
- 17 Our father who is in ____
- 18 Annual Celina spring event
- 19 ____ beeps for smoke alarm

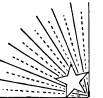
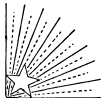
Down

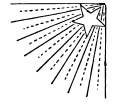
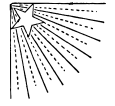
- 2 5G fall feature
- 4 Raised money for *The Weston Post*
- 6 Digs wells in Cambodia
- 8 5G pit master
- 10 Decker's career industry
- 11 Tiny orange spines on prickly pears
- 12 Late summer grilling holiday
- 13 Jack's Grocery owner

Answers found at bottom of last page.

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



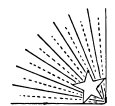
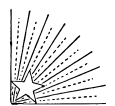


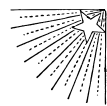
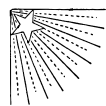
COLORING PAGE



By Cate Robbins
www.caterobbins.net

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WORD SEARCH



Find the 19 solutions to the crossword hidden in the word search.

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

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SUDOKU

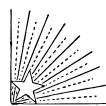


7		5	3		4		6	
	4	9	6	5	1		7	
					8	4		
	3		4			2	8	1
		4		6	5			3
	1				2			4
	7	1			3	5		
			2			9		
	9	8			7			6



Answers found at bottom of last page.

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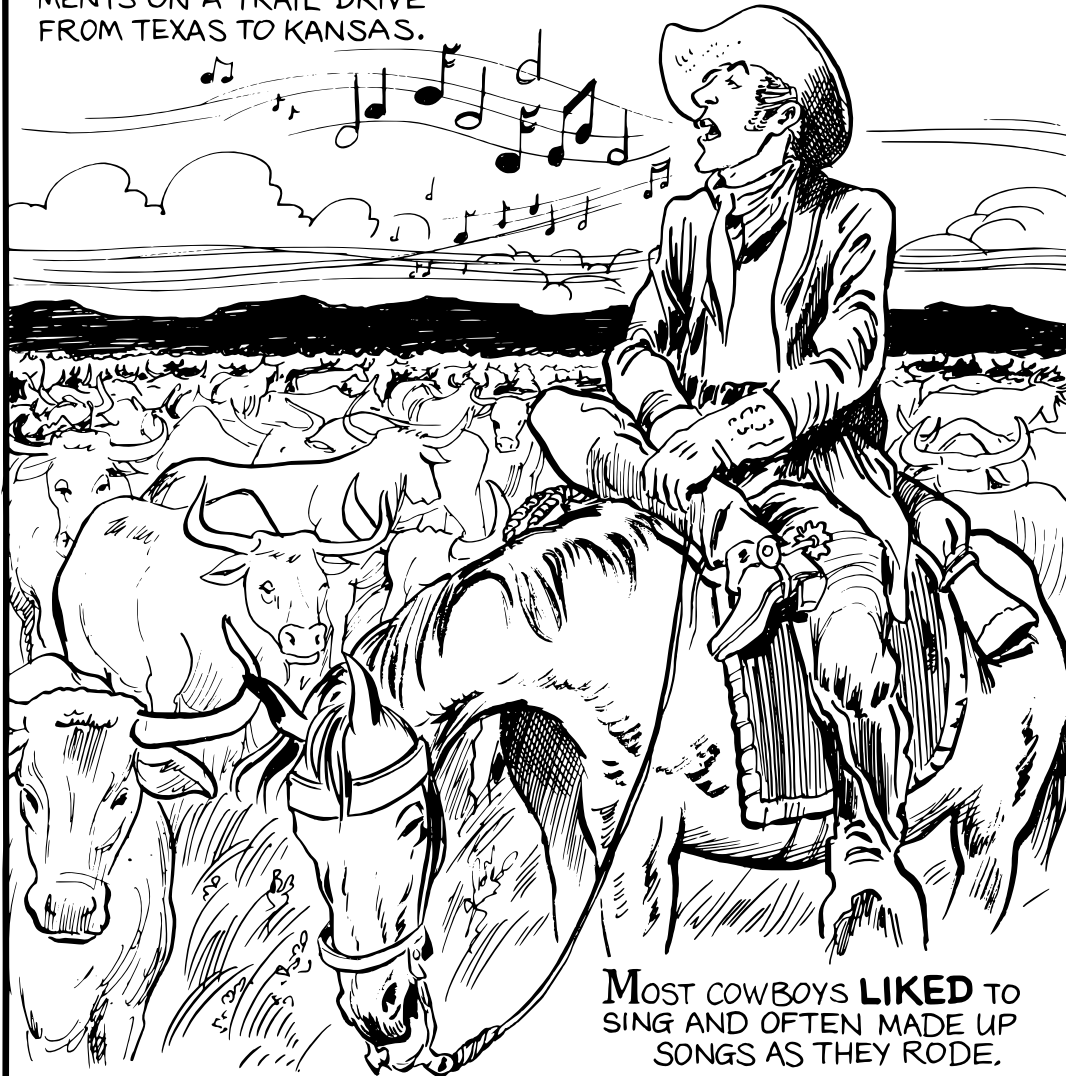


TEXAS LORE

by Patrick M. Reynolds

The Origin of Cowboy Music

THERE WAS A PRACTICAL REASON FOR COWBOY MUSIC. DURING THE CATTLE DRIVES OF THE MID 19th CENTURY, THE COWBOYS SANG SOFTLY & CONTINUOUSLY AT NIGHT TO KEEP THE HERD CALM AND PREVENT A STAMPEDE. FEW COWBOYS, EVEN IF THEY OWNED A GUITAR OR KNEW HOW TO PLAY ONE, EVER TOOK THEIR INSTRUMENTS ON A TRAIL DRIVE FROM TEXAS TO KANSAS.



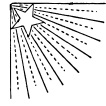
MOST COWBOYS LIKED TO SING AND OFTEN MADE UP SONGS AS THEY RODE.

THESE SONGS WERE SIMPLE AND REFLECTED THEIR EXPERIENCES AND THEIR DREAMS. NOBODY KNOWS WHO COMPOSED THESE EARLY BALLADS; THE WORDS WERE OFTEN CHANGED BY OTHER SINGERS.

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.

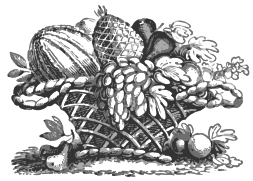
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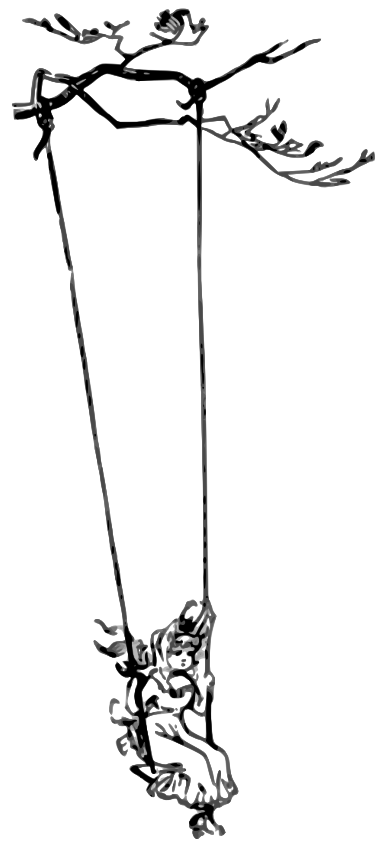
UPCOMING EVENTS

- ★ September 6 Labor Day
- ★ September 11 Patriot Day
- ★ September 12 National Grandparents Day
- ★ September 14 Weston City Council Meeting at City Hall 7:30p.m.
- ★ September 17 Constitution Day
- ★ September 18 Anna Train Depot Grand Opening
- ★ September 24-26 Oktoberfest in downtown McKinney
- ★ October 11 Columbus Day
- ★ October 12 Weston City Council Meeting at City Hall 7:30p.m.
- ★ October 23 Beware! On the Square in downtown Celina
- ★ October 31 Halloween
- ★ November 7 Daylight Savings Time Ends

Gardening Tip



Try to harvest your crops in the morning. In the early hours, plants are plump with moisture and nutrients. Also, don't forget to save some seeds so you can be ready to plant again next year!



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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.

- ★ 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

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Meeting Schedule

 Weston Fire and Rescue 1 st and 3 rd Tuesday 7p.m. 203 Main Street	 Weston Water Supply Corp Last Monday 7p.m. 406 Chicken Street
---	--

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

"Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children's children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance."
 —Theodore Roosevelt

Answers: 1. DECKER 2. CORNMAZE 3. SEWER 4. RAFFLE 5. LONESTAR 6. AQUASHARE 7. LUSCOMBE 8. GILES 9. POSTOFFICE 10. INSURANCE 11. GLOCHIDS 12. LABORDAY 13. SISMUGG 14. TIMMONS 15. GOLDSTEIN 16. IMMUNITY 17. HEAVEN 18. CAJUNFEST 19. THREE

