

The Weston Post

Issue № 9

Winter 2022



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CITY BUSINESS WITH SECRETARY SUSAN COFFER

Tell us about yourself and how you got chosen for the job.

I was born and raised in Greencastle, a small town in Pennsylvania in the center of American history—about 40 miles from Gettysburg and Antietam Battlefields, and Harper's Ferry. I served in the Army with the 101st Military Intelligence Battalion at Fort Riley, Kansas. In 1987, I was stationed in Berlin, Germany during the Cold War. I was in Berlin both when the wall fell on November 9, 1989 and when Germany reunified on October 3, 1990. It was quite an exciting time! Our military housing area basically backed up to the Berlin Wall and sometimes we were awakened by the sound of sirens and what sounded like gun shots from the East German guards. My first time walking across Glienicke Bridge, also known as the "Bridge of Spies," where the exchange of captured spies took place several times during the Cold War, was unreal. My time in Berlin was truly a once-in-a-lifetime event.

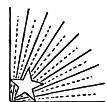
Beginning in 1991, I spent the next ten years living in Pennsylvania and Florida working for a government contractor. In 2003, my husband and I moved to the Dallas area for his job. I took a year off and, in 2004, was ready to jump back into the workforce. I saw the ad for a City Secretary in Weston and applied for the job (as did five other applicants). Having worked for the government in some fashion for many years, I thought I would be a good fit here. Although I left the City in 2007, I returned in 2013 and have been with Weston since then. I have two daughters who were born at Fort Riley and a son, born in Berlin. In addition, I have eight grandchildren, one great-grandchild and another due in February.

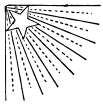


You are the face of Weston. Share what you love most about Weston and your role with the city.

Weston is my second hometown. Having been raised in a small town, albeit larger than Weston, I'm very comfortable here. The people are fantastic and I have gotten to know and have become friends with several of the residents. I love the interaction with the locals and enjoy hearing the legends of Weston and learning about the town's history. I grew up listening to my parents, who have both since passed, talk about their childhood in my hometown and it sounded a lot like Weston.

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My paternal 3rd great grandfather came from Ireland to the Greencastle area as early as 1811 and my maternal 3rd great grandfather settled in the area as early as 1784; both families have been there since. It's one of those towns where every 3rd person you see at the grocery store is related to you in some form or fashion. Listening to the Weston locals gives me that warm and fuzzy feeling again.

One of the things I like best about working for the city is the fact that residents don't get shoved from department to department at City Hall when trying to get things done, which is commonplace in the larger cities. Weston City Hall is basically a one-stop-shop. I know that will change as Weston grows but I would like to see it hold off for as long as possible.

To me the "city" is the residents, not just the Mayor and the City Council, so in my mind, I work for the residents. Whatever they need or want to know, I'm here to help them get answers. However, the larger we grow, the more people and departments you'll have to go through just to get a building permit. Right now it takes, on average, 3 days to get a building permit. What other city can say that?

Decorating the Community Center for the different seasons and holidays is always an enjoyable break from the typical day. The renters seem to really enjoy it as it makes for a more memorable family reunion when it isn't just a concrete building like you find other places. I'm always open to theme suggestions and volunteers are always welcome! I also really enjoy crocheting; it's probably the most relaxing thing I do. I learned to crochet a few years ago thanks to the former Mayor teaching me. I crochet many of the Community Center decorations and I've made some blankets for the July 4th parade raffle.

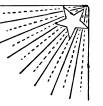
Is there an interaction with a resident or city engagement that is the most memorable?

Most of my interactions are memorable and I can't say that one specifically sticks out more than another. However, I do miss my coffee with Frank Banner—he loved to talk about his time in the Navy and chat about his children and grandchildren. And conversations with Jerry Smith are great, too. He loves to tell stories about growing up in the Weston area and talk about how things were back then. He's so proud of his Weston heritage, as he should be!

What is the most challenging part of your job?

It's tough to both keep up with changes to state laws and also get the general public to understand that we, as a city, do not have complete autonomy. Some people think that cities can do anything they want. Unfortunately, that's not the case. As a General Law city, Weston can only enact laws that are specifically granted through the Texas Code. If the state code forbids something, or is silent on something, a General Law city cannot enact an Ordinance for it. Once Weston has 5000 residents, through a vote of those residents, Weston can become a Home Rule city. That will allow the city to enact most any ordinance so long as the state doesn't forbid it, but that's not always the best thing either. Although a Home Rule city has more power, they also have more requirements, unlike a small General Law city.

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The Weston Post

Issue № 9

Winter 2022

Publisher

Classroom Counterpoints

Printer

Legacy Print Group
legacyprintgroup.com

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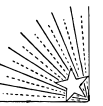
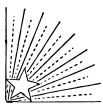
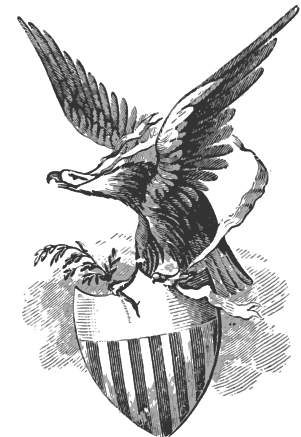
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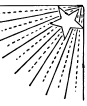
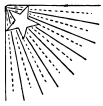
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Typeset with L^AT_EX





Permitting is another challenge. We may be small, but we do still require permits for things you may not think about. Burn permits are required as are permits to install a hot tub or an above-ground pool. Even a fence requires a permit. These permits include inspections that not only protect the homeowner, but their neighbors as well. Imagine your neighbor installs a large above ground pool without a permit, and therefore without an inspection. They don't have it installed correctly, and eventually the water leaks. That chlorinated water is now all over your yard killing your plants. Or imagine a situation where hot embers from your neighbors burn pile have made their way to your roof because they weren't burning far enough away from your house. A permit may have prevented that.

Finally, the rumor mill presents another challenge. For years, I've heard that McKinney and Celina are taking over Weston. That just isn't true if for no other reason that they simply cannot "take over" Weston. A city cannot encroach on another city's Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ). Our ETJ extends a half-mile beyond city limits. If you live on a property that is contiguous with our ETJ and you want to protect your property from being annexed in to another city, then you can always request to annex in to our ETJ. That's not the same as annexing into the City. It just ensures you will remain "Weston", or, at the very least, not another City. We do have boundary agreements with the surrounding cities, and those cannot arbitrarily be ignored. However, nothing is ever set in stone. Call City Hall if you hear something you aren't sure of.

You have been working with the City of Weston for 11 years. What has changed and what has stayed the same?

I don't think much has changed really, other than we have more development now. It's still the same lifestyle and the same requirements, just more of it. When I first started here, we were open just twenty hours per week and that was stretching it. Now, I'm open thirty hours but could easily do forty hours some weeks. Some weeks, I could probably get away with twenty hours a week, usually around Christmas when not much is happening. Currently, we do not have the budget to staff an employee to work full time and, truly, I enjoy having Fridays off. I think when the City is ready to have a full 40-hour week City Secretary, it will be someone else sitting in this office.

How has the change in administration affected how you work?

Each council member has their own idea of what's best for the city, as each Mayor does. In the end, I believe they all want what's best for Weston. These days, there are far more volunteers and committees meaning that many of the things that I used to do are now done by them. Research takes a lot of time; in the past, the Mayor and I did all of the research (outside of legal issues, of course), but now there are volunteers that help with that. As the city grows, and I acquire additional duties, I'm grateful for the volunteers and committees to help with this process.

What are some challenges you see Weston facing?

Development is our biggest challenge. I'm constantly contacted by developers who want to buy and build in Weston. Their business is to make money so they want as many homes on a piece of property as they can get, which seems to be the opposite of what residents want. While cities cannot stop development, they can control it. I don't think we are any different from any other rural area in Texas right now.

Citizen engagement is also challenging. You really should get involved and attend council meetings, especially if you want to keep Weston rural. Things are constantly changing, sometimes day-to-day, and you need to learn what's been happening and make your wishes known. Your council members are here to serve you. Over time, the City, with resident input, will likely have to make decisions about commercial development, too.

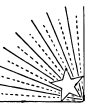
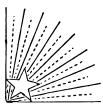
Having just moved from living on US 380, where there were ten Walmarts within fifteen miles, to unincorporated Grayson County, where the closest Walmart is ten miles away in Anna, sometimes I wish for more conveniences closer to my house, like a breakfast café. I can see locals, especially the newer residents, contemplating these kinds of things, too. It's a tough for tired folks at the end of the work week, not wanting to cook yet facing the decision of braving I-75 at 5:30pm to grab a bite to eat. They may be interested in more convenient options, closer to home.

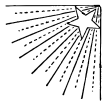
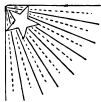
What do you want new and longtime residents to know?

With Van Buren Estates being the only development in the city with new residents right now, we can assume they moved here for the small-town feel. New residents should attend our events like Light-Up Weston and the July 4th Parade and attend council meetings to meet the Mayor and Aldermen. They can also get involved by volunteering for the spring and fall clean-up days and join a committee. Weston is a tightly knit town and it's important for them to talk to the current residents and get to know the town's history.

New residents and the older residents should sign up for notifications from the City. It's not just for emergencies. Notifications are sent out for important issues at council meetings, events, road work, and lots of things. Call City Hall to sign up or visit our website at <http://www.westontexas.com>.

As for the longtime residents, your support is needed. Your Alderman and Mayor are doing everything they can to keep this city rural. Show your support by attending council meetings and let them know what you want.





The City would love for the old-timers to tell their stories about growing up in Weston and share the legends that have been passed down from the older generations. If you would like to have your stories recorded, contact Alderman Mike Hill or City Hall and let us know. Mike loves to listen to the stories and he's excited, as we all are, about getting these documented.

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MAYOR'S CORNER

By Jim Marischen

Residents of Weston and our surrounding area, winter is here and we finally turned cold. I hope everyone is prepared in case we have another freeze like last February. It looks like the new COVID Omicron virus is spreading rapidly across Collin County. I encourage everyone to get the vaccinations and booster shot to survive the worst of the virus.

The holidays are past us and the Christmas lights in Weston are off. Thanks go out to everyone who made the Light-up Weston event a success last year. I know that the kids really enjoyed playing in the artificial snow and the cookies and cider hit the spot.

Progress continues to be slow at the Venetian and Weston Trails developments. The Venetian Phase I has finished its infrastructure for roads, water and sewer, and should be building its first homes by March. Unfortunately, the construction of the Weston wastewater treatment plant is now scheduled for mid-2023 due to material delays. That means that the Weston Town Center will not get its sewer until later 2023. There has been no progress on the Venetian Club House and Lagoon Site Plans, but it hasn't gone away. We are in discussion on the Public Service Safety Plan. Per the Weston Trails Development Plan, the developers are to provide the City of Weston the infrastructure for fire/EMS/police, to include a new firehouse, fire truck, and police vehicle. Finally, the City met with the owner of Matrix Equities LLC, but has yet to see any site plans for their property. They did say that they were planning on their first phase to be south of Rigsby Lane and west of Weston Road, just north and west of Van Buren Estates.

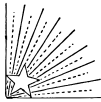
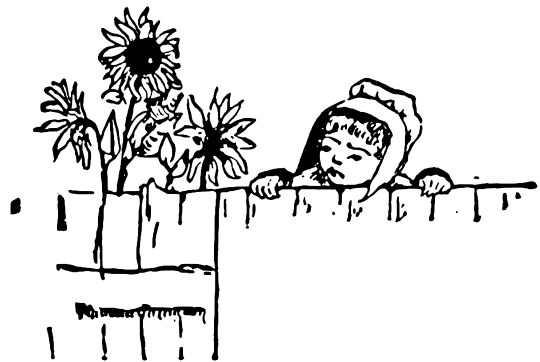
The Weston City Council passed a new Vision and Comprehensive Plan for the city late last year. The Comprehensive Plan is just the Future Land Use Map at this time. It addresses all of Weston, including beyond the Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ), and including our judicial boundary. The plan calls for any new subdivided lots within the city limits to be a minimum of 2 acres. Our next tasks include, syncing the Collin County Thoroughfare Plan with Weston's and completing the Comprehensive Planning effort.

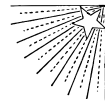
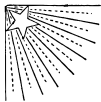
Remember to vote in the upcoming Texas primaries and be sure to stay safe and warm this winter. Please provide any questions for me either through the Weston website or directly to Susan at the City Hall.

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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.





FM 543 GRASS FIRES

The following press release from Weston Fire and Rescue concerns the grass fires on FM 543 sparked in January.

While a cause remains under investigation related to roadside fires in the Weston area, Weston Fire Chief Bart Chambers reminds the public how dangerous dragging chains can be.

[On January 17], firefighters responded to several blazes sparked along FM 543, in the City of Weston within Collin County. The flames forced the closure of FM 543 for a short period of time from Chambersville Road to County Road 205.

Chief Chambers wants the public to know that during this time when the weather is dry, so is the fuel in our annual grasses and brush. Chambers advises “vehicle caused fires are common due to poor maintenance and dragging tow chains.”

Weston Fire and Rescue recommends that when towing a boat, camping trailer, or any vehicle with chains attached, to always make sure they are properly secured to prevent them from dragging on the roadway. They also advise drivers to check on chains every time a stop is made. Below are more tips on proper vehicle use to prevent wildfires, which Weston Fire and Rescue asserts could prevent nearly all these fires if followed:

No Dragging Parts: Make sure your vehicle is properly maintained, with nothing dragging on the ground by using proper safety pins and hitch balls.

Check Tire Pressure: Maintain proper tire pressure. Driving on exposed wheel rims will throw sparks.

Carry a fire extinguisher in your vehicle and learn how to use it: Don't drive your vehicle onto dry grass or brush. Hot exhaust pipes and mufflers can start fires that you won't even see until it's too late!

Properly Maintain Brakes: Brakes worn too thin may cause metal-to-metal contact, which can cause a spark.

Weston Fire and Rescue urges our community and those traveling to take the time to secure tow chains and ensure care is taken during this critical fire weather. Remember, one less spark, one less fire. Be fire safe.



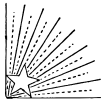
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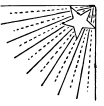
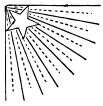
Thinking about Homeschooling?

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.

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.





THE CAVES

By Michael Hill

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

I saw a glimpse of Weston's past, during a recent interview with Louis Cave. Cave was born in Weston and still lives here today with his wife of nearly 60 years, Scooter. I sat down with the gracious couple who were ready to tell their story.

Louis Cave's heritage can be traced to a John Cave who arrived in Virginia prior to it becoming a state. Later, two Cave brothers made it to Texas and settled in the Melissa and Plano areas early in the history of those towns. Louis's father, Ted Cave, was born near Mugg Cemetery and later married into the Perry family. When Louis was born, Ted and his wife Gladys were living in a rented house belonging to the Helms family, who were Peters Colony purchasers.

Ted and Gladys bought a house that was being used to store hay and needed a lot of work to get ready for human habitation. They installed windows and doors and planted the pecan grove that still stands today at the corner of Cave Lane and FM 455. Occupied by Louis' mother, the house stood until recently. However, a newly built home stands there now where a Cave grandson and his family live.

Transportation was difficult back in those days of rock and dirt roads which turned to mud with the slightest rainfall. The Cave family rented a house in Weston at one point so Louis's older sister could attend the old Weston schoolhouse, which still stands east of downtown. It was in this childhood house that Louis remembers seeing his mother cry over the news of the Pearl Harbor attack. While Louis wasn't even three years old, this landmark event is still etched in his memory.

While Louis grew up with the chores that come with living on a working farm, he also had time for hunting along Honey Creek for rabbits, squirrels and mink. His .22 long rifle shells cost 18 cents for fifty shells so his mother had to ration his usage.

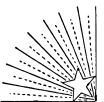
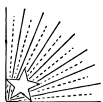


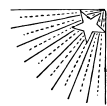
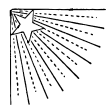
Back Row, Far Right: Louis Cave

Louis remembers the wild Saturday nights in Weston. The downtown streets were packed with cars and stores were open past midnight. The women gathered together in "hen parties" and the men in their "lyin' clubs." Children played under the only streetlight at the Methodist Church parsonage (SW corner of South Street and Main) until they dropped from exhaustion.

Louis recalls the introduction of television into Weston and how it radically transformed the culture. In the late summer of 1948, as the first TV station geared up to broadcast, Roy Mayes, the owner of an ice house, grocery, and cafe (on the east side of the street north of East Court) bought the first TV in town. People were so fascinated that they crowded into the cafe to watch the test pattern transmission that played before any television programs were ever broadcast. When the first show came on, wrestling from 8-10pm on Saturday nights, the crowds of TV watchers grew so large that Mr. Mayes could not conduct business in Weston. Mayes eventually relocated to McKinney. As more people purchased televisions, fewer people socialized in Weston on Saturday nights. Eventually, television killed the Weston nightlife and, to this day, Louis is sure that "television ruined the nation."

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Louis grew up with cattle and his father had a variety of breeds. Starting in 1961, Louis raised the Charolais breed of cattle and later specialized in raising and showing pure bred Charolais. This French breed is a faster growing cow with leaner beef. France strictly regulated the Charolais stock but allowed six bulls to be exported. With careful breeding, including using artificial insemination and cutting edge technology, like sonograms, breeders were able to get a 15/16 cow, which is considered a pure bred. Louis explained that later, when French pure breeds were allowed to be exported, the cows bred here were more desired by farmers. M.L. Nelson of Tres Jolie Farms was instrumental in establishing the breed in the Weston area and was a mentor for the Caves. When Louis Cave's son, Jason, became interested in breeding, grooming, and showing their cows in nationwide competitions, the family went all in for the lifestyle of traveling the show circuit.



In addition to working a cattle operation, Louis was also employed for twenty five years at Texas Instruments in Richardson. At one point, Louis worked on a team that collaborated with Nobel Prize winning co-inventor of the integrated circuit, Jack Kilby, helping to build his designs.

Louis gave back to his community by helping reconstitute the Weston City Council in 1971 after a long period of little interest in city government. Louis served on the first city council and later became the second Mayor. Louis and the new city council were interested in ensuring Weston levied low to no taxes. To this day, Louis continues to serve as a trustee of Mugg Cemetery. After some vandals disturbed headstones some years ago, a visitor to the cemetery told Louis about a new technology being developed at the University of Kentucky that might help in locating lost graves: ground penetrating radar. According to Louis, ground penetrating radar was used in Mugg Cemetery which led to the discovery of 44 unmarked graves.

Louis fondly remembers his father going to the mailbox back then which is the same mailbox that sits in front of the Cave home today. It was a joy to sit and chat with Louis and Scooter Cave and document their memories of Weston from long ago. Collin County, and likely Weston, is changing quickly and it's essential we document and archive the stories of our elders.

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.hills@hotmail.com

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HOMESCHOOL TRENDS

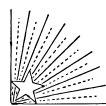
By Brittany Yurkovitch

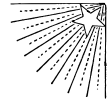
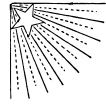
Brittany is a homeschool mom and teaches social studies classes to homeschool co-op students. She is the editor of The Weston Post, founder of Classroom Counterpoints and serves with the Collin County Historical Commission.

According to U.S. Census data, the number of American families homeschooling their children has skyrocketed over the past two years. In early 2020, parents were forced into the role of crisis homeschool educators as the response to the COVID pandemic included a rapid transformation of our schools from an in-person classroom model to a remote learning platform.

Despite the tremendous pressure to return to in-person instruction, many parents were not ready to send their children back into the classroom. Rather than concern of contracting illness, other COVID-related issues motivated parents' decisions to educate their children from home; families refused to send their children back to school in places where either masks or COVID vaccines were mandated for students and staff.

The 2021-22 school year has been characterized by explosive school board meetings with parents opining on mask mandates and COVID restrictions. This January, school boards like Plano ISD, again, lit up with parents and students demanding either mandatory or voluntary masking for students. Homeschool families are able to avoid these debates entirely and focus on learning.





Safety in Homeschooling

Homeschooling wasn't the only thing to skyrocket in the past few years: violent crime massively spiked, too. Newly released FBI crime statistics show a substantial increase in homicide, aggravated assault, and violent crime across the nation. Simultaneously, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported declining numbers of police officers. Fearful of this crime wave, Americans have purchased record numbers of firearms and many have relocated outside of major population centers.

As our nation becomes more dangerous, so do our schools. The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) survey consistently show safety concerns as the main reason driving parents to withdraw their children from public school. The Homeschool Legal Defense Association reported on some of the startling data collected by the NCES showing that it is "estimated that 1.7 percent of students were victims of violent crimes at school and that 20.2 percent of US students experienced bullying when on school premises, the school bus, or going to and from school." Given the increased violence in society overall, it is likely that parent's concerns for their children's safety will continue to propel students out of the public school system.



Anchor Homeschool Co-op Choir

Superior Curriculum

Furthermore, NCES data shows dissatisfaction with the curriculum as the second or third most cited reason why parents withdraw their children from school. Sometimes, parents feel that their gifted or special needs children are not appropriately served by the public school options. Other times, parents and their children want to pursue topics that aren't adequately addressed by schools.

Courtney Taylor, a homeschool mom in Weston has a lot to say about why she enjoys teaching her children from home. "What I like about homeschooling is that it can be as complex or minimalist as it needs to be to suit each family's needs. We tend towards the minimalist side, and don't pack our schedules with activities, leaving most of the time for free play, and learning from daily life itself...My motivation to homeschool was because I was home-schooled as a child, and feel like it afforded me the freedom and wide spectrum of opportunity that I needed to grow optimally. I consider myself an "outside the box" free thinker, and the school system is not suited for people like me, or their kids. The more recent modern school curriculum doesn't support our family values, either, and promotes rote memorization and appeal to authority over critical thinking."

Other parents reject the public school's curriculum because they believe it actively harms their children. Like the outrage expressed in school board meetings over mask mandates, a large degree of backlash at school board meetings concerns teaching materials rooted in Critical Race Theory, an academic movement rooted in Marxist critical theory. Opponents claim that Critical Race Theory is ideologically anti-white and brow-beats white children with a misrepresentation of the history of the United States and Western Civilization at large. Some parents are choosing to opt for a healthier curriculum that, instead of disparaging Western Civilization, celebrates its many colossal achievements.

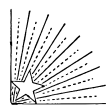
Flexible Schedule

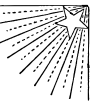
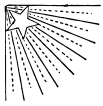


Twelve-year-old Melissa homeschooler, Joshua Vierck, tells *The Weston Post*, "I can learn what I want to learn and when I want to learn it." Thus, it is no surprise that a big reason families opt for homeschooling concerns the desire for a more flexible schedule. Eleven-year-old homeschooler, Mateo Charerri, notes that "in homeschool, you can go on vacation more" than traditional public school students. Families can vacation during the off-season and are able to share more time together. Eight-year-old Anna homeschool student, Landon Muller Johnson, points out that his father works late shifts and homeschooling allows his family to spend more time together.

Overall, an increasing number of families are dissatisfied with the modern education paradigm and are seeking alternatives to the traditional public school model. Sadly, students like Joshua Vierck see public school as "a prison for children" and desire more from their schooling. Fortunately, so many local options exist to help families looking for another way to teach their children.

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PRAIRIE GAMES

By Erin Robbins

Erin and her family own and operate Stonebranch Microfarms, a small farm that embraces the principles of permaculture. Erin also teaches Prairie Camp courses through The Heritage Guild of Collin County in McKinney.

As the weather is finally turning wintery, I thought it might be nice to share some of the historically accurate children’s games we play at Prairie Adventure Camp. Prairie Adventure Camp is a children’s summer camp at the historical village at Chestnut Square in McKinney. It is a living history camp, where children ages 7 through 14 get to dress up in historical costumes and spend time in the 100 year old houses at Chestnut Square. We learn skills, games, and activities performed 150 years ago. These games take little equipment and are great for playing indoors, too.

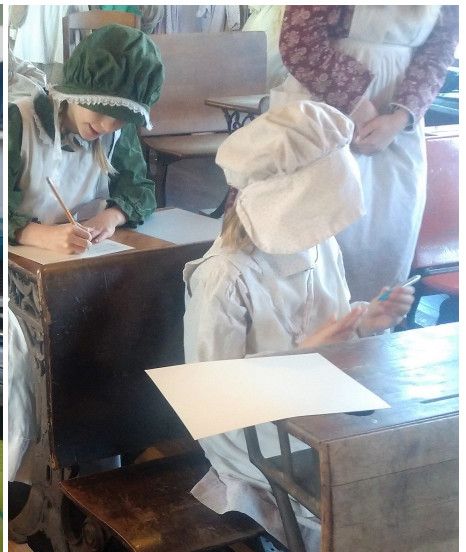
Of all the games we play at Prairie Adventure Camp, “Hide the Thimble” is the most beloved of all. However, it was traditionally called “Lookabout”. To play this game, you need four or more players and a small item that everyone knows, like a teaspoon, a button, or a thimble. All but one player leaves the room and hides the item. The item cannot be placed inside anything, under anything, or behind anything: it must be in plain sight. The other players are called back into the room and must “look about” for the item. Once a player sees the item, he sits down without saying anything. It is recommended to wander about for a little bit before sitting down so as not to give away the hiding place.

The round is over when everyone is sitting down. The only hints we give in camp are answers to the following questions: Is it high, low, or in the middle? What color is it touching? What side of the room is it on? The first person to find it gets to hide it in the next round.

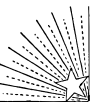
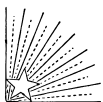
This next game we enjoy playing is called “Hunt the Slipper” and was traditionally played with a shoe. However, we find that a shooter marble is much more fun. Five or more players work best for playing this game. To play, all players but one stand in a circle facing inward towards the center. One player remains outside the circle who is “it.” The marble is passed rapidly from hand to hand in the inner circle. All players keep their hand moving to make it harder to see who has the marble. “It” must guess who has the marble before it passes out of their hand. They have three guesses. If anyone guessed correctly or if someone drops the marble, they are now “it.” Playing on a hard floor makes the dropping more obvious.

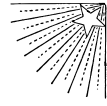
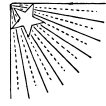
Here are some other suggestions of indoor games: “Do you love your neighbor?”, “Huzzlecap”, and “Squeak, piggy, squeak!”. Other game suggestions for outdoor or large spaces and larger groups of children: “Run for your supper”, “Sharks and minnows”, and “Kick the can”. And here is one more game that can only be played in the snow, but sounds like a lot of fun: “Fox and geese”.

Want to learn more about Stonebranch Microfarms or Prairie Camp? Contact Erin at erinrobbins@yahoo.com or reach out to Stonebranch Microfarm on Facebook.



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WF&R ANNOUNCES PROMOTIONS

The following Weston Fire and Rescue promotion recipients were honored at a Badge Pinning Ceremony during the Weston City Council meeting on January 11.

Weston Fire and Rescue recently completed a promotional process for the positions of Fire Captain. These officer positions became available to all department personnel following the need for greater command and control as the department grows. Weston Fire and Rescue is proud to announce the promotion of these officers.

Firefighters Clinton Pruett and Cameron Kraemer have been promoted to the rank of Fire Captain. Fire Captain Pruett has been assigned to serve as the department's C-Shift Captain and Fire Captain Kraemer has been assigned to serve as the department's B-Shift Captain.

Fire Captain Pruett's fire service career spans over 30 years in EMS and 24 years in the fire service before coming to Weston Fire and Rescue. He has held numerous positions within the fire service as well as private ambulance companies as an EMT and paramedic in California and Wisconsin. Captain Pruett retired in September of 2021 and then joined Weston Fire and Rescue.

Captain Pruett is familiar with the fire service as he is a third-generation emergency medical provider. Captain Pruett's grandfather was also in the fire service coming up through the ranks and he retired as the Chief of San Lorenzo Fire Department in the San Francisco Bay Area. Captain Pruett will assume his position on January 5, 2022.



Fire Captain Kraemer's fire service career spans over 29 years in EMS and Fire Service before coming to Weston Fire and Rescue. He has held numerous positions within the fire service starting out as an explorer at Carrollton Fire Department in the community in which he grew up. While working with Carrollton Fire Department, Captain Kraemer began volunteering with the Frisco Fire Department. Then, in 1997, he was hired full time as a firefighter/paramedic with the Frisco Fire Department.

Captain Kraemer has held many positions within the Frisco Fire Department and has served on a variety of projects. Captain Kraemer serves as the Assistant Fire Chief of Emergency Services with the Frisco Fire Department where he is currently employed when he is not volunteering for Weston Fire and Rescue.

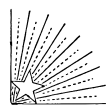
Captain Kraemer's wife and children either volunteer with Weston Fire and Rescue or are pursuing a career in fire service. Captain Kraemer will assume his position on January 5, 2022.

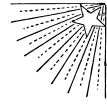
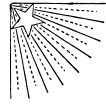
Kraemer lives within the Weston Fire District boundaries and is working to give back to the community. Captain Kraemer will assume his position on January 5, 2022.

Fire Captain Gregory joined the Weston Volunteer Fire Department in 2019 as a firefighter and came up through the ranks to his current position as Captain with Weston Fire and Rescue. Captain Gregory has over 32 years of Leadership and Management experience within the private sector. Prior to coming to Weston Fire and Rescue, Captain Gregory served as a Senior Product Development Manager for Texas Instruments Inc. responsible for the design and development of DLP® Products. His dedication and work with the DLP Cinema® product resulted in an Oscar awarded for transforming movies from film to a digital format.



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Captain Gregory earned his Associate Degree at the College of San Mateo in San Mateo, California and his Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Arkansas. Captain Gregory's past Fire Department assignments have included: Firefighter, Training Captain, and overseeing the department's apparatus and maintenance program. Captain Gregory started his fire service career late in life; however his is continuing his Fire Science Education and commitment to the department to better serve the community of Weston.

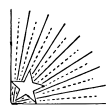
Engineer Mason DiNicola joined the Weston Volunteer Fire Department in August of 2020. In March of 2021 Engineer DiNicola joined Anna Fire Department as a volunteer firefighter while still a member of the Weston Volunteer Fire Department and attending Emergency Medical Technician training. Engineer DiNicola served five months with Anna Fire before resigning to focus on his schooling to obtain his Fire Science Degree from Collin College.

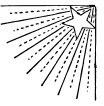
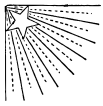
Prior to coming to the Weston Volunteer Fire Department, Engineer DiNicola served in the United States Marine Corps from 2015 to 2020, earning the rank of Sergeant. During his enlistment in the Marine Corps, Engineer DiNicola obtained several mechanical qualifications which included Plane Captain. During deployment with the USS Bonhomme Richard conducting operations over the East China Sea, DiNicola earned his certification as a Terrain Flight Instructor. Engineer DiNicola was deployed with MAGTF 7 in support of Operation Faithful Patriot where he was awarded the Armed Forces Service Medal and a certificate of commendation. On his last deployment in the Far East, Engineer DiNicola was the senior NCO leading a team of five marines with two pilots to recover and repair an aircraft in South Korea bringing it back to Japan, where he was awarded the Korean Defense Medal.



Engineer DiNicola grew up in Flower Mound, Texas being only a block away from Flower Mound Fire Station 3. DiNicola had the fire service in his blood as he could often be found playing with other children and the local firefighters at the station. Following the events of September 11th, Engineer DiNicola gathered money for relief efforts while wearing his favorite firefighter costume, later delivering the proceeds to the Flower Mound Fire Department. Years later after the Invasion of Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Engineer DiNicola earned the Flower Mound Outstanding Youth Award for his efforts gathering supplies and comfort items for troops deployed overseas. Engineer DiNicola graduated from Flower Mound High School in June of 2015.

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HISTORIC PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT

By Joy Gough

Joy is a member of the Collin County Historic Commission and chair of the Tax Abatement Committee. She is also the webmaster at <https://www.collincountyhistory.com/>

The Collin County Historic Property Tax Abatement program was created to encourage the renovation and preservation of historic residential and commercial structures by providing county property tax abatement for a historic property. A property can qualify for tax abatement based on age and history. Properties and their renovations must be at least 50 years old and well maintained. Properties will be inspected annually for maintenance. This program is county wide. There are many places in the Weston area that would qualify for tax abatement.

The Collin County Historical Commission oversees the program for the county. Property owners can apply to the Collin County Historical Commission to be added to the Historic County Property Tax Abatement list. The application must include a documented history of the property and must also include photos, both current and historic. Once a property is on the list, it remains on the list unless it fails the annual inspection for more than 3 years.

Historic County Property Tax Abatement rates are currently 50% for a commercial property, 100% for a residential property, and 75% for mixed use. For more information about the county tax abatement program, please contact cchc@co.collin.tx.us with the email subject: Tax Abatement.



Wylie business and residence with historic tax abatement

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COFFEE & CRUMBS AROUND TOWN

Weston's Coffee & Crumbs truck will be busy this spring. During March, you can find them at the McKinney Farmer's Market for the 1st and 3rd Saturdays from 9am to 1pm and will be in downtown Weston on the 1st and 3rd Sundays from 8am to 2pm. They will also be in Weston on the 2nd and 4th weekends—Saturday and Sunday—from 8am to 2pm.

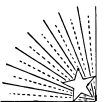
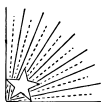
Beginning in April, their schedule changes. They will be at the McKinney Farmer's Market on Saturdays from 8am to 2pm and in downtown Weston on Sundays from 8am to 2pm. Check out their socials @coffee.n.crumbs for all the latest news and flavors.

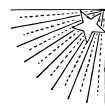
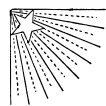


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Donation Appreciation!

Thank you to the Goldstein family, the Stufflebeam family, and XIT Group for your contributions to Classroom Counterpoints and keeping this edition of the print edition alive!





FORAGING WILD EDIBLES IN WINTER

By Courtney Taylor

The following piece is the third article in her foraging series, including an excerpt from her ebook, North Texas Edible Wild Plant Basics. She has been foraging for twenty years and has been teaching classes for almost ten years. Courtney now lives in Weston with her husband and children.



In most temperate regions on Earth, winter is the off-season for foraging as the daylight hours shorten considerably and snow covers the ground. However, in southern temperate regions like North Texas, with little to no snow-fall in an average winter, and only a moderate shortening of daylight hours even in the deepest parts of winter, there are plenty of wild edibles to be found throughout most of winter!

In Texas, summer is the season with a scarcity of edible wild green plants, as the intense heat and sunlight of summer can cause them to bolt and dry up, until the rainy days begin to return in late fall. Winter, with its cool air and moisture, is the perfect habitat for most of the hardy wild greens to grow plentifully, although springtime will still bring an increase in their quantity.

In late fall and early winter, the rains begin to return to the area and you may see a variety of plant life start to grow in what was previously bare soil. Look closely during this time of the year and you will see many different plant shapes emerge. Although not all of these plants will be edible species, quite a few of them are. Among the greens that grow as the air cools include chickweed, violets, dandelion, wild onions and garlic, henbit, plantain, thistles, clover, dock, cleavers, pony's foot, wood sorrel and more.

These plants are far more nutrient dense than their cultivated, store-bought counterparts and adding these vitamin and mineral rich foods to your diet can greatly assist your body in staying well throughout the colder times of the year. Generally, humans require far more micronutrients (vitamins and minerals) than we all tend to consume on a daily basis and synthetic vitamin and mineral supplements are a poor replacement for the organic versions from real food. Synthetic minerals in the wrong amounts can accumulate in the body, like heavy metals, if they're not fully utilized by the body. Furthermore, these artificial vitamins and minerals can deplete other essential nutrients, since all vitamins and minerals work in ratios in the body. It's always best to consume vitamin and mineral rich foods on a daily basis (and not from the added nutrients in "fortified" processed foods), and then use targeted and strategic supplementation on top of the strong foundation of a nutrient rich diet.

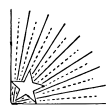
Additionally, wild foods are richer in the medicinal components that are sorely lacking in modern diets. This medicinal depletion, causes us to resort to synthetic drugs—which are all synthesized originally from substances found in nature—to "supplement" the natural medicines that are lacking in our diets. As Hippocrates, the father of modern medicine, famously said, "let your food be your medicine, and your medicine be your food." In modern times, we have strayed far from the roots of medicine itself.

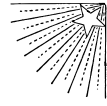
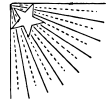
For our winter wild edible feature, let's focus on the common dandelion, one of the most nutritious, medicinal and abundant wild foods available!

Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*)

I have many memories of dandelion from my childhood, especially of the bright yellow flowers and the subsequent puffy, white seed-orbs, which I would blow on and then watch the seeds fly all over my yard. I first learned they were edible, and started eating them, during my first dabblings in wild food foraging about 20 years ago.

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Dandelion has an intense flavor: a bitterness that compels moderation and imparts an intuitive understanding of its medicinal qualities. The leaves are especially excellent kidney cleansers and mineralizers and the roots are a powerful liver cleanser. The flowers contain lecithin, which is used to strengthen our nervous system, nourish our brain, and assist in digesting fats. The small, young leaves are the most palatable. As they grow larger, they get tougher and more bitter. I personally enjoy the flavor and feeling of naturally bitter foods, especially mixed with other flavors in salads; a small amount of bitter dandelion leaves or flowers, combined with milder greens, sour lemon juice or vinegar (or wood sorrel), spices and creamy fats, provides a well-rounded meal and flavor experience!

One of my favorite things I have ever done with dandelion is making lacto-fermented sodas. In the spring, over 10 years ago, my land was covered in yellow dandelion flowers. I made “dandelion soda” by harvesting a gallon of the flowers and then fermenting them with a few other ingredients, creating a delicious tart-bitter-sweet-bubbly drink! I look forward to the times that I see enough dandelion flowers to make another batch of soda.

Dandelion greens are exceptionally high in most vitamins and minerals, including notable concentrations of calcium, magnesium, copper, iron, potassium, manganese, phosphorous, vitamin K1, beta carotene, vitamins B1/B2/B6, vitamin C, and vitamin E. The greens also contain protein and dietary fiber.

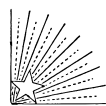
There is an interesting study from March 2021 titled “Common dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) efficiently blocks the interaction between ACE2 cell surface receptor and SARS-CoV-2 spike protein D614, mutants D614G, N501Y, K417N and E484K in vitro.” This study demonstrated that an extract of the leaf of common dandelion not only blocks the attachment of the spike protein from the original Covid-19 virus, but all the mutations and variants of the virus that were tested in the study. The implications of this finding are obviously very relevant to humanity’s current situation.

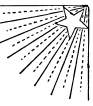
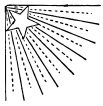
A water-based dandelion leaf extract, which was used in this study, can be replicated at home by drying dandelion leaves and making them into a tea. Adding dandelion to your daily (or at least seasonal) diet is a fantastic choice from many angles!

Want to learn more about foraging? Email Courtney at chocotrixie@gmail.com to get her ebook North Texas Edible Wild Plant Basics and find out about her upcoming foraging classes in the DFW area



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THE BOIS D'ARC TREE

By Mike Apsey

The following article is an oral history audio file translated to text. It is one of the 1976 Bicentennial Oral History Project series: Collin County – The Way it Was: As Told by the Pioneers Who Lived its History.

Welcome to Collin County—The Way it Was. This program examines the bois d'arc and its significance to the early settlers of Collin County.

Tracing the origin of the tree described as a tree attaining a height of 60 feet with a milky sap and bearing stout thorns, is quite impossible. The tree obviously existed in America long before the inhabitants began writing about the trees. There are, however, very early accounts of the thorny tree as far back as writings of early Texas can be traced. Those early writings seemed to begin near the period in American history when the United States, only 27 years old, purchased the Louisiana territory in 1803 from the French for 15 million dollars. Prior to the Louisiana purchase, as it became known, the history of the territory adjacent to what is now Texas was French history and there are few reports of any Frenchmen venturing into the dangerous area now Texas.

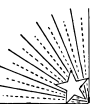
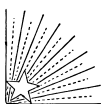
Most adventuresome explorers wishing to cross the Mississippi River into Texas were stopped by the Indians and bandits who lived in the thick woods separating Texas and Louisiana that became known as the Big Thicket. Bandits and Indians used that Big Thicket as a haven of escape from the law. One of the Indian tribes often encountered by the French living in Louisiana territory was called the Wahzhazhe. The Wahzhazhe Indians made bows and arrows from the wood of this tree bearing stout thorns because the wood was very hard and somewhat elastic. Observing this, the Frenchmen began to call the tree “bow wood”. In French, “bow wood” is written “bois d'arc”, “bois” meaning wood and “arc” being the French word for bow or arc. The modern English word “arc” is derived from the French “arc”, which is derived from the Latin word “arcus”, which is derived from the Indo European base word “arqu” (arc) and we begin to see as well the formation of the word “arrow”. And so, as early as the French occupancy of the Louisiana territory, the tree with a milky sap bearing stout thorns was called bodark: “bois d'arc” by the French, “bow wood” by their American acquaintances.

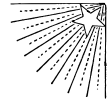
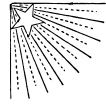


But still another name for the tree was soon to appear. Americans having difficulty with most Indian languages often shortened the names of tribes or emphasized the tribal names incorrectly and so it was with references to the Wahzhazhe tribe. Wahzhazhe soon became known to Americans as Osage and the Osage weapon source as the Osage tree. Observing the fruit of the trees looking roughly like an orange, the bois d'arc also became known as the Osage orange. The oranges of the Osage tree, of course, were not oranges at all. They were textured more as were apples. People could not eat them but the horses, when hungry, would feast on them, hence the term “horse apple” used by early settlers who had not been taught that the tree had been named. Others, in identifying the tree, would use the yellow root bark to make a yellow dye for clothing and, those who did, started calling the tree “yellow wood”. It is necessary to point out here that this tree with stout thorns became known by even more names, all probably because the bois d'arc is unique the world over.

Although it is generally accepted as being remotely related to the mulberry, the fact is that the bois d'arc stands alone in botanical definition— no brothers, no sisters. It is the bois d'arc: botanical name *Maclura pomifera*. Since the botanist is charged with identifying trees with a degree of exactness, it's not surprising that *Maclura pomifera* should begin appearing in botanical magazines. Bois d'arc, bow wood, horse apple, hardly descriptive the world over or at least that would appear to be the reasoning of the botanical institution. Instead, the thorny tree being observed by a very famous geologist while mapping the Southwest was named botanically in his honor. His name was William Maclure. Botanists called the tree the Maclura. Pomifera is the name given to any tree that bears fruit, hence *Maclura pomifera*. In some botanical magazines, the bois d'arc is described only after the reader is referenced to the Maclura. Other times the entry “bois d'arc” does not appear at all and the reader must consult Osage orange.

Continued on Page 16





The bois d'arc was destined to play an important part of pioneer assistance. Without doubt, many pioneers also carved bows from the wood in lieu of owning firearms. The bois d'arc in Collin County was easily among those trees felled when Collin County pioneers cleared their land for crops and it is described as being used in the building of log cabins. As the saw mill began to appear in the west, the bois d'arc was used as blocks to raise the frame homes off the ground.

There were numerous difficulties encountered by Collin County settlers in erecting fences. The lack of transportation, in the absence of mechanization that accompanies that lack, limited the sizes of the farms in Collin County. The fences were late in starting and accounts of problems are a matter of record. One settler described his unfenced farm as being on the edge of the plane, where the plane met the woods to the north. Plano was so named because of its location on the plains of southern Collin County. That settler probably lived near the North Central Expressway exit at Spring Creek near the Wells Brothers' feed store's present location. The settler describes mealtime as a somewhat frightful event, in that wolves smelling the meal would scratch at the very cabin door throughout the entire meal and leave only when called away by the cry of yet more wolves at some distance.



The fences used by early settlers were of the worm type or rail fence. They used, of course, the wood that had been cleared but not used in the construction of the cabin or house and the fences required much labor. They were only temporary and they were easily knocked over by stock. Bois d'arc weighs 48 pounds per cubic foot and even today bois d'arc heads the list of woods recommended for fence posts for use untreated by the US Department of Agriculture. The Osage orange is given a lifespan of 25 to 30 years untreated in the ground, followed by red cedar and black locust at 15 to 25; sassafras at 10 to 15; white oak, blackjack oak, and cypress 5 to 10; southern pine, sweetgum, hickory, red oak, sycamore, yellow poplar, cottonwood, and willow at the bottom of the list projected to live only 2 to 7 years untreated. Compare that to the bois d'arc's 25 to 30 year untreated life in the ground. The USDA pamphlet continues, "Osage orange, red cedar, and black locust may still not be available in some areas."

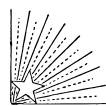


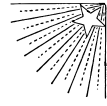
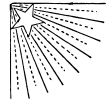
Photos: Mitch Levine

Then in Collin County history, settlers from Ohio arrived. Those settlers were familiar with the bois d'arc, for they had seen it used in Ohio as hedge fences. Soon after their arrival in Texas, the Ohio settlers began planting seeds of the Osage apple where fences were needed. The governor of Texas was J.W. Throckmorton and realizing the significance of the bois d'arc for fence, he explained in an article in the Texas Almanac of 1868, how to plant grow and develop and Osage hedge fence from the seeds or from cuttings. Throckmorton wrote that by cultivating the plants, bois d'arc, and by nicking and training the branches with a nicking plasure or a hedge axe, they could be developed in only 4 years into a fence that was effective against the worst stock and rabbits. The initial cost was less than a rail fence and the fence was permanent.

There was soon a strong demand for bois d'arc seeds, so several mills or machines were built in Collin County to remove these seeds from the apple. The price of the seeds soared to as high as 25 to 35 dollars a bushel. The seeds were removed from the horse apple by crushing and macerating the fruit. A bushel of fruit yields about 24,500 seeds or about 2 pounds. The seeds, not the fruit of course, were sold by the bushel and if stored at 41 degrees Fahrenheit, the seeds will retain viability for three or more years. The recommended procedure for propagation of the bois d'arc seed is to soak the seed in water or have it stratified, that is, stored temporarily in wet sand for 30 days. Sow in the following spring in rows 8 to 12 inches apart covered with one quarter inch of firm moist soil; the germination rate is 58 percent.

Continued on Page 17





Even today, the remaining bois d'arc fences of Collin County can still be seen. The bois d'arc was replaced in 1867 by a fencing material called "barbed wire". But Texas would not purchase its first roll for 8 years and a man named Henry Bradley would bring it in. His purchase in 1875 of 10 rolls was Texas' first barbed wire acquisition. Bradley is credited with founding the city of Amarillo. Eventually the barbed wire would be brought southward into Collin County, ending an era in replacing the hearty bois d'arc fence. As wood became more and more scarce, it became likewise more valuable and settlers no longer using wood in as great a quantity as previously, began burning the excess in great land clearing parties called "log rolls" where the wood from the cleared lands would be rolled to the perimeter, stacked in long rows, and burned. Of course this practice was short lived and certainly the value of any wood became apparent. Excess was sold and, with the coming of transportation, it was shipped east. Undoubtedly, as well, that which was retained and not used for construction, either out of unsuitability or plenty, was burned for heat.

Bois d'arc supported houses, bridges, was used to make wagons, wagon tongues, furniture, floors, fences, and in many ways, the bois d'arc was used to build Collin County. And thus, this program salutes the bois d'arc. This has been Collin County—The Way it Was. Listen each Sunday at 2p.m. for this bicentennial documentary produced and edited by Mike Apsey with funds made available for broadcast presentation through a grant from the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission of Texas, administered by the American Revolution Bicentennial Committee of McKinney.

The original recording can be found at <https://www.mckinneytexas.org/DocumentCenter/View/6275> and more oral histories can be found at <https://www.mckinneytexas.org/1490/Oral-Histories>.

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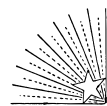
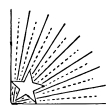
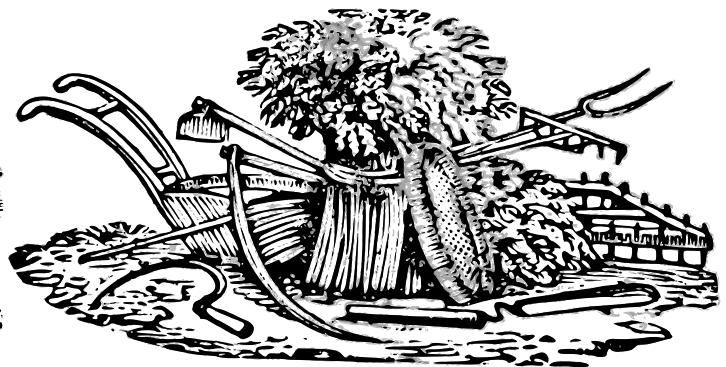


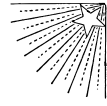
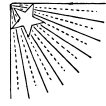
UKRAINIAN AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TEXAS

Currently, the events unfolding in Ukraine are on the minds of many people across the world. North Texas is home to the Ukrainian American Society of Texas, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. The UAST was established in 1983 to preserve and celebrate the culture, language, traditions, history, food, and music of the Ukrainian people. While for the last few years they have had to reduce their social gatherings, they organize events throughout the year to commemorate Ukrainian holidays and cultural events. If you want to learn more about Ukraine or want to support humanitarian efforts abroad, please visit the Ukrainian American Society of Texas at <https://www.uast.org/> and follow them on Facebook.



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WF&R BOOSTS THEIR SKILLS

The Texas A&M Forest Service Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program awarded a \$10,000 grant to Weston Fire and Rescue to help them purchase training equipment.

The department purchased wildland training shelters, blackout masks, blast masks, a smoke machine, and a forcible entry door, all to aid in training. Wildland training shelters are a last resort for firefighters trapped by wild-fires and are used in rare occurrences. The shelters would protect the firefighter from heat, smoke and/or ember showers. A blackout mask replicates smoky conditions in a building, the blast masks simulate a self-contained breathing apparatus, the smoke machine creates conditions like those during a structure fire and the forcible entry door allows practice opportunities in pushing, prying, cutting, and bending techniques for effective structure entry.



“I looked at many training tools and felt that the ones we purchased would enhance the knowledge and skill set of our firefighters,” said Weston F&R Fire Chief Bart J. Chambers. “Training with this equipment will help to increase the department’s response capabilities in an efficient, professional, and safe manner.”

The new door allows independent exercises for the firefighters and helps in gaining experience that will help them respond with greater success.

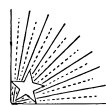
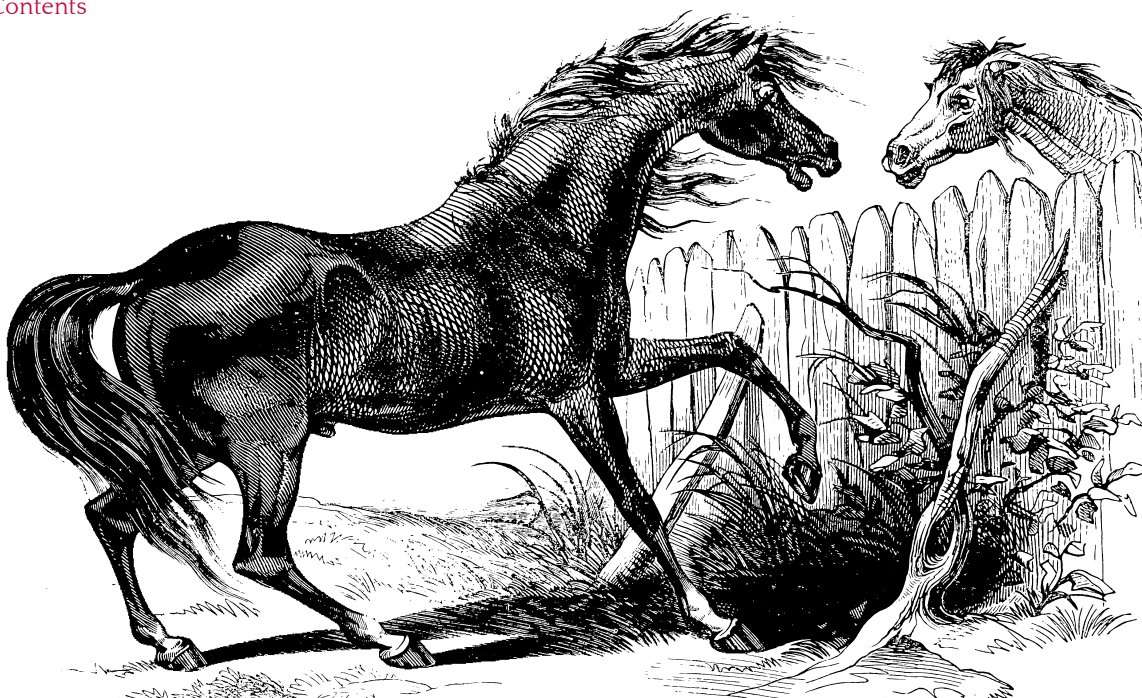
“Forcible entry is a skill set that until recently did not get the attention it deserved and is something that many volunteers do not understand,” said Chambers. “In the past, forcing entry into a structure often meant to destroy a door assembly resulting in considerable cost to the owner. Less aggressive techniques will ensure reduced indirect fire damages, creating better customer service and a more professional fire department.”

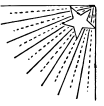
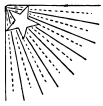
Weston F&R has been serving their area since 1968 and appreciates the support of the community.

Texas A&M Forest Service is an agency operating within the Texas A&M University System and as the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program administrator is committed to protecting lives, property and natural resources. The Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program is funded by Texas State Legislature and provides cost share funding to rural volunteer fire departments for the acquisition of firefighting vehicles, fire and rescue equipment, protective clothing, dry-hydrants, computer systems, and firefighter training.

For more information on programs offered by Texas A&M Forest Service, please visit <http://texasfd.com>.

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WYATT'S WILDLIFE CHALLENGE

By Wyatt Rogers

I am nine years old and I am in 4th grade. I live just outside the city of Weston in my great grandparents' old house that we remodeled last year. I love living here because there is a lot of open space and I can go fishing at the pond in my aunt and uncle's pasture whenever I want.

This year, I joined the Collin County Field and Stream 4-H Club. This club has many projects and competitions like archery, shotgun, and rifle. They also have hunter and safety education courses and wildlife classes. I just competed in my first wildlife competition at the Fort Worth Stock Show. In this competition, I had to identify different animals of Texas and answer questions about them. I also had to recommend habitat management practices for different animals depending on the habitat and what it looked like. This test was really hard. I had to study every day. But my hard work paid off because I won 3rd overall junior individual and my teammate, Bailey Roland, and I won 2nd place junior team! I was very surprised but also really happy. I couldn't believe it.

I look forward to doing so much more with the 4-H club like the shooting sports, fishing projects, and many others. There are a lot of different 4-H clubs in Collin County. Check one out today!

Want to join Collin County 4-H? Visit <https://collincounty4-h.weebly.com/> to find out more!

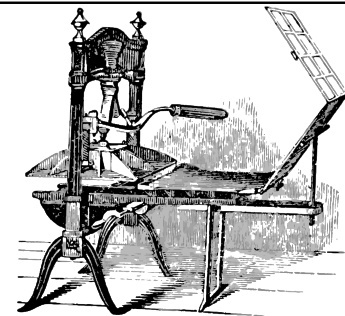


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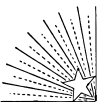
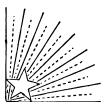
Attention Citizen and Student Writers!

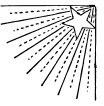
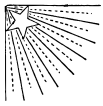
Do you want to write an article about a cool project or tell us about farm life? Interested in contributing a piece about homeschooling or local history? Want to cover a current event?

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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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

By Kimberly Tisserand

With a beautiful live nativity scene, First Christian Church of Weston gave guests a glimpse of what it was like in Bethlehem the night of Jesus Christ's birth.

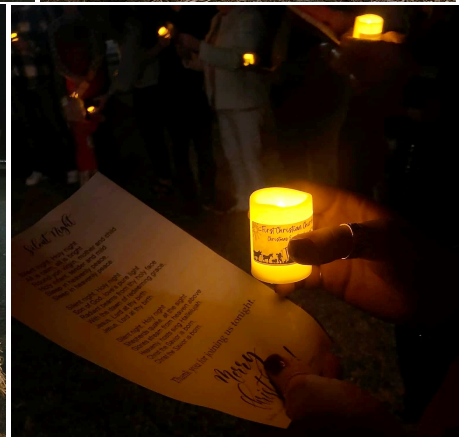
More than 140 visitors came to First Christian Church on December 10th and 11th to see this outdoor celebration. The event was set to music and featured animals, including a donkey and a goat. Visitors were treated to snacks and hot chocolate inside the church, along with plenty of fellowship. This year's nativity had the highest attendance ever for our Live Nativity event.

First Christian Church of Weston has been hosting this event for over 35 years and continues the tradition which started back in the 1980's. Every year, members of the congregation build the manger scene and play different roles wearing handmade costumes. Larry Lambert provides the live animals including Daisy the donkey, who is a staple for First Christian Church as she also makes an appearance on Palm Sunday each year.

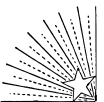
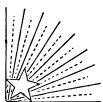
The Live Nativity was the perfect way to remember the true meaning of Christmas and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

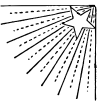
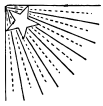
A few weeks later, First Christian Church hosted their beautiful Christmas Eve candlelight service. The service was filled with music, communion, and candlelight reminding everyone who attended of the true reason for the season.

First Christian Church of Weston wishes you all a wonderful New Year filled with peace, joy, hope and love.



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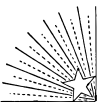
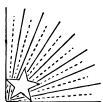
SHINY AND BRIGHT

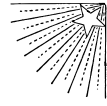
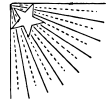
On November 28th, families in Weston came together to inaugurate the Christmas Season with hot cider; cookies; twinkling lights; hot chocolate and coffee from Coffee & Crumbs, our local pop-up coffee truck; and good company. As Weston Fire and Rescue drove down Main Street, the downtown buildings lit up in festive Christmas lights. Thanks to Mayor Jim, our very own 'Griswold', children played in the "snow" falling from the Community Center and enjoyed arts and crafts inside the building. Steve and Epi Goldstein decorated the space next to Texas Range Honey with an awesome holiday light display.

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



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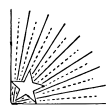


WESTON CHRISTMAS STORY TIME

Are you aware that one of Santa’s reindeer recently had a lay-over right here in Weston?! On December 20, Weston was visited by a very special guest. Comet the reindeer visited the annual Weston Christmas Storytime event at the Community Center. Storytime has become a much anticipated Christmas celebration—with homemade cookies, hot cocoa, crafts, special guests and, of course, a Christmas story. Comet’s handler accompanied him and brought all sorts of interesting reindeer information with her! Did you know that male AND female reindeer grow antlers? And that their noses heat up the air around them so they don’t breathe in cold air?



Weston Christmas Storytime is a community-wide event, sponsored by Calvary Chapel Honey Creek, and is free for kids of all ages. Hope to see you next year!!



MEDICAL ADVOCACY HELP

One of the best things you can do for yourself or a loved one if you get sick and need inpatient care in a hospital is hiring a medical advocate, especially one who stays educated and up to date on all the successful treatment protocols for respiratory illnesses. If you find yourself needing help, consider contacting the advocacy services at Wonderfully Made Wellness Sanctuary.



Wonderfully Made
Wellness Sanctuary

Michelle Rowton and the other advocates at Wonderfully Made Wellness Sanctuary provide support and information to patients. They are willing to step in and advocate for preferred treatment protocols requested by the patient or family to the hospital staff. They walk with you through the chain of command within the hospital system to ensure and demand better care. You can learn more about Michelle's advocacy efforts in the Fall 2020 issue of *The Weston Post* and can contact advocacy services at advocacy@wmwsanctuary.com.

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A NOTE OF THANKS

By Tralyn Tadlock

John and I would like to thank the First Christian Church, our families, friends, and the generous strangers who donated to the GoFundMe page set up by Brittany to help fund my bilateral hip replacement surgery.



A special thanks to my brothers at Weston Fire and Rescue for responding twice to my home when major unexpected complications post-surgery called for two ambulance rides to the emergency room. Your time and service to our community is appreciated and not enough praise or recognition is given to those who volunteer their time to help others when called upon.

For all who brought comfort, food, and fellowship to our home during my recovery, know your time and generosity will be paid forward. We are so blessed to live in Weston. It's comforting to know "Love thy neighbor" still resides here. God bless you and yours and God bless Texas.

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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

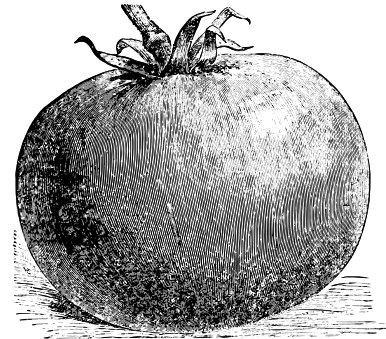
Gotta Have Faith



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).

Portal to Texas History

The Weston Post is now being archived in the Portal to Texas History with the University of North Texas Libraries. The Portal to Texas History is a gateway to rare, historical, and primary source materials from or about Texas.



Barbara's Tomato Class

Want to grow amazing tomatoes? Barbara Emmons is teaching a class, close to downtown Weston, to help gardeners grow better tomatoes. She will cover everything from planting to harvesting and will help you think about what to do with your bounty! She offers a 9a.m. and a 1p.m. class on Saturday, March 5 costing \$20. If interested, please email Barbara at Donandbarbars2008@myrhinomail.com or call (214) 908-3856 for further details.



2022 COLLIN COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION'S STUDENT VIDEO COMPETITION

When: Monday, April 4, 2022

The Collin County Historical Commission is hosting a video competition for all K-12 students. We encourage all students to participate, including homeschoolers. Prizes will be offered to the best elementary, middle, and high school submissions. Winning submissions will be announced in *The Weston Post* and will be shared widely by the CCHC. Submissions are due by midnight on April 4, 2022.

Make a video, no longer than 3 minutes, on one of the following topics:

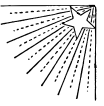
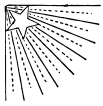
1. Create an advertisement for one of the following local history museums:

- Collin County Farm Museum (McKinney)
- Collin County History Museum (McKinney)
- Allen Heritage Center and Village (Allen)
- Sherley Brothers Store (Anna), 972-924-3927
- Anna Depot and Museum (Anna)
- Frisco Heritage Museum for the Arts (Frisco)
- Heard-Craig Center (McKinney)
- Chestnut Square (McKinney)
- Heritage Farmstead Museum (Plano)
- Interurban Railway Museum (Plano)
- Military Heritage Collection of North Texas Museum (Nevada)
- Bain-Honeaker House Museum (Farmersville)
- Farmersville Historical Museum (Farmersville)

2. Film a video highlighting the significance of one of the following notable local historical figures:

James Webb Throckmorton, Carl Darnall, 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

Film submissions: Please upload your video to youtube, tiktok, or another video platform. Send a link of your video to CCHCsubmissions@gmail.com. With your email, please include your name, age, school, and the title of your video.



JOIN OUR TEAM

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



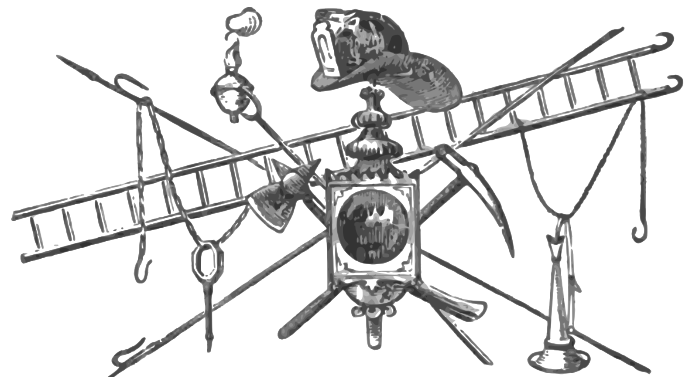
Weston Fire and Rescue is currently asking the residents of Weston Fire District to become volunteers. You will receive training in firefighting or emergency medical services. All the training provided to you is FREE of charge and is always ongoing. Your responsibilities as a member will include responding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

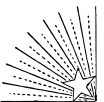
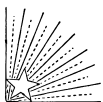


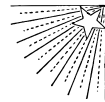
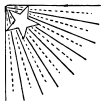
Photos: First Responders Photography

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

This 1942 article from *The McKinney Examiner* reported on a Medical Library exhibit in Washington D.C. featuring Weston-born Brigadier General Carl Darnall. Darnall is credited with saving hundreds of millions of lives worldwide for his contributions to purifying water in municipal water systems.

The McKinney Examiner

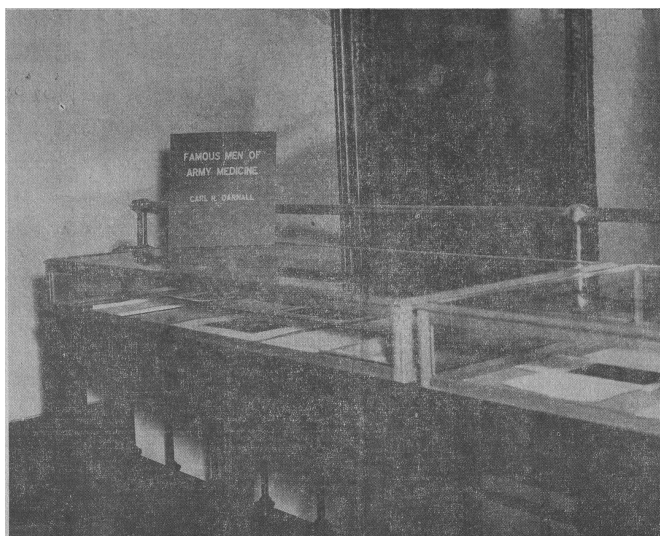
Office of Publication Opposite County Jail

Vol. 63, No. 28

McKINNEY, TEXAS, THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 1949

16 PAGES—SECTION ONE

Weston-Born Man Becomes World-Renowned Surgeon



The above picture of a section of the exhibit put on by Army Medical Library in honor of Brigadier General Darnall of Washington, D.C., will be viewed with interest, as Gen. Darnall was born and reared at Weston. He is a son of the late Eld. J. R. Darnall, pioneer minister of the Christian Church. His brother, John Darnall, resides in McKinney. He has received a letter from his nephew and niece enclosing a picture of the exhibit and the following information which appeared in the catalog:

DARNALL EXHIBIT

Carl Rogers Darnall (1867-1941), whose bacteriological and chemical investigations and ingenious mechanical invention made modern water purification possible, is the subject of a seventh exhibit in the series Famous Men of Army Medicine.

Millions of lives have been and will be saved by rendering water potable, the method which Brigadier General (then Major) Carl R. Darnall, of the Army Medical Depart-

ment, originated in 1910—which method has since been adopted throughout the world. Safe drinking water is now a commonplace commodity. It is so univesally obtainable that few recognize the tremendous significance of modern water purification in relation to morbidity and mortality.

The World War II application of Darnall's method of water purification, both in the Pacific and the European Theaters of Operations, forms the pictorial part of the exhibit.

General Darnall was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for his great ability in administering the activities pertaining to medical supply during World War I.

In their letter to Mr. Darnall the New Jersey relatives add:

307 East Central Ave.,
Moorestown, N. J.
7 April 1949

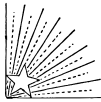
"Jane and I went to Washington a few weeks ago and saw the exhibit. It is a fine way for the Army to remember his great contributions to Medicine, and there is no doubt but what Dad's place in the halls of fame is permanently assured. The Library also sent [our] three sons a complete set of photostatic copies of everything in the exhibit, which covered each of his articles on chlorination, filtration and medical supply.["]

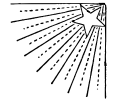
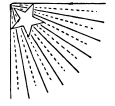
"We have been ordered to the Far East, probably Japan, and I will be leaving these parts about May 8th for San Francisco, where I will be flown across to [my] final destination. Jane and the kids have to wait a month or so after that before coming on. It will be a tough job for Jane to get all the domestic affairs settled and move the kids to Japan by herself, but I guess she'll make it somehow. We are glad to get the assignment, and hope it will not be too long before we are all joined again."

—With love to you all, Bob and Jane.

Source: <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1322272/>

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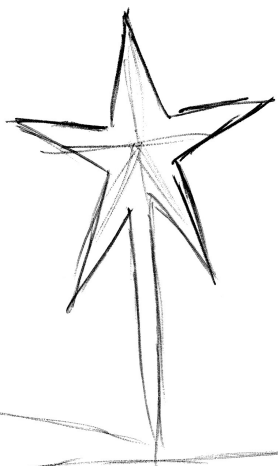




COLORING PAGE



ISAIAH
9:6



Matthew
2:1-2

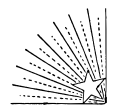
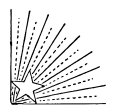


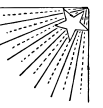
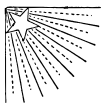
Luke 2:8-12



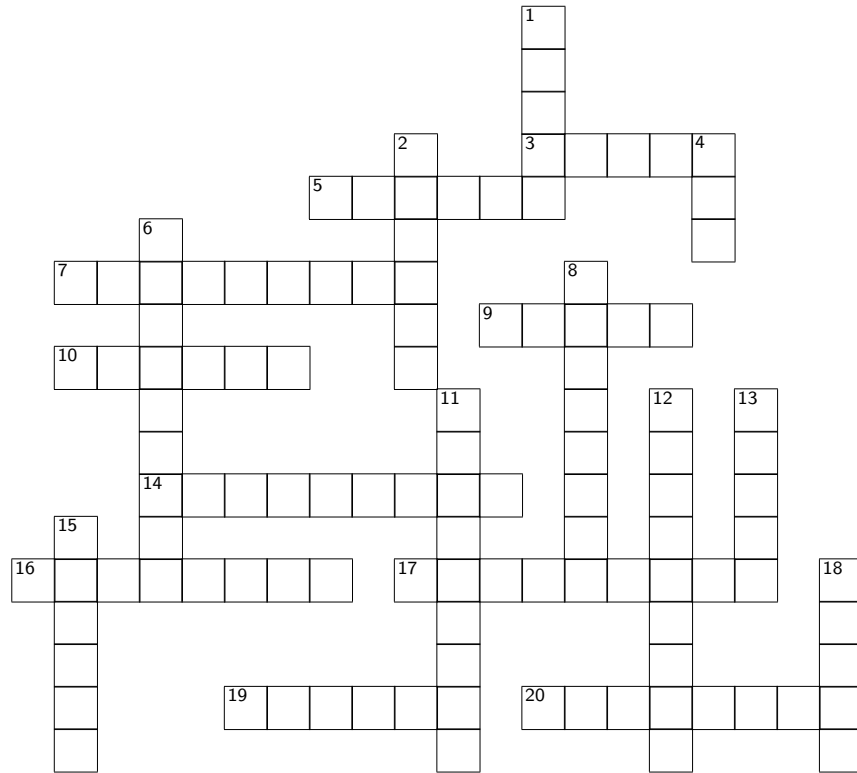
TRALYN
2022

In Memory of:
Linda Phillips &
Joe Hinojosa





CROSSWORD



Across

- 3 CCHC video competition due
- 5 Dragging _____ sparks grass fire
- 7 Made weapons with Osage wood
- 9 First Christian donkey
- 10 Famous wall that came down in 1989
- 14 Historic Property Tax _____
- 16 Important Collin County tree
- 17 North Texas climate
- 19 Barbara's spring class subject
- 20 Tralyn's fundraiser program

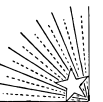
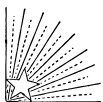
Down

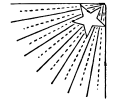
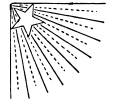
- 1 Portal to _____ History
- 2 Main reason people leave public school
- 4 Weston is a General _____ City
- 6 Cave's cattle breed
- 8 Wyatt's _____ Challenge
- 11 Winter and spring wild edible
- 12 Historic children's game
- 13 Weston F&R _____ pinning ceremony
- 15 _____ & Crumbs
- 18 Special Christmas visitor

Answers found at bottom of last page.

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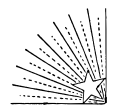
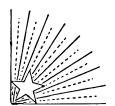


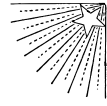
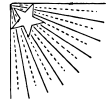
COLORING PAGE



By Cate Robbins
www.caterobbins.net

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WORD SEARCH



Find the 20 solutions to the crossword hidden in the word search.

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

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SUDOKU

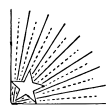


5	6							
3		4			1		6	5
				9				8
9	7		8					6
	3	8				7		
			1			5		
	5			3	8			4
			4				9	2
4				1	2			7



Answers found at bottom of last page.

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TEXAS LORE

by Patrick M. Reynolds

THE PRESIDENTS OF TEXAS

TEXAS IS THE ONLY STATE THAT WAS AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY BEFORE IT BECAME A STATE IN THE U.S. IN 1846.

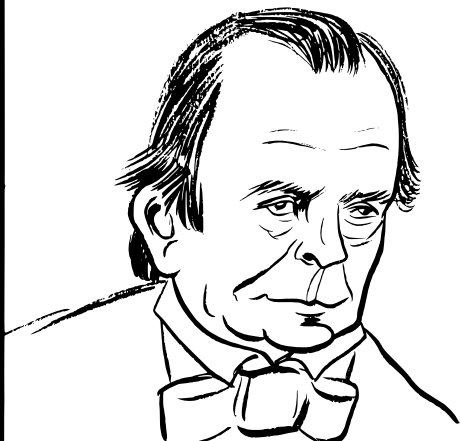
DURING ITS TEN YEARS AS A REPUBLIC, 1836 TO 1846, FOUR MEN SERVED AS PRESIDENT.



DAVID GOUVERNEUR BURNET
WAS THE FIRST PRESIDENT,
MAR. 16, 1836 TO OCT. 22, 1836.



SAM HOUSTON
WAS THE SECOND & FOURTH
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC,
1836 TO 1838, AND AGAIN
FROM 1841 TO 1844.

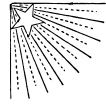


MIRABEAU B. LAMAR
WAS THE THIRD PRESIDENT OF
TEXAS, FROM 1838 TO 1841.



ANSON JONES
WAS THE FIFTH AND LAST
PRESIDENT, 1844 TO 1846.

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

- ★ **March 2** Texas Independence Day
- ★ **March 8** Weston City Council Meeting at City Hall 7:30p.m.
- ★ **March 20** Food Distribution at First Christian Church in Weston 3-5p.m.
- ★ **March 31** Cesar Chavez Day
- ★ **April 12** Weston City Council Meeting at City Hall 7:30p.m.
- ★ **April 15** Good Friday
- ★ **April 17** Easter
- ★ **April 17** Food Distribution at First Christian Church in Weston 3-5p.m.
- ★ **April 21** San Jacinto Day
- ★ **April 23** Weston's Spring Trash Off
- ★ **May 10** Weston City Council Meeting at City Hall 7:30p.m.
- ★ **May 14** Cajunfest in downtown Celina 2-9p.m.
- ★ **May 30** Memorial Day

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FILING DEADLINES FOR NOVEMBER 8, 2022 GENERAL ELECTION

Do you want to serve your community as a member of Weston's city council? If you live within the city limits, then consider running for election. The City of Weston will hold an election on November 8, 2022, for three aldermen.

- ★ **July 23** First Day to File for Place on the General Election Ballot
- ★ **August 22** Last Day to File for Place on the General Election Ballot
- ★ **August 26** Last Day to File a Declaration of Write-in Candidacy
- ★ **October 11** Last Day to Register to Vote
- ★ **November 8** Election Day

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Meeting Schedule



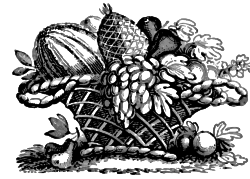
Weston Fire and Rescue
1st and 3rd Tuesday
7p.m.
203 Main Street



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

"If people do not believe that mathematics is simple, it is only because they do not realize how complicated life is."
—John von Neumann

Gardening Tip



For a spring harvest, you can plant the following seeds outdoors:

- beets
- carrots
- collard greens
- kale
- kohlrabi
- leeks
- lettuce
- mustard greens
- peas
- potatoes
- radishes
- scallions
- spinach
- swiss chard
- turnips



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

Answers: 1. TEXAS 2. SAFETY 3. APRIL 4. LAW 5. CHAINS 6. CHAROLAIS 7. WAHZHAZHE 8. WILDLIFE 9. DAISY 10. BERLIN 11. DANDELION 12. LOOKABOUT 13. BADGE 14. ABATEMENT 15. COFFEE 16. BOISDARC 17. TEMPERATE 18. COMET 19. TOMATO 20. GOFUNDME

