

The Weston Post

Issue № 10

Spring 2022



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EPI GOLDSTEIN AND THE BLUE DOOR

Tell us about yourself and growing up in Celina and Weston.

In 1957, my parents moved to Celina when I was just a baby. At the time, we were one of the first Mexican-American families in town. My father made a living driving a truck and we relocated to North Texas for his work with Willard Grain. Both of my parents grew up in the Rio Grande Valley, spoke little English and grew up as migrant farm workers. During the summer months, my mother's family would come and work the cotton fields around this area. My siblings and I would hoe cotton, too. I will never forget looking at those endless rows of cotton and wondering how we would ever finish. I do not remember how much we earned for the cotton, but every little bit helped support our family. My family enjoyed growing up here. Looking back, I think my dad made a great decision to move his family to Celina. Needless to say, we were very poor financially but not in spirit.

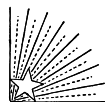
My parents had six children. Lonnie, my little brother, came later in my mom's life as I am twelve years older than he is. My mom encouraged us to do well in school and she saved all of our report cards and perfect attendance awards from school. One of the notes she saved was from my older brother's first grade teacher which said he was well behaved, but he had a communication problem: he could not speak English! After receiving that letter, my father insisted we learn the language and my older sister and brother taught the rest of us how to speak English.

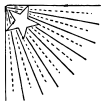


Celina schools were much smaller back then. There were 24 seniors when I graduated high school and I think about 96% of the class had attended school from first to twelfth grade. During my senior year of high school, I was voted "Most Friendly" by my peers. This award meant a lot to me as I always tried to include everyone in whatever project or fun thing was happening.

I loved visiting the downtown areas of both Celina and Weston. The square in Celina had two grocery stores, cafes, a movie theater, a furniture store, and a gas station. I remember one of Elvis's movies was playing at the Celina theater and my dad would not let us go because he believed Elvis was a vulgar performer. Downtown Weston also had many amenities including Kenneth's garage and Sis's store.

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Cowan's Garage was the place where the locals would hangout. Whether it was summer or winter, you could drive by and Kenneth Cowan would be half way into an engine. He repaired tractors, farm trucks, go-carts, weed eaters and more. If it ran on gas, then Kenneth could fix it. Gas was sold at the garage and he had a cold water fountain to drink from. Inside the shop was quite a sight to see. Tools were everywhere and ONLY Kenneth knew where everything was located. He was a kind soul with a big heart. Everyone knew if you needed a job done right then Cowan's Garage was the place to go. When we lost Kenneth, we lost a world of automotive knowledge and our local patriarch. He was a true Weston Imagineer.

Explain how you met your husband, Steve, a longtime resident of Celina and owner of Texas Range Honey.

In the early 1990s, I was working for Telemundo, running the network sales office in Dallas. In 1997, I was promoted to the Vice President General Manager of the San Diego affiliate. I was one of a few women managing a top-ten television market. Unfortunately, my mother became very ill around the year 2000 and I requested a leave of absence to come home and help with her care. I had been so busy building a career and being a caretaker that my social life suffered; I was in my mid 40's and had never married. I prepared to be single the rest of my life. As life would have it, that tough time was when I met Steve. He was in the middle of a divorce and I was in the middle of losing my mom. Steve and I reconnected while I was back home to be with my mom and family, and we fell in love. We were married in 2002. I gave up my corporate job and started working at a hospital to make a little extra spending money.

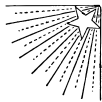
Steve is a longtime resident of Celina and Weston. Steve's parents owned and operated one of the largest advertising firms in the country. Steve spent many of his childhood summers and then 35 years of his adult life working in the family business. In 2015, a major company bought the advertising business and Steve was able to retire. My only request was that he had to find something to do in retirement. Then, he came to me one day and announced that he was going to sell honey and fresh eggs. That moment was the start of Texas Range Honey!

In 2011, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. After recovering from that health crisis, we got a call in the middle of the night that two of Steve's grandkids were in the custody of Child Protective Services (CPS). The grandkids needed a place to stay as their parents were caught up in a dangerous lifestyle. Unfortunately, the situation did not improve and we embarked on a journey to take custody of the children. After what seemed like endless meetings with various legal authorities, CPS, CASA, and counselors, we were able to adopt the children and they have been with us for nine wonderful years. Steve and I love them so much and enjoy raising them in Weston. Sometimes I have to pinch myself and wonder if this is all a dream: never in a million years did I think that I would be turning 65, living in Weston, and married to Steve and raising two kids!

You serve as a board member with Weston Water Supply Corporation (WWSC). What is new with WWSC these days?

It has been a very challenging and eventful few years during my tenure on the WWSC Board! First, I want to thank Tony De Plato for the twenty years of service with WWSC. During last year's ice storm, he and Lucy worked around the clock to make sure that we kept water flowing. WWSC was one of the few utilities to maintain water flow during the 2021 winter storm. There is a lot that goes into making sure the WWSC system is running smoothly and in compliance with the state's regulations.

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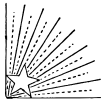
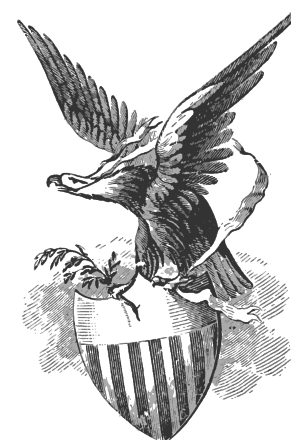
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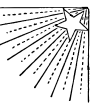
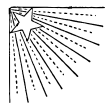
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Weston is experiencing rapid growth which comes with many challenges. In my opinion, water is our most valuable resource. Sadly, every city is experiencing water shortages. We have received a number of development requests, and are in the process of working with those developers to provide water service through additional groundwater wells. All water suppliers in the area, including WWSC, are having to supply growth through groundwater until additional surface water supplies are available. We have met with multiple surface water suppliers to work towards an eventual transition from groundwater (a declining resource, unfortunately) to purchasing surface water. We have positioned ourselves so that when surface water supplies are available in this part of Collin County, we will have access to this resource. A big part of the WWSC Board's job is water supply planning and looking at what capital improvements are needed so that our community has clean, reliable water for years to come. Another project we are working on is replacing the water lines in the downtown area. We are looking at grants or low interest federal loans to help us upgrade this infrastructure.

To keep WWSC's costs as low as possible, we have outsourced all of our managerial and repair services to Patterson Water Group. WWSC has also established a website payment service to streamline the bill paying process. We have a large percentage of our membership using this online service and I am grateful for your patience during this process. Much like the city, WWSC is in a transition period from a small rural utility to one that is planning for the future.

WWSC has a great relationship with our mayor and city council which is so important when planning the future of Weston. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Mayor Jim Marischen for stepping up and leading us through these last two and a half years. The developer contract that was passed under the previous Weston leadership has created many current challenges for Weston. Fortunately, our current Mayor and city council are working diligently to try and renegotiate the contract so that the planned high-density developments are treated the same as current and other future Weston residents pursuant to state law. The current Mayor and city council have done an excellent job of listening to all citizens so that the community is well represented, and to ensure that future development is not heavily skewed in the favor of the developer at the expense of the city and its other residents. The city recently worked hard to pass subdivision regulations that were much needed in order to help transition our rural city into one that is poised to handle development. The city has also secured escrow funds to bring sewer to the downtown area, which was a huge victory so that downtown Weston can keep its same unique charm while evolving into a thriving city center.

What are your plans with the Post Office Museum?

We need to do some repairs then hope to open it to the public on Saturdays. We also want to recognize the building with a county historical marker. Our most recent purchase for the museum is the original barber chair from Lon Pope's barber shop. In the museum, there is a photograph (taken by my husband, Steve, when he was about 13 years old) featuring Lon cutting farmer Earl Miller's hair while sitting in this chair! The museum will be open on the 4th of July so come over and check it out.

Tell us about your house on South Street.

The Myrtle Cottage will be finished very soon. Myrtle Cottage is named after the original owner, Myrtle Cowan. Myrtle and her husband also owned Cowan's Garage which currently sits at the corner of Weston Road and Main Street; both buildings are about 100 years old. Our plans are to list Myrtle Cottage as a vacation rental that can accommodate small weddings and bridal parties.

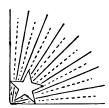
You own most of the commercial property in Weston. What is your vision for the future of downtown Weston?

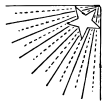
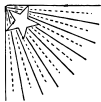
I would love to be part of a team that works with a planning architect to draw up a vision plan for downtown Weston. In general, I would like to see downtown Weston bustling like the old days with a restaurant or two and a market. However, downtown Weston is still on a septic system and we need to move to a sewer system in order to develop the buildings into a functional commercial environment. Fortunately, it looks like we will have this infrastructure in the near future and our Mayor and city council have already secured escrow for the sewer lines. The goal is to keep the rustic charm and welcoming feel of the downtown area even after the influx of new people and homes that is on the horizon. I look forward to helping this vision become a reality in the years to come.

What is The Blue Door?

I hear this question a lot and am glad to shed some light on what goes on at The Blue Door. The Blue Door is the white building on Main Street with a pretty blue door and sits across the street from the Community Center. Long ago, it was a grocery store called "Jack's Grocery" and was run by Sis Mugg. Many people in Weston remember that little store and when locals spoke of Sis, they always mention how much they loved her sandwiches that were served on brown paper. One of my uncles loved the frozen cream pies at Sis's store and he would treat us to some on Fridays.

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No longer a grocery store, The Blue Door is my happy place; it started as my she-shed where my friends and I could hang out. A few people have walked in and asked me if The Blue Door was a bar. While not a bar, I have been known to share a glass of wine or two with some friends here. Unfortunately, this hangout space did not last long as it has evolved into my office and storage space for Myrtle Cottage. We lost Steve's mom last year and with her passing came lots of paperwork. My saving grace is that I get to work in a place that I love. I'm a night-owl and am most productive in the evenings. When I have work to do, I settle the kids after school and head over to The Blue Door. I put my music on and work into the night.

Life is a funny thing sometimes as experiences from childhood can circle back into adulthood. I have many fond memories of this building when it was Sis's store, and I am blessed to still enjoy it today. These childhood memories flash back frequently while I work in the Blue Door.

What would you like the residents to know?

I encourage everyone to get involved in our community. We are a small town with one city employee, Susan Coffey, our city secretary. All other functions are handled through our volunteers, including those on the city council and WWSC. Weston thrives on commitment from its residents. We all live here because we either grew up here or we moved here because we love the Weston community. Whatever your reason is for living here, we need your help planning Weston's future. We are at a critical juncture as the area transitions from completely rural to now mixed rural and higher density development.

I look forward to meeting new residents and enjoying the company of the old-timers. I am always open to suggestions and The Blue Door is always open to new friends. I would love to share a favorite Hemingway quote: "Today is only one day in all the days that will ever be. But what will happen in all the other days that ever come can depend on what you do today."

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WESTON FIRE AND RESCUE NEWS

Weston Fire and Rescue is proud to announce another huge step toward creating a fire-safe community within the Weston Fire Protection District surrounding the City of Weston. In April, the Collin County Commissioners Court voted to approve the Weston Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). This program is a community driven plan of action in which Weston Fire and Rescue will work with the residents and business owners of the district to identify high risk fire areas and use resources from both the federal government and Texas A&M Forest Service to mitigate fire risks.



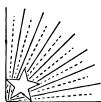
Besides Lucas' Firewise Program, this program is one of the first in Collin County and the second in the DFW area. The Weston CWPP uses your federal and state tax dollars to make your community safer through cooperation and teamwork and brings together diverse local interests to discuss their mutual concerns for public safety, community sustainability and natural resources. It offers a positive, solution-oriented environment to address challenges such as local firefighting capability, the need for defensible space around homes, and the unique needs within subdivisions. Weston Fire and Rescue truly appreciates the support of the incredible people within our community and district. Thank you and remember to be fire safe!

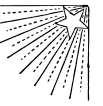
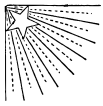
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Classroom Counterpoints
P.O. Box 216
Weston, TX 75097





MAYOR'S CORNER

By Jim Marischen

Residents of Weston and our surrounding area, spring has sprung and the grass is green and the leaves are back. I hope everyone is keeping an eye on the weather as the spring storms are upon us. In fact, the Weston Town Center siren has been busy as several storms in early April have brought large hail and a potential tornado over our small town. Please be prepared to get to your safe areas when these storms approach. Fortunately, COVID seems like a thing of the past, but please be careful.

This has been a very busy first half of the year on growth. The Collin County Outer Loop effort is ramping up and construction is expected to start this summer. The City has been inundated with developer requests, some for one-acre lots and some for residential. However, most of these requests are outside the city limits, which give us little control over these plans. For those of you that attended the Mayor's Town Halls in April, I showed you where these growth areas are located. If you missed the meetings, feel free to go by the Weston City Hall and Susan will show you the map.

Progress continues to be slow at the Venetian and Weston Trails developments. The Venetian Phase I home builds have stopped and are waiting for resolution on a Public Safety Services Plan. The City of Weston was sued by the Developer (Megatel) when it disagreed with the requirements in the plan. The City believes it will win this lawsuit and assures all of our future citizens that public safety is our main priority. Megatel has also been in a lawsuit with the Weston Water Supply Corp (WWSC) for nearly a year. This is also preventing further expansion within the Venetian development until this is resolved and water infrastructure is constructed.

Unlike the Venetian developer, the developer of Weston Trails, Matrix Equities LLC, is working closely with the City to rewrite a more favorable contract for Weston. Additionally, they have funded two critical studies to help the City; a regional wastewater plan and a regional water plan to support the new developments. Both of these studies will be critical in guiding Weston and WWSC on how and when to connect to regional systems for sewer and surface water. Later this summer, we expect Matrix Equities LLC to start construction on the CR 206 (Chambersville Rd) extension from FM 543 (Weston Rd) to CR 170 (West Cottage Hill Pkwy). However, they do not intend on breaking ground on their first residential phase until late 2023.

Some good news: the progress on building the Weston Wastewater Treatment Plant is going well. The contractor has found a way to pull forward the material purchases and is now planning on finishing the plant later this year. This means the City will be able to start on the Town Center sewer construction by spring of 2023. The plan for this construction will hopefully include upgrading the water lines in the Town Center. I know we are all straining from the gas line dig currently going on in town, but once we get this new dig for water and sewer completed, then the Town Center will be able to have a restaurant once again.

Memorial Day and the 4th of July are right around the corner. The City has already started the planning for the parade. If you want to join this team, call Carol Decker or the City Hall.

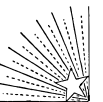
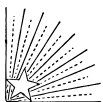
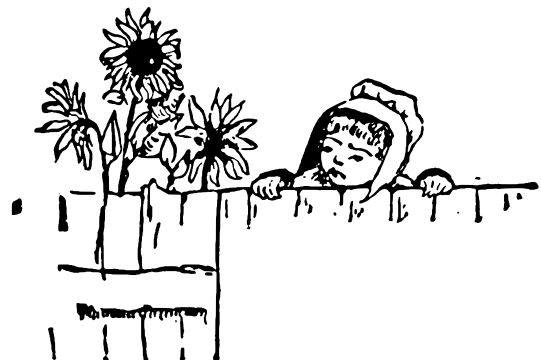
Please provide any questions for me either through the Weston website or directly to Susan at the City Hall.

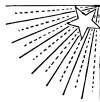
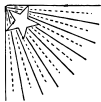
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Coloring Page, Art, and Photo Submissions

Do you like to draw? Do you have any great paintings or photos showing life in Weston? If so, we would like to showcase your art in *The Weston Post*. For coloring pages, we are looking for simple, black and white line drawings with a one sentence statement about the picture. We are hoping to receive submissions featuring local farm life, city buildings, folks enjoying the country life, scenes from our 4th of July parade, and historical pictures.

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





A MESSAGE FROM JUDGE PAUL RALEEH

Thank You Weston! Weston did a great job with their first candidate forum. I had a good time meeting those who attended and I hope Weston continues that event for future elections.

As many of you know by now, I was re-elected as your Justice of the Peace in precinct 1. Weston is new to the precinct 1 Justice Court. During the redistricting, I acquired Weston, Desert and a small portion of Allen. So in total, the precinct 1 Justice of the Peace now includes Allen, Fairview, McKinney, Weston, Melissa, Anna, Desert, and a few areas in and outside these city limits.

In Texas, there are over 450 State District Courts, over 500 County Courts at law, over 800 Justice of the Peace courts, and over 900 Municipal Courts.

The Justice of the Peace Court has both civil and criminal jurisdiction.

CRIMINAL – The criminal side of the court hears criminal offenses that occur in the precinct and are punishable by a fine only. Some of those offenses include traffic tickets, truancy, minor assaults, shoplifting, and a minor in possession of tobacco and alcohol (to name a few).

CIVIL – The Justice of the Peace courts have civil jurisdiction where the amount sued is less than \$20,000.00. We also have exclusive jurisdiction in all evictions matters both commercial and residential.

Your Justice of the Peace court stays very busy hearing civil matters. Criminal cases usually never go to trial. Most people take a driver safety course or get a deferred disposition. Below is a breakdown of some of the latest year-to-date activity.

- Civil Cases Filed 1335
- Criminal Cases Filed 1033
- Trials 804 (Almost 6 per day)
- Collected \$302,371.00
- State portion \$87,008.00
- County portion \$167,323.00

Here is a bit of trivia information you may not have known. Television court shows like Judge Judy and Judge Hackett have producers come in once a month to the Justices of the Peace courts all over the State. The producers read through the cases and when they find one interesting (like a boyfriend suing his ex-girlfriend, or a neighbor suing his neighbor), they contact those parties and ask if they want to appear on television. If they do, the case is dismissed with the court and the parties appear on television. If a party loses on television, they don't even have to pay the other party because both parties get paid for their appearance. Even though the case started off as a real case – it ends as entertainment.

Your Justice of the Peace Court is always open to the public. I invite you to come visit us. My Court is located at 2300 Bloomdale Rd #1164 in the same building where you get vehicle registrations in McKinney.

Serving with honor,

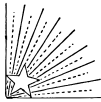
Judge Paul Raleeh

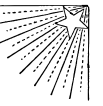
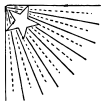


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Donation Appreciation!

Thank you to Epi Goldstein, Brian Larson, the Levine family, James McClure, the Richardson family, and Courtney Taylor for your contributions to Classroom Counterpoints and keeping this edition of the print edition alive!





IN THE COURTHOUSE WITH JEAN YOUNG

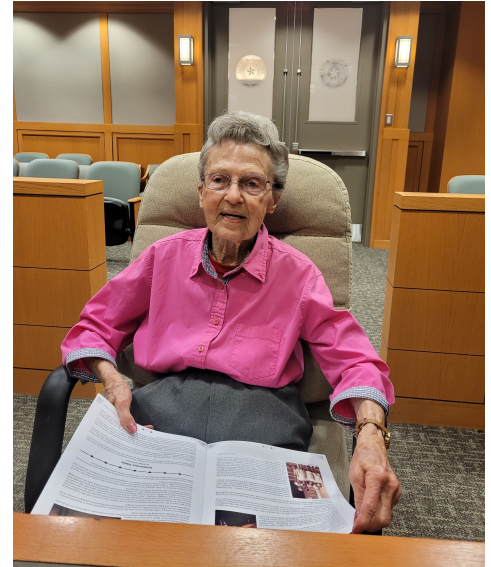
By Michael Hill

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

I was recently invited, along with Brittany Yurkovitch, to participate in an interview with Jean Young, a former district clerk who grew up in the Weston area. Nathan White, a member of the Collin County Historical Commission, conducted the interview and is taking the lead on documenting the oral histories of county residents who have a historical perspective of life in the county.

Nathan White is a former County Judge who worked with Jean Young for many years. White recalled how everyone at the courthouse had fond memories of Jean. The interview was conducted in the Probate Court which provided an excellent venue given the video recording equipment. A court reporter documented a written account at the same time.

By a complete coincidence, Brittany and I discovered that Scooter Cave and her husband, who were featured in the last edition, were good friends with Jean and her husband many years ago. Both women shared stories of their time together living in Weston and working in the courthouse. Over time, they had lost touch and we gladly have made it possible for them to reconnect.



Jean Young is a spry, friendly woman in her nineties who says she just loves people. She was born to a farming family about three miles northeast of Weston in the late 1920's. Her early life in the Carruth family was one of endless work on a self-sustaining farm. When it became time for school, Jean walked a mile east to the school in the Kelly community which is east of FM455 just north of where it joins with Cowan Road.

Jean met her husband at a church revival and married in 1945 after the war. Floyd Royce Young was affectionately called "Nub" by Jean and they were married for 74 years before his death. For years, he operated a television/radio and appliance repair shop just west of Highway 5 on U.S. Highway 380 in McKinney.

Some of Jean's family were carpenters and builders and the three brick houses east of the old Weston schoolhouse on Main Street were called the "Carruth Addition" by locals at the time. The middle house of pink brick was Jean and Floyd's house from the 1950's.

Jean started working for the county in 1951 and was employed at the tax office until an opening became available in the District Clerk's office. She eventually became District Clerk and held that job for twenty-five years.

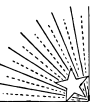
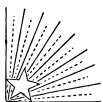
Jean recounted stories from her youth and remembers the big Weston Saturday nights which brought in families from the surrounding area to visit with their neighbors and friends in town. She said besides visiting on a Saturday night, it was rare to come to downtown Weston and it was a special treat to have an occasional cafe hamburger.

Two stories in particular took me by surprise. She got very excited when recalling a skating rink in Weston of which I had not heard mentioned before. There were traveling skating rinks that came through town and were set up under a tent but she remembers a more permanent rink downtown and described it as being located across from the bank building (currently, Texas Range Honey). Prior to the existence of the Community Center, another building sat on that land; the rink might have been located there or somewhere nearby. I did hear, however, about a travelling rink that was set up where the new Post Office is located. The second surprise was Jean's story of a gymnasium in town. I asked around and learned that there was a gymnasium in a building next to the Weston school that doubled as the lunch room.

I haven't figured out the timelines of when the skating rinks and the gym were established but it goes to show how easily our own history can be lost as time slips by; it's reason enough to try to preserve these stories while we still can.

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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JASPER SMITH OF BLUE RIDGE: AN UNKNOWN HERO YOU SHOULD KNOW

By Collin Kimball

Collin is the Founder of the North Texas Fallen Warrior Portrait project, a local historian, and a member of the Collin County Historical Commission.

Every year, our nation celebrates Memorial Day at the end of May to remember the sacrifices of the heroic men and women who have worn the cloth of our nation and lost their lives defending it. The historic Pecan Grove Cemetery in McKinney is the final resting place for Jasper Thomas Smith, a Technical Sergeant in the US Army Air Force in WWII from the nearby community of Blue Ridge in the northeastern part of Collin County. Jasper Smith gave his life serving our nation trying to liberate the people of Europe from Nazi oppression. What follows is a story of Jasper's duty and sacrifice as he served with a famous fellow Airman, Hollywood Movie Star Jimmy Stewart, and the life of a young girl named Sheila. Sheila's life was spared by the duty and sacrifice of Jasper and all the airmen of the US Army Air Force in WWII.

Jasper, Sheila, and Jimmy

By 1940, Blue Ridge, a rural farming community with a population of 450, had only enjoyed electricity service for ten years. Growing up in that environment, Jasper, born in 1917, was likely skilled in using a shotgun to shoot birds on the wing. This skill made excellent aerial gunners; a trade Jasper would later enjoy. In 1940, Jasper left Blue Ridge for the bigger city of nearby Greenville, where he worked as a salesman. In the same year, Jimmy Stewart starred in the acclaimed movie, "The Philadelphia Story" and won an Academy Award for best actor in the spring of 1941. In January 1941, some four months after the draft was initiated, 23-year-old Jasper Smith gave up his salesman job in Greenville and entered the United States Army. It's not known if he volunteered or was drafted, but the fact remains that he answered his nation's call to duty before the War was to begin. Meanwhile, Sheila spent her days and nights as a young girl hiding from the indiscriminate bombing of her hometown of London, England, from Nazi bombers.

Sheila, born in 1938, was a child growing up in London, England. Her father, Edward, an Irish immigrant, joined His Majesties Army at age 14 as a boy recruit to escape the troubles in Ireland nearly a score of years before. In the 1920s and 1930s he served the English Empire in the Middle East and India as a member of the British Army. He separated from the Army in the mid-1930s and worked as an electrician in London. He married a young lady named Madeline from Somerset and commenced raising a family as a British citizen. Due to the German invasion of Poland in 1939, Edward found himself called back to the service of his King. He returned to his original regiment, the 3rd Hussars—Hussars is a term for light cavalry—where he trained and was sent to do battle against the Italians and Nazis in Sicily and North Africa. Sheila and her younger brother, Michael, were now being raised in a home without a father in an area of London near Queen Victoria's Crystal Palace. By July of 1940, Nazi Germany would begin an indiscriminate bombing campaign on London known as the Battle of Britain. Sheila would see friends and neighbors perish and would play in the bombed-out ruins of houses across the street from where she lived.



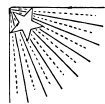
Jasper Smith portrait by Collin Kimball



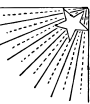
Jimmy Stewart won Best Actor Oscar for his role in *The Philadelphia Story*.

In September of 1940, American leaders sensed the grave possibility that we would be drawn into war due to the aggressive Nazi Campaign in Europe and the expansion of the Japanese Empire in the Pacific. In response, our government instituted the first-ever peacetime draft. In October 1940, one month after the draft was initiated, actor Jimmy Stewart received his draft notice and promptly reported to take his entrance physical. He failed it for being 5 pounds underweight. The movie executives in Hollywood were ecstatic that one of their rising stars was ineligible for military service.

Stewart came from a long line of patriots who served our nation during war and serving the nation in time of need was part of his family's heritage. Both his grandfathers served in the War Between the States. His father served during the Spanish American and Great War (WWI). In the spring of 1941, James received Hollywood's highest honor, an Oscar, the only one of his long-storied career. He was at the pinnacle of his profession. The fortune he was accumulating allowed him to pursue his dream in aviation, where he earned a pilot's license, purchased an airplane, and accumulated 400 hours of commercial pilot time. He embarked on a physical conditioning program to gain weight against the movie executives' will, which promised him an ultimate failure with no future work opportunities. By March of 1941, he successfully passed his physical examination and enlisted in the United States Army as a Private.



Joining the Fight



As 1941 commenced, Sheila, her mother Madeline, and brother Michael became used to spending their nights sleeping either in the London Underground subway that served as an air-raid shelter or under their home's stairwell on a horsehair chaise lounge. Sheila hated that chaise lounge because the horse hairs would poke through and irritate her skin. Initially, the British authorities prevented civilians from using the subway as an air-raid shelter. However, they quickly relented due to the indiscriminate bombing by the Nazis that took a terrible toll on innocent civilian's lives. Playing in the burned-out, destroyed rubble of neighbors' homes became routine. All goods were rationed; sugar was like gold. Unless homegrown in the cold temperate climate of England, fruits were non-existent. She would learn to seek cover at the sound of an airplane flying overhead. This reaction became instinctive and would follow her into her adulthood and be witnessed by her children, born more than a decade after the wars ended. By December of that year, the Japanese attacked our Naval and Air Force bases in Pearl Harbor. America was silent no more. Jasper had completed his basic and radio operating training and was assigned to a Stateside Army Air Force Unit. On December 7, Jimmy Stewart, an Oscar-Winning movie star, was an Army Corporal pulling guard duty at Moffett Field in California.

The life Sheila led up until 1942 was hard, but as 1942 would unfold, it became much more challenging. Due to the constant danger of living in London, she and her brother would be whisked away to the countryside, where she would live with a family friend named Aunt Mary. Sheila's father, Edward, continued fighting abroad. Edward's squadron of the 3rd Hussars, where he fought as a member of the famed "Desert Rats," was promptly removed from North Africa, where they fought against Rommel's Africa Corps. They were rushed by ship through the Suez Canal to aid the beleaguered British forces in Singapore. Accompanying Edward, who was raised in the Roman Catholic Church, was a gold crucifix he took from an Italian Soldier because, in Edward's words, "he didn't need it anymore."

Unfortunately, Singapore fell to the Japanese before they arrived, and instead, the regiment landed on the island of Java. They found out quickly that the light tanks they operated were of little use in the dense Javanese jungle and mountainous terrain. The opportunity for resupply of ammunition was out of the question. It was as hopeless of a situation as one can imagine, and by March, he and his fellow Hussars, out of ammunition, were captured by the Japanese. His fate as a prisoner of war was unknown to the British authorities, and he would be what is now considered Missing-in-Action (MIA). Madeline, his wife, now living alone in war-torn London, would be immediately denied his earnings due to his missing status and was forced to find what work she could do to survive. Sheila and Michael bonded with Aunt Mary, and when they later returned to their hard-working mother, the separation anxiety was intense. Edward would cling to the crucifix of the Italian soldier he likely killed in battle and became known by his captors as the "Crucifix Man."

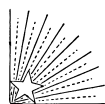
Jimmy Stewart initially sought the opportunity to be a pilot in the Army Air Force. Even though his experience was much greater than most pilots serving, he was denied due to his relatively advanced age which exceeded the standards at the time. However, after the attack on Pearl Harbor, things changed and he received a commission as a Second Lieutenant in January 1942. One of the early pre-war arrivals, Jasper Smith was now an "Old Salt." Ascending to leadership roles and honing his radio operator skills, he mentored and trained the younger troops who were now arriving in droves as America officially entered the War.

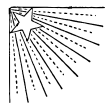
By 1943, Army Air Force planes and troops arrived in England in great masses. The American Army Air Force bomber forces, operating under the Command of the Mighty 8th Air Force, set up scores of Airfields in Norfolk and Suffolk, England, an area known as East Anglia. Sheila loved seeing the arriving American troops who always gave out candy, a rare commodity that was non-existent in Great Britain. One of the downsides of the Americans' arrival was the diseases that they brought with them. Sheila would catch scarlet fever and spend weeks in isolation in a hospital from riding on a train with the well-meaning and overly generous American troops.



Edward (back row, far left, wearing crucifix) and squadron mates at the prison camp at Motoyama Japan after they were liberated.

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Jimmy and Jasper Team Up

Jimmy Stewart, now a 35-year-old Captain, considered by many to be an “old man,” was restless and unsatisfied with his role in selling war bonds and training pilots stateside. He was itching to serve his country in a more meaningful way. After directly pleading his desires to all the superior officers who would listen, a young Lieutenant Colonel, five years his junior, recommended him to the 445th Bomb Group based in Sioux City, Iowa. Technical Sergeant Jasper Smith was assigned to this same bomb group as a radio operator/aerial gunner in the 702nd Bomb Squadron. The 445th was wrapping up their combat training in the B-24 Liberator and preparing to deploy to England to begin combat operations. Initially assigned as the executive officer of the 703rd Bomb Squadron, Stewart assumed command as the Squadron Commander of the 703rd Bomb Squadron in October 1943, the sister squadron to the one that Jasper served in.

Jasper Smith and Jimmy Stewart would begin a great adventure and fly from Sioux City, Iowa, across the nation to the tip of Florida. They would transit across the Caribbean Sea to South America and then fly down the coast of South America to Rio de Janeiro making many stops for rest and refueling. From Rio de Janeiro, they would begin a journey across the Atlantic Ocean to the west coast of Africa and then fly up the coast of Africa, across the western Mediterranean and finally arrive in Norfolk, England, at an Airbase outside the City of Norwich known as Tibbenham. As a radio operator, Jasper was essential in establishing and maintaining communications with his aircraft, the dozens of aircraft in the air, and the many ground stations where they would land and refuel. Stewart, the Hollywood star previously denied the opportunity to both serve and fight, was the most experienced pilot of the bomb group and would be responsible for leading the entire group of over 70 aircraft on this incredible journey.

Constant Danger in the Air

Once in England, Jasper and Stewart would fly the most deadly daylight combat missions against the fortress of Germany. By agreement, the Army Air Force would fly their missions in broad daylight, unlike England’s Royal Air Force which would fly the night missions. It took a special kind of bravery to repeatedly fly in the cloudless sky in broad daylight while Nazi fighters made high-speed machinegun passes and ground-based artillery shot at planes incessantly. The B-24s carried a nine to eleven man crew. Stewart flew as a pilot and squadron commander leading his squadron into combat while Jasper flew as a radio operator, turned aerial gunner to repel the Nazi fighter planes that made repeated high speed passes at his plane with their guns blazing.

Imagine sitting in the chow hall for morning chow with 72 tables serving nine to eleven crew members each before launching on a mission. Then, imagine coming home and the following day, having morning chow, and multiple tables are sitting empty. Sometimes, upwards of 100 or more men, present the morning before, were now gone because their planes were shot down the day before. Worse yet, you gaze at the empty seats of the table from the aircrew of the aircraft you witnessed go down in a ball of flames while you ponder your fate in the upcoming mission. This occurrence was not a one-time thing. It happened with regular frequency throughout the war.

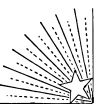
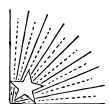
Jimmy Stewart and Jasper Smith repeatedly flew combat missions fighting off the Nazis that were trying to kill them and came home mourning the loss of their comrades. They then repaired the battle damage not only to their aircraft but also to their psyches. A few days later, they jumped back into their aircraft only fly again into the deadly Nazi haze of flak and fighters that awaited them. The Army Air Force lost more men in the air in Europe than the entire United States Marines Corps lost in the Pacific theater. Over the course of the war, the 445th Bomb Group that Jasper and Stewart served in, flew 282 combat missions of the 986 combat missions that the 8th Air Force flew. They lost 95 aircraft taking with them the lives of over 1,000 Airmen. Jasper and Jimmy were courageous men.

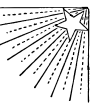
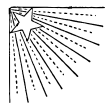
On April 1, 1944, Jasper Smith flew in the 287th combat Mission of the 8th Air Force along with more than 400 other B-24 and B-17 heavy bombers from the various bases in East Anglia. To give you a sense of the scale of this mission, it took over 1.5 million gallons of fuel to fill up the bombers for the round trip necessary to complete that mission. Missions of this scale were the norm. Their target was the IG Farben Industrial Complex in Ludwigshafen, Germany. Heavy cloud cover over the target area caused them to miss their target; however, it did not stop the Nazis from inflicting their damage.



In 1944, Colonel James “Jimmy” Stewart received the Croix de Guerre.

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There are two accounts of Jasper's fate in this mission. One account has it that Jasper's plane picked up some battle damage causing one of its four engines to fail over the target area. As their plane flew across the French Coast, a second engine failed leaving only two engines to pull the giant lumbering bomber through the air. Then, as his aircraft slowly made its way across the English Channel to Tibbenham, a third engine quit. The pilots had no choice but to find a nearby farmer's field to bring the damaged bomber down. They headed for an open field near Saint Michael's Church in the small village of Long Stratton, a couple of miles short of Tibbenham. As they descended to the field, the large bomber, barely clinging to the air, could not clear a grove of trees that stood between its path and the open field. Striking the trees near Saint Michael's Church, the B-24 Liberator crashed into the ground taking the life of Technical Sergeant Jasper Thomas Smith of Blue Ridge, Texas, and four other crew members. Another account has it that Jasper's aircraft collided with another in mid-air in the overcast skies filled with hundreds of bombers assembling for the mission. Paperwork defining the actual circumstances were lost due to the fog of war and the concentration of the 445th Bomb Group on their vital mission of liberating Europe. Regardless, Technical Sergeant Jasper Smith earned the Purple Heart and gave his life to liberate the English people from the bondage of Nazi oppression.

Coming Home

Jimmy Stewart would continue to fight and lead Airmen, become a Wing Commander, and ascend to the rank of Colonel. He would fly over 20 known combat missions and his ascension from Private to Colonel in four years was a rare feat. Jimmy flew the demanding missions, one of which nearly took his life when a piece of flak entered the bottom of his Liberator, passing up between his legs and through the cockpit roof, skimming the edge of his face on the way. Jimmy came home from the war a hero, with two distinguished flying crosses, four Air Medals, and the French Croix de Guerre. The trauma of war visibly aged him but he remained in the Air Force Reserves after the war. In 1966, he flew a bombing mission in a B-52 in South Vietnam. He raised an adopted son, Ronald McLain, to become a United States Marine and then lost him in service to our nation in Vietnam. Retiring from the Air Force Reserve as a Brigadier General, he was promoted to Major General by President Ronald Reagan. The latter also served in the US Army Air Force in WWII. President Regan awarded Jimmy Stewart the Presidential Award for Freedom, the highest honor given to civilians. Stewart was a remarkable patriot who served his country valiantly.

Jasper Smith would be buried in the American Cemetery in Cambridge, England, and after the war, be brought home and laid to rest at the Pecan Grove Cemetery in McKinney. Sheila and her younger brother Michael would welcome home their father, Edward, whose life status was uncertain for three years. He clung to the crucifix he took from the fellow Catholic soldier from Italy that he killed in battle. Perhaps his suffering at the hands of the Japanese Emperor was his penance. He passed away in 1990. The Americans liberated him from bondage as a slave laborer mining coal for a significant and well-known Japanese corporation that you can find as a badge on the cars they sell. This corporation was another unfortunate tool of the failed Japanese Empire.

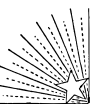
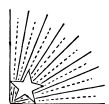
Edward's liberation was the direct result of the brave Marines, Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen who fought so valiantly in the Pacific. After the war, Edward would relocate his family to a small English Village of Flordon in Norfolk, England. Flordon is just a couple miles from the Village of Long Stratton, where Jasper Smith met his final fate on behalf of the American and English People. Michael, Sheila's brother, would attend school in the Village of Long Stratton next to the church near the field that Jasper lost his life in. Sheila, enamored with the Americans that saved her life and her country, would marry an American Airman serving as a crew chief on the nuclear bomb-equipped F-84F fighter/bombers stationed in England to protect both England and America from the Soviet threat of the 1950s. More than six decades ago, on the week before Memorial Day, in the town of Cambridge, where Jasper Smith was initially laid to rest, Sheila gave birth to a boy who grew into the man who is telling you this story. Sheila is my mother. Edward is my Grandfather. The brave, valiant Americans who fought in the Pacific saved Edward's life. Sheila was allowed to live in peace by men like Technical Sergeant Jasper T. Smith and General James "Jimmy" Stewart. As a result, I was given a chance to be born.

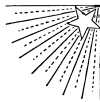
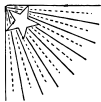
Memorial Day has a profound meaning to me. Unlike any other nation in history, America has sacrificed its blood and treasure for the sake of liberty for oppressed nations. So many like me walk among us because of men like Jasper Smith of Blue Ridge, Texas. I stand before you, grateful beyond words for men like Jasper Smith, a hero of Collin County who sacrificed and gave up every one of his tomorrows so that I, and many others, can live in peace. I'm grateful even more to live and have served this great nation as a fellow Airman. May Jasper Smith forever rest in honored peace.

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Sheila with her brothers, mother, father (Edward), and Santa.





A LITTLE BUILDING HOLDS BIG HISTORY

By Michael Hill

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

Weston has its own museum. It is housed in the old post office, the small little building on the east side of downtown just south from where the new post office is located. Built in 1954, this building served its purpose for over 45 years.

Surprisingly, the building was privately built and owned by Robert and Emma Estep. She was the Postmaster at the time and served many years in that position. Robert Estep swung into action after Roy Mayes decided that he didn't want the Post Office in his grocery store anymore and the United States Postal Service threatened to eliminate the Weston Post Office altogether if another location was not provided. Estep bought a small parcel of land next door to the Mayes' store and built the little post office for his wife to continue as Postmaster. Just to the left of the door there is etched into the porch the initials of the Estep's four children. Robert was not too happy with this after he had spent the time to smooth out the concrete himself.



Photos: Mitch Levine

After the new post office opened, nothing was done with the building for many years. After its brief life as an antique store, Steve and Epi Goldstein bought the place with the idea of having a place for local memorabilia to be displayed. Local families have donated pictures and things associated with local history. Of special interest are two notebooks with photocopied pictures and newspaper stories and private reminiscences. Though far from comprehensive, it does hold unique items and contains information from various sources. One notebook displays general information about Weston and the other notebook shows items related to Post Office history.

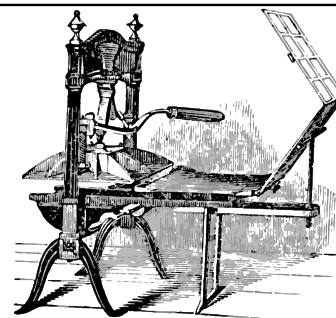
It is an ongoing project to piece together a picture of the settlers' lives on the blackland prairie in Weston. The museum will be open on July 4th during the parade. Please reach out if you have a unique piece of Weston history to share.

Do you have something you would like displayed at the Post Office Museum? Please email Epi Goldstein at epi@dfwair.net or contact Michael Hill at weston.hills@hotmail.com to talk about your Weston history finds!

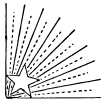
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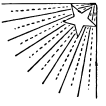
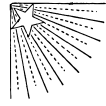
Get in the Loop

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



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DUSTY SANDALS

By Nancy Gemaehlich

Biographies are a favorite choice for many readers. People’s lives are fascinating—what they do and why. The Bible is no exception. The New Testament opens with four different eyewitness or based-on-eyewitness accounts of the life of Jesus Christ. Because in some way, we all see and record events uniquely, each Gospel writer crafted their story of Jesus’ life with a special emphasis.

For instance, the Gospel of Matthew was written by Matthew (also called Levi) who was one of Jesus’ original twelve disciples. What appears to have compelled Matthew to write his account is a desire to show unequivocally that Jesus fulfilled Old Testament prophecies making Him the long promised messianic King.

Matthew accomplishes this feat in several ways. First, the author tells his readers ten different times that Jesus was fulfilling something promised or predicted in the Old Testament. As an example, Matthew writes regarding Jesus’ birth, “Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ‘Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son and they shall call His name Immanuel’”, which translated means, “God with us” (Matthew 1:22-23). This prophecy from Isaiah and was spoken about 700 years prior to Christ’s birth!

In addition, Levi used sixty five Old Testament quotations linking their fulfillment to Christ. And if that wasn’t enough, Matthew penned about 262 allusions, meaning that he called things to mind from Old Testament people, places, events, etc., without mentioning them directly. He linked these allusions to Jesus as the ultimate fulfillment of their meaning. As an example, Matthew alludes to the connection between Israel’s King Solomon (900 BC), who the Queen of Sheba acknowledged with exorbitant gifts—with Jesus as Israel’s forever King and wise men who came from afar to shower Him with extravagant gifts (1 Kings 10:1-13; Matthew 2:1-12).

When Jesus originally called Matthew to leave his tax collecting duties to follow Him as a disciple, Matthew didn’t yet understand that Jesus was the promised Savior and King. But this former tax collector gained understanding as he walked the dusty roads of Israel being taught by Jesus. Matthew then passed on what he learned to us. He makes a compelling case about who Jesus is and calls us, as his readers to respond to what we see. If you would like to learn more about Matthew’s account of what Jesus said and did, you can use my new Bible study guide, *Dusty Sandals: A Woman’s Walk through the Prophecies and Promises of Matthew*. Jesus’s life is the best story ever told!

Nancy Gemaehlich is the author of a new Bible study guide, Dusty Sandals: A Woman’s Walk through the Prophecies and Promises of Matthew. She is the Director of Women’s Ministries at Weston’s Calvary Chapel Honey Creek. Learn more about her writing/blog at <https://www.nancygemaehlich-author.com/>.

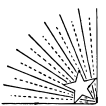
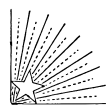
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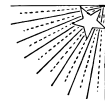
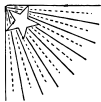


The Calling of Saint Matthew by James Tissot

CCHC Video Winner!

Landon Muller Johnson is the winner of the Collin County Historical Commission’s student video competition. His video “Anna Depot and Museum” dives into all of the wonderful history of Anna’s new depot museum. Congratulations on your achievement, Landon!





THE ANNA DEPOT AND MUSEUM

By Landon Mullin Johnson

Landon is an eight-year-old homeschool student in Anna and has won a few of the Collin County Historical Commission's student competitions, including the 2022 spring video competition.

In the peaceful town of Anna, there is a train depot museum filled with excitement and the history of Anna. In 2021, the Anna Depot opened with a ceremony attended by over 300 people and included historical train horns and a trackless train to give rides. In the spring, another thrilling event will happen when a steam locomotive comes to town. Although that will be exciting, there are plenty of things to do before the new steam locomotive comes to town at the free-of-charge Anna Depot and Museum.



Elden Baker, the Anna Depot Museum Director, has worked for the Anna Depot and Museum for about five years. Filled with knowledge, Baker explained the history of the Anna trains, depot, and the town. He described what started the town of Anna: the trains and depot during the 1870s.

The first train to come to Anna was the Houston and Texas Central Railway (H&TC) line. On the H&TC line was a flag stop which was where Anna would eventually be. By 1873, the railroad reached Anna and it connected to the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas Railroad in Denison. This huge rail line connected Texas to St. Louis and the east. The passenger service ended in the 1960s but a few cargo trains continued until the 1980s.

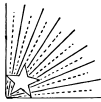
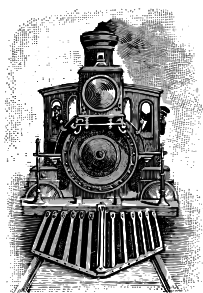
Another important train was the Interurban Rail, which eventually led to the H&TC becoming less popular. The Electric Railway Company created the Interurban Rail in 1901 and it came to Anna in 1908. In 1917, two companies merged into the Texas Electric Railway Company, which had 226 miles of track and, at the time, it was the biggest in the south. The line cost two cents per mile (which was much cheaper than the H&TC line) and it transported almost all passenger traffic between Denison and Dallas. In the 1940s, automobiles became more popular so the train did not have many people riding it anymore. The Interurban line completely closed all its lines in 1948, including the Dallas-Waco and the Dallas-Denison lines. Although there are no more trains that carry passengers to Anna, we still have the depot to learn about its history.

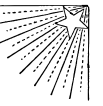
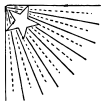
"The Anna Depot, built in 1885, is the oldest extant railroad station in the State of Texas," remarked Elden Baker. The Anna Depot and Museum has a diorama, which means a scale model, of Anna back in the old days. They also feature displays about other topics. "We are putting in a new display about how they used to cook in the old days. We have some old rolling pins and some cookbooks and more; that is what is coming next," stated Baker. For the kids, there is a free coloring book and, for the elderly and handicapped, the depot is handicap compliant. Outside the depot, there is a beautiful Collin McKinney statue, a fun park that looks like the Anna Depot, and picnic tables to enjoy a delicious meal. Finally, there is a massive chair that you can take pictures in.

Besides encouraging visitors to check out the depot, the Anna Area Historical Preservation Society hopes people get more involved. "We are looking for volunteers. Anybody that wants to get involved can come by. We have so many opportunities and people can come up with their [own] ideas. Some people can do storytime with the kids. You can help with the senior program. If you like to research and other things, and maybe you are not into railroads, we have historical buildings around here. We have old cemeteries that need to be inventoried and cataloged. There are lots of churches around," declared Elden Baker. There is no age limit to volunteer.

The Anna Depot and Museum is open on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month from 10a.m. to 2p.m. and is free of charge, but you can donate if you want. The donations help fund the Anna Area Historical Preservation Society. Not only do they work on the depot and other local historic buildings, but they also have a book for sale called *The Spark that Ignited the Town of Anna*, which you can buy at the depot.

Are you interested in learning more about Anna history? You can find more information at <http://aahps.org>.





FOR THE LOVE OF DOGS

By Delzy Lovejoy

Delzy volunteers with the Dog Ranch Rescue in Anna.

If you drive just a few minutes away from Weston and wind down a county road in Anna, you will find a magical place called Dog Ranch Rescue. Anyone desiring to be part of the world of dog rescuing has the opportunity to be involved in the amazing work we do at the rescue.

Dog Ranch Rescue, a 501(c)(3) charity, is located on County Road 28 and was founded by Renee Eden in 2014. The goal of Dog Ranch Rescue is to rescue and rehabilitate strays and other dogs found in puppy mills and shelters. Dogs accepted by the rescue are often unsocialized, ill, emaciated, neglected or abused, and are very distrustful of humans. Some dogs require more care than others; every dog receives extensive vetting and has all of their medical needs addressed. These medical needs include, but are not limited to, vaccinations, heartworm treatment, spaying or neutering, and in some cases, additional surgeries. While working through the vetting process, rescues are socialized with both people and other dogs. When appropriate, we test their temperaments around children and cats.



Once the dogs are rehabilitated, they are sent off to live in loving homes found through a rigorous adoption process. Potential families are interviewed to ensure the adoption is a good fit. Then, families submit videos of their homes along with veterinary references before they are approved. Dogs are placed with families that we feel will suit their needs and personalities best.

All funding for Dog Ranch Rescue comes from our generous donors, lovingly referred to as “The Village”. Our donors provide the finances needed to pay for medical expenses, food, supplies, and pays for a limited staff. We also have our own building, referred to as The Village Sanctuary.



Dog Ranch Rescue places some dogs in foster care, but those not in the care of a foster family reside at The Village Sanctuary and are cared for by staff and volunteers. Open 7 days a week, 365 days a year, the dogs have someone in the building with them from 8a.m until 8p.m. The Village Sanctuary enables the dogs to have the freedom to choose to be indoors or outdoors and gives them the option to play and socialize with caretakers and other dogs for a large portion of the day. The Sanctuary is equipped with twenty-seven dens, five separate yards, and an isolation room (with its own ventilation system) that is utilized for very sick dogs. Dog Ranch Rescue has an amazing group of people who feed, medicate, and socialize the rescues and will transport the dogs to appointments, if needed.

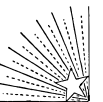
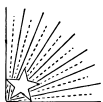
With your help, we can continue to help more dogs in need and find them a home where they will live their best lives. If you are interested in

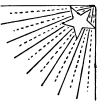
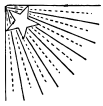
donating, please visit our website at <https://dogranchrescue.com/> and if you would like to become a volunteer, please send an email to dogranchrescue@gmail.com. We also invite you to follow our Lone Star Dog Ranch Facebook page.

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Weston Heritage Guild

Are you interested in helping to preserve Weston’s history? Volunteers are in the process of forming a historical society called the Weston Heritage Guild. We are looking to recognize cemeteries, buildings, and other important places with markers as well as collect oral histories from the elders in the community. There is lots of exciting work to do! We meet at the Weston Community Center on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30p.m. Contact Brittany at westonheritageguild@gmail.com to learn more about the Weston Heritage Guild.





STEVE'S HONEY SHOP

By Cedar Clay

Cedar is a twelve-year-old homeschool student in Weston.

The Texas Range Honey store in Weston has been selling organic wild honey since 2003. Located on Main Street in old downtown Weston, the store doesn't just offer honey; you can also purchase their delicious salsas, olive oil, Texas-made sauces, and eggs by the dozen. Texas Range Honey is open every Saturday, from 9a.m. to 2p.m.



Prior to opening the honey shop, the owner, Steve Goldstein, had owned a marketing business for 35 years until he sold it. Steve knew a beekeeper who wanted to sell honey so Steve contacted him and ordered a case of twelve bottles of honey. Steve sold it all that week so he kept on buying more until he was getting twenty to forty cases at a time. The name Texas Range Honey was inspired by a visit to Napa, where Steve saw an olive store called "Range Olive Oil".

On their website, Texas Range Honey describes their honey-making process: "Unlike highly-processed honey found in most grocery stores, Texas Range Honey is never pasteurized or altered in any way. Before bottling, our beekeeper gently screens out large hive particles like wax, bee parts, etc. from the honey. [Texas Range Honey] is completely unfiltered and responsibly harvested. Free of any chemicals, additives, antibiotics, pesticides, herbicides, and pollutants. We offer the most natural Wild Honey in Texas." Furthermore, supporting local honey producers, like Texas Range Honey, helps the bee population, which pollinates 80% of the world's plants, including ninety different food crops.

Built in 1913, the honey store building used to be the old Weston bank until the vault was robbed and blown up in 1922. According to newspapers of the time, the vault was tunneled through with a crowbar, which had been stolen from the section house of the H&TC railway, south of Van Alstyne. The robbers spread cottonseed on the floor to stop falling bricks from making noise when they dynamited it and took all of the money, some \$764, all in silver coin, and some jewelry. The robbery was not discovered until the next morning and police arrested the burglars at a house in Denison after they made a desperate effort to escape in a stolen automobile. Despite the robbery, the bank remained open until 1927. Today, the only evidence of the explosion is the bricked up windows on the side of the building.

If you wish to purchase honey or other products from Texas Range Honey, LLC, you can visit their store at 116 Main Street in Weston. You can also purchase honey at local Brookshire's stores or online at their website <https://rangehoney.com/>.

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Attention Citizen and Student Writers!

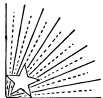


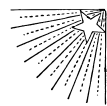
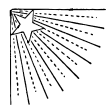
Do you want to write an article about a cool project, recipe, or tell us about farm life? Interested in contributing a piece about homeschooling or local history? Want to cover a current event or have an announcement to share?

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

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 INTO READING

By Joshua Vierck

Joshua Vierck is a twelve-year-old homeschool student in Melissa, Texas. He was the second-place winner in the 2021 Melissa Public Library summer reading challenge.

The Melissa Public Library hosts a yearly reading challenge. This year, the competition will begin on June 4th and the end party will be held on July 30th. Citizens of Weston can receive Melissa library cards. To receive a library card, people 18 years and older must present a valid Texas driver's license. Anyone under 18 can receive a library card if their parent or guardian has a valid Texas driver's license.

To enter the competition, you must get a reading log after filling out a sign-up sheet. Participants who are 18 years and older complete the reading logs by counting the number of books read. Participants who are under 18 years old compete in their age group and count the number of minutes read. Prizes are awarded to the top three winners in each age group.

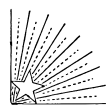
I enjoyed last year's competition and it drove me to read as much as I could. Melissa homeschooler Micah Eastin enjoyed competing with his friends and claimed "it was a fun game to compete with each other. It made me want to read more and more."

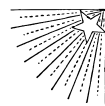
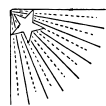
Expect more events like this at the Melissa library. "We plan to have more events like this as more people become loyal to the library" said Melissa librarian Libby Green. "I thought it was very successful with over 400 people competing," said Libby. When asked about the prizes for this year's winners, Libby said, "I can't say that yet, it'll be a surprise".

Want to learn more about the competition? To contact the library call: 972-837-4540. The Melissa Public Library is located at 3411 Barker Avenue.



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TEACHING *THE WESTON POST*

By Brittany Yurkovitch

Brittany is a homeschool mom and teaches 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.

This edition of *The Weston Post* features the writing of several students who participated in a class I taught at a homeschool co-operative in Melissa. My class *Get Published: The Weston Post* instructed aspiring writers in the basic principles of journalism, helped students understand how to determine newsworthiness, and engaged writers in constructive peer-editing sessions to refine their articles.

Parents of students in *The Weston Post* course found that their children were motivated to write and refine their essays when they had a real-world purpose to their writing. Usually, homeschool and conventional teachers alike will tell you that many students are reluctant writers and only write to fulfill the responsibilities of class assignments. Few students have intrinsic motivation and passion for writing and teachers often struggle to generate enthusiasm for both the writing and editing process. Parent Amy Vierck exclaimed, “thanks so much for helping him stoke his love of writing which I didn’t even know existed. He just needed some real life motivation!” Courtney Taylor’s son is excited to see his work published and says “he’s been wanting to have something published in *The Weston Post* for a while, but I don’t think he felt comfortable enough with his article writing skills to come up with anything before now.”



Landon, a student who was previously published in *The Weston Post*, enjoyed the editing and peer-review process—a task which is often the least favorite among students. Landon’s mother, Jasmine Johnson, explained that “Landon took the criticism well, knew it would be better, and was completely fine with having to make changes. He is very interested in contributing again...”

The students’ writing assignment also required them to polish their interviewing skills. Amy Vierck remarked, “It was the sweetest thing to watch him handle librarians. He went right up to them and said ‘I’m Joshua Vierck and I’m a student writer for *The Weston Post*...!’ He literally has handled it all from start to finish. I haven’t even seen the article.”

I thoroughly enjoyed teaching the class. *The Weston Post* is a platform that helps elevate citizen and student writing while informing the local area about noteworthy news and topics. I am thrilled to see students enthusiastically embrace this opportunity to showcase their articles with the public.

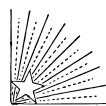
Are you a student and want to get published in *The Weston Post*? Please email thewestonpost@protonmail.org for more information.

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Independence Day in Weston



Planning is now underway for Weston’s famous 4th of July parade. Not only are we looking for volunteers to help coordinate the parade, but we want folks to participate in the parade as well. Please contact Susan at City Hall and visit www.westontexas.com for more information about volunteering or signing up to be in the parade.





2022 COLLIN COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION'S STUDENT ART & POETRY COMPETITION

When: Due Monday July 11, 2022

The Collin County Historical Commission is hosting an art and poetry 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 published in *The Weston Post* and will be shared widely by the CCHC. Submissions are due by midnight on July 11, 2022.

Topic: Create a piece of art or poetry celebrating an aspect of Collin County history.

Need some inspiration? Considering visiting one of the following 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)

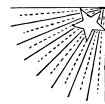
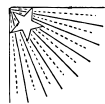
Visit <https://www.collincountyhistory.com/> or research a notable local historical figure:

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 Hedgoxe, 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

Art submissions: Your art can be any medium. When submitting your art, please scan or photograph your piece (multiple photos can be taken if your piece is 3-dimensional). Send your photos to CCHCsubmissions@gmail.com. With your email, please include your name, age, school, title of work, dimensions, medium used, and a paragraph describing your work. Submissions are due by midnight on July 11, 2022.

Poetry submission: Your poem may be no longer than 20 lines and be in any style except concrete (shape poems) or blackout poems (marker covering another author's text to create a poem). Email your poem to CCHCsubmissions@gmail.com. With your email, please include your name, age, school, title of work, and a paragraph describing your poem. Submissions are due by midnight on July 11, 2022.

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KNOW YOUR PLANTS: WILD CARROT VS POISON HEMLOCK

By Courtney Taylor

The following piece is a modified post from the [Wild Foraging in North Texas](#) Facebook group. Courtney 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.

The parsley/carrot plant family includes many very useful and delicious plants, including many of our favorite garden and edible species: carrot, parsley, parsnip, cumin, caraway, celery, dill, fennel, cilantro and more! There are also several wild members of the carrot family that grow in North Texas that have uses as a food or spice, including hedge parsley (*Torilis arvensis*) and wild carrot (*Daucus carota*). This family also includes two of the deadliest plants in North America, poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) and water hemlock (*Cicuta spp.*).

In April, I found a considerable population of wild carrot, also called Queen Anne's lace, growing in a disturbed area/ditch in the North Dallas area. I wanted to talk a little bit about differentiating wild carrot from poison hemlock, and show some photos of a correctly identified wild carrot plant.

I am very interested in carrot family plants, and love to study them, but I am also extremely cautious with them. As many people already know, this is one plant family where you want to make sure you know exactly what species you're dealing with before you even consider consuming it, since unlike many other plant families, a mistake can be deadly.

After I took these photos, I brought this plant home and went through the elaborate identification chart that Samuel Thayer made in his chapter on wild carrot in his book *Nature's Garden*. This plant checked all the boxes for wild carrot that it possibly could at its current stage of growth.

Remember that since there are variations in how these plants can express themselves (depending on climate and soil conditions) it's important to verify the identity from as many angles as possible. The following are some differences to be aware of between wild carrot and poison hemlock:

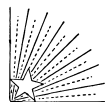
- Wild carrot stems and leaves are often “furry” looking, with stiff, erect hairs. Poison hemlock stems and leaves lack any hairs.
- Wild carrot stems and petioles (leaf stems) are solid when you look at a cross section, and the petioles are channeled (like a wide U-shape) in cross section. Poison hemlock stems and petioles are round and hollow in cross section.
- Wild carrot stems are often light green, sometimes with purplish lines running vertically (like my plant in the photos has), and lack any white powder/bloom. Poison hemlock stems can also be green and purple, and often have little purple spots/splotches on them, and have a prominent white bloom (powder that comes off on your finger) coating the stems.
- Wild carrot (stems, leaves and root) have a strong, pleasant carrot/parsnip smell, poison hemlock does not.
- Wild carrot roots are generally shorter in comparison, and more tapered. Poison hemlock roots are longer and less tapered, often a similar thickness most of the way down the root.

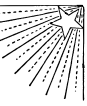
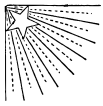
There are quite a few more distinguishing features between the two. I recommend all foragers who are interested, to observe and study these plants with a curious but cautious mind; you can even be extra cautious and use gloves when touching them, for additional peace of mind. I don't recommend eating these plants until you consider yourself experienced and have plenty of resources to identify the species with 100% accuracy.

Continued on Page 21



Wild carrot roots have a pleasant smell





Samuel Thayer's book, *Nature's Garden*, is the best resource I've come across to learn more about the prominent edible members of this family, as well as their toxic "look similars"! There are quite a few very helpful comparison photos of these plants in this book, as well.

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



Note the "furry" wild carrot stems



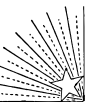
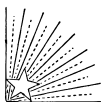
☞ Poison hemlock lacks furry stems and leaves ☞

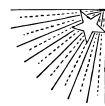
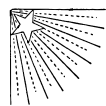


Early flower of a wild carrot



☞ Poison hemlock has a prominent bloom on the stems ☞





GROW YOUR NORTH TEXAS VICTORY GARDEN

By Jill Spurgeon

Jill loves to grow her own food and has over 23 thousand subscribers on her [North Texas Vegetable Gardening and Cooking YouTube channel](#).

There's no denying that many changes that have taken place in our world since the pandemic began in early 2020. However, for my family, the only thing that changed for us was our desire to hone our already active skills in gardening, food preservation, and self-sufficiency.

My husband and I live in Johnson County Texas where we have a small piece of land that we have grown our veggies on for about 16 years. What started out as a hobby has now become what we feel is a necessity. We have grown from our 1000 square foot conventional garden to now having two high tunnels, three raised beds, and a smaller conventional garden. All together we look to have over 5000 square feet of growing space to be planted this spring.

We are not master gardeners or are what we would consider professional farmers; we have learned through trial and error, watched many YouTube videos, and read plenty of gardening books along the way. We have literally weeded our way through the validity of "quick tips," "one little trick," and other types of information that promises to lighten our load. Following these tips sometimes result in failure, but other times we emerge victorious!



History Repeating Itself

Speaking of victories, we began reading up on how Americans kept victory gardens during WWII to keep their families and their neighbors fed during this era. I used to think these gardens were to help feed the troops, but I was wrong. American civilians were issued ration cards for meat, pork and high-end foods to ensure that the troops had plenty of high protein and calorie foods available. War propaganda included the message that "Food will win the War!" To achieve this wartime victory, Americans converted yard space into a victory garden which allowed the average person to supplement their rations with delicious, nutritious foods they grew themselves. Not only did gardening help people feel like they were doing something for their families, growing food was also a sign of patriotism; they were supporting the troops and the American war effort at home.

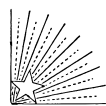


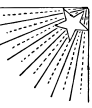
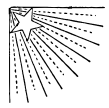
Gardening is an essential part of my family history too. My mother would speak often of how her family only purchased flour, sugar, salt and sometimes lard from their local grocer. They also would purchase fabric to make their own clothing. The rest of their food was grown and processed by the family. After I lost my mother last fall, a cousin sent me genealogy information about my mother's family. I was simply fascinated with the fact that many of my great-grandparents were farmers and ranchers less than ten miles away from where we live and garden now.

I learned that while my great-uncles were sent off to fight the Great War, their father worked the land as best as he could. Sadly, he struggled to make ends meet as his sons were off fighting and no longer there to help on the farm. We discovered documentation that, during the Great Depression, he had to sell some of his land here in Johnson County and purchase milking cows which helped him to make his living. The depression brought out the best and worst in people and our society: as he drove to town to sell his last milking cow in order to pay his bills, the bank stopped him and sent him back home with his cow as he had paid his bills for many years and the banker simply didn't have the heart to drive my great-great-grandpa into financial ruin. This chain of events is incredible to me and I am so thankful even though I wasn't even thought of at this time.

The land my family farmed is said to have been about 100 acres of black gumbo dirt, ripe for the planting, with an abundance of post oak trees useful for heating and cooking. While I am unsure where exactly this land sits, I have some information and you can bet we will head out soon and do some exploring. I feel a deep sense of pride and accomplishment knowing I come from a long line of self-sufficient folks and wonder if their prayers are what keep my husband and I working in the family business. There's just something about knowing about your genetic makeup that makes you want to keep that tradition going in some way shape or form. For us, it motivates us to grow our own food and become more self-sufficient.

Continued on Page 23





Of course, farming and gardening were very different than it is now. Our organic garden is where the “old ways” meet the new “old ways”. Our ancestors did not have the modern equipment that makes our tasks quicker and easier. I cannot imagine what it took to prepare, plant, harvest, and preserve that kind of acreage without modern day machinery.

From Vulnerability to Resiliency

Fast forward to today; we are post pandemic and face global unrest, high inflation, and complete uncertainty like never before. I am a firm believer that history repeats itself and that we must look back at our ancestors to see just how they survived during difficult times and learn what we can from them for our days to come.

Learning to grow your own food is a lost talent for many people. Supermarkets provide us with the false sense of security that we will always be able to go and grab whatever food we need in any quantity that we want, at any time of the day. My husband and I watched that false sense of security crumble leading up to the lockdowns in 2020. We rushed to the store, not because we needed anything, but because my parents, his mother, and our daughter were not prepared. We spent two days shopping in various grocery stores grabbing what we could for them. We walked out with a Hormel ham, Eckrich sausage, hot dogs, a pack of chicken legs, and canned tuna for each of their households: slim pickings for sure. We felt very vulnerable. The events of 2020 solidified our resolve to grow our own food year round and fortunately, here in Texas, there are many things you can grow in the fall and winter months to sustain your dinner table.

Regularly, I hear excuses people give for being unable to garden. The top reasons folks have for not growing their own food include not having enough time, space, skills, or money to garden. Might I propose solutions for these issues? Depending on the size of the garden you grow, it doesn't take a lot of time to garden: a couple of hours a week for weeding and watering. I work full time and I found it quite easy to schedule gardening time into my afternoon and weekend routine. Those limited by space should consider container gardening. A Greenstalk planter or some storage tubs can transform a small apartment balcony or back porch into a very productive edible garden. My husband and I grew 35lbs of sweet potatoes in 5 storage tubs last year. Anything can be grown in a container.



Those who lack the gardening skills have loads of information at their fingertips and, just like any other skill, need to start practicing. You will never grow unless you try. I recommend starting with something easy to grow like radishes or lettuce. These plants are quick growers and are sure to stimulate that gardener in you. The cost of a pack of seeds is around \$3.00 to \$5.00 and can contain up to 100 seeds depending on what you want to grow. One tomato vine can grow around 30lbs to 60lbs of fruit each season. Where can you get 30lbs of tomatoes for \$5.00?

Once the gardening bug bites, the next step is learning to preserve your harvests! Canning, freezing, and dehydrating all are very cost efficient options. Want to step it up a bit? Freeze drying is the new food preservation tool hitting serious gardeners who want to save what they grow for the long-term. For me, there is truly nothing more satisfying than opening a homemade canned jar of green beans when making dinner for my family.

Final Thoughts

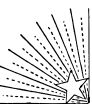
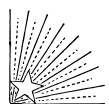
I sincerely hope you are encouraged to grow a garden this year. Make gardening a family planning event while engaging the kiddos on what they want to grow. You may find they will eat those veggies on their plate if they had a hand in growing them!

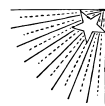
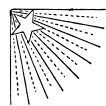
It has been our goal to teach others to grow their own food with our YouTube channel we started around four years ago. We love to engage with our community and develop long term relationships while teaching about what we learn as we go. Do not be discouraged when gardening; it is through trial and error that you learn the most important lessons.

Gardening is not only healthier for your body but it is also good for your mood. It has been proven that the smell of dirt is a natural antidepressant! There are so many benefits to growing your own food. Get out in the yard this weekend and get some seeds or plants going.

Visit the [North Texas Vegetable Gardening and Cooking](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) channel on YouTube. Use Jill's affiliate link to check out the deals on Harvest Right Freeze Dryers to preserve your harvest long term: <https://affiliates.harvestright.com/1137.html>.

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WHAT'S THAT ITCH?

By Michelle Rowton

The following is a modified Facebook post by Michelle Rowton. She lives in Melissa and is a nurse practitioner at Wonderfully Made Wellness Sanctuary.

Chigger season is here in Texas! For our new families who have escaped from other states—you need to know about these critters. Chiggers are a kind of mite that, during their larval stage, bites animals and humans. You almost never see these tiny mites and they enjoy crawling to the warmest places of your body like the groin, bra line, backs of knees, and armpits. Then, they bite you, and leave. In the morning, you wake up with super itchy bites and wonder what happened. I assure you—you do not have bed bugs in your house.

I prefer to use essential oils like DoTerra's Terrashield for chigger prevention. It works well at deterring chiggers and horse flies on my dog's ears. Consider making it a part of your daily dressing routine. Adults can put it on their ankles. For kids, you usually need to be more thorough and at least include wrists and back of neck as they play in the dirt. You may want to dilute some in a squirt bottle and spritz it all over!

Sulfur powder in a sock, knotted at the opening, and then dusted on your socks and shoes helps prevent bites too. Spreading pelletized sulfur around the perimeter of your yard works great as well.

Wonderfully Made Wellness Sanctuary is a children's healthcare provider in downtown McKinney. They offer regularly scheduled health visits for children up to the age of 18, provide care for newborns both in home and at the office, and also specialize in chronic health issues. Wonderfully Made Wellness Sanctuary caters to more naturally minded families wanting holistic care outside of the current medical paradigm whenever possible. You can find them at www.wmwsanctuary.com.



Wonderfully Made
Wellness Sanctuary

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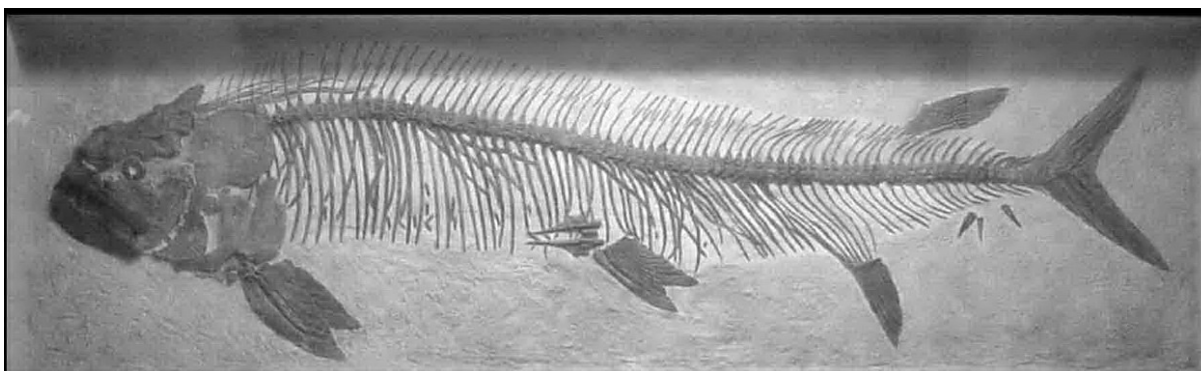


CELINA FOSSIL FISH

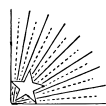
The following information is from a Collin County Historical Marker located at County Road 455 and County Road 127.

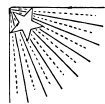
In 1930 a giant fossil fish was discovered near here on Haw Branch by Homer Lafayette Merritt of Celina, Texas. With the help of a trained technician, this fish was carefully excavated and is now on display in the basement of the Texas Memorial Museum, University of Texas, Austin, Texas.

This giant fossil fish from the Cretaceous Period of Texas, measures 12 feet, 10 inches in length. 65,000,000 years ago, when this fish was living, large areas of Texas were covered by warm seas containing a great many kinds of strange plants, fish, clams and reptiles. Initially covered by soft, limy deposits at the bottom of the sea, through time agents of erosion exposed many of these fossils. This particular fish is a relative of present day tarpon, salmon, herring and trout.



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RAFFLE AND SILENT AUCTION

Classroom Counterpoints will be hosting a raffle and silent auction at Weston's famous 4th of July parade. Thanks to Steve and Epi Goldstein for making this silent auction possible as they are donating a five-day stay in their awesome vacation cabin which is twelve miles from Fredericksburg, Texas! The view from the patio is breathtaking. This one-room cabin has a queen bed and queen air mattress. The kitchen has a fridge, microwave, toaster oven; a large charcoal grill sits outside. The cabin has A/C, an indoor toilet, and an amazing outside shower overlooking the beautiful scenery.

The money raised will help print *The Weston Post* and support the mission of Classroom Counterpoints who publishes this quarterly magazine. The mission of Classroom Counterpoints is to support parents and teachers in the pursuit to provide students with a high-quality education that encourages critical thinking and celebrates the achievements of Western Civilization.



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MEMORIAL DAY IN CELINA

At 9a.m. on May 30 at the square in downtown Celina, the Celina Area Heritage Association is hosting a Memorial Day tribute honoring our veterans who have died during the year. Brigadier General Carl Darnall will be honored as well. BG Carl Darnall grew up in the Weston area and went on to invent the water chlorination system present in all modern municipal water systems. This scientific development of transporting clean water has saved millions of lives across the world. Join us at the Celina square to honor our fallen veterans and a special Collin County hero!

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COLLIN COUNTY KIDS TRAIL

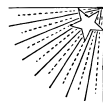
The Collin County History Museum is introducing a new free self-guided tour series for children ages 4-12 called the Collin County Kids Trail. Billy and Billie Bison are the official mascots of the series. The first "trail" follows the life of Collin McKinney as part of the museum's current McKinney Then & Now exhibit. The Collin McKinney Kids Trail will continue while supplies last. The McKinney Then & Now exhibit runs through the end of 2022 and will be followed by an all new exhibit in 2023. The Collin County History Museum is free and open Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10a.m. to 4p.m.

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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.com); and First Christian Church of Weston (www.firstchristianweston.com).

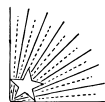
Portal to Texas History

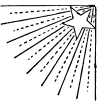
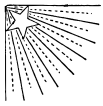
The Weston Post is now being archived in the Portal to Texas History with the University of North Texas Libraries. The Portal to Texas History is a gateway to rare, historical, and primary source materials from or about Texas.

Summer Soccer Fun!



Stepping Stones Church is hosting their first-ever soccer camp run by Ambassadors Football. This soccer camp is designed to give developing players of all skill levels an opportunity to learn basic and advanced skills in a fun, positive, and encouraging Christian environment. You won't want to miss it! The camp costs \$175 and runs during July 26-30 from 9a.m. to noon. Girls and boys aged 4-12 are welcome to join. Stepping Stones Church is located at 6828 County Road 202 in McKinney. You can sign up at steppingstoneschurch.org/soccer.





TIDYING ROADSIDES

Held in conjunction with the *Great American Clean Up* and *Don't Mess With Texas*, Weston's volunteer Beautification and Conservation Committee sponsored another spring "Trash-Off" event on Saturday, April 23. Volunteers from Weston and surrounding areas came out to clean up their neighborhoods and roadways. Folks picked up cleaning supplies and personal protective equipment in the morning, picked up litter from downtown Weston and area roadsides, then brought their full trash bags to the Weston Community Center in the afternoon. Our community collected a total of 26 bags filled with roadside litter. Alderman Heather Richardson found a broken baby gate and busted cattle trough on Weston Road near Cowan Road.

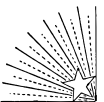
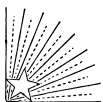


In conjunction with this spring clean-up, the newly created women's volunteer group, Just Women of Weston (Just WOW), hosted their first event: a delicious breakfast taco fundraiser in the Community Center. The breakfast raised over \$550 for Just WOW and Weston Fire and Rescue. In addition to tacos, volunteers served up yummy potatoes, juice and donuts, and the Coffee and Crumbs pop-up trailer served delicious coffee across the street. Just WOW volunteer Carmen Laguardia expressed, "I am so happy our first fundraiser was such a success. I had so much fun and am looking forward to planning our next fundraiser."

Missed out on the spring trash off? Stay tuned— the annual Weston Fall Sweep, with trash collection plus electronic and bulk drop-off, is coming up this fall.



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CELINA GARDEN CLUB

By Lynn Balint

Lynn is the President of the Celina Garden Club.

The seeds of the Celina Garden Club were first planted in June, 1945 by Mrs. T.O. Perry. The club continued to grow and be active into the early 1960s. The club was reorganized in 2002 by Susan Owens, a Collin County Master Gardener, who felt there was definitely an interest in the community for such an organization.

The current membership is made up of fifty local residents who share an avid interest in gardening. The members meet monthly and eagerly share their knowledge with each other. Many monthly meetings feature an authority on a specific gardening topic.

The garden club is a hive of information and a strong partner for the local community. We actively fundraise, teach awareness of our natural surroundings, and volunteer the services of our multiple talented members to better the community.

Our main fundraiser is the Celina Garden Tour, held every other year. The funds from the tour are used to give scholarships to hard-working Celina High School students. This year, on Saturday, June 11 from 9a.m. to 4p.m., the Celina Garden Club cordially invites you to enjoy a day in our gardens with our Celina Garden Tour. We will dazzle you with a variety of home gardening styles and ideas, educational opportunities, garden supplies, plants, food, wine, and fun times.

There will be hands-on vendor demos from gardening professionals who will cover topics like ebb and flow hydroponic systems, raised bed vegetable gardening, soil amending, and drip irrigation, to name a few. You will be able to purchase goods from various gardening suppliers and food vendors.

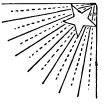
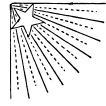
This event is rain or shine and ticket sales support scholarships for our high school seniors. You may purchase discounted tickets online now through June 10th for \$30 and ticket sales on the day of event are \$35. Children 16 and under are free with adult ticket purchase. Please do not bring your pets to this event.

Celina is the perfect place for those wanting to create a perfect and impressive garden in their homes. Just like the town of Celina, the Celina Garden Club continues to grow and change. However, the preservation of the Celina countryside and the beautification of the area are goals shared by all members.

Get your tickets at <http://www.celinagardenclub.org/garden-tour-2022.html> or call 214-957-3655 for special assistance. Tickets are nonrefundable.



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JOIN OUR TEAM

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



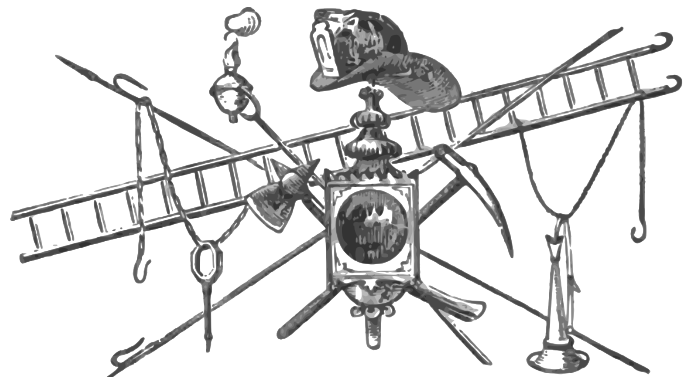
Weston Fire and Rescue is currently asking the residents of Weston Fire District to become volunteers. You will receive training in firefighting or emergency medical services. All the training provided to you is FREE of charge and is always ongoing. Your responsibilities as a member will include responding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

If you think you are ready to take the next step, visit westontxfd.com/join-us/ 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.

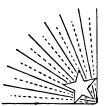
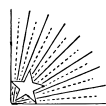


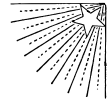
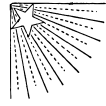
Photos: First Responders Photography

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

Lately, the news of inflation and shortages has many Americans concerned about the country's economic future. While these times may feel like uncharted waters, Americans have experienced shortages (and rationing) during World War II. During the war, families converted their yards into victory gardens to supplement their rations. The following article "Town and Farm in Wartime" was prepared by the Office of War Information and published in *The Celina Record* in 1943. It discusses topics concerning the economic home front like ration card news, victory garden growth, agricultural labor placements, and U.S. resource stockpiles. As food prices rise, perhaps we need to reconsider the wisdom of our ancestors and grow our own victory gardens.



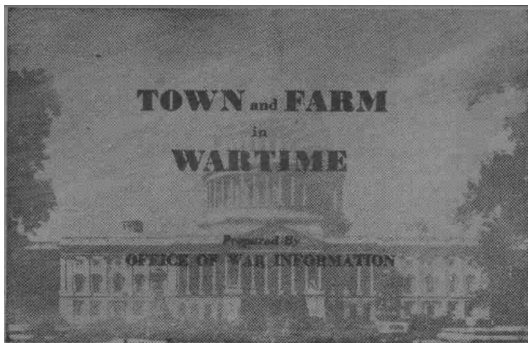
The Celina Record



VOLUME FORTY-TWO

CELINA, TEXAS, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1943

NUMBER 12



Ration Reminder.

Gasoline—In 17 states of eastern shortage area A-6 coupons are now good. In states outside the eastern shortage area A-7 coupons are good through Sept. 21.

Sugar—Stamp No. 14 good for 5 pounds through October. Stamps Nos. 15 and 16 good for 5 pounds each for home canning through October 31.

Shoes—Stamp No. 18 good for 1 pair through October 31.

Stoves—Consumer purchases of rationed stoves must be made with certificates obtained at local War Price and Rationing Boards.

Meats, Fats—Red stamps X, Y and Z good through October 2. Brown stamp A remains good through October 2. Brown stamp B becomes good September 19 and remains good through October 2.

Processed Foods—Blue stamps R, S and T expire September 20, U, V, and W, now good, expire October 20.

Victory Gardeners Set Record.

Twenty million Victory Gardens—two million more than the goal set last spring—were grown this year, Claude R. Wickard, Secretary of Agriculture, said in a recent radio address. The Secretary said the Victory Gardens total about four million acres and will produce eight million tons of food. In speaking of the goal of 22 million gardens for next year, Wickard said, "Last year at this time we were concerned over the possibility that we would not have enough garden seed and fertilizer for all who

wanted to grow gardens—our best information is that we shall have an ample supply of both next year. We are expecting a better supply of garden tools and equipment for dusting and spraying. Victory Garden production should set another new record in 1944."

Farm Labor Placements.

Through the Government Farm Labor program 1,600,000 placements of workers were made on farms in the past four months. Among the workers placed were 700,000 local U.S. Crop Corps workers, comprising 250,000 men, 150,000 women, and 300,000 boys and girls. War Food Administration officials, in making this announcement, stressed the need for additional emergency volunteer workers in the next few months. Recruitment and placement of farm labor are handled by county agricultural extension agents in most areas. In others, the activity is carried on by the U.S. Employment Service.

Points for Home-Canned Foods.

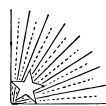
The point value of home-canned foods shall be the same as that of the corresponding commercial product, except that no home-canned food shall have a point value of more than eight points per quart or four points per pound. This was announced in a recent OPA amendment.

Synthetic Tire Prices.

Maximum prices for synthetic rubber tires and tubes have been established by OPA. In the main, they are the same as ceiling prices for corresponding tires and tubes made from natural rubber.

More Goods for Civilians.

Civilians will soon get more cooking utensils, lamps, lanterns, bed springs, innerspring mattresses, non-electric razors, razor blades, plated silverware, brushes, nails, tacks, boilers, radiators, furnaces, screen cloth, and other kitchen and household articles as a result of a recent WPB directive, which reserved a portion of the production of approximately 30 types of products for civilian use. The directive prohibits government agencies from buying goods set aside for [civilians].





Consumer Coal Piles Smaller.

The amount of coal held in storage by consumers diminished 312,000 tons during July, Harold L. Ickes, Solid Fuels Administrator, reported recently. "We have less coal in storage now than we had a month ago," the Administrator said. "The limitations on production make it uncertain to what extent output can be increased. Consequently it would be wise to conserve coal by all possible means so that there will be enough of it to carry on all essential activities and to keep the public warm."

Army Rebuilds Shoes.

Approximately six and a half million pairs of army shoes will be rebuilt during the present fiscal year at plants under supervision of the Quartermaster Corps, Army Service Forces, in Buford, Ga., and Hannibal, Mo. The rebuilding operation in one year will save the government approximately seven million dollars, and will conserve nearly 20 million square feet of leather. Army shoes usually are resoled twice, then sent to Buford or Hannibal for rebuilding. The rebuilt shoes look and wear like the original article and usually are more comfortable because they have been broken in.

Discharged Men Return Uniforms.

Many honorably discharged enlisted men of the Army are voluntarily returning their issued clothing to the Army, thereby saving clothing stocks, according to the War Department. Former soldiers desiring to return their uniforms should address a package to the Commanding Officer of the army installation nearest their homes. The box should be marked "Attention; Quartermaster, Clothing and Equipment Classification Officer." Those who do not desire to pay the cost of transportation may return the clothing by turning over any properly addressed package, not over 30 pounds, to the nearest Railway Express Agency office for collect shipment at government expense.

Druggists Contribute Quinine.

With the compliments of the nation's druggists, more than 11 million five-grain doses of quinine are now on their way to join the war against malaria. Because seizure of the Netherlands East Indies cut off 90 percent of the quinine supply, the army called upon the nation's druggists to make contributions. An appreciable quantity of the quinine donated was produced by Germany and Japan, and it will now assist in the war to defeat those nations.

Blimps Help Fishermen.

Navy blimps, on the lookout for enemy submarines and surface craft in northwestern waters, also are helping the war food program. Under an agreement worked out between the office of the Coordinator of Fisheries and Vice Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher, Navy Comman-

dant in the Seattle area, blimps which sight schools of fish will communicate the news by short wave to fishing vessels. The patrolling blimps can easily spot schools of fish which might take fishermen hours to locate.

Home-Canning of Fish.

Surplus fish can be canned at home just as vegetables from the Victory Garden are canned. The following bulletins on cooking and canning of fish may be obtained from the Publications Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Merchandise Mart, Chicago, Ill.: "Home Preservation of Fishery Products," Fishery leaflet 18; "Cooking Carp," Fishery leaflet 19, and "How to Cook the Bourbot," Fishery leaflet 21. "Wartime Fish Cookery," Conservation Bulletin 27, may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

Search for War Minerals.

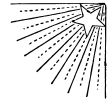
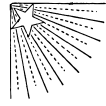
The most extensive exploratory program ever undertaken in the United States and Alaska for war minerals has been launched by the Bureau of Mines. The bureau is sending out its crews in quest of nearly a score of materials needed to supply the armed forces, according to Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior. States in which exploration will be conducted are: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

Gun Covers Protect Bibles.

Bibles which are placed on every life raft and life boat on army transport vessels are being protected from the effects of salt water by the same type of cover that protects pistols, rifles and machine guns in landing operations. Curiously enough, the covers used for pistols are of exactly the right size for copies of the Bible, and have been adopted by the Chaplains Corps as a standard protective covering for them. The covers were developed by the Quartermaster Corps from a pliable, transparent, waterproof film known as vinyl. They are buoyant enough to float the Bibles if they are accidentally dropped overboard or washed out of the rafts in heavy seas.

Public May Get Copper Wire.

The public may purchase copper wire without restriction from retailers, electricians, radio repair men and others who sell it. Under a new WPB regulation any retailer or repair man may order up to \$100 worth of copper wire for delivery during any calendar quarter. Civilians must use this with care, WPB officials pointed out, as it will be needed to cover all essential repairs for general use.



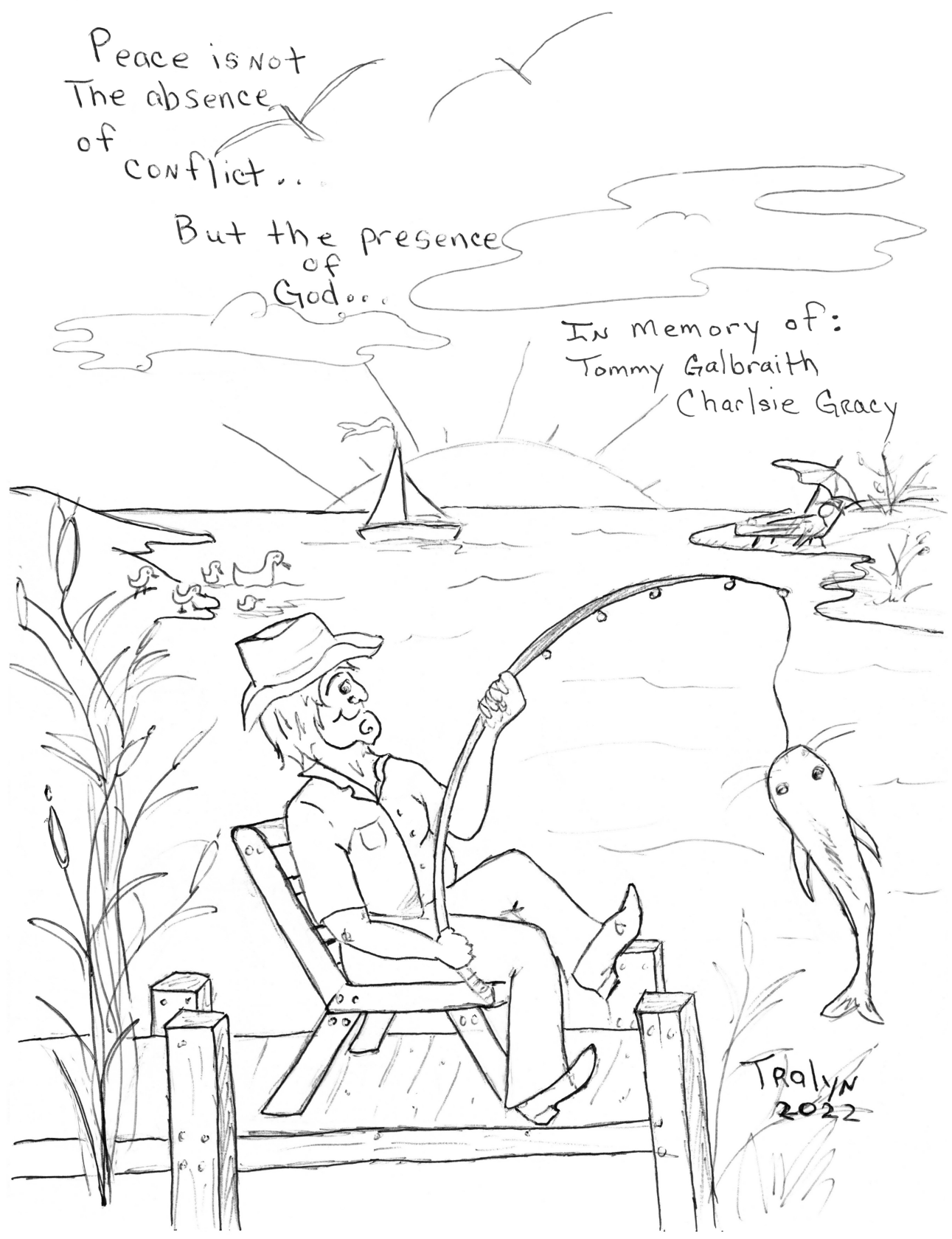
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Peace is not
The absence
of
conflict...

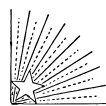
But the presence
of
God...

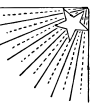
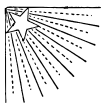
In memory of:
Tommy Galbraith
Charlsie Gracy



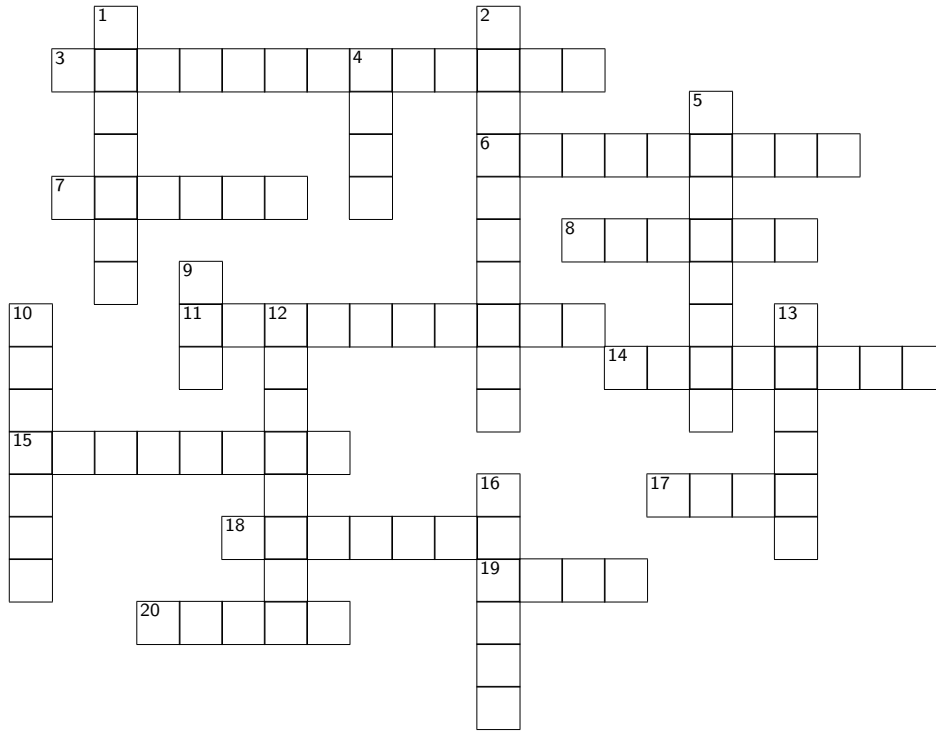
Tralyn
2022

By Tralyn Tadlock





CROSSWORD



Across

- 3 Jean Young profession
- 6 Landon's video subject
- 7 CCHC summer art and ____ competition
- 8 Jasper, ____, and Jimmy
- 11 Weston museum open on July 4th
- 14 Rescue in Anna
- 15 Weston Community ____ Protection Plan
- 17 Queen Anne's ____
- 18 Summer reading challenge library
- 19 Texas Range Honey used to be a ____
- 20 Courthouse interview subject

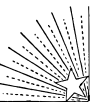
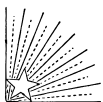
Down

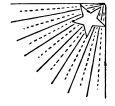
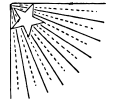
- 1 Garden supplemented weekly rations
- 2 Bible study guide author
- 4 Spring cleaning breakfast fundraiser
- 5 Weston ____ Guild
- 9 Blue Door Owner
- 10 Oscar winner who fought in WWII
- 12 Johnson County gardener
- 13 Weston's Justice of the Peace
- 16 Manure applied directly to garden

Answers found at bottom of last page.

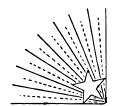
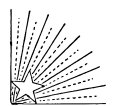
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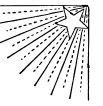
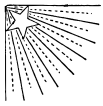
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WORD SEARCH



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

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

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SUDOKU

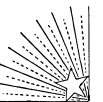
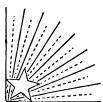


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		7	4				9	
6	9			8	5	7		4
7			8	6	2		4	5
					1		8	7
		1			4			



Answers found at bottom of last page.

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TEXAS LORE

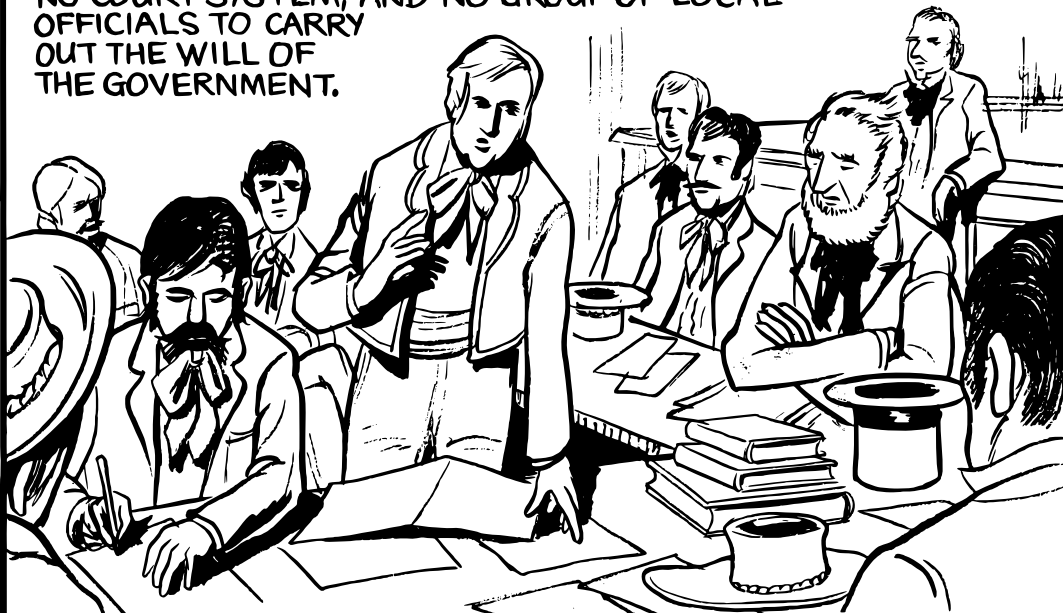
by Patrick M. Reynolds

THE FIRST GOVERNMENT

OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS WAS THE *AD INTERIM* GOVERNMENT SET UP BY THE CONVENTION AT WASHINGTON ON THE BRAZOS IN MARCH, 1836. DAVID G. BURNET WAS CHOSEN AS PRESIDENT (SHOWN BEING SWORN IN), AND LORENZO DE ZAVALA AS VICE-PRESIDENT.



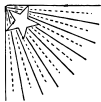
THIS WAS THE MOST CHAOTIC PERIOD IN THE REPUBLIC'S HISTORY. THERE WAS NO LEGISLATIVE BODY, NO ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM, NO COURT SYSTEM, AND NO GROUP OF LOCAL OFFICIALS TO CARRY OUT THE WILL OF THE GOVERNMENT.



THE GOVERNMENT'S MAIN PRIORITY WAS THE REVOLUTION, BUT IF THE MEXICAN ARMY EVER CAUGHT UP WITH THEM, THESE EARLY LEADERS OF TEXAS WOULD HAVE BEEN EXECUTED.

For 20 years, Patrick M. Reynolds researched, wrote, and illustrated *Texas Lore*, which appeared weekly in *The Dallas Morning News* and other publications. Reynolds has given *The Weston Post* permission to use his images. You can purchase his illustrated *Texas Lore* books at www.redrosetudio.com/texas.html.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- ★ **May 30** Memorial Day
- ★ **June 11** Celina Garden Tour
9a.m-4p.m.
- ★ **June 14** Weston City Council Meeting at City Hall
7:30p.m.
- ★ **June 19** Father's Day
- ★ **June 19** Emancipation Day
- ★ **July 4** Independence Day
Weston's 4th of July Parade
10a.m.
- ★ **July 11** CCHC Student Art/Poetry Competition Deadline
- ★ **July 12** Weston City Council Meeting at City Hall
7:30p.m.
- ★ **August 9** Weston City Council Meeting at City Hall
7:30p.m.
- ★ **August 27** LBJ 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

"No man really becomes a fool until he stops asking questions."
—Charles Proteus Steinmetz

Gardening Tip



Fresh rabbit manure makes the perfect fertilizer. It's organic and is approximately two percent nitrogen, one percent phosphorus and one percent potassium. Unlike the droppings from other animals, rabbit manure does not have to be composted first; it can be applied directly to your garden and will not burn your plants.



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

19. BANK 20. YOUNG

Answers: 1. VICTORY 2. GEMAEHLICH 3. DISTRICTLERK 4. TACO 5. HERITAGE 6. ANNADPOT 7. POETRY 8. SHEILA 9. EPI
10. STEWART 11. POSTOFFICE 12. SPURGEON 13. RATEEH 14. DOGRANCH 15. WILDFIRE 16. RABBIT 17. LACE 18. MELISSA

