

The Weston Post



Issue № 3 Summer 2020

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Weston's Big Deal: Alderman Kevin Deal

Tell us about yourself.

I grew up in Plano and graduated in 1980 from Plano Senior High. I was on the wrestling team and was involved with the building trades program. During my senior year, I worked part time for Plano Masonry as a laborer. After graduation, I continued to work for them. Eventually, I became an apprentice, then a mason, and finally, went into business for myself in 1983.

While working for Plano Masonry, I met my wife, Kim, at the old Plano Drive-In, and in 1999, we moved our family of five to Weston. I hope to spend the rest of my days in this town.

What brought you to Weston and what do you like most about living here?

The small town I grew up in had been swallowed up by urban sprawl and I wanted to leave the city life. I like to see the stars at night and I prefer to have some distance between me and my neighbors so I had to get out to the country. I love the Weston community because it's quiet and a lot of good people live here.



Why did you decide to run for alderman?

I was asked to come on board by the former mayor Patti Harrington during a time of city government crisis. I ran unopposed for several terms and was actually elected this last term. I have decided this will be my final one; my term expires in November 2021. I believe term limits are important and I look forward to seeing a fresh face on the city council.

Where do you think Weston needs improvement?

I moved here because I wanted to live in a small, country town and I would like to see Weston try to remain as rural as possible. The North Dallas area has many options for people wanting to live in a cookie-cutter city. I hope we can preserve the rural way of life for Weston.

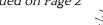
Thank you for your service as a Weston volunteer firefighter. What does the fire department want residents to know? Is the fire department looking for more volunteers?

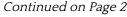
Residents, please remember that smoke detectors are a simple life saving tool, so be sure to have working ones in your home. Always watch over your brush piles and don't let them burn after dark. Please remember that we are all volunteers and are doing the best we can.

Yes, we are always looking for more volunteers and prospective volunteers need to know that it is a serious commitment. We have a 7p.m. meeting at the firehouse on the first and third Tuesday of the month. Please email us at westonvfd@westontxfd.org for more information about serving with us.











Besides working as a mason and volunteering extensively within the community, you have a passion for music and are the front man of the Kevin Deal band. Tell us about your music.

I've been playing country music for many years. I used to play harmonica with Jonhny Peebles, Curly Barefoot Miller, and Ed Burleson. My musician friend Mark David Manders introduced me to Lloyd Maines, who has produced all of my albums.

Right now, the lockdowns have greatly impacted the live music and service industry. It has been hard on a lot of my friends in the music scene. I think it will come back hopefully sooner than later, It's starting to come back in pockets now.

You can email Kevin at kdeal@westontexas.com and can check out his music at kevindeal.com.

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By Brittany Yurkovitch

These days, increased food prices and rationing are not uncommon features of the grocery experience. As the coronavirus and subsequent lockdowns wreaked havoc on the global supply chain, we have experienced runs on various products. At first, we saw shortages in toilet paper and N95 masks; then flour, rice and deep freezers became scarce; now, meat and dairy prices surge as supply has dropped.

Joel Salatin, the iconic American author and organic farmer at Polyface Farm, offered his unique perspective on Joe Rogan's JRE podcast in May. Salatin, who for decades has sold his organic pasture-raised meat products directly to consumers, explained that his business has skyrocketed.

Salatin joked "... the pandemic has been the best marketing strategy we've ever had!" He elaborated, "I've never heard this before ... we've been in business now for half a century ... we're actually rationing products; we don't have enough. We've got way more demand ..." As I listened to Salatin, I wondered how business was going for the smaller ranchers and processors in the greater North Dallas area during this tumultuous year.

Local Beef Booms

I reached out to Hillary Hutchins at Rehoboth Ranch, a second-generation farm in Greenville that specializes in pasture-raised animal products. Like Salatin's Polyface Farm, Rehoboth's business has exploded this year. However, Rehoboth has faced significant challenges, like getting their meats processed. Hutchins explained, "the biggest impact was increased sales and decreased processing availability—an ultimate catch-22 for a lot of ranchers like us. Thankfully, our processor saw things filling up and called us to make sure we were able to get appointments and has been able to fit us in."

Hutchins continued, "Going forward, it's caused us to tweak some of our business practices ... since we have a bunch of new customers ... Also, we're looking into ways to do things like having a meat cutting facility so we aren't as dependent on the local processor scene, as it's the weak link to getting product to consumers."

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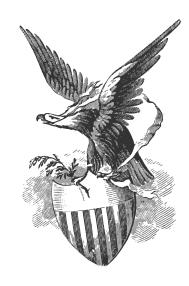
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Ken Schall at Bar W Bar Ranch says 2020 has been his best year in business so far. Like Rehoboth, Schall was lucky to have booked monthly appointments with a local processor because slots are limited now. Schall explained, "the processing business is limited on the certified end of it because you've got to have a state representative there ... plus all the small ma-and-pa processors are limited by the freezer space they have."

Processors Struggle to Keep Up

This bottleneck between ranchers and consumers is due to issues with the meat processors, an industry dominated by a few large corporations like Smithfield and Tyson. They reported multiple cases of coronavirus in their facilities as the employees work shoulder-to-shoulder on the cutting line. While spacing employees further apart helped limit viral transmission between workers, it reduced processing output. As Ken Schall noted, processors are required to have their product be examined by certified meat safety inspectors, which further limits the number of animals a processor can finish in a day.



While smaller processors didn't suffer from rampant illness, they felt the pressure of the supply chain breakdown. In early May, a representative of Cobb's Meat Processing, a small family business in Sumner, posted in a Facebook farming group that they would keep customers informed about available meat products from local ranchers.

According to Cobb's "... Our schedule has been so packed due to all this coronavirus mess and I have spoken with other processors in Texas and we are all kind of going through the same thing. There [are] just so many people needing meat right now but there [are] only so many work hours in a day so it has caused our schedule to be booked all the way until December. This has all happened so fast and nobody saw any of this coming. Here at Cobb's, we are working after hours and weekends to try to get as many not-for-sale individuals done after hours and on the weekends even though we have numerous retailers that must be processed during our 8 hours Monday through Friday of inspection time. But I will do my part and try to post retailers that I know have recently picked up product for sale to the public."

Consumer Concerns

The events of this year have made me a more conscientious grocery shopper. Not only am I concerned about the prices and availability of various food items, but also I am unpleasantly surprised at the recent changes to the food labeling laws. As a reaction to supply chain disruption, the FDA has relaxed food labeling policies, meaning ingredients can be temporarily substituted in or out of a product as long as it doesn't change the product's nutritional content or pose allergy risks. Will this "temporary" labeling law open the door to food adulteration?

Furthermore, I have questions about the wisdom of eliminating country-of-origin food labels. In April, the Meat Import Council of America announced that the first shipment of beef from Namibia arrived into the United States. At a time when many American ranchers destroyed their herds due to an inability to process them, is it really in the interest of our nation's economic health to import foreign beef? Unless you know your farmer directly, it's difficult to make informed food choices as the labels cannot be trusted.

Other moms have grocery concerns too. Joan, a McKinney mom of two, agrees that her purchasing habits have changed this year. Joan says, "I am bulk buying and have purchased a deep freezer and stocked an entire closet full of food. I am shopping locally at the farmers markets. It would be detrimental to our community if the local farms were not supported and went under. I do notice meat prices going up and it's making me serve more beans to the family even though that is not in our typical diet."

The Road Ahead

In the midst of the lockdown, online groups popped up to connect local food producers and customers including the "Texoma Ranchers and Farmers Direct Sales To Consumers" Facebook group. This group has become very active and it's exciting to see consumers support their local farmers. It's likely folks will make a greater effort to buy foods in bulk and from farms nearby as it may be more reliable than the fragile just-in-time grocery delivery system many of us have grown dependent upon.

This year has been a strange time for the food and farm industry. As we experience continued lockdowns and civil unrest, it's important to get serious about our nation's food supply. We must support our local farmers and ranchers.











THE COWAN LEGACY

Bv Michael Hill

The Grand Marshall for this year's 4th of July parade was Mary Sue Cowan. She is a long time resident of Weston and has lived locally since 1959 when she married her husband, Kenneth, who was born on South Street. Kenneth owned the famous Cowan's Garage on the corner of Main Street in downtown Weston. Mary Sue could be seen pumping gas on occasion.

She and her friends formed the Ladies Auxiliary to help fundraise for the purchase of the Weston Volunteer Fire Department's first fire truck (see article below). Mary Sue saw her husband become Mayor, Fire Chief, and Water Board President, sometimes all at the same time. Her friends called him Mr. Weston.

County Road 209 was recently renamed Cowan Road in recognition of her family. Many remember County Road 209 as a dirt road shortcut that could only be used if the weather was dry. Mary Sue still lives in town, not far from where Cowan Road meets FM 455.

For many years, Mary Sue has had no desire to see Weston transform from farmland into suburban sprawl and she jokes that no one should move here at all. Mary Sue would like to see Weston keep its rural flavor and wishes success to those that are striving to keep it that way.



Photo: Shannon Burns







A fire department and auxilliary has been organized at Weston, located northwest of McKin- Wade, secretary-treasurer of ney, and a fire truck has been purchased. The city of Celina has sold Weston one of its fire trucks for \$1.000. At the same time Celina officials demonstrated "togetherness" and donated \$100 of the money back determined to make needed to the Weston Fire Department. community improvements. Weston Fire Chief Kenneth

Cowan handed the check to

WESTON BUYS FIRE TRUCK —

Celina councilman and Fire Chief W. R. Baldridge. Pictured above are (from left), James A. the Weston Fire Department; Baldridge and Cowan. Weston department was organized with 28 active members. There is a lot of activity going on in Weston and citizens are (Photo By Col. Tom Emerson)

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Photo: Shannon Burns

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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 was just the first of June when Governor Abbott decided to open up Texas from the COVID-19 lockdown. With the opening of the bars, restaurants, businesses, not to mention the protests, a surge in cases was inevitable. However, the cases north of McKinney and Frisco remained relatively flat. This allowed our Weston City Council to approve holding our 35th annual parade. Our Weston team did a great job in providing a safe environment for the families that attended. And despite the entire fire department leaving for a house fire, the parade went off with few issues.

I was especially proud to have Weston host the County Judge, Chris Hill; the County Sherriff, Jim Skinner; the County Commissioner, Darrell Hale; and Texas State Representative Scott Sanford. Judge Hill acknowledged Weston with the following comment, "Thank you, Jim! I think you and your team did a fantastic job today!" Just wait until next year, Judge, it will be bigger and

Along with the State opening, contractors in the Weston area have once again become active. The Weston Trails developer is changing builders since D.R. Horton has decided not to participate in the Phase I effort north of CR 206. A new development just southwest of the Town Center, off of CR 171, is seeking platting approval. And several RV parks are interested in property near the Weston ETJ. The City is also hiring contractors during the next few months to fix the floor in the Community Center and do road repairs.

Don't let your guard down on this pandemic. Cases are once again growing in North Texas. After leveling off in the second half of June, active cases started to rise again after the 4th of July holiday. Fortunately, deaths are down as doctors are finding new and better ways to treat COVID-19 patients.

Remember, wear a mask, especially when you are indoors, and wash your hands often. And please be careful. I want all of us to come out of this pandemic safely.

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Happy Birthday Weston!

On June 2, Weston celebrated its 147th birthday. In 1873, Texas Governor Edmund J. Davis signed House Bill 901, incorporating the towns of Farmersville, Plano, and Weston. William Denny was Weston's first mayor.

Night at the Museum

Unfortunately, the historic post office museum was not able to open to the public in July. A spring storm caused some damage to the building. Don't worry: none of the items inside were damaged. However, it is being repaired and will have its own special reopening event. Stay tuned for "A Night at the Museum" happening this fall!

Cheers!

Our Ten Year Celebration at Caudalie Crest Winery is postponed to Sunday, September 6, 2020 from 11a.m. to 4p.m. Join us for our Open House. All are welcome. Full details at GoatsNgrapes.com.

Volunteers Needed

The Weston Volunteer Fire Department is looking for more volunteers from the Weston and ETJ area. There is a 7p.m. meeting at the firehouse on the first and third Tuesday of the month. Please email westonvfd@westontxfd.org for more information.













WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON?



By Nancy Gemaehlich

What does it take to get our attention? Seriously, think about it. What can jolt us out of moving in the direction that we've been going? When we're entrenched in paths that are unhelpful at best or destructive at worst, it can take a tidal wave of change or pain for us to stop, evaluate, and move in a new way. All of the recent upheavals in our society have shaken us into reevaluating our priorities and commitments, essentially forcing us to reconsider how we live our lives.

Every one of us is wired to desire acceptance, security, and love. But as human beings, we often use power, control, and self-promotion to fulfill these needs. In reality, despite our best efforts, we remain insecure. Scripture has stated for millennia that God is the Creator and sustainer of our lives. He is the One who can give us the forgiveness and acceptance we crave. Yet, the book of Romans tells us that people throughout history have suppressed the knowledge of God as Creator (Rom. 1:18–20). However, our walls of denial regarding God's work in our lives crack

open when challenging times hit.

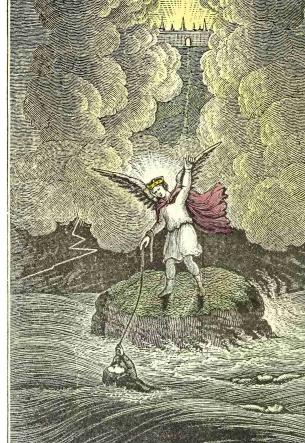
With the unsettling events of the pandemic and the recent riots, there's been a resurgence of interest in what the Bible says about the end times. People are wondering what's going on and if they have their priorities straight. This pain and disturbance can bring us to the place of acknowledging God. C. S. Lewis famously speaks to this effect, "Pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pain: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world." Suffering and loss press us to reflect on and return to our Maker. The question is... what will we do?

In the book of Revelation, we see a future vision of how people will respond to catastrophe in the end times. Chapter 6, as an angel opened the sixth seal of God's judgment, says that there was a great earthquake; the sun became black and the moon like blood. The stars of the sky fell to earth, "and every mountain and island were moved out of their places" (6:12-14). At this, from the strongest to the weakest, people took refuge amongst caves and mountains saying, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb; for the great day of their wrath has come and who is able to stand?" (Rev. 6:16-17). You see, when the pressure is on, they know; humanity knows that there is a God in heaven. He is the ruler of creation, and judgment has come upon those who have rejected His salvation.

We learn later in the vision of Revelation 9:20 after even

harsher judgments have come that mankind does not react to the situation by allowing disaster to become dependence on a loving God. Instead, the Bible states, "The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent." Today, upheaval has created an opportunity for us to acknowledge God. He is the Father who sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die for our sins so that we can be forgiven and have eternal life. Let's allow disruption, pain, and loss to turn our hearts and minds to the only One who can provide lasting acceptance, Shalom (peace), and love.

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













HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND COVID-19



By Amanda Mchenry

Amanda serves on the Executive Committee of the C7 Human Trafficking Coalition. C7 is committed to working together to eradicate human trafficking in North Texas.

The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly had far reaching effects worldwide. It has not been easy to fully measure how the nation-wide lockdowns have affected human trafficking, but we do know that trafficking has continued. Polaris, a non-profit organization that works to combat and prevent modern-day slavery, reported a large increase in calls to their national human trafficking hotline in April. Fortunately, we continue to learn about traffickers being arrested and prosecuted nationwide: a man was arrested during an anti-trafficking sting in Denton in April as well.



Our C7 Human Trafficking Coalition partners continue to receive requests to help trafficking victims. Some of our partners are working directly with survivors while others are providing victims with shelter. One of our C7 member organizations is dedicated to finding missing children and, sadly, these cases often involve trafficking victims. Missing children are vulnerable to being trafficked and the organization has experienced a large increase in case volume this year.

Vulnerability plays a major role in becoming a trafficking victim and the COVID-19 pandemic increases this susceptibility tremendously. The economic impact of the lockdown leaves the door open to possible victimization and, unfortunately, the mental health crisis stemming from the pandemic increases this vulnerability.

Children are also spending more time online which gives predators ample opportunity to groom potential victims. Tips about online child exploitation have increased tremendously according to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC).

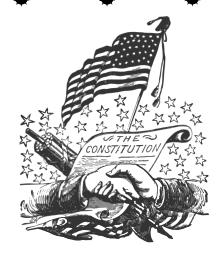
If you believe you might have information about a trafficking situation, or if you feel you might be a victim of human trafficking, please call the toll-free National Human Trafficking hotline at (888) 373-7888 or text 233733 (BEFREE).

C7 Texoma Anti-Trafficking Coalition is a satellite group serving the Sherman-Denison area. Resources and a list of our member organizations can be found at www.c7htc.org.

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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.



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.











HOMESTEAD HOMESCHOOLING



By Heather Richardson

Twenty years ago, if you would have asked me to grab my crystal ball and leap to the year 2020, I would've been shocked to see myself as a homeschool mom. Homeschooling was never part of my plan, but here I am plugging away, breezing through curriculum like it's a Tom Clancy novel. Ultimately, my husband and I made the decision to homeschool our boys because we felt that the current education paradigm is unable to capture the precious moments that, by design, are interwoven into our homeschool curriculum.

After having children, I traded my career and high heels for a farm and some work boots. My husband and I decided it was best for our boys to learn life lessons on the homestead and grow up in the amazing, small town of Weston. By incorporating our life on the

Thinking about Homeschooling?

Many of us find ourselves considering homeschooling our kids as we ponder the uncertainty of the upcoming school year. Weston has a thriving homeschool community that is willing to help you meet your learning goals. If you need help navigating the homeschool world, then please contact Brittany at classroomcounterpoints@protonmail.com.

farm into the learning process, my children receive learning experiences that cannot be taught in a classroom. They don't learn about the life cycle from a boring textbook; my boys experience, firsthand, the pure joy of a healthy birth to the utter grief of looking into their favorite goat's, sheep's, or chicken's eyes knowing that there isn't anything more they can do and that its path is now up to God.

Homeschooling on a homestead teaches my boys about the challenging yet necessary economic decisions we have to make. Jimmy and Warren have experienced the difficulty of choosing which animals to keep, which ones to sell, and which ones to eat. They learned early on that a hobby farmer should never name his food. We, as a family, struggle with these choices, but it has deepened our appreciation of where our food comes from, what our animals eat, and how they should be treated. Furthermore, my boys are learning the responsibility that comes with properly stewarding nature. They have come to understand that when people fence in livestock, the animals become dependent on humans to survive. The simple daily tasks of feeding, watering, and collecting eggs remind them of this awesome responsibility which helps them to develop good character and a solid work ethic.

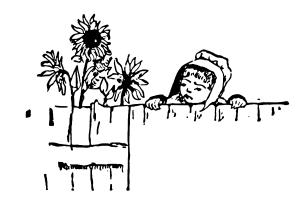
Life on the farm is not always serious or painful; laughter is a continuous feature of our curriculum. As much as we dread the sorrowful moments, we have an enormous amount of "life on the farm events" that will leave a lasting impression. One of many homestead homeschool lessons we have learned over the years, is we absolutely must brief our guests about the animal "facts of life" acts that may occur during their visit. Usually these moments happen during a birthday party with at least 25 guests, and always end with the kids gathering around the pen giggling while parents joke that they will have to have the "birds and the bees" talk on the drive home.

While the homestead is our foundation for schooling, we have many opportunities to connect with other homeschool families. On Fridays during the fall and spring semesters, Jimmy, Warren, and I attend a local homeschool community that assists us with History, English, Math, Science, Fine Arts, and Latin. During the rest of the week, we complete our farm chores and then focus on our subjects along with piano and Spanish lessons. This schedule leaves us with plenty of afternoon time for hanging out as a family or for entertaining friends in our backyard where we experience new adventures—adventures that can't be taught in the industrial school model and that must be captured by experiencing life in all its wonder.

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

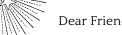












Dear Friend,

It is an honor to be your State Representative and to serve you at the Texas Capitol. I know these last few months have been nothing short of unpredictable and trying for everyone, in more ways than one. My office has been working around the clock to help Texans with various issues the virus has posed. We have provided support for individuals with unemployment claims; hosted a tele-town hall to address the vast concerns surrounding COVID-19; written letters to the Governor, and submitted hundreds of inquiries to state agencies on behalf of our constituents to request action.



As the summer is winding down, a huge concern for many Texans is what the

2020-2021 school year will look like for students, parents, teachers, and staff. Recently, The Texas Education Agency (TEA) determined that it will be safe for students and staff to return to in-person learning for the upcoming school year. However, we understand that not every family is in the same situation, and so TEA has provided school districts the opportunity to provide remote online instruction. Our number one priority is to keep all Texans safe while allowing students to receive the best education possible that suits them and their needs.

While the State continues to mitigate COVID-19, my staff and I will continue to work to help the people of our community with any issue or concern they may have. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact our Capitol office at (512) 463-0356 or our District office at (972) 548-7500.

Sincerely,

Scott Sanford State Representative

Financial Assistance Available

Do you need financial help? On May 11, the Collin County Commissioners Court approved the distribution of direct financial assistance for housing, utilities, and groceries for qualifying Collin County residents. Apply for assistance at www.collincountytx.gov/cares/Pages/default.aspx.

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By Darrell Hale

Darrell Hale was elected as Collin County Commissioner, Precinct 3, in November 2018, filling an unexpired term for Precinct 3, vacated by newly-elected County Judge Chris Hill. Commissioner Hale will be up for re-election to a full four-year term in 2020.

Yes, Collin County has been impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. However, we have a great foundation rooted in God and Country-COVID-19 shouldn't scare us into sacrificing our liberties. The Commissioners Court has focused on our oath to the US Constitution to guide us through this crisis. That is the wonderful thing about our country: when we focus on the founding documents we can find timeless wisdom to show us the way forward.

Our 1st Amendment guarantees the people's right to peacefully assemble. I am very thankful that Judge Chris Hill alleviated the confusion associated with Governor Abbott's Executive Order by declaring that our assemblies of ten persons or greater are permitted. Of course, they should be permitted; you can't have celebrations like the 4th of July without the fellowship of friends, family, and other Americans.

Our government works for you and not the other way around. To aid the people of Collin County, our

Commissioners Court has responded with food, medical, and housing assistance where needed. Our goal is to keep all businesses open and not pick-and-choose who wins and who loses. Judge Hill and I have both stated that all businesses are essential with the Judge codifying it in his order. We cannot help that some politicians don't agree and want to decide the winners and losers. God tells us that we are all essential; the rights enshrined in our Constitution ensure that truth. If a business isn't essential to the people that it purports to serve, then it will cease to exist.

As you look forward to the fall and as we continue with the COVID craziness, please remember that the Collin County Commissioners Court is looking out for your rights. We are defending your rights to both protect yourself and provide for yourself in the way that YOU see fit. You are best equipped to make those decisions for yourself and for your family. I am proud to provide the conditions that we expect as a county for us all to excel and Collin County is doing great!

If you ever have a need, my cell phone number is (214) 471-3584 and my email address is dhale@collincountytx.gov.

The Collin County Commissioners Court meets on Mondays at 1:30p.m. on the fourth floor of 2300 Bloomdale Road, McKinney. The public is welcome to attend.











BLOOMDANGO 2020



On Saturday May 9, the Chambersville Tree Farm hosted Bloomdango: its annual celebration of blooming trees, shrubs, and plants. The weather was absolutely perfect for a fun family trip outdoors. Visitors had a blast playing yard games, drinking wine, eating sweet treats from Joyfully GF, and buying creative treasures from local artists, including *The Weston Post's* coloring page illustrator, Cate Robbins.

Families enjoyed their picnic lunch while listening to the sultry sounds of the Melissa Medlock Duo and gazing at the phenomenal gardens, especially the Anne Belovich rambling rose towers. These rambling rose towers can grow up to 25 feet high and can consume a building or other structure. These breathtaking rose towers are a sight to be seen. Three



year old Sarah Rose was thrilled at the blooming wonder and exclaimed, "wow, they are so big; I love the roses!"



Do you need some trees, plants, and shrubs for your yard? Visit www.chambersvilletreefarms.com and check out their selection. They can deliver and plant your trees, too!



Photos: Brittany Yurkovitch

HUGS WITH A PURPOSE

By Lauren Smith

Hugs Greenhouse is the second social enterprise from local non-profit Hugs Cafe Inc. and is dedicated to providing meaningful training and employment for adults with special needs in North Texas. Located at 3054 CR 205 in McKinney, this tranquil setting grows beautiful flowers and bedding plants that are selected to thrive in this area. Hugs Greenhouse opens seasonally for flower sales and showcases, with normal hours being Tuesday through Saturday from 9a.m. to 2p.m.

We are opening back up again this fall and you can get your annuals, perennials, and more grown with love by this amazing staff. Come visit Bill Crump and his amazing greenhouse team and shop with a purpose. For more information about Hugs Greenhouse find us on Facebook or visit hugscafe.org/greenhouse.

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A DAY AT THE MARKET

By Aria Lewellen

Aria is a 7th grade student at Melissa Middle School and a farmer in McKinney.

My family runs a small farm located in McKinney. Almost every Saturday for the past four years, my dad, brother, and I have been selling organically grown produce at the local farmers' market. We specialize in growing products like Swiss chard, cucumbers, tomatoes, salads, and other vegetables.

Every Saturday, my dad wakes me up at 6a.m. to get ready for the market. After I take care of myself, I help pack the produce we'd spent the previous day harvesting. I stuff bags with greens like micro radish and arugula, and I always make sure we don't forget the onions (again). As we're loading the truck, I'll try to lift a tote and realize that I need help because it's filled with 60 pounds of cucumbers! At around 7:15a.m., we're off to the market with a truck filled with the deliciously overpowering smells of onions, garlic, and tomatoes.

Ten to fifteen minutes later, we arrive at the square and start unpacking the produce. We set up the tent, piling radishes and beets on the table, and fill little boxes with cherry tomatoes. Finally, we're ready for the market. For four hours, my dad, brother, and I sell our scrumptious produce. Customer after customer comes by our booth, looking and buying.

Helping people find what they need and pointing them in the right direction is probably my favorite part of the market. I enjoy talking to our regulars and building relationships with new customers. One of the great things

about the weekly farmers market is the interaction and communication with all kinds of people. I love the time I get to spend with my farmer and customer friends.

You can find Lewellen Farms at the Saturday McKinney Farmers Market from 8a.m. to 12p.m. You can find them on Facebook, too.

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

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

WORKING WITH MY DAD

By Dexter Aultman

Dexter is a 3rd grade homeschooled student who also learns on-the-jobsite skills during summer break with his family's business, C.A. Decking and Construction.

My name is Dexter. I am 9 years old and I help my dad with our family business. My parents own a decking and fencing company called C.A. Decking and Construction. I get to go to work with my dad and learn how to build decks, pergolas and fences. In the morning, when we get to the job site, I make sure to get all the tools and materials out and ready for the day. Sometimes, I get to help by screwing down deck boards, nailing in fence pickets, and cutting boards.

At the end of the day, I always make sure all the tools are put away and all the trash is picked up. I like working with my dad and learning how to use different tools to build things. When I go to work with my dad, he pays me for each day that I work with him. I really like earning my own money because I get to buy myself Legos. I am saving some of my money so I can buy my own pet reptile. When I grow up, I think it would be cool to work for my dad or maybe even take over the business for him.



Photo: Cody Aultman

I think every kid should get to work with their mom or dad and learn new things. It would be fun if schools taught kids how to build things just like I do when I work with my dad!

If you need a new fence or deck, call Dexter's mom, Amy at (469) 400-2478.











CLEAN CLOTHES, CLEAN INGREDIENTS



Bv Erin Robbins

This year, we saw bleach, hand sanitizer, and other cleaning products disappear from grocery shelves. Many people have questioned the stability of our nation's supply chain, and have taken a renewed interest in making their own cleaning products, including laundry detergent.

Making a large quantity of laundry detergent at home is very simple and takes just a few ingredients. Not only is it an economical and eco-friendly choice, but it is also a good option for anyone with skin sensitivities who wishes to avoid the fragrances, dyes, and harsh chemicals often found in commercial laundry detergent.

Here on the farm, we prefer to make a powdered laundry detergent, but there are no doubt plenty of liquid detergent recipes. We started making our own detergent many years ago because we recycle the water from the washing machine to irrigate our orchards. We wanted to ensure we had complete control of what was in the water. Our go-to recipe is good for cleaning 288 loads of laundry.

Ingredients:

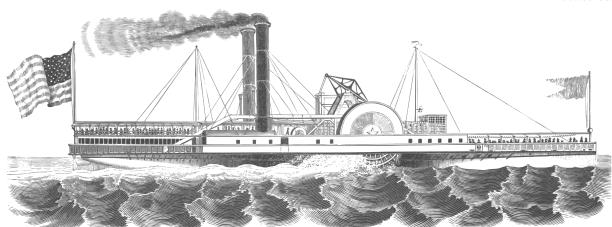
- · 12 cups Borax
- 8 cups washing soda
- · 8 cups baking soda
- · 8 cups grated bar soap (Fels Naptha soap)
- · A large container for mixing the ingredients
- An air-tight container to store the finished powder

Directions:

Grate your bar soap. If you're using Fels Naptha, you will grate 2 bars to get 4 cups. Measure out the rest of your ingredients and mix them together, breaking up any clumps that form. Consider wearing a mask for this part as Borax can be irritating to the respiratory system if inhaled. Finally, pour the powered mix into your container for storage.

To use your laundry detergent, add $\frac{1}{8}$ of a cup (2 tablespoons) to a normal load. This detergent will work with HE machines, but do some research if you have a front loader to be sure it's compatible with your washer. Although you may add additional ingredients to the recipe, like laundry softener or OxiClean, we find that this detergent, by itself, does a great job of cleaning the filthiest of farm clothes!

You can find Stonebranch Microfarms from 8a.m. to 12p.m. at the Saturday McKinney Farmers Market. Contact Erin at erinfrobbins@yahoo.com or call (469) 735-0735. You can also reach out to Stonebranch Microfarm on Facebook.













FEED YOUR MICROBIOME

By Amy Spindel, MSSW, CGP

You might think you're eating for your own body. But that's only partially true. You're also eating to feed the community of microbes that reside in your gut. These gut "bugs" are 10 times more numerous than your own body's cells, and with such a large presence, the microbiome plays a huge role in our health.

The microbiome has a number of roles, with many still unknown. For instance, the microbiome can impact mood and can drive food preferences and cravings. It also regulates our immune systems. And the bacteria themselves produce nutrients for us, including vitamins B12 and K, and butyrate to fuel our gastrointestinal cells.

Meanwhile, a microbiome that's out of balance can predispose us to a number of health problems. These include conditions such as obesity; rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease, diabetes, and other autoimmune diseases; fibromyalgia; asthma and eczema; and food sensitivities and allergies.

Prebiotic foods, or specific plant-based foods that contain particular fibers and starches, help feed the microbiome bacteria. Some wonderful prebiotics include greenish bananas, onions and leeks, garlic, Jerusalem artichokes, carrots, radishes, dandelion greens, ground chia seeds and flaxseeds, asparagus, coconut, mango, kiwi, cabbage, beets, and cooked and cooled lentils and potatoes. At least one probiotic food should be included in the diet daily.

So next time you're deciding what to eat, consider what your gut microbes might like to snack on as well.

Amy Spindel is a functional nutritionist, certified gluten-free practitioner, and teaching chef. She previously led successful careers both in mental health and professional kitchens. However, when her son developed health issues that his providers couldn't fully fix, she committed herself to learning holistic nutrition to help heal him. Amy lives in Plano and owns Food With Thought Nutrition. Visit her online at www.FoodWithThoughtNutrition.com.

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Help Print the Post

It costs about \$500 to print copies of *The Weston Post* each season. *The Weston Post* is a civics engagement project of the 501(c)(3) charity Classroom Counterpoints. Classroom Counterpoints and, by extension, *The Weston Post* is funded entirely by donations. If you are interested in contributing a tax-deductible donation to support this project, then please consider donating through our website http://classroomcounterpoints.org/donate or mail us a check made payable to Classroom Counterpoints to the following address:

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

Gotta Have Faith

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

Free COVID-19 Testing

Uninsured Collin County residents can get tested for COVID-19 at no cost. Visit 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.

Donation Appreciation!

Thank you so much to the Goldstein family, the Levine family, the Richardson family, the Schattle family, and the Whitworth family for your donations. Your contributions keep the printed edition alive!













STITCHING A COMMUNITY FABRIC



By Rachel Leo

Creative Connections is a quilting ministry of Calvary Chapel Honey Creek. A group of ladies from Calvary Chapel and the surrounding area of Weston come together once a month and work on quilts from start to finish. No quilting experience is required to join us. At the beginning of each year, a new quilt pattern or project is started, and by the end of the year the quilts are completed. They are then given to the church to be distributed as need arises.

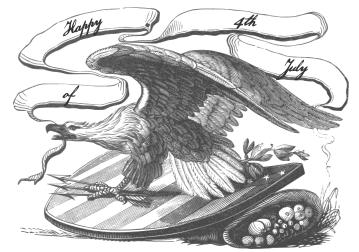
Quilts have been given to those in the community as comfort quilts to those who have lost a loved one, to those who suffer from medical issues, or to those with new babies. Several baby guilts have been donated to the Prestonwood Pregnancy Center and to LifeTalk "a non-profit pregnancy resource center providing medical support, Christ-centered counseling and education regarding life-affirming choices."

In previous years, Creative Connections has donated a patriotic quilt to the Weston Women's Group to be raffled during the 4th of July parade. The proceeds from the raffle helped fund worthy community causes. This patriotic waving Texas flag quilt will be donated to the Weston Women's Group for a future fundraiser. The back of the quilt features a beautiful array of Texas wildflowers. This Texas flag quilt was a very fun team effort to cut, piece and quilt together.

We invite ladies in the community to join us on the second Friday of the month at Calvary Chapel Honey Creek, 115 West Street in Weston from 9a.m to 1p.m. for fellowship and quilting.











FREEDOM RINGS IN WESTON

To parade or not to parade—that was the thought on everyone's minds leading up to July 4, 2020. In June, the city council voted to move forward with having a parade. However, a series of obstacles almost caused Weston to break its annual Independence Day tradition. Pandemic fears meant cities across the county either cancelled or seriously modified their July 4th celebrations. Furthermore, Weston's plans were nearly quashed after Governor Abbott's July 2nd Executive Order mandated "face coverings" in places where social distancing is not possible. But thanks to a team of dedicated patriots and volunteers, along with the support of local elected officials, Weston proudly celebrated America's independence with its 35th annual parade.



A smart approach to parking and parade seating discouraged the formation of crowded areas while ribboned cone dividers separated family groups by several feet. The Weston Water Supply Corporation provided bottled water and Underdog Signs made some amazing "Keep One Cow Apart" social distancing signs. Masks and sanitizer donned patriotic tabletops throughout the parade route. Volunteer Michael Hill beamed, "it was such a good feeling to be part of the preparation and execution of the 4th of July parade...I feel like everything possible was done to ensure safety, and the proof was having over three hundred people safely attend."

A cadre of Collin County leaders joined Weston's patriotic celebration including Representative Scott Sanford, Judge Chris Hill, Commissioner Darrell Hale, and Sheriff Jim Skinner. While the Weston Volunteer Fire Department usually leads the procession, they were called out to extinguish a major residential

fire before the parade began. Mayor Jim Marischen, the color guard, and Megyn Fancher's singing of the national anthem kicked off the festivities. A stream of classic cars, motorcycles, decorated tractors and vehicles, clever floats, horseback riders, and other patriotic participants paraded in Weston's streets and wowed the audience.

In lieu of a bake sale, Zuzu's Sweet Creamery satisfied the sweet tooth of parade-goers. Classroom Counterpoints hosted a raffle to raise money for the printing of *The Weston Post*. Patrick M. Reynolds, Cate Robbins, Buff City Soaps, Texas Range Honey, Coinucopia, the Richardson family, Caudalie Crest Winery, and Nancy Beeman contributed fantastic raffle items that truly celebrated the pioneer spirit of Weston.

Many residents expressed gratitude that Weston stood firm in its decision to host its Independence Day celebration. Courtney Taylor, whose son, Cedar, participated in the parade, affirmed the decision to publicly celebrate America's birthday stating, "this may be the most important July 4th since 1776. What we do or don't do is going to say a lot about the state of America and the people's supposed freedoms."

Weston was the only town in Collin County to host an Independence Day parade this year. Our community proved that the torch of liberty continues to burn brightly in rural Texas. Weston's thoughtful approach at hosting a parade during a pandemic proved that it is not necessary to sacrifice our liberty in the name of safety.

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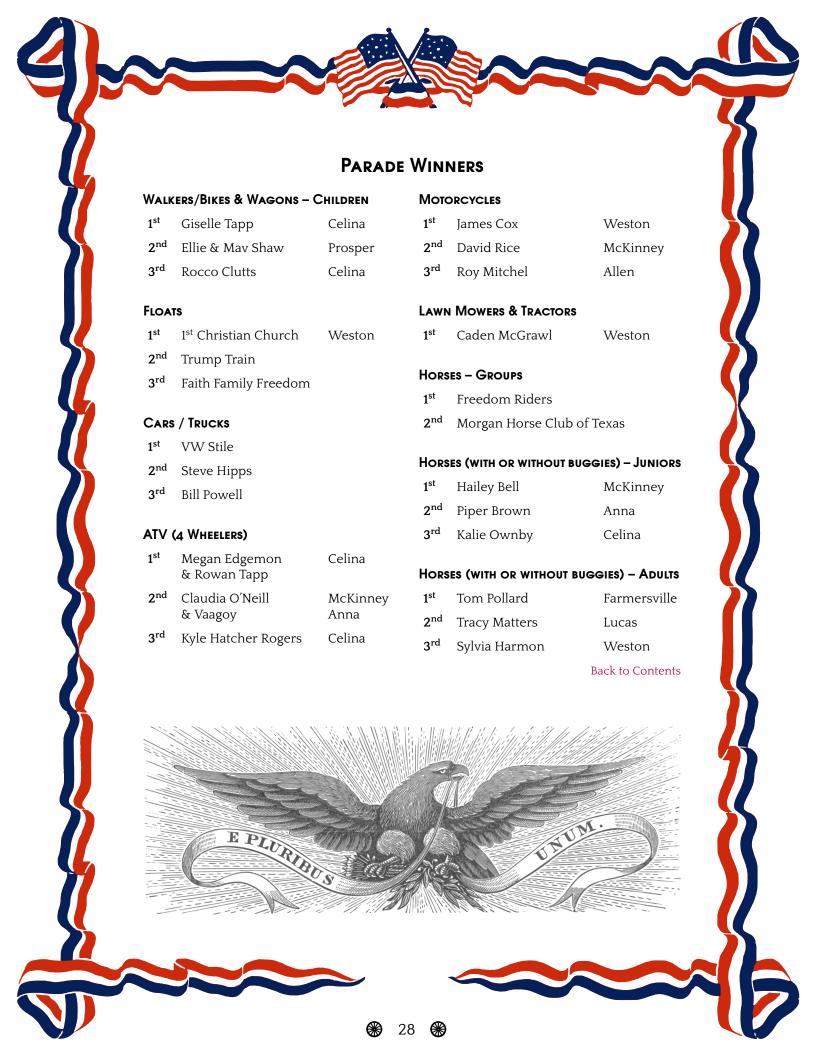














THE GOOD OL' DAYS



True or False? The old Weston bank (currently Texas Range Honey) was once robbed by the Bonnie and Clyde gang.

For years, folks have shared the legend that the infamous Bonnie and Clyde gang robbed the Weston bank. However, it appears that this story is likely false. The Weston bank was certainly robbed; The Celina Record documents the 1922 robbery as part of a crime spree where multiple banks were hit—the saga is reprinted below.

The Bonnie and Clyde gang, however, were active in the early 1930s. While it doesn't look like the gang robbed the Weston bank, they robbed a Celina hardware store, kidnapped some local boys, fled to Weston, and engaged in a gun battle with police (check out the spring 2020 edition of *The Weston Post* to read about the Bonnie and Clyde gang's romp in Weston). While it is certainly possible that the gang hit the Weston bank early on in their crime spree, there is little documentation to prove it. If you have evidence to support the Weston legend, please let us know. We would love to set the record straight!

The Celina Record

THURSDAY FEB. 23, 1922.

News Items From All Over Texas

The First State Bank of [Ravenna], Fannin County, was [burglarized] about 5 o'clock Wednesday morning. The vault was broken into, but the money was in a safe in another part of the building and the burglars got only \$23, all in pennies. Before leaving they dynamited the building, damaging it badly.

THURSDAY MAR. 2, 1922

Weston Bank Robbed Last Thursday Night

The Weston Guaranty State Bank of Weston, nine miles north east of Celina, was robbed of \$764.4s (all of the cash on hand) Thursday night of last week.

The fact that the bank had been robbed was not discovered until early Friday morning when the citizens began to go about their work. The vault had been tunnelled through by the use of a crowbar, which was taken from the section house of the H. & T. C. railway, just south of Van Alstyne. Cottonseed had been spread upon the floor to prevent falling bricks making a noise. The safe was dynamited and the money, which was all in silver coin, was cleaned out to the last cent.

Four men and two women were arrested in a house in Denison late Friday afternoon, after they had made a desperate effort to escape. A stolen automobile was found in the garage and a quantity of loot was in the house.

Those under arrest give their names as G. J. Gee, E. O. Abbott, J. E. Moore, E. M. Brady, Mrs. Francis Moore, wife of J. E. Moore, and Mrs. Silvan Abbott, wife of E. O. Abbott, and [their] place of residence as Joplin, Mo.

It is believed they were connected with the robbery of both the Weston bank and the [Ravenna] (Fannin County) bank, which was robbed a few days before the Weston job was pulled. They are being held in the Grayson county jail at Sherman.

In the house where the arrests were made were found two pistols identified as the ones taken from the Ravenna bank, also a sack of pennies. Four sacks of coins ranging in denominations from five cents to a dollar, were identified as coming from the Weston bank. There is said to be other evidence that fastens the Weston robbery on the bunch.

The prisoners refuse to give out anything. At present the only charge against them is the theft of an automobile which was stolen from a church in Denison Sunday night, Feb. 5.

THURSDAY MAR. 16, 1922

Another Confession From Bank Robbers

Last week it was stated that Sheriff Boyd Craig of Grayson County had secured a confession from one of the women who was a member of the party of six arrested at Denison suspected of having robbed the [Ravenna] and Weston banks. Friday Everett Austin, one of the men held, broke his long silence and made a confession of both robberies.

He connected one of the women with the Weston robbery, saying that she, with other [members] of the party, visited Weston several days before the robbery and noted conditions carefully. When the job was to be done, the wires were cut and two men stood guard, while the other two tunnelled through the wall. It was unnecessary to blow the safe, he said, as they were able to work the combination by listening to the tumblers fall.

At Ravenna, he stated, that lights appeared in some residences when the report of the explosion incident to blowing the safe was heard.

Continued on Page 30











THURSDAY MAR. 30, 1922

Taken to Bonham To Be Arraigned

The four men and two women charged with having robbed the Ravenna and the Weston banks, were taken from Sherman to Bonham under heavy guard Monday morning to appear for trial for the Ravenna robbery.

The Grayson County sheriff is in receipt of information to the effect that the man known as E. B. Moore is wanted at Tulsa, Ok., for jumping a \$10,000 bond in a bank robbery case. [Tulsa] officers offer a \$200 reward for him.

G. J. Gee and T. R. Foster, the first to be tried, drew 35 and 25 years respectively[.]

SHERMAN DAILY DEMOCRAT

TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 1922.

Gangmen Plead Guily At M'Kinney

Albert Christman[,] T. L. Foster and G. J. Gee entered pleas of guilty to burglary here today in connection with the robbery of the Guaranty State Bank at Weston, Collin County, Feb. 23 and were sentenced to a penitentiary term of three, four and five years, respectively.

Three other persons held in connection with the robbery will be released[,] the County Attorney said.

Gee, Foster and Christman previously had been convicted in both Fannin and Grayson Counties and sentenced to prison terms for alleged robbery of the Ravenna Bank and the theft of automobiles.

Sources: https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth772856/m1/1/ https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth772730/m1/1/ https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth772688/m1/2/ https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth773325/m1/1/ https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth194314/m1/1/







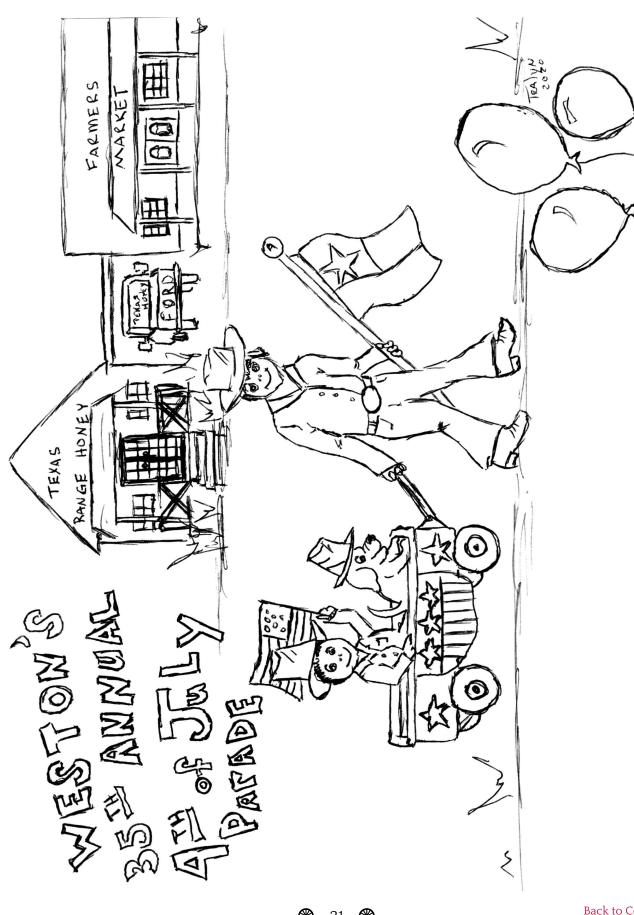
















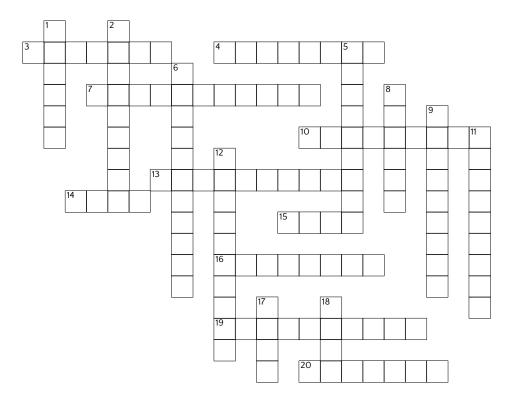












Across

- 3 Texas State Representative
- 4 Rambling Rose Tower
- 7 Historical Weston crime
- 10 Heather's homeschool
- 13 Living gut community
- 14 Giving out farm loans
- 15 Cafe and Greenhouse
- 16 Lack of supply
- 19 Final Bible Chapter
- 20 Dexter's ideal pet

Down

- 1 Weston celebration
- 2 Named after Mary Sue's family
- 5 Aria's heavy load
- 6 C7 fights this
- 8 A night at the ____
- 9 Mason, firefighter, musician, alderman
- 11 Cleans dirty clothes
- 12 Bottleneck in the food supply
- 17 Needs volunteers
- **18** County Commissioner

Answers found at bottom of last page.

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

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Sudoku

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·				3		6		
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Answers found at bottom of last page.















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 http://www.redrosestudio.com/texas.html.









UPCOMING EVENTS

★ August 11 Weston City Council Meeting at City Hall 7:30p.m.

August 27 Lyndon B. Johnson Day

★ September 6 Ten Year Celebration at Caudalie Crest Winery 11a.m. to 4p.m.

* September 7 Labor Day

★ September 8 Weston City Council Meeting at City Hall 7:30p.m.

★ September 11 Patriot Day

★ September 13 National Grandparents Day

★ September 17 Constitution Day

★ October 12 Columbus Day

★ October 13 Weston City Council Meeting at City Hall

7:30p.m.

♦ October 31 Halloween

★ November 1 Daylight Savings Time Ends

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FILING DEADLINES FOR NOVEMBER 3, 2020 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 alderman. The city of Weston will hold an election November 3, 2020, to elect 3 aldermen.

August 17 Last Day to File for Place on the General Election Ballot 5p.m.

★ August 21 Last Day to File a Declaration of Write-in Candidacy

♦ October 5 Last Day to Register to Vote

♦ October 19-30 Early Voting

November 3 Election Day

Gardening Tip



A deep soaking once or twice a week is preferable to lightly watering your garden multiple times a week, as the latter discourages strong root development. Soak the soil to a depth of 6 inches only when your plants need it.

Examine the soil (and not the plant) to determine whether or not you need to water your garden. If the soil surface seems dry, use your finger to feel if the soil is moist at about 1 inch of depth. If it feels moist, do not water. If the soil feels dry at a 1 inch depth, then it's time to water.



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Meeting Schedule



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



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



Weston
Women's Group
4th Tuesday
7p.m.
117 Main Street

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

"I'm convinced that you never have to give up liberties to be safe.

I think you're less safe when you give up your liberties."

-Ron Paul

16. SHORTAGE 17. WVFD 18. HALE 19. REVELATION 20. REPTILE 8. MUSEUM 9. KEVINDEAL 10. HOMESTEAD 11. DETERGENT 12. PROCESSORS 13. MICROBIOME 14. USDA 15. HUGS Answets: 1. Parade 2. Cowanroad 3. Sanford 4. Belovich 5. Cucumbers 6. Trafficking 7. Bankrobbery







