

# The Weston Post

Issue № 4

Fall 2020



## FIRED UP WITH FIRE CHIEF DAVID HENZLER

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Tell us about yourself.

I am from Dallas and returned after graduating from Stephen F. Austin State University where I met my wife, Denise. After marrying in 1980, we lived in the Dallas suburbs until building our house in Weston in 2001. Shortly after moving to Weston, I started my contracting business which specializes in underground piping replacement.

What do you like most about Weston?

When we first moved here, it was probably the lack of traffic, but we all know how that has changed. Having resided in Dallas all those years, we felt a small town fit our lifestyle and future better. Traffic issues aside, the most prominent characteristic of Weston, for me, is the sense of community shown by the residents.

No matter the length of time living in the area, almost all the people I have met have their neighbors' well-being and the Weston vicinity's future at heart. A crowded city like Dallas does not have this feeling. The decision to leave all the concrete and cookie cutter houses behind and move to a rural area takes thought and commitment by those who are willing to go above and beyond to support the community.



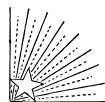
Photo: Denise Henzler

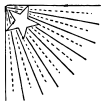
Tell us about the Weston Volunteer Fire Department (WVFD).

The Weston Volunteer Fire Department was founded in 1968 by a group of local residents to provide emergency response and fire protection for the town of Weston and the surrounding area. In the 50+ years since its founding, the mission has not changed. Still backed by citizens stepping forward to answer the call(s), these members provide an invaluable service to the community. Each volunteer demonstrates the ultimate sense of dedication to their neighbor and the entire fire district which encompasses approximately 100 square miles.

In addition, Weston VFD provides mutual aid support to surrounding cities. All of this is completed as an independent charitable organization not affiliated with the city and funded largely by donations. Every dollar received plays an integral part of the service provided by the WVFD (further details can be found on our website—[www.westontxfd.org](http://www.westontxfd.org)).

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Please remember, the most important aspect of the Weston VFD is the people who make the unselfish commitment to volunteer for the benefit of our area. So, at the next 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade, city event, or fund-raising dinner of which a Weston firefighter is assisting, please stop and show some appreciation for all the work and effort. The gratitude shown by locals is the paycheck each volunteer receives.

**Is the WVFD looking for volunteers?**

The fire department is continuously in search of qualified prospective volunteers. With the growth in the Weston fire district and the increased response demand, additional personnel become vital to maintain a level of preferable service.

The most efficient process for those interested in membership is to visit our website—[www.westontxfd.org](http://www.westontxfd.org). Valuable information along with applicant submittal is available. I think all our Weston area residents should visit the website as it will provide a better understanding of and appreciation for our organization. Some will hopefully be spurred to apply.

**What is your vision for the future of the WVFD?**

The long-term future of the WVFD will mirror that of the city and surrounding parcels. Growth will dictate the future of not only the fire department, but also the city, water supply, and even the citizens. Drive just 10 miles in almost any direction from city hall to see what can happen when a town is caught in the path. Celina, Anna, and Melissa were all volunteer fire departments not that long ago.

The immediate outlook involves facilities, apparatus, gear, equipment, etc., similar to any service business. Each new member requires extensive outfitting and training which means money and time. These issues are just a few of those that come with the growing pains every volunteer department endures while still providing the public with quality response.

The Weston VFD will continue to grow and adapt as times change. Eventually, a split volunteer/paid organization will be developed. Finally, a fully paid department will be mandated along with city sponsorship. When this last stage occurs, the “V” will no longer exist. At that time, the idea born in 1968 will only be a part of history.

**What do you want residents to know?**

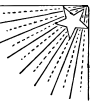
For more than eighteen years I have been fortunate to be a member of the Weston VFD. In 2002, after joining and intending to volunteer for a few years, I met a group of special people including Kenneth Cowan and Tom Gracy that changed my original intentions. Volunteering had been a part of my life before moving to Weston but the VFD members showed another level of service. Fighting a grass fire in the July heat, responding to a 2a.m. medical call, or watching the sun come up after being on a scene all night did not dampen the commitment the members displayed on a daily basis. Obviously, this became a big part of my life.

The faces have changed over the years, but the purpose has not. Those special people still exist on Weston VFD. I am lucky to still be a part of a great organization and be associated with all the extraordinary men and women that have answered a call and need over the years.

Moving to Weston was one of the best decisions Denise and I have made and we appreciate all the good people we have encountered.

A closing thought—over 70% of the firefighters in the U.S. are volunteers.

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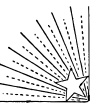
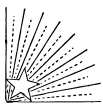
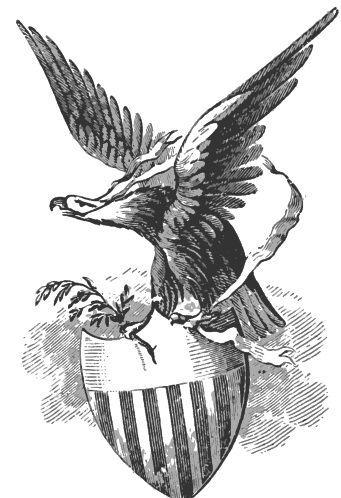
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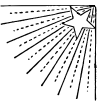
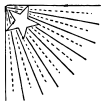
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# SCHOOLING IN “THE NEW NORMAL”

By Brittany Yurkovitch

For most Americans, our jobs, travel plans, and grocery trips were severely altered due to coronavirus concerns and the subsequent lockdowns. Education, too, has been radically transformed. This spring, schools quickly shifted entirely to online learning platforms while high-stakes exams like the SAT, ACT, and Advanced Placement tests were either postponed or completely redesigned. This summer, families and educators had the opportunity to reflect on the spring semester and had to decide how they would approach a school year fraught with many unknowns. For many families, exiting the public school system and opting to homeschool was the best choice for managing the uncertainty of the school year.

## Escaping the System

Whether concerned about health, new COVID protocols, or curriculum issues, parents have many reasons for withdrawing their kids from the public school system this semester. Amy Aultman, an Anna mom, chose to homeschool because she “didn’t want the kids to be tossed back and forth between virtual learning and in-person learning.” Plus, she “[does] not feel that virtual learning is effective nor does a child need to be in front of a computer for that long.” Aultman was also concerned about social distancing and mask mandates. She says “children need to be able to play and interact to learn and develop different skills. They can’t do that if they are required to stay apart... I also do not feel that a child should have to wear a mask all day; it can be a distraction and [be] hard to breathe at times.”

Aultman loves spending lots of time with her children and wants to teach them about life in her own way. Amy and her husband Cody own their own decking and construction business; they incorporate learning on-the-jobsite skills along with academics. “I am super excited to teach them life skills, work on daily responsibilities and chores, and learn how to take care of our animals... I’m also excited for our kids to be involved in our family business. They’re learning carpentry skills, problem solving skills, as well as simple tasks and responsibility.” Aultman is still finding her homeschool groove and thinks “being connected with other homeschool moms and being able to get together and do activities would be very supportive.”



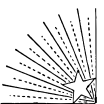
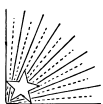
**You won’t learn how to use a torch in elementary school!** Photo: Amy Aultman

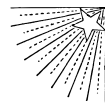
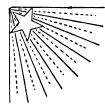
Claire Smith, a Plano mom with big plans to start a school this year, decided to change gears. Instead, she helped form several homeschool cooperatives. Smith helped match 31 students with 4 teachers into part-time homeschool co-ops with half of those students being withdrawn from public school this year. She worked with teachers and families looking to avoid all-day mask and social distancing requirements, standardized testing rules, and sterile classroom environments scrubbed with harsh cleaning products. Parents also wanted their children to have smaller class sizes and a more personal educational experience.

While the traditional classroom groups students by age, Smith’s customized homeschool meet-up groups are able to capitalize on the varied ages of the students. Smith explains that these groups are “...blended-age so the older ones get to help teach the younger ones and in turn they learn. And then the younger ones get to kind of watch how the world turns through an older kid’s eyes and follow their leadership... we love it.”

Some parents, angry with what they perceived as the mixing of politically or culturally charged issues into the curriculum, are deciding to keep their kids home. Veteran homeschooler, Heather Richardson, has been approached by several concerned parents and explains “...another layer to parents’ decision making is seeing, through virtual learning, what their children are being subjected to in the school system, which has outraged some [parents]... for many, it was the final straw.”

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John Lewellen is a parent who hasn't made the leap into homeschooling but is seriously considering it after seeing some of the recent curriculum changes at Melissa ISD. Lewellen describes that "because of the pandemic, the school [was] implementing a state mandated advisory period called SEL or social emotional learning. A small blip in the back to school plan mentioned mindfulness. Mindfulness is a Buddhist meditation practice which goes against our belief in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. My main problem is how can we know what the schools are teaching and how as parents can we compete with 8 hours a day, 5 days a week? We are reluctant to pull the kids from public school because we cannot afford to take the time off work to school them ourselves."

John and other members of the Melissa community spoke out against this mindfulness program and it seems that their protests have made a difference. Currently, John's children, along with their peers, are enjoying their new-and-improved advisory period without the mindfulness curriculum.

### Teachers Jumping Ship

Local teachers, too, are dissatisfied with "the new normal" and have left the public school system. A Coppell ISD high school teacher, who wishes to remain anonymous, confided to *The Weston Post* that he was extremely unhappy teaching in the current environment. This year, his workload exploded due to teaching both remote students and face-to-face students, simultaneously. He was tasked with policing mask and social distancing requirements, which many students were reluctant to obey. This enforcement caused a tense learning and work environment which destroyed the joy in the teacher-student relationship. He has recently left his teaching position and accepted employment with a firm in the private sector.



Photo: Natalie Brockmeyer

The first day of homeschool with Mrs. Brockmeyer

Natalie Brockmeyer, a former Northwest ISD first grade teacher resigned this school year due the new restrictions imposed on teachers and students. Brockmeyer explains "one week before teachers were to report back to duty, the superintendent said that all staff and all students were required to wear masks all day, even within the classrooms at their seats. I reached out to my principal and asked if exemptions are being allowed and was told 'no.'"

Brockmeyer continued, "The following day, I put in my [letter of] resignation stating that I could not morally or ethically enter back into a work space that was mandating such things. I said that our motto specifically states, 'every child, every day' and we are doing the exact opposite. What about

the special needs child, the deaf child [and] all the children learning to read who can now not see your lips? What about the damage we are doing to these children socially/emotionally?"

Leaving the school system was difficult for Brockmeyer. "I mentioned all these things in my resignation [letter]. The following day I was contacted by HR stating I couldn't be released from my contract and, long story short, I had to hire an attorney to hit them with a demand letter and then I was released."

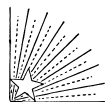
After leaving her position, she started her own thriving teaching business. "I knew I wanted to keep teaching so I took on six public school children [whose parents] didn't want to put their children through the hell of school and mandated masks." As for her new teaching gig, "it's been a great time! It's been super flexible, low key, and I'm able to meet the needs of each kid individually without the pressure of the school system." Teaching from home has not been financially harmful either. Brockmeyer no longer needs daycare services for her son and is able to include him in her classes.

### Struggling to Adjust

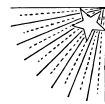
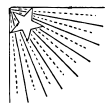
Not everyone learning from home has jumped straight into a happy homeschool routine. Concerned about the health of her immune-compromised family member, Epi Goldstein chose to keep her kids at home and utilized the online learning platform from Celina ISD. Faced with juggling the demands of caring for her elderly mother-in-law, volunteering in Weston, doing some unexpected home remodeling after a destructive water leak, and now, teaching academics to her children, Epi has found homeschooling to be extremely burdensome.

Epi says "it's been a struggle and it's so very stressful. Prior to this year, my kids were A and B students [and now] their grades are really, really bad. A lot of parents are dealing with the same issues and are struggling. One of the things I've noticed when kids are doing Zoom lessons—you can hear the teacher's stress that they're experiencing." Because of these challenges, Epi is sending her kids back to face-to-face schooling in November.

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Anni Jezek, a retired school teacher and owner of the Lone Star Schoolhouse in Celina, is supporting parents and teachers who find themselves struggling in these new roles. Jezek explains that parents “fear that they don’t have the teaching skills necessary for their kids... Yes, it’s about teaching the kids but it’s more to empower the moms into more confident teachers.”

### Homeschool Veterans Help Newcomers

This spring, homeschooling families experienced fewer disruptions to their lives as they were already accustomed to a home-centric lifestyle. These families have become leaders among newcomers to homeschooling. In June, a group of experienced homeschool moms from the Prosper Classical Conversations community held a meet-and-greet panel for prospective homeschool families. Weston’s Heather Richardson spoke at the panel about her blended approach to teaching and encouraged newcomers to be patient.

Richardson advises new homeschoolers “to give it some time for adjustment. You are diving into a completely foreign way of life and it takes at least a month to get to know your children’s learning style and adapt to your children’s strengths and weaknesses. You CAN think outside of worksheets; go outside and be hands-on and learn by experience. Don’t compare your teaching methods to the public school’s methods. And don’t think because you didn’t address something specific that their peers in public school did that you have to take that task on. You are comparing apples to oranges now. Your child isn’t behind!”

### Upcoming Mass Exodus from College?

It’s not only K-12 education that has seen this transformative shift in the learning process. Many colleges and universities have become some of the most draconian environments in America. Jordan Schachtel at *The Mass Illusion*, a newsletter questioning “the new normal” being imposed upon society, collected many jaw-dropping firsthand accounts of restrictive college life in his “Tales from America’s COVID College Campuses” article.

Schachtel reported dozens of stories of prison-like conditions in dormitories and campuses across the nation. One mother, whose son attends a college in the University of Texas System, explained, “my son is a Freshman. All his classes are online. He chose to live on campus in order to experience a semblance of college life. In his giant dormitory, his room is [the] only one with three guys. They have knocked on doors in their hall trying to meet people, and have been chastised and hassled by the RAs for being ‘radicals’ for simply reaching out to others.”



Photo: Natalie Brockmeyer

**Brockmeyer’s homeschool classroom.**

CLEP credits are accepted by thousands of universities across the nation. In fact, it is entirely possible to graduate from homeschool with a college degree earned mostly through CLEP testing and a few additional online courses. If you have questions about homeschooling or earning college credit through CLEP testing, then please reach out to Brittany at [classroomcounterpoints@protonmail.com](mailto:classroomcounterpoints@protonmail.com).



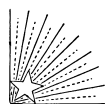
**The Aultman family builds a steel barn**

Photo: Amy Aultman

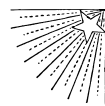
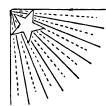
She continues, “the chow hall staff does not allow these room-mates to sit together at the same table. Tables are a radius six feet apart. Every interaction is actively discouraged. The general school population has adhered to the solitary confinement model. [Students] keep their heads down, masks on, and avoid even saying ‘hello’ walking around campus. My son has said their fear is palpable.”

Given these severe restrictions, the expense of tuition, and the proliferation of alternatives to earning college credit, like credit by CLEP examination, will the university system see a mass exodus like its K-12 counterpart?

Collin College has recently reopened its CLEP testing site so homeschoolers have the option to earn college credit by exam.







# BLACKSMITHING IN NORTH TEXAS

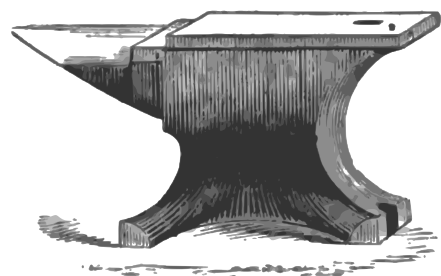
By Kelly Kring

Folks will view an image of a blacksmith at his forge working over the anvil and think to themselves, “that’s a lost art!” In our modern society, metallic items are fabricated in large factories, and when they break, these items are often trashed instead of repaired by the local smith. Historically, every profession, in every city, town and village demanded the skills of a blacksmith. But by the 1950s, few master blacksmiths remained. The few remaining men who possessed these traditional skills found work in modern machine shops or vehicle repair garages. By 1970, there were fewer than fifty working blacksmiths left in the entire United States.

These last few blacksmiths, along with art and history lovers, revived the craft. Blacksmithing increased in popularity as the arts community gained an appreciation for the forged steel and iron medium while building and house museums required blacksmiths to produce historically accurate fixtures. These niche communities started looking for smiths and training folks skilled in traditional metalworking. By the 1980s, there was a need to organize the revival of the old trade as interest increased across the country. A group, called the Artist Blacksmithing Association of North American (ABANA), formed to teach and preserve the skills and creativity of the blacksmith.

In the late 1990s, a local group of student blacksmiths created an ABANA affiliate group called the North Texas Blacksmithing Association (NTBA). These early NTBA members were a mix of young and old, and experienced and inexperienced smiths who gathered once a month to meet and share ideas and techniques. Today, the NTBA boasts over 150 members including skilled instructors, local shops, and a handful of professional blacksmiths who make their living (almost) as their ancestors once did! The NTBA has helped local museums, like the Heritage Farmstead Museums in Plano and Frisco, Chestnut Square in McKinney, and Fort English in Bohnam, set up historically preserved metalworking shops. These shops offer a chance for citizens to learn more about the traditional craft in a historically accurate setting while giving blacksmiths a place to forge.

Most have kept up with blacksmithing mainly as a hobby, but a few have gone on to start their own shops and teach students. One local instructor was asked recently how many students he’s taught in his nearly twenty years of teaching. He replied, “My best guess (I never thought I’d have to keep up with the actual numbers) has to be around 400 plus! I started teaching because I never had anyone to teach me when I started. I knew how important it was to learn the hard lessons through the experiences of someone who knew them and didn’t want others to ‘suffer’ like I did!” Now, two local colleges offer classes in blacksmithing: Brookhaven College in Farmers Branch and, as of spring 2021, Collin County Community College will offer blacksmithing classes as part of their associate’s degree program for welding and metals.

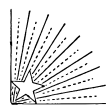


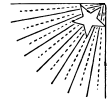
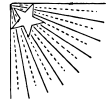
Social media and the competition show *Forged in Fire* have fired up the passion of want-to-be blacksmiths and knife makers! While *Forged in Fire* competitors work to create beautiful knives, it’s important to note that knife making is just one of dozens of branches of blacksmithing which include the creation of locks, axes, stair railing, window décor, chandeliers, doors, coat racks, historically accurate armor, camp cooking gear, and more!

Despite the near extinction of the blacksmith, we may have to rethink the idea that this profession is a lost trade as it is a growing art form that continues to keep the past and future alive in the fires of the forge and the ringing of the anvil!

*Kelly Kring has been a member of the North Texas Blacksmithing Association and now serves on the Board of Directors. You can contact the NTBA on Facebook and find them at Fred Cole’s Shop, 715 Pony Express Trail, McKinney 75071 on Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 9a.m. They will demo making nails and bottle openers.*

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# SOCIAL MEDIA PREDATORS

By Amanda Mchenry

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

## Scamming Kids Online

If you watch movies like *Taken*, it's easy to get the idea that a large number of children—both boys and girls—are abducted and trafficked by strangers driving white, windowless vans. However, the reality is that children are more likely to fall prey to traffickers via social media contact rather than by kidnapping by total strangers.

Traffickers often create an alternative identity for the purpose of friending and following children on social media. Many kids have no problem accepting these friend requests or follows from these strangers on platforms like Instagram or Snapchat. The nature of social media makes it easy for children and teens to overshare important information and lay bare their vulnerabilities that traffickers seek to exploit.



For example, a teenaged boy may vent frustrations about his parents and complain about how much he dislikes them and their rules. The trafficker hones in on that vulnerability and offers a sympathetic ear. The predator may suggest meeting up or offering the teen a place to crash. An initial encounter may prove to be harmless but contact is established to gain the victim's trust. Over time, the teen is groomed and, sadly, it doesn't take long for the child to become a trafficking victim.

So-called "Romeo" pimps tend to target vulnerable girls. An adult, often assuming the identity of an attractive teenaged boy, will initiate contact with a girl and shower her with compliments. Like the example with the teenage boy above, the relationship will begin online and then will move into the real world. In the beginning, it's like a whirlwind romance and the girl believes she has a boyfriend. The relationship may escalate to the exchange of nude photographs which may be used against her as blackmail. After a thorough period of grooming, the pimp may give a sob story about needing money and then begs the girl to do a one time "sex for money favor." But it's just a ruse and it doesn't take long before the girl is trapped in a trafficking situation.

## Tricked in Collin County

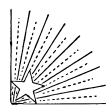
In 2018, *D Magazine* reported on the story of Plano High School junior Mackenzie Baldwin, who in 2013, narrowly escaped a Romeo-style trafficking scam. She came from an all-American Christian family. Mackenzie loved to play with her pets, hang out with her friends, and use social media. Using the chat service Omegle, she started talking with a guy, Aadam, who flattered MacKenzie with positive attention.

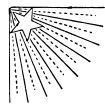


Aadam was an attractive, older Muslim man from Kosovo. After befriending Mackenzie via Omegle, the conversation became more flirtatious. Eventually, he claimed to be in love with her and encouraged her to convert to Islam so they could marry. Aadam also told Mackenzie that her friends weren't a good influence on her and that she shouldn't hang out with them anymore. Mackenzie spent less time with friends and more time online with Aadam. She began arguing with her parents over religion and strongly considered converting to Islam. Her parents thought she was simply in a "rebellious phase" and that she would snap out of it.

Eventually, Mackenzie shipped a cell phone to Aadam so they could Facetime. She expedited a second passport and birth certificate to a secret P.O. box she established without her parents knowledge. Upon graduation, she planned to run away from home, fly to Kosovo, and marry Aadam. A few of Mackenzie's close friends found out about her plans and informed her parents. The parents were shocked and called law enforcement. Three days before Mackenzie's flight to Kosovo, the FBI met up with her and talked her out of it as she was likely being targeted by traffickers.

Mackenzie learned her lesson and now educates other young people about her story and the red flags of an unhealthy relationship. Mackenzie and her parents wrote *Almost Gone*, a book about their experience as a cautionary tale to other families.





## Solutions for Families

Understanding the dangers posed by social media is certainly alarming for parents with technology-obsessed kids. It pays to be diligent and to stay updated on the latest social media apps as they are the perfect place for traffickers to begin to groom their potential victims. However, parents may find it difficult to monitor social media because there are so many new apps coming out that can often be hidden on a child's phone. For instance, there are apps that look like a calculator but are actually a communication platform. Kids in unhealthy online relationships may use these kinds of apps to chat with predators away from the watchful eyes of parents.

Some parents are opting for safe phone options like Gabb Wireless. Gabb looks like a smart phone but has limited functionality; it has no internet, no social media, and has only a few simple apps. The limited functionality helps keep kids away from screens and social media while giving parents the peace of mind that their children are always reachable by call or text.

Not only do parents need to be educated on technology and human trafficking, but so do children and teens. Everyone needs to be aware of social media 'stranger danger' as traffickers are effective at online manipulation and can easily target the most vulnerable kids. We have to step up our game in order to stop predators from exploiting our children.

*Some of our member organizations give talks to groups about social media safety. For more information about these educational talks, trafficking resources, and a list of our member organizations, please visit [www.c7htc.org](http://www.c7htc.org).*

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## MAYOR'S CORNER

By Jim Marischen

Residents of Weston and our surrounding area, I hope you all are safe and virus free. It has been a trying period, over the last few months, as the virus has spread up through Weston. Although our reported cases are still small, they have had an impact on our community. I implore everyone to continue to follow the safe practices of wearing masks, keeping socially distanced, and sanitizing surfaces. The good news is that the State is starting to plan for the distribution of a vaccine which is expected to be available before the end of the year. The initial phase will include emergency providers, those over 65, and others in the high-risk groups.

By the time you read this, the City should have a new set of aldermen and our state and country should know who their leaders will be. The new Weston City Council will have a very busy year. Our Weston Trails development is planning on breaking ground on the Phase I area in December. The Phase I area is a tract of around 200 homes being built North of Chambersville Rd (206) and around  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile west of Bourland Bend Rd (209). The prior builder, D.R. Horton, is out and Megatel is in. The Megatel owner will be presenting a vision for a public lagoon next to this area at the November city council meeting. Please feel free to attend.

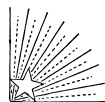
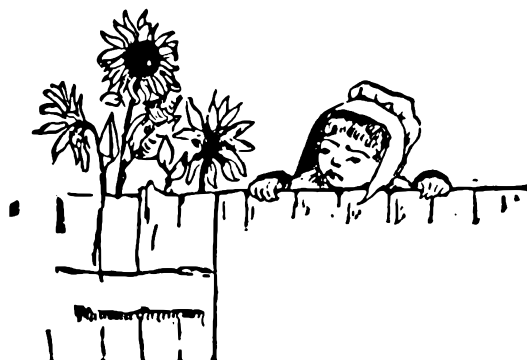
As we enter the holiday season, there are several surprises coming your way. The City has completed the renovations inside the Community Center and it will be opened for limited rentals by Thanksgiving. We are planning the *Light up Weston* event for the week after Thanksgiving. Please come out and meet and greet your friends and neighbors. Other events for the children of Weston are also being planned.

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

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### Coloring Page Submissions

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





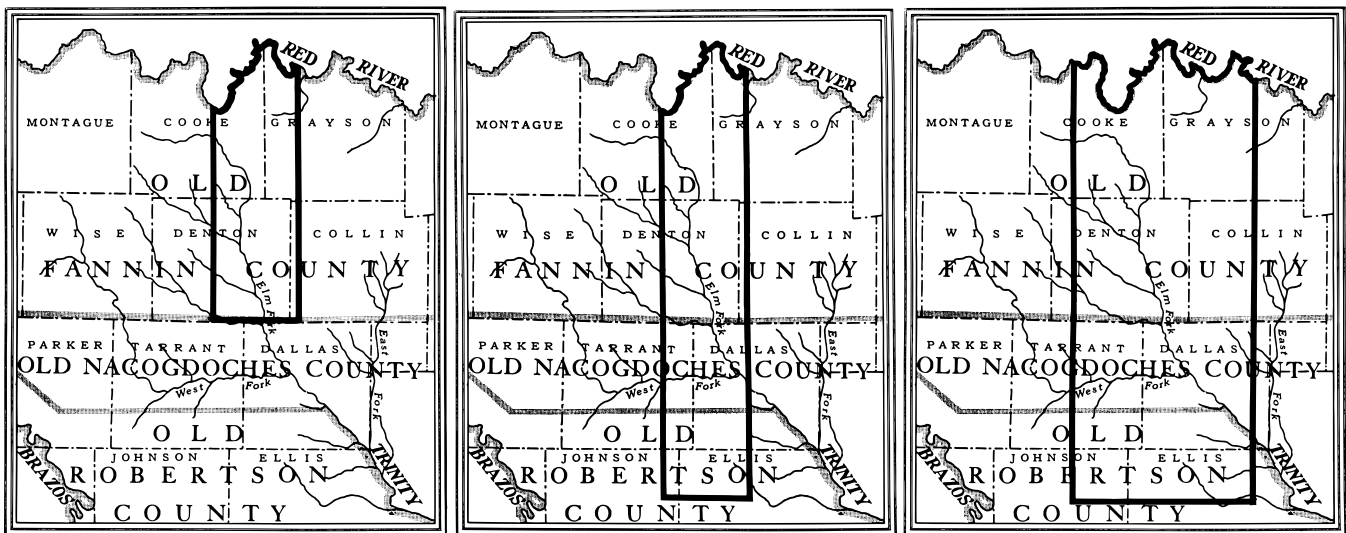
# PETERS COLONY

By Michael Hill

The settling of Weston was very much tied in with the area that became Dallas. The early Weston and Dallas settlers (you can see their names on many street signs near the downtown area) were part of the Peters Colony. The Peters Colony was an enterprise formed in 1841 in Kentucky, and contracted with the Republic of Texas to bring families to North Texas. Its land grant stretched from the Red River to what became Dallas County, in a corridor, and included what became parts of Collin and Denton County, along with other counties mostly west of us now.

The Peters Colony was eventually considered a failure for not attracting the number of families it promised. The contract was changed twice and caused a revolt of land owners that became known as the Hedgecoxe Wars. The early settlers of Weston were largely able to keep their homesteads but Collin County took control of new land grants and sales around the time of the Hedgecoxe dispute. Still, the Peters Colony performed land surveys and issued land grants for many years after.

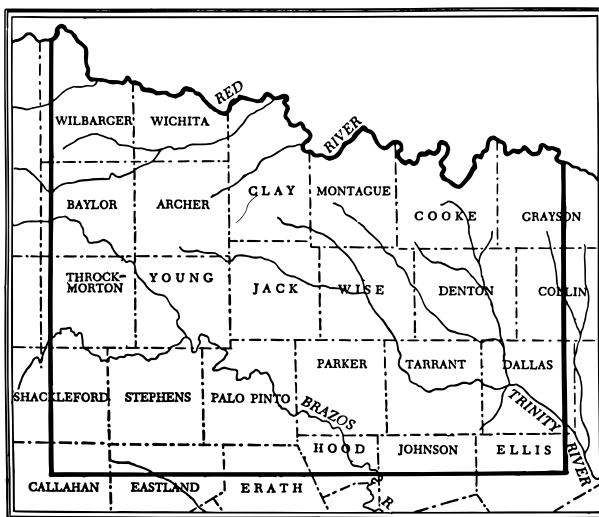
William Culwell, along with many names that might be recognizable to Weston residents, was a member of the Peters Colony. He was one of three men that donated the land that became Weston. Culwell lived and worked about a quarter mile south of downtown on land that is likely to be developed in the future. The area continued to grow and thrive well into the twentieth century. It was only since World War II that Weston declined as a city, although the land continued to be worked.



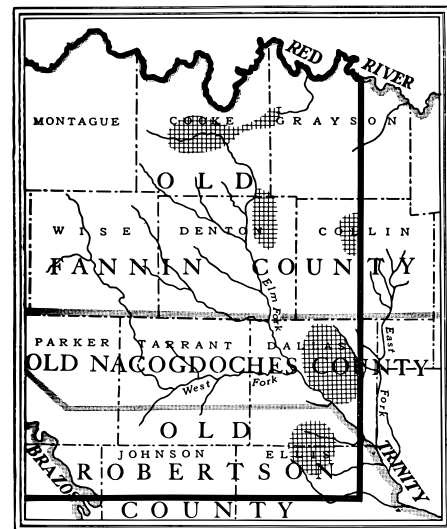
The First Contract

The Second Contract

The Third Contract



The Fourth Contract



Settled area of the colony

Maps: Connor, S. V. (2005). *The Peters Colony of Texas*. Austin: Von Boeckmann-Jones Company. (1959).

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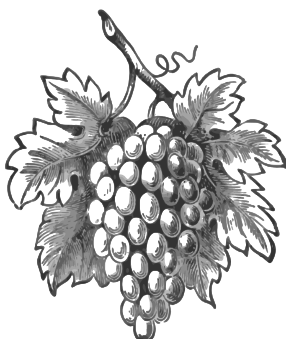
## A TOAST TO TEN YEARS

On Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, Caudalie Crest Winery hosted an amazing ten year anniversary celebration. Ray and Sue Verrill carefully planned the event to ensure that vendors, attendees and volunteers had plenty of space and sanitizer stations while celebrating. Folks sipped delicious wine while enjoying the sunny weather and the great music of Pat Harrigan and the Kevin Deal Band. Food and craft vendors dotted the grounds of the winery selling things like delicious fried pies, barbecue, sorbet, and artistic creations. Small family groups enjoyed hayrides around the vineyard while classic car enthusiasts showed off their stunning vehicles. The Verrills also organized a lemonade sale fundraiser for the Weston Volunteer Fire Department and raised over \$700. The kids marveled at the WVFD's beautiful fire engine.

Weston alderman and Director of Marketing and Advertising at *Edible Dallas & Fort Worth Magazine*, Maria Whitworth, "truly appreciate[d] Caudalie Crest Winery for hosting a safe and FUN celebration! It was refreshing to see grown-ups and kids outside enjoying themselves again. Live music, nice weather, great food, and wine—and a pretty amazing crew who did a wonderful job of implementing safety protocols."

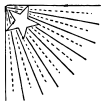
The French word "caudalie" refers to the length of time that a taste lingers on the palate. While it's been a few months since their anniversary celebration, the experience of that day lingers in our hearts. Fortunately, we may not have to wait a decade to have another celebration; the Verrills are considering making this event an annual tradition. Cheers to another ten years!

You can find Caudalie Crest Winery on Facebook and at [www.goatsngrapes.com](http://www.goatsngrapes.com).



Photos: Maria Whitworth





## FUN AT MIMI’S

By Warren Richardson

*The following piece is written by Warren Richardson, a ten year old home-school student.*

We live on a small farm in Weston with goats, sheep, and chickens but no more turkeys. One year, we ate one of our incredibly mean turkeys named Joey. He was frequently mean to my brother and me but the day he ran after my mom, she ordered him to his death—and my dad shot him! He was so large that his feet stuck out of the frying pot!

Every single year I go to my Mimi’s and Papa’s house with my dad, mom, and brother for Thanksgiving. One of my favorite foods all year round is chicken and dumplings—we make extra on Thanksgiving Day. We wake up early in the morning and I watch my mom prepare her sweet potato recipe. Sadly, I don’t like her potatoes but my family loves them. Although we don’t attend church in Weston, I am going to miss driving into town for the Weston Community Thanksgiving dinner this year. There are so many different foods and I am going to miss the fried pies. I am thankful we still have Mimi’s and Papa’s house to drive to.

We hop in the car and drive over to her home in McKinney for lunch. We are usually the first people there. As we wait for my aunt and cousins to arrive with their broccoli salad, we play chess, ping pong, and ski ball. My Mimi is a wonderful cook. She prepares a huge feast quickly and efficiently; it’s almost like she prepares 8 meals in one day buzzing around the kitchen giving orders. The hardest part about waiting for the meal is smelling all of the deliciousness through the air. My dad cuts open the turkey with one of his carving knives. He can’t wait to devour it.

When dinner is over we usually play badminton and trash-can ball outside for a while as my parents clean the kitchen and I eat my favorite dessert, Mimi’s coconut cream pie. After a long day and with full bellies, we head home and get ready for bed.

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### Attention Citizen and Student Writers!



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

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



## GIRLS LEARNING GUNS



For months, Americans have watched their cities explode into violence due to perceived police injustice. With a cell phone in every pocket, folks have been able to view live streams of the widespread civil unrest that is beginning to bleed into the suburbs. Not surprisingly, many people have become greatly concerned about their ability to protect their families. Data collected by the National Shooting Sports Foundation suggests that as of August 2020, about 5 million Americans became first-time gun owners with women comprising about 40 percent of these new firearms owners.

With more people, especially women, purchasing firearms for the first time, it is essential that they learn how to properly use their guns. Retired paramedic and Celina homeschool mom, Kecia Klause, is “passionate about helping women learn the importance of being ‘the sheepdog’ in a world of ‘sheep’ and ‘wolves.’”

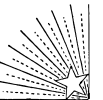
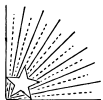
She is a regular at the shooting range and holds one of the first conceal carry licenses issued within the first 60 days of the passing of the 1994 Texas law.

Kecia has carried on her person “while pregnant, nursing, with toddlers, with teens, and in the last 12 years, with chronic pain”. She now teaches courses that instruct women in handling firearms, understanding gun safety, firing at the range, and helping ladies decide the best carry option for their unique situation. “Many women just have no experience with handguns. And while we LOVE our men, they don’t shoot like we do and they certainly don’t carry like we do...”

While Kecia tends to focus on women, she teaches men, too. Her husband, a former paramedic turned police officer with SWAT experience, will often join her when instructing men. Kecia can do lessons at your house or hers and, if schedules align, her teenage daughters can babysit while you focus on learning.

*If you are interested in learning more about Kecia’s classes, please email her at [mrs.klause1992@gmail.com](mailto:mrs.klause1992@gmail.com).*

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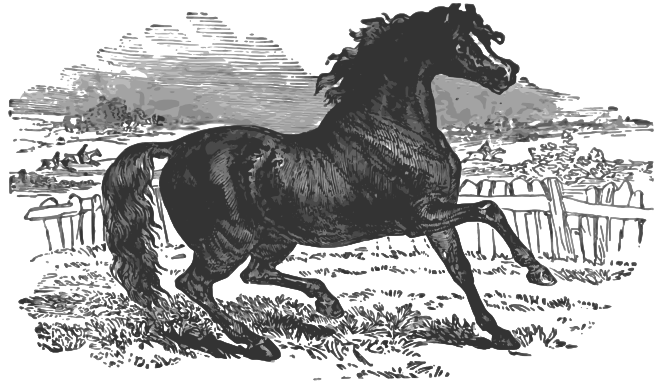


# GALLOPING AT GRANDALIA BEND FARMS

By Patti Gregory

What's going on at the farm on Weston Road with the Christmas sleigh?

In the summer of 2014, my husband, Jack, and I settled in Weston's Grandalia Bend Farms. We purchased our dream farm while finishing our careers and planning for retirement with a new focus on a life we always wanted to lead. After 32 years of employment as an Engineering Product Development Manager for DLP with Texas Instruments, Jack retired in February 2019 and I retired earlier this year as a Database Engineer at Lockheed. Our dream farm is named in honor of my grandparents and a special horse who is retired in our pasture.



Jack and I now work the farm including establishing a hay crop and offering horseback riding lessons. In addition to farm work, we spend our time getting our freshman daughter to school and to her band, art, saxophone, and bass lessons. We have two grown sons in their late twenties working in other big cities. Jack serves on the Weston Volunteer Fire Department and is passionate about restoring his '38 Ford pickup truck in his spare time.

I have always loved horses and have ridden for 46 years doing hunter/jumpers and eventing, but my passion is dressage. I earned my USDF Bronze and Silver Medals and am close to Gold with two Grand Prix scores left to achieve. I also love riding freestyle dressage to music. The Grandalia Bend riding school will specialize in dressage from beginners to FEI level and general horsemanship for all. Board is available for horses in the lesson program. Our riding program has quality equines for every level rider.

Weston has become a special place to us. Nowhere else are the sunsets better than at Grandalia Bend Farms. We hope you will visit us soon!

*Interested in riding lessons? Please contact Patti at [Pattigbf@outlook.com](mailto:Pattigbf@outlook.com) and visit their website at [grandaliabendfarms.com](http://grandaliabendfarms.com).*

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## LUSCOMBE'S WESTON ROOTS

Luscombe Farm was established in Anna in 1913. The owner, Leslie Luscombe, is part of the 4<sup>th</sup> generation living and working on the Luscombe family farm. Her Texas award-winning jalapeño jelly recipe has been passed down for generations and was once only made for friends and family. Leslie's family is deeply connected to Weston; Ed Luscombe and Sis Mugg were her Dad's cousins. When Leslie moved to the farm in Anna and would introduce herself, people would ask over and over again if she was related to Ed.



Ed Luscombe was very well liked in the community and was a counselor and teacher at McKinney High School. His sister, Sis Mugg, ran the general store, Jack's Gro, in Weston. When locals spoke of Sis, they always mention how much they loved her sandwiches that were served on brown paper. The annual Luscombe family reunions were held at the old Weston school house and Leslie has many fond memories of Sis' delicious fried pies!

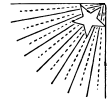
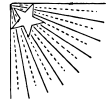
Luscombe Farms began with Leslie's grandmother's pepper jelly recipe. On special occasions and holidays, Leslie would make this delicious jelly and give it to family and friends as gifts. Over the years, she was encouraged to turn her wonderful jelly recipe into a business and has added several new flavors of pepper jelly as well

as adding a seasonal jams and jellies. She has won numerous awards for her outstanding jellies.

Leslie's beautiful farm has been in her family for over 100 years and she still lives in the old farmhouse that was built by her grandfather in 1913. Besides selling jellies, she hosts a seasonal farmers market from May through September and an annual spring, fall, and holiday market at the farm.

Coming up is her Holiday Market on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> from 9a.m. to 4p.m. You can check out Luscombe Farms on Facebook and at [www.luscombefarm.com](http://www.luscombefarm.com).

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# FALL FUN AT 5G FARM

By Brian Giles

My wife, Debbie, and I are the owners of 5G Farm and are located in McKinney near the Myers Park Event Center. Along with our three kids, we run a farm store, serve barbeque and host live music on the farm every Friday. One of the most asked questions we get is about the name of our farm, 5G Farm. It has nothing to do the cellular towers. With our three kids and the last name, Giles, 5G just fit. We have been 5G since before there was any talk of 5G cell service.

At the beginning of the year, Debbie and I were running the farm and working full time jobs, but then I switched to farming full time. All our produce is grown with no synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, or herbicides. We produce some of the healthiest and freshest fruits and veggies you can find. We have been selling at farmers markets since 2014 and to select restaurants in the DFW area. However, when the lock downs started this spring and everything shut down, we shifted our focus to bringing the farmers market to the customers with our home delivery service. We delivered over 3,000 boxes of produce this spring and summer! It was truly a family affair with each of the Giles doing our part to help bring our local, fresh produce straight to people's front doors.



Photo: Allison Bailey

In May, as things started opening back up, people started asking us if they could come out to the farm to shop instead of getting a home delivery. So, we started opening to the public every Friday evening from 4p.m. to 7:30p.m. and every Saturday from 9a.m. to 2p.m. In July, I started serving barbeque off the smoker. I smoke brisket, spare ribs, chicken, sausage, pork shoulder, smoked corn on the cob, and jalapeño poppers along with different specials.



Photo: Brittany Yurkovitch

Then in October, we opened our pumpkin patch in addition to the farm store and barbeque. During these fall weekends, we generally had six to ten vendors selling their crafts along with a hayride around the farm. Kids enjoyed the festive activities like painting their faces, feeding the turkeys, making s'mores over the bonfire, playing tetherball, and enjoying the fresh fall air with their family. Our pumpkin patch was such a success that we are already planning next year's pumpkin patch!

Starting in November, we are hosting a holiday market every Friday and Saturday until Christmas featuring lots of vendors selling all kinds of crafts, soaps, candles, canned goods, and more in addition to our fresh produce and barbeque.

Come out and say 'hi' and savor some of the best barbeque around every weekend. Enjoy live music and a bonfire with s'mores on Friday evenings. Our Farm Store with the barbeque is open every Friday from 4p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and every Saturday from 9a.m. to

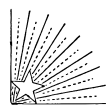
2p.m. until Christmas. We will open back up the first of March 2021.

*5G Farm is located at 6601 County Rd 166, McKinney, TX 75071. You can keep up with all the happenings on the farm by following them on Facebook and Instagram at 5gfarmtx.*

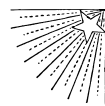
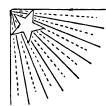
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## Get in the Loop

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](mailto:cityhall@westontexas.com), or fill out the contact form at [www.westontexas.com/page/Resident\\_Contact\\_Information](http://www.westontexas.com/page/Resident_Contact_Information).







## BE THE SQUEAKY WHEEL

By Michelle Rowton MSN, APRN, RNC-NIC, C-NPT, NNP-BC, CGP

*Michelle Rowton lives in Melissa and is a medical freedom advocate and nurse practitioner at Wonderfully Made Wellness Sanctuary.*

I am a nurse practitioner and seasoned patient advocate for parents in the labor and delivery, newborn, neonatal ICU, and postpartum areas of the hospital. Several Sundays ago, I was at home enjoying time with my family when I received an emergency call from a birth worker in the DFW area. A mom had been admitted to the hospital four days after delivering her baby and was told that per COVID policies for infection control, the baby was not allowed to accompany her to the hospital. Mom was informed she could go to the parking lot every 2 to 3 hours to nurse her baby, and then go back into her hospital room. Fortunately, I was able to advocate for mom by essentially, bulldozing the staff and administration via speaker phone. Within 90 minutes, I helped reunite the newborn boy with his mother.



Photo: Lindsay Kelso Photography

Currently, this type of inhumane policy presents itself across the nation in not only hospitals, but also in nursing homes and adult homes. Grandparents have been isolated in their nursing home rooms for months without visitors, leaving them without physical contact, emotional love and care, or an advocate to ensure they are being well cared for and not neglected or abused. Patients are being left to die alone; hospitals are refusing phone and video calls to their loved ones; doctors are refusing to update families via daily phone calls and foregoing informed consent for patients unable to speak for themselves.

Besides considering these cruel COVID policies, it's important to remember that medical errors are the third leading cause of death in the United States behind heart disease and cancer. Furthermore, an estimated 5 million elderly people are abused each year with as many as 24% of nursing home residents experiencing at least one incident of abuse. Sadly, studies show only 1 in 14 incidents are ever reported. This shocking data should sound the alarm that every patient in a care setting needs an advocate and deserves humane and holistic care, emotional support, love, and human contact.

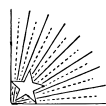
How have we let a virus with a 94.6 to 99.997% survival rate make us forget that people are very complex beings with multidimensional layers of needs? Why are medical experts telling new mothers that they have to breastfeed their infant in a dirty parking garage in an unsafe area of Dallas every 2 to 3 hours around the clock to "keep everyone safe"? How have we abandoned our loved ones because of their age? Why are hospitals refusing families from visiting the dying patriarch of their family before removing life support, despite the family's protests? Why are doctors telling people with cancer that they don't qualify for treatment and care during this time? Why is it necessary to make women labor without their chosen support team or even alone?

It seems that the majority of healthcare has lost their vision of "holistic healthcare." We can be "safe" by using common sense while we care for the mental, physical, spiritual, and social needs of everyone. I cannot express enough how important it is for everyone to have both a family or friend advocate and a trained advocate you can contact when you need help, especially during this period of draconian COVID healthcare policies. Be the squeaky wheel if you've found yourself or loved one admitted to a hospital or care facility. The squeaky wheels get their way, and they slowly pave the way for those who aren't as lucky to have help. Never forget, the facilities and doctor's offices work for you.

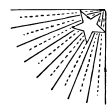
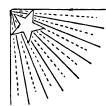
At my practice, Wonderfully Made Wellness Sanctuary, we have not lost sight of this balance while caring for children. Not only are we doing our best to care for children, we are caring for their families as well. Under some circumstances, we will provide advocacy services for those requesting help. Across the board, no matter the age of the person or patient, every human being deserves a loved one and an advocate.

*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](http://www.wmwsanctuary.com).*

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# LONE STAR SCHOOLHOUSE

By Anni Jezek

This summer, parents sat in my one-room, Celina schoolhouse with trepidation in their eyes as they faced a daunting decision. Should they send their children back into the public school system with the pandemic or face the unknown mountain of homeschooling? These mothers were anxious. The fear of inadequacy in their teaching abilities, no knowledge of where to start, as well as the challenge of tackling this new frontier alone, brought these moms to my doorstep at the Lone Star Schoolhouse.

Lone Star Schoolhouse's mission is to empower women in the various stages of their lives. These ladies needed help in this decision, and this became the school's grand opening purpose. Little did I know, as the owner of this non-profit, that I would be leading this group of nervous women through this important decision making matrix. As a retired public school teacher of more than 20 years, the teaching-how-to-teach part became my first line of assistance.

Quickly, I started to develop a class catalog where I would teach the kids while their mothers were present. My main objective was to empower these moms, by ripening their skills as educators. At first, a handful of solo moms signed up and soon found themselves no longer alone in this foreign land of homeschool. As the months progressed, the course catalog evolved to have a different theme designed to cultivate child and adult minds.

During July, they experienced *Reading Like a Star* by enjoying picture books as well as utilizing the text through various subjects. Throughout August, enlightened families viewed objects through an innovative STEM lens. In September, we discussed the vital differences between a growth versus fixed mindset and practiced some essential strategies. In October, we focused on writing and science and on November 14<sup>th</sup>, we are hosting a Teacher Appreciation Day. The number of parents inquiring into these classes keeps increasing and the blessings abound.



Photo: Lone Star Schoolhouse

As I embark on this journey with my home school families, it's been a true privilege to be learning right alongside them. If I would have been granted a time machine, I know for certain that homeschooling my four sons would have been a decision I would have gladly made. The opportunities that I as a mother would have gained by focusing every day on my children's character development would have been a true gift to my family. One thing is for certain, no matter where you find yourself, know that if you focus on the lessons learned instead of the mistakes made, you will always feel you made the right decision.

Want to learn more about the Lone Star Schoolhouse and their Teacher Appreciation Day? Please visit [www.lonestarschoolhouse.com](http://www.lonestarschoolhouse.com) to learn more about the courses and events Lone Star offers. [Back to Contents](#)



## 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](mailto:classroomcounterpoints@protonmail.com).

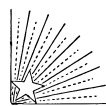
## Free COVID Testing

Thanks to Collin County CARES, uninsured Collin County residents can get tested for COVID-19 at no cost. Visit [www.westontexas.com](http://www.westontexas.com) for more information about this program.

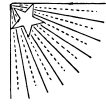


## Mask Mandates

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







# FALL SWEEP



On Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, Weston hosted its first community clean-up day held in conjunction with the statewide “Keep Texas Beautiful” Fall Sweep. Thanks to Alford Services and Champion Waste and Recycling Services for donating a dumpster for the event, residents had the opportunity to dispose of extra trash. Volunteers, including Mayor Jim Marischen, helped residents unload their garbage and haul it in the dumpsters.

Bubb Fundraising allowed Weston residents to raise \$201.11 for the fire department by paying cash for donated items. Volunteers, including city council members Maria Whitworth and Carol Decker, helped direct vehicles on Main Street and guided folks to the community center where they could drop off their donations. United Electronics accepted e-waste that was ineligible for the fundraiser.

Van Buren Estates helped purchase supplies for a team of volunteers to clean up the Weston roadsides. Altogether, the dumpsters were totally filled and our volunteers picked up 8 trash bags of litter from local roads. Volunteer Crissy Hinojosa “had a great time” and was “so excited that I was able to be a part of this. I grew up in this town so to finally see a mayor and our council organize an event to help keep our town beautiful... was absolutely refreshing.”

Don't be discouraged if you missed out on dumping your items—Weston will host another clean-up event in the spring.



Photo: Maria Whitworth



Photo: Brittany Yurkovich



Photo: Brittany Yurkovich

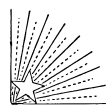


Photo: Maria Whitworth

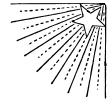
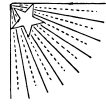


Photo: Maria Whitworth

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# BEWARE! OF THE SQUARE, PART 2

By Donna Lynch

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

The City of Celina hosted its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Halloween celebration, Beware! Of the Square, Part 2. It was sponsored by CoServ and was held on the evening of Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. The young and the young-at-heart attended in costume. The event was a huge success and was attended by several thousand people!

This year's event included a multitude of fun for guests of all ages like trick-or-treating, craft vendors, food and beverage booths (for adults and kids), carnival games, inflatables, rides and attractions, a Thriller flash mob, and guest appearances by spooky characters.

Beware! Of the Square, Part 2 also featured a haunted trail and an escape room. Sponsored by Celina High School, the trail took all those who dared enter through a spooky, back-alley maze. Visitors of the escape room, The Cabin, had to escape from a cabin after a wilderness vacation took a scary turn. The evening concluded with the spooktacular movie *Ghostbusters*.



Photo: Cassie Lee

The City of Celina will be hosting Christmas on the Square on December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5p.m. to 8p.m. in downtown Celina. For more information on the upcoming events, visit the LifeInCelinaTX Facebook page and click on events.



CoServ demonstrates how an electric arc occurs Photo: Cassie Lee



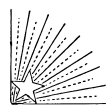
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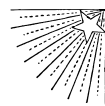
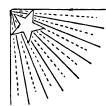


A DEA officer stopped at a ranch in Texas and talked with an old rancher. He told the rancher, "I need to inspect your ranch for illegally grown drugs." The rancher said, "Okay, but don't go in that field over there", as he pointed out the location. The DEA officer verbally exploded saying, "Mister, I have the authority of the Federal Government with me!" Reaching into his rear pants pocket, the arrogant officer removed his badge and proudly displayed it to the rancher. "See this badge?! This badge means I am allowed to go wherever I wish. On any land! No questions asked or answers given! Have I made myself clear?!"

The rancher nodded politely, apologized, and went about his chores. A short time later, the old rancher heard loud screams, looked up, and saw the DEA officer running for his life, being chased by the rancher's big Santa Gertrudis bull. With every step the bull was gaining ground on the officer, and it seemed likely that he'd sure enough get gored before he reached safety. The officer was clearly terrified. The rancher threw down his tools, ran to the fence and yelled at the top of his lungs... "Your badge! Show him your badge!!"







## A SWEET TREAT FOR FLU RELIEF

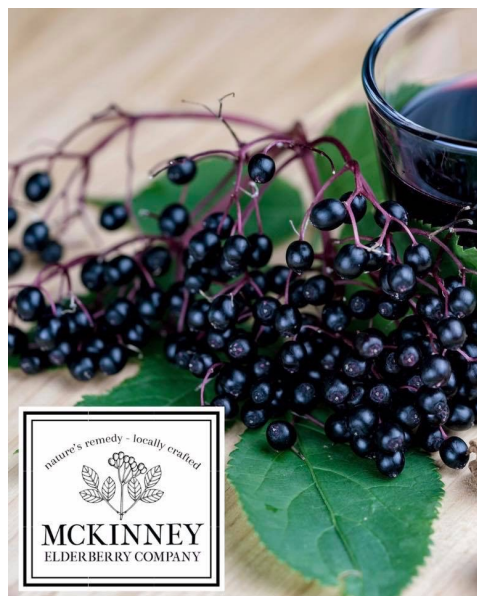
By Kayce Scheffler

*Kayce is the owner of the McKinney Elderberry Company and makes elderberry products with organic ingredients. As always, before starting an herbal regimen, check with your healthcare provider.*

Summer has trickled away and that welcomed cool air reminds us of the approaching holiday season. In my family, this change of weather also signals two other important seasons: harvest and flu. I married an Iowa farm boy, and something in that crisp air unsettles his nerves. He knows the time is short to bring in the crops. And while he has lived in Texas for many years, his sense of urgency remains. Now, he knows this is the time to make lots of elderberry syrup to get ready for whatever the cooler weather has in store for us.

For centuries, elderberries have been used in foods and as curatives—they are often referred to as “nature’s medicine chest”. Recent research on the European black elderberry (*sambucus nigra*) showed that the use of elderberry could shorten the length of flu symptoms by several days as well as ease the intensity of the symptoms. The way elderberry works is by blocking a virus from infecting a healthy cell. I like to think of it as a protective blanket for our healthy cells with a big sign that says, “not today, flu!”

And elderberry is great in other recipes too! Many folks have shared with me their stories of grandma’s elderberry cobbler, of an attempt at elderberry wine, of getting in trouble as a child for eating the wild berries and staining their clothes, or of spreading some delicious elderberry jelly on a homemade biscuit. Not only are elderberries’ culinary and medicinal benefits seemingly endless, but these little powerhouse berries are native to Texas! I bet you’ve seen these bushes on roadsides but didn’t know you were looking at an edible plant. Watch for them in June and July when the big bundles of tiny, creamy-white flowers are blooming. *Sambucus canadensis* (American elderberry) loves moist, partly shaded areas like creek beds and sometimes roadsides. (If wildharvesting, be sure to gather from an area that hasn’t been treated or sprayed with pesticides, which is often the case along highways.)



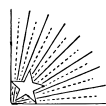
While you can find elderberry products on many big box store shelves, there’s an added benefit to using locally made elderberry syrup: honey. Local honey packs a medicinal punch all on its own as it can soothe coughs and fight allergies and microbes. Local honey is ideal as it’s wise to skip the cane sugar and preservatives that many mainstream brands use. You can easily make your own elderberry syrup or start with a premade kit until you get the hang of it! A high-quality elderberry syrup will have a deep, rich purple color and a strong berry taste. Traditional home canning can destroy all of the benefits of the honey, so look for one made in a commercial kitchen that hasn’t been heated for canning.

Suggested use of elderberry syrup is to take a tablespoon a day for flu prevention and overall wellness. When feeling unwell, ingest a tablespoon of syrup every 2-3 hours. Your kidneys will filter the elderberry out of your system quickly so remember to use it often when you’re fighting an illness. How does it taste? Well, every recipe is different. Some people say it tastes like Christmas or apple butter. I think you’ll find the flavor so delicious you may catch yourself reaching to put it in oatmeal, tea, or added to some warm apple cider (or, if you’re like my children, eaten straight from the jar).

This season, reach for some elderberry to boost your immune system. The science is behind it! So while you may be a little short on hugs right now, you can send your immune system a big ol’ squeeze with a daily serving of elderberry.

You can find the McKinney Elderberry Company at [www.mckinneyelderberry.com](http://www.mckinneyelderberry.com) and can email Kayce at [McKinneyElderberry@gmail.com](mailto:McKinneyElderberry@gmail.com).

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## BUTTER FOR YOUR HEALTH

By Brittany Yurkovitch

Regularly, dietary activists blast the public with information either promoting or demonizing a particular food group. While being a traditional food consumed by our ancestors, butter was targeted by those who believed its high fat and cholesterol content caused greater harm than good. However, new research challenges the low-fat food activists and celebrates butter from pasture raised cows as a health food. Pasture raised butter contains high levels of vitamin K2, a nutrient that encourages healthy bone development and offers protection from heart disease.

Don't fear adding pasture raised butter to your holiday recipes, including vegetable dishes. One of my family's favorite buttery veggie dishes is Vichy carrots. While most Vichy carrot dishes call for sugar, I prefer to use local Texas Range Honey. I never skimp on the butter and almost never have leftovers because my kids gobble it up.

### Ingredients:

- 2 lbs of carrots, peeled and sliced into coins
- 8 tablespoons of butter, divided
- 4 tablespoons honey
- Salt



Photo: Brittany Yurkovitch

### Directions:

In a medium pot, cover the carrots in water and bring to a boil. Add honey and 6 tablespoons of butter and boil uncovered. Skim the water frequently and reduce until liquid is almost gone and carrots are well coated and softened. Add the remaining 2 tablespoons of butter and season with salt to taste. Enjoy!

*Do you have a great family recipe you'd like to share with us? Email [thewestonpost@protonmail.com](mailto:thewestonpost@protonmail.com) and let us know about it!*

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## Donation Appreciation!

Thank you to Legacy Print Group, the Goldstein family, the Levine family, the Richardson family, and Jimmy Van Hoozer for your contributions to Classroom Counterpoints and keeping the print edition alive!

## Help Print the Post

*The Weston Post* is a civics engagement project of the 501(c)(3) charity Classroom Counterpoints. Classroom Counterpoints and, by extension, *The Weston Post* is funded entirely by donations. If you are interested in contributing a tax-deductible donation to support this project, then please consider donating through our website [classroomcounterpoints.org/donate](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](http://www.calvarychapelhoneycreek.org)); First Baptist Church of Weston ([www.fbcwestontx.org](http://www.fbcwestontx.org)); or First Christian Church of Weston ([www.firstchristianweston.com](http://www.firstchristianweston.com)).

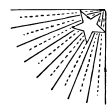
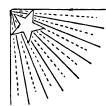
## Weston Election



Congratulations to Carol Decker, Michael Hill, and Heather Richardson on winning their elections to the Weston City Council. Thank you for serving your community in such a meaningful way!







## JOIN OUR TEAM

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



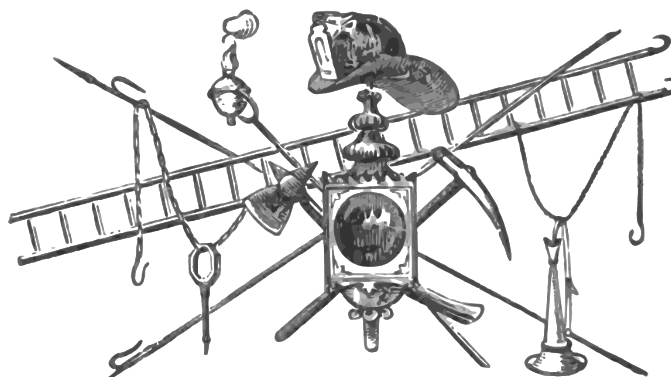
The Weston Volunteer Fire Department is currently asking the residents of Weston Fire District to become volunteers. You will receive training in firefighting or emergency medical services. All the training provided to you is FREE of charge and is always ongoing. Your responsibilities as a member will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

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

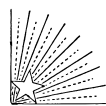


Photos: First Responders Photography

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



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## NEWSPAPER STAND

You can get the printed edition of *The Weston Post* at the Texas flag newspaper stand in front of the Blue Door building on Main Street. Thank you to C.A. Decking and Construction for securing our newsstand and to everyone who has donated to Classroom Counterpoints.



Photo: Maria Whitworth



Photo: Brittany Yurkovitch

## Weston Christmas Fun



Mark your calendars! Calvary Chapel Honey Creek will be hosting their Weston Village Christmas Story Time event this year on Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup> from 4p.m. to 5:30p.m. at the Weston Community Center. This is a community event and all are invited! There will be crafts, Christmas costumes for photo ops, story time, snack and cocoa, and (hopefully) animals to pet.

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## Say Cheese!



The old Weston Drug Store. Photo: [www.collincountyhistory.com/weston-drug.html](http://www.collincountyhistory.com/weston-drug.html)

Got any great historical or modern photos of Weston? We would love to share them with our readers. Please email [thewestonpost@protonmail.com](mailto:thewestonpost@protonmail.com) for more information about submissions.

## USDA Farm Loans

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is "making available up to \$1 billion in loan guarantees to help rural businesses meet their working capital needs during the coronavirus pandemic." For more information, please visit [www.westontexas.com/page/USDA\\_Loan\\_Guarantee\\_052620](http://www.westontexas.com/page/USDA_Loan_Guarantee_052620).





## THE GOOD OL' DAYS

The following is an excerpt from George Jackson's 1908 book *Sixty Years in Texas* and describes the Hedgecoxe War. The 1852 Hedgecoxe War, also known as the Peters Colony Rebellion, was an armed uprising of Texas colonists. Their protest was a reaction to what they viewed as an effort by the Peters Colony land company to invalidate their land claims.

### The Hedgecox[e] War

In 1851 a company of men from Collin and Dallas Counties held a meeting to consider what course to pursue and what was best to be done with Hedgecox[e] and the agents of Peters' Colony. The Hedgecox[e] office was situated in Denton County, about twenty miles north of Dallas. The pioneers were dissatisfied. The State of Texas was granting to heads of families outside of this Colony 640 acres of land, and to single men seventeen years old or over 320 acres, and Peters and associates did not want to allow the emigrants to Peters' Colony just half that amount. The settlers became so aroused over it, they decided to take matters into their own hands, and they organized a company of a hundred men and elected John J. Good, of Dallas, captain and commander of the company, and they advanced on Stewardsville, that being the name of the place. It was known by that name in the other States and in England, where the Colony had been so liberally advertised, but here it was known as Hedgecox[e]'s Office. They took possession of the place, and gave Hedgecox[e] and his clerks notice to leave the country. Hedgecox[e] or his daughter concealed or got away with part of the papers. The office was broken up entirely.

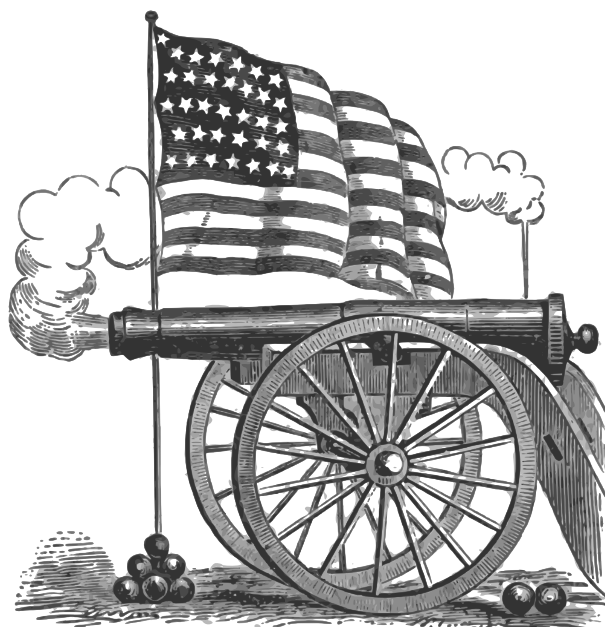
The contract that Peters and associates had with the Republic of Texas was as follows: They agreed to deliver as many as two hundred and fifty families annually, with the privilege of getting as many as ten thousand families

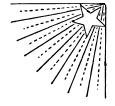
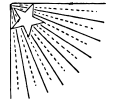
before the expiration of the time, which was July 1, 1848, the contract being made and entered into in 1843. Said company was to build or provide cabins for each family, and if the company failed to get two hundred and fifty families located annually the contract was null and void. For this service the Republic agreed to give every alternate section of land. But before the land was conveyed to the company the said company was to pay \$12.00 in specie into the treasury of the Republic for each section so conveyed, and the company was to give settlers not less than one hundred and sixty acres or more than six hundred and forty acres to each head of a family.

The Colony began at a point on Red River, and extended south one hundred miles to a point near Waxahachie, taking all of Dallas County, except a strip 3 miles wide on the east. The south line extended west one hundred and sixty-four miles. Thence north to Red River. Thence east with the meanderings of the river to the place of beginning. Peters had a good part of the land surveyed in sections of 640 acres, and half sections of 320 acres. It was a disputed question as to whether Peters and associates had fully complied with their contract or not. However, the settlers were dissatisfied because they were not getting the same quantity of land that the State was granting other settlers. The State made a compromise with Peters and associates, and gave them seventeen hundred sections of land in counties further west, and granted to settlers of the Colony 640 acres to families and 320 acres to single men over seventeen years old.

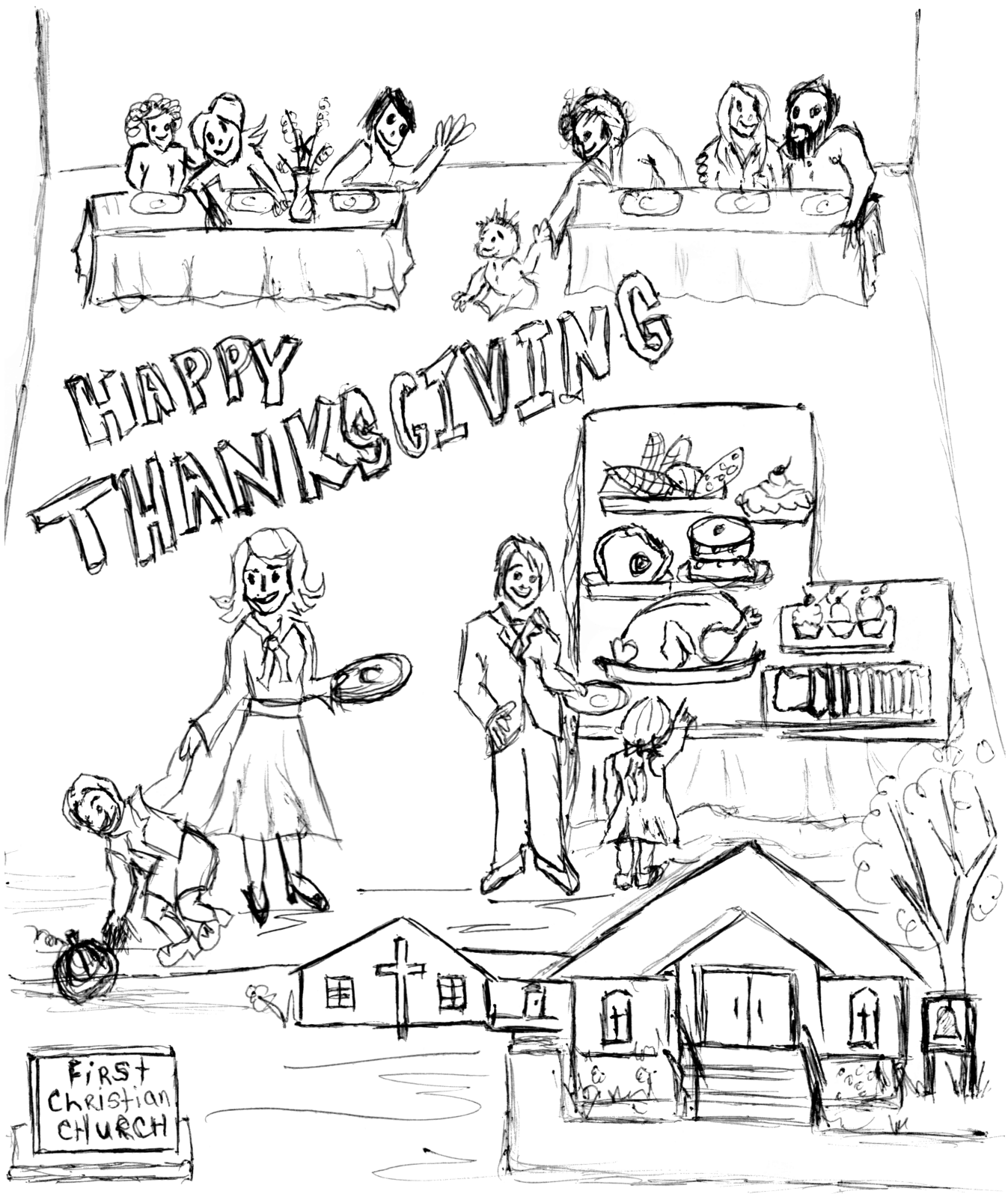
Source: [texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph20205/m1/169/](http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph20205/m1/169/)

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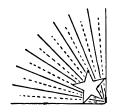
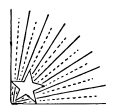


# COLORING PAGE

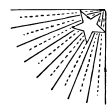
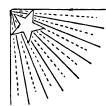


By Tralyn Tadlock

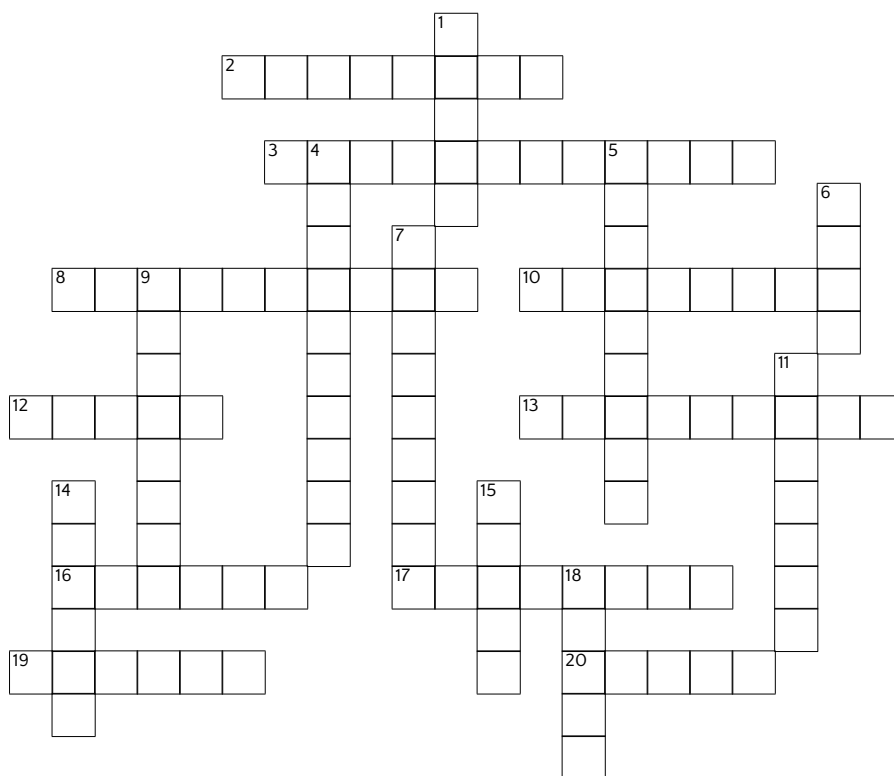
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# CROSSWORD



### Across

- 2 Location of newspaper stand
- 3 Conflict among settlers
- 8 Fire department need
- 10 Anna farm
- 12 5G last name
- 13 Community cleanup day
- 16 Thanksgiving favorite
- 17 Patient's need
- 19 Colony settling North Texas
- 20 Trafficking scam

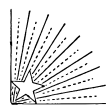
### Down

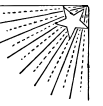
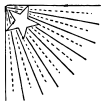
- 1 40% of new gun owners
- 4 Lessens flu symptoms
- 5 Doesn't compost easy
- 6 Exam for earning college credit
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ Bend Farm riding lessons
- 9 Celina schoolhouse
- 11 WVFD Fire Chief
- 14 High in vitamin K2
- 15 Blacksmith's tool
- 18 Collin County program for the uninsured

Answers found at bottom of last page.

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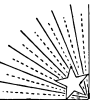
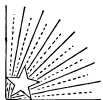
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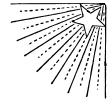
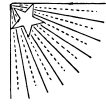
By Cate Robbins

[www.caterobbins.net](http://www.caterobbins.net)

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# WORD SEARCH



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

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

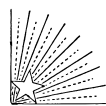
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## SUDOKU

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

Answers found at bottom of last page.



# TEXAS LORE

by Patrick M. Reynolds

ALMOST 80 YEARS BEFORE THE PILGRIMS AND INDIANS CELEBRATED A *THANKSGIVING DAY* IN YANKEELAND, TEXAS WAS THE SITE OF AMERICA'S

## First Thanksgiving.



CPT. FRANCISCO VASQUEZ de CORONADO AND 1500 SPANIARDS WERE SEARCHING FOR GOLD AND THE LEGENDARY CITY OF QUIVIRA IN ARIZONA, OKLAHOMA, NEW MEXICO AND KANSAS.

ALL THEY FOUND WAS FRUSTRATION.

CORONADO'S EXPEDITION FINALLY ARRIVED IN THE TEXAS PANHANDLE.

HE WAS SO GRATEFUL TO FIND ABUNDANT FOOD, WATER AND SHELTER IN THE **PALO DURO CANYON** THAT, ON MAY 23, 1541, HE AND HIS MEN HELD A **MASS** OF THANKSGIVING.

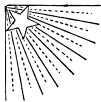


For 20 years, Patrick M. Reynolds researched, wrote, and illustrated *Texas Lore*, which appeared weekly in *The Dallas Morning News* and other publications. Reynolds has given *The Weston Post* permission to use his images.

You can purchase his illustrated *Texas Lore* books at [www.redrosetudio.com/texas.html](http://www.redrosetudio.com/texas.html).

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- ★ **November 10** Weston City Council Meeting at City Hall 7:30p.m.
- ★ **November 11** Veteran's Day
- ★ **November 26** Thanksgiving
- ★ **December 2** Christmas on the Square in downtown Celina 5p.m. to 8p.m.
- ★ **December 6** Holiday Market at Luscombe Farm in Anna 9a.m. to 4p.m.
- ★ **December 8** Weston City Council Meeting at City Hall 7:30p.m.
- ★ **December 21** Weston Village Christmas Story Time Weston Community Center 4p.m to 5:30p.m.
- ★ **December 25** Christmas
- ★ **January 1** New Year's Day
- ★ **January 12** Weston City Council Meeting at City Hall 7:30p.m.
- ★ **January 18** Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- ★ **January 19** Confederate Heroes' Day
- ★ **February 9** Weston City Council Meeting at City Hall 7:30p.m.

## Gardening Tip



Eggshells don't break down well in compost and many gardeners get frustrated seeing intact eggshells in the garden. However, there is a solution to capture the calcium and minerals in eggshells and improve your soil.

Air-dry your eggshells for a day or two on a cookie sheet or, if you're in a hurry, bake your eggshells on a cookie sheet for 30 minutes at 200°F. Then, toss the dried shells into a food processor or coffee grinder until pulverized into a powder. Now, simply sprinkle your nutrient rich powder onto your garden or compost pile.

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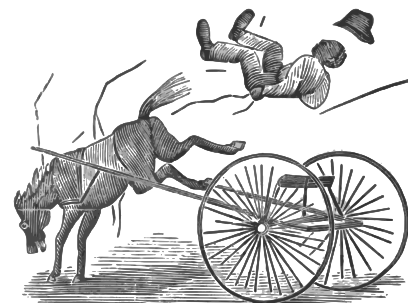
### Meeting Schedule



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



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



*"Life is what we are alive to.  
It is not length but breadth.  
To be alive only to appetite,  
pleasure, pride, money-making, and not to  
goodness, kindness, purity, love, history,  
poetry, music, flowers, stars, God,  
and eternal hope is to be all but dead."  
—Maltbie D. Babcock*

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

Answers: 1. WOMEN 2. BLUEDOOR 3. HEDGECOXEWAR 4. ELDBERBERRY 5. EGGSHILLS 6. CLEP 7. GRENDAIA 8. VOLUNTEERS 9. LONESTAR 10. LUSCOMBE 11. HENZLER 12. GILES 13. FALLSWEEP 14. BUTTER 15. ANVIL 16. TURKEY 17. ADVOCATE 18. CARES 19. PETERS 20. ROMEO

