

# The Weston Post

Issue № 11

Summer 2022

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## STEPPING UP WITH ALDERMAN TIM WILSON

Tell us your story and how you arrived in Weston.

I was born in Washington D.C. in 1953 as the youngest in our family of seven boys and one girl—three brothers and my sister are still living. My family moved to a mountain top in West Virginia in 1963 and our nearest neighbor was a half a mile away. We grew up poor and finally got indoor plumbing when I was 16!

After graduating from Berkeley Springs High School, I attended college in West Virginia. I married my high school sweetheart right out of high school when she was 16 and I was 18. We were married 10 years and she gave me a daughter and son before succumbing to breast cancer. Our daughter was born in Washington D.C. and my son was born in Texas. Both of them currently reside in Maryland.

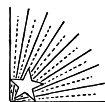
Being married at 18 with no job prospects led me back to the Washington D.C. area to find work. The only jobs available were not very attractive and, fortunately, I found one as a hod carrier on a masonry crew. For those who don't know, a hod is a three-sided box with a handle used for moving bricks. For those who think a hod is merely an artifact of history, rest assured that a hod is a useful tool that continues to be used in the masonry world today. It's sometimes still the best way to get bricks and mortar up a 50 foot ladder! Eventually, I worked my way up from carrying a hod to becoming foreman of the crew and years later owned a masonry business.

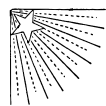
In 1978, construction halted in the Washington D.C area, so I moved to Texas where I found work as a bricklayer. I finally made it to God's country! First, I lived in Garland and then moved to Plano. I moved to Van Alstyne, and finally, in 2007, I found my home in Weston. I love it here and plan to never move.

I married again in 1983 and, during our 23 years together, she gave me six fine sons before being taken home to the Lord due to colon cancer. We homeschooled our children for about seven years using Bob Jones curriculum and belonged to a fantastic homeschooling group in Grayson county when we lived in Van Alstyne. Homeschooling is not easy but the results are worth it.



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I am currently married to my beautiful wife JoAn. So far, we have had 14 great years together here in Weston. She brought her two sons into our family so we now share a family of nine sons, one daughter, their spouses, fourteen grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter with another on the way. Holidays are hectic!

#### **What got you interested in building staircases?**

I've always known that I wanted to be an entrepreneur. I started my first business—logging my Dad's land—when I was only 13 years old! After trying and failing six times with various business endeavors over the years, I finally started Stair Solutions in 2006 and my company continues to successfully operate to this day.

A memorable job inspired me to focus on building staircases. While working as a trim carpenter, I had the opportunity to work with a cabinet maker brought in from Germany to build a curved freestanding stair for the home of Danny White, the quarterback for the Dallas Cowboys. I immediately knew that this challenging occupation was my calling. I quit my job and began working at Woodsmith's, a stair company in Gunter, where I spent the next 13 years learning how to build stairs. While employed at Woodsmith's, I got to travel all over the country building staircases for many well-known people and companies (sorry, but I can't name names here.)

I moved on from Woodsmith's and spent the next 13 years as Vice President of Trinity Stairs building the company and learning how to manage other sides of the business like finance and human resources. When I left Trinity Stairs, it was the largest stair company in DFW. All of this experience prepared me for success with my own company. While it could be said that I'm just another overnight success story, I still go in to work each day even though two of my sons currently manage the business.

Through my many failures I have learned many valuable lessons but the most important one I have learned is that you haven't failed until you stop trying. Never give up!

#### **What was your motivation to homeschool and what advice do you have for families who are currently homeschooling?**

My motivation was, and still is, that our government schools care more about indoctrination than learning. I wanted my children to be taught God's values and learn how to think through problems to find the solution. But in the public school, it seemed they were just being asked to memorize and repeat rather than to think and understand. Also, a parent knows their children and their ways of learning better than a teacher who sees maybe thirty students each hour.

However, I do want to send out a word of caution because homeschooling, if done correctly, is very time consuming and can be hard work. If done incorrectly, it can limit the child's growth so do not take this responsibility lightly. I truly believe that home schooling for those seven years made a huge difference in helping my children discover their world view.

#### **Tell us about your background as a firefighter and how that impacts your service as a city councilman?**

After the attacks on our nation on September 11, 2001, I wanted to do something to help my country and community but I was too old to enlist in the military. However, there was an opportunity in the Van Alstyne Fire Department where I completed the county's fire certification program and later became a nationally certified EMT. I continued as a member in good standing until I moved to Weston. Firefighting is a rewarding way to serve the community and when I moved to Weston I continued as a volunteer fireman for the next several years.

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## *The Weston Post*

Issue № 11

Summer 2022

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#### **Publisher**

Classroom Counterpoints

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Legacy Print Group  
[legacyprintgroup.com](http://legacyprintgroup.com)

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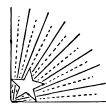
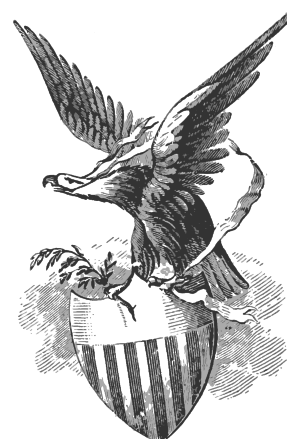
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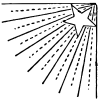
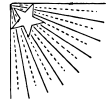
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My firefighting experience also gives me some measure of insight as we are currently working with our fire department to improve our emergency services. Our citizens are our number one concern and as our city continues to grow with more homes and more people, it has become necessary for us to update our emergency services as soon as possible. We are currently working with our fire department to do exactly that.

At the time of this writing, our City Council has, for the first time ever, approved a contract with Weston's volunteer fire department to provide fire and medical emergency services to the City of Weston and have presented it to Weston Fire and Rescue for their approval. It is obvious that the City of Weston has become bigger than just the downtown area and our goal is to provide timely and necessary medical and fire service to all parts of our city. With improved emergency services in mind, our joint short-term goal is to build another fire station near our southern border capable of housing paid firefighters and medics with additional office space for police presence. After reaching this goal, we plan to add another station in our northern extra-territorial jurisdiction (ETJ). We will get there!

### **Tell us about your faith and how Christ has impacted your life?**

By the time I graduated high school I had already read the Bible all the way through three times but it wasn't until I was 32 years old that I realized my relationship with God through His son Jesus. I am thankful every day for this relationship and am always happy to talk to anyone who will listen of the great things He has done, and is continuing to do in my life. This doesn't mean I'm perfect, far from it. It just means that I'm forgiven. I consider myself a non-denominational Christian even though I attended a Baptist church for many years and was the adult Sunday school teacher for nearly 10 years.

### **What do you like to do in your free time?**

My hobbies include spending time with my family, reading anything and everything, playing guitar, cooking great food, and exploring the country. My sons are now running my business as partners and that leaves Jo and I time to travel. I drive our motor home with Jeep in tow while she plans the trip. Our goal is to visit every National Park in the US and as many state parks as possible.

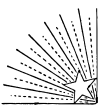
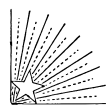
We just returned from a three week trip to Richmond by way of Holmes County, Ohio; Pennsylvania; and Hagerstown and Fredrick, Maryland. Last March we did a two week jaunt to Florida. Last fall, we went on a six-week trip to New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, California, Oregon, Seattle, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma.

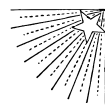
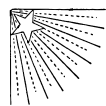
### **What would you like residents to know?**

I am not a politician. My reason for running for alderman in Weston is my love of the town and the people here. Weston is a special place to raise a family and I know I share that sentiment with many others. I know firsthand because Jo and I raised four of my sons here who graduated from Celina High School.

With all of the new developments currently under way, change is inevitable. I want to encourage everyone to get involved with our local city council and our other community groups to help with the decision-making that will affect our community for, not just years, but for generations. With the ever-rising population, we have to expect unprecedented growth and plan for it! In the 44 years I've been in North Texas, I've seen this same growth happen in the small rural towns of Plano, Allen, Prosper, Melissa, Anna, and Celina; growth keeps coming our way. In fact, it is surrounding us and, even now, moving on to Gunter and Van Alstyne. Good decisions made now can help us continue to have a great lifestyle here, even though it will be different from what we've had in the past. We must remember and learn from the past as we make decisions for the future.

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## HONORING FALLEN WARRIORS

By Chris Hill

*The following article is a modified post from Collin County Judge, Chris Hill.*

During a ceremony on Monday, June 6, at 11:00a.m., at the Russell A. Steindam Courts Building in McKinney, the Collin County Commissioners Court dedicated the portraits of six Collin County soldiers who died in the service of our country. The portraits were added to the 82 already on display in the "Hall of Heroes." There are 431 names engraved on the "Wall of Honor" at the Collin County Veterans Memorial Park in McKinney, and the goal of the "Hall of Heroes" project is to display portraits for as many soldiers on the "Wall of Honor" as possible.

The public was invited to attend the portrait ceremony.

The "North Texas Fallen Warrior Portrait Project" is privately funded and sponsored by American Legion "Bill Bryan" Post 110, VFW "Lone Star" Post 2150, and [ccfreedomfighters.com](http://ccfreedomfighters.com). The portraits are created by McKinney artist and US Air Force veteran, Colin Kimball, who donates his time and talents to this historic project.

The six heroes honored were:

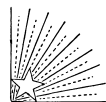
JASPER T. SMITH, 25, Blue Ridge. US Army Air Corps, Tech/Sgt. Radio Technician with 702<sup>nd</sup> Bomb Squadron. KIA 1 April 1944 after bombing mission, when his heavily damaged plane went down near the village of Long Stratton, a few miles short of his home base of Tibbenham, in Norfolk England. One of six crewmen who died. He was reburied at Pecan Grove Cemetery in McKinney in 1948. WWII.



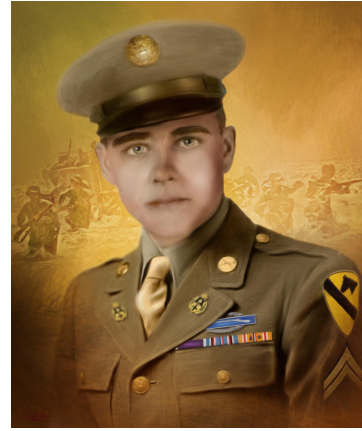
JERRAL W. DERRYBERRY, 23, Frisco and McKinney High School class of 1937. US Army Air Corps, Capt. Pilot B-17 Flying Fortress, 391<sup>st</sup> Bomber Squadron, 34<sup>th</sup> Air Group. Saw action over North Africa. Killed in B-24 crash 12 June 1943 two miles west of Soledad, California. Had a wife and was the brother of Lee Derryberry. Buried at Pecan Grove Cemetery, McKinney. WWII.



*Continued on Page 5*



HAROLD LEE DERRYBERRY, 22, Frisco and McKinney High School class of 1938. US Army, Cpl. Troop A, 5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division. Wounded at Los Negros in the Pacific. KIA 29 November 1944 on Leyte Island in the Philippines and was buried there. In September of 1948 his body was returned to McKinney and reburied at Pecan Grove Cemetery, McKinney. The brother of Jerral Derryberry. WWII.



GUYNN L. ANDERSON, 19, McKinney High School class of 1942. US Navy, Coxswain. KIA while serving on the USS Franklin CV-13. On 19 March 1945, the Franklin was the closest ship to the Japanese mainland securing a position 50 miles from Japan to launch strike missions. While on station the ship was struck by a single Japanese bomber plane, "Kamikaze attack," killing 807 of her crew and wounding an additional 487. The USS Franklin had the highest number of casualties of any warship that survived in WWII and was second only to the USS Arizona that was sunk at Pearl Harbor. Name listed on Tablets of the Missing at Honolulu Memorial. Missing in action buried at sea. WWII.



MARTIN LEROY RODGERS, 18, Prosper, McKinney High School. US Army, SP4. Helicopter Crewman. D Troop, 3<sup>rd</sup> Squadron, 5<sup>th</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Aviation Brigade, known as "Lighthorse". Killed 26 July 1970 when his helicopter went down in the Mekong River, and he drowned while waiting for rescue. Youngest Army helicopter crewman to die in Vietnam. Buried at Ridgeview Memorial Park, Allen. The Vietnam War.



HOWELL LLOYD (BUD) LACY, 23, Altoga, McKinney. US Army, Tech/Sgt. 23<sup>rd</sup> Infantry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division. Landed at Normandy on D-Day. KIA 13 July 1944 in France. Buried at Restland Memorial Park, Dallas, Texas. WWII.





# JAMES LINDSEY OF WESTON: A D-DAY HERO YOU SHOULD KNOW

By Collin Kimball

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

James M. "Bud" Lindsey was born in Weston in August of 1915 to John and Ollie "Hannah" Lindsey. James, or Bud as he was known, was one of 8 children in this family who made their livelihood from the fertile Blackland soils of this area. In May 1942, six months after America entered the Second World War, 26-year-old Bud Lindsey enlisted in the United States Army in Dallas. Enlistment records indicate he was a farmer in civilian life. He began his basic training at Camp Robinson in Arkansas.

After completing his training, Lindsey was assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Reconnaissance (Recon) Troop of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division. Our nation would call on the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division to launch our first major offensive, Operation Torch, against the Italian and Nazi forces, led by Field Marshal Erwin Rommel in North Africa in November 1942. There was no time to spare and, after completing basic and advanced training, Lindsey embarked with the 1<sup>st</sup> Division from New York on August 1<sup>st</sup> 1942 under the command of Major General Terry Allen via troop ships to Beaminster in southwest England. Also serving as the Assistant Division Commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division was a decorated hero of the Great War, Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt III, the son of former President Theodore Roosevelt Junior.



James Lindsey portrait by Collin Kimball

With only six months' time in service, Lindsey landed on the coast of Oran Algeria as Operation Torch commenced on November 8<sup>th</sup> 1942. He then participated in the Tunisian Campaign, where the 1<sup>st</sup> Division was in continuous combat from January to May 1943. They succeeded in liberating North Africa from Nazi control and captured 250,000 prisoners. After a short recuperation period, Lindsey participated in a second amphibious assault of Sicily with the 1<sup>st</sup> Division in July 1943. This campaign lasted until November. In the span of slightly more than a year, the former farmer from Weston had participated in two amphibious assaults and served in combat in two campaigns.

## Surviving Normandy

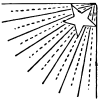
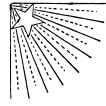
Lieutenant General George Patton, Major General Terry Allen's Superior, disliked Allen's leadership style that did not conform to Patton's "spit and polish" standards. As a result, Patton relieved Allen from command of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division along with Roosevelt, who was very loyal to Allen. Lindsey returned to England with the 1<sup>st</sup> Division to rest, refit, and prepare for the next big operation. Roosevelt returned to England to work on the Supreme Allied Command Staff, preparing for the next significant operation: Operation Overlord, the Invasion of Normandy.

From November 1943 to the following May, Lindsey was involved in training and possibly enjoying some weekend time off in England. He was likely advanced in rank to Technician 5<sup>th</sup> Class during this time. Roosevelt, who had amassed considerable combat experience from his service in the Great War and the North Africa Campaign, pleaded with his superiors to be assigned a combat role in the upcoming Invasion of Normandy. Although he suffered from wounds from the Great War, including a heart ailment and needing a cane to walk, the Allied command relented and reassigned Roosevelt to the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, where he would play a pivotal role in their amphibious assault on Utah Beach.

Operation Overlord, which we know as D-Day, began on June 6<sup>th</sup> 1944. Lindsey was part of the initial assault on Omaha Beach, his third amphibious assault. Over 1,000 men from the 1<sup>st</sup> Division lost their lives in the assault on Omaha Beach. Lindsey survived.

Meanwhile, Brigadier General Roosevelt became the only General Officer to participate in the amphibious assault of Normandy when he led his men on the first assault wave of Utah Beach. Roosevelt was in one of the first boats to hit the beach and quickly determined that they had landed way off course. He quickly reconnoitered the dunes and noted that they landed off to the side of the Nazi defenses and promptly made a command decision to begin their assault where they landed. He famously declared, "we will start the war from right here." His decision was wise and fortuitous as it allowed the 4<sup>th</sup> Division to encircle the rear of the Nazi defenses. With a cane in one hand and a pistol in the other, Roosevelt took command of offloading boats of infantry troops of the 4<sup>th</sup> Division, rallying and directing them into battle. The younger soldiers were astounded seeing an old man with a cane yelling at them and motivating them to move forward to the sound of the gunfire.

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## From the Beach to the Bocage

Once the beaches were secure, both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Divisions would become bogged down in the bocage country of Normandy as they moved inland to liberate France. Nevertheless, Lindsey survived the brutal combat and continued to accompany the 1<sup>st</sup> Division in their march across France. For Roosevelt, though, combat stress ultimately took its toll on him as he suffered a fatal heart attack on July 12<sup>th</sup> 1944 while in France. Coincidentally, he was promoted to Major General on his death day and was assigned to take command of the Texas-based 90<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Roosevelt was initially buried in the village of Saint Mere Eglise in France. However, he was later relocated to the American Cemetery at Saint Laurent-Sur-Mer in France, where he rests beside his brother Quentin, a pilot killed in the Great War.

Lindsey served in the Recon Troop, charging ahead of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division in their lightly armored vehicles to scout for enemy troops and engage them if necessary as they raced across France in nearly continuous combat toward Germany. He reached Germany in September and participated in the siege of Aachen in October. By December, the 1<sup>st</sup> Division earned some rest after six months of combat and was sent to the rear. Unfortunately, their rest was short-lived as they were promptly thrust into battle in late December to repel the Nazi Invasion in what we know as the "Battle of the Bulge."

Breaking through the Siegfried Line for a second venture into Germany, Lindsey's Reconnaissance Troop would cross the Ruhr river in February, capture the city of Bonn, and then reach the bridgehead at Remagen on 16 March. Fighting was constant, and his Troop would be subject to harassing artillery fire, creating many casualties for the 1<sup>st</sup> Recon Troop. For example, on March 21<sup>st</sup>, official reports from his unit state that sixty-one artillery and seventy rocket rounds impacted the encampment where Lindsey was based. The following day, the official 1<sup>st</sup> Division report stated the following "Artillery fire continued. Tech 5 Lindsey KIA." The casualty's 1<sup>st</sup> Recon Troop suffered in March, which included Lindsey, harmed their combat efficiency due to "the loss of key men during the month," which is recorded in the official after-action reports. No other similar citations were noted in descriptions from prior months. Lindsey's war was over, two months shy of Germany's surrender.

Weston born Tech 5 James M. "Bud" Lindsey was one of the first men from Collin County to take the fight to the Nazis. One of more than 3,600 1<sup>st</sup> Division soldiers who were killed in action, he was a veteran of three amphibious assaults and fought on two different continents. Lindsey is buried in the American War Cemetery in Henri-Chapelle, Belgium. He served under the command of Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt III, who would receive a posthumous Medal of Honor for his valor on Utah Beach. Their sacrifices liberated Europe. May they forever Rest in Honored Peace.



Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt III, the son of former President Theodore Roosevelt, became the only General Officer to participate in the amphibious assault of Normandy.

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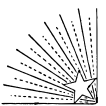
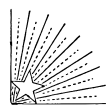


## MEET THE CANDIDATES

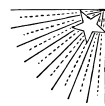
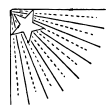
Did you know that six candidates are running for three seats on the city council for the November election? The six candidates are Daniel Antwiler, Michael Hill, Chrissy Hinojosa, Jeff Metzger, Heather Richardson and Mary Smith. The Weston Candidate Forum Team is hosting a Q-and-A with the candidates at the Community Center on October 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30p.m.

Do you have a question for one or all of the candidates? If so, please email your question to [westoncandidateforum@gmail.com](mailto:westoncandidateforum@gmail.com)

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## CELINA'S MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE

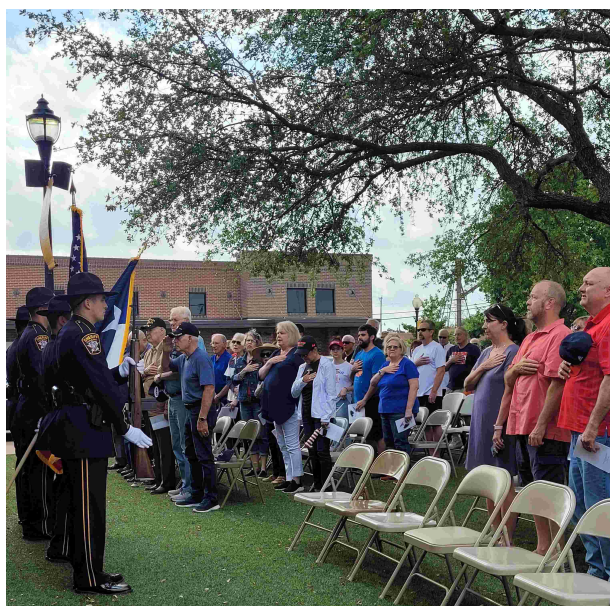
On the morning of May 30 on the downtown Celina Square, the Celina Area Heritage Association hosted a service honoring our fallen soldiers while recognizing local veterans. The event also paid tribute to a remarkable veteran, Brigadier General Carl Darnall, a native of northern Collin County, who invented the water chlorination system present in modern municipal systems. His invention has saved millions of lives across the planet.

The ceremony began with the Collin County Sheriff's Honor Guard performing the presentation of colors which was followed by the singing of the national anthem and an opening prayer by Reverend Cliff Lester of the Bethel Baptist Church. Mayor Sean Terry welcomed the audience and artist Colin Kimball presented his painting of BG Carl Darnall. Corbett Howard introduced guest speaker, Colonel Daniel J. Moore, commander of the Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center, who gave a fantastic Memorial Day address. Later, Commander Andy Hopkins with the American Legion Post 145 lowered the flag while a trumpeter played taps. After the ceremony on the square, everyone was invited to attend a brunch reception and view the exhibits at the Celina Area Heritage Association Museum.

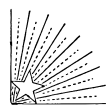


Colin Kimball, who painted the beautiful BG Carl Darnall portrait enjoyed seeing his dear friend, Ralph O'Dell, a World War II veteran. Kimball explained, "A couple years ago, it was common to have a dozen WWII vets in the crowd. Now, one is lucky to have one show up. We had two in Celina today. Being a recipient of the affection of others for keeping the legacies alive of their loved ones and brothers-in-arms will allow me to sleep well tonight and it motivates me to continue my life's mission."

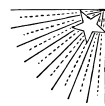
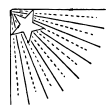
Weston City Council member Mike Hill was moved by the Celina celebration and remarked on the difference in the way Memorial Day was celebrated during his childhood saying "when I was young, Memorial Day was a big deal day with parades and marches." Hill felt deeply moved by the service and was surprised to learn about Celina's long history of service and sacrifice. This year's Memorial Day celebration was particularly meaningful for Jane Huddleston, a founding member and current 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the Celina Area Heritage Association. "Each year, I love the gathering on the town square and seeing so many of our community's veterans, especially the remaining [World War II] ones. Every year is memorable but this year, my husband was one of the ones whose name was read. He always attended the program and was proud of being a veteran."



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## WESTON'S DARK SKY HERITAGE

By Bruce Morrell

*Bruce owns Astrofactors which is a company that sells QHYCCD cameras for amateur or professional astrophotography. His wife, Karen, owns Spring Creek Academy in Plano.*

Have you ever looked to the night sky with wonder and tried to make sense of the stars? While watching the stars with the naked eye is extremely enjoyable, observing the universe with powerful photographic lenses is truly marvelous. However, it is getting increasingly difficult to see deep into space with all the light pollution creeping our way. When my family first moved to Weston twenty years ago, we could still see the Milky Way. In fact, the fantastic nighttime views were the main reason we moved here. Shortly after building our house, I built a space imaging observatory in my back yard and named it the Spring Creek Observatory after the private school my wife and I established in Plano.



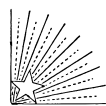
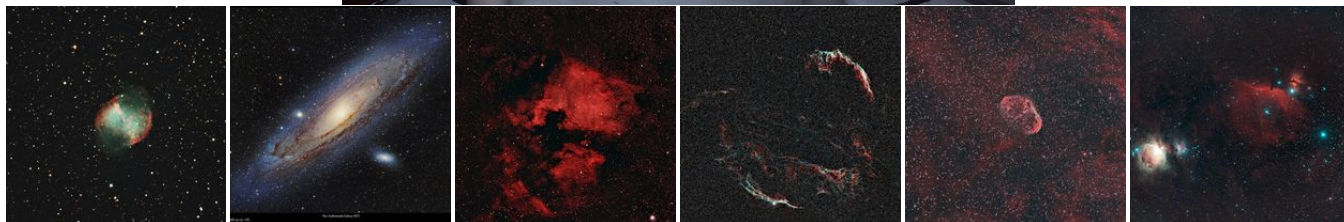
At night, when the observatory opens, the roof rolls back to reveal two telescopes. These scopes are used for imaging only; there are no eyepieces to look through. The Hubble Telescope and the newly launched James Webb telescope are similar in that these two instruments are for imaging only. In fact, much of the same technology is used in the Hubble telescope as well, just with a much bigger telescope and an even bigger budget. The Hubble images are used to try and answer the big questions in life like how our universe was created. There are many more land based observatories all over the world which are operated by universities. Our own McDonald Observatory in Fort Davis is a prime example.

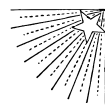
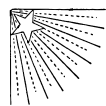
Astrophotography is used for both art and science. My hobby got started when I was growing up in Colorado back in the 1960s when the Milky Way was so bright that you could see your own shadow at night. After thirty years, I finally had time and a budget for pursuing this hobby. My photos are for my own expression of photographic art. Some of the images captured at the Weston observatory are shown here.

These images are taken over multiple hours staring at a single point in the sky. It becomes tricky when you realize that the night sky is in motion with stars rising in the east and setting in the west every day so our telescopes have to lock onto the object and track across the sky. You cannot see these images with the naked eye and, in fact, if you were to look at them through a backyard telescope, you would only see white fuzzy objects. The camera takes an image from five to ten minutes long, thirty times in one night to accumulate all the detail shown.

Weston still has some great night skies; it is part of the heritage of our little city. Fortunately, the City of Weston has enacted ordinances to protect our night sky as much as possible as part of an effort initiated by the International Dark Sky Association, an organization whose mission is to protect the night from light pollution. We can all do our part to protect our dark skies by installing outdoor lights that face down rather than up or out.

*Want to learn more about the Spring Creek Observatory and deep space photography? Then visit <https://www.astrofactors.com/> for more information.*





## WESTON'S PUSH-IN

By Stan Semones

*Stan is a volunteer firefighter with Weston Fire and Rescue.*

At the end of Weston's annual July Fourth parade, Weston Fire and Rescue hosted a "push-in" ceremony involving a Pierce engine, which took 10 months to build. The push-in has a long history among fire departments across the country. During the early 1800s, fire apparatus and pumps were pulled by teams of horses. After suppressing a fire, firefighters would return to the station, unhitch the horses, and then physically push the apparatus into the bay. Today, fire apparatus can weigh up to 80,000 pounds, and while community members help "push in" the equipment, a driver-operator is behind the steering wheel and several staff members monitor all sides of the vehicle to create a safe environment.



Fire departments that host apparatus push-in ceremonies and fire station dedication events hope these traditions serve as reminders of the importance of coming together and the critical role of those who've voluntarily provided assistance on 911 calls. "We wanted to include our community in which we serve to let them know this is their fire engine and their participation on the dedication shows we want a united and cooperative partnership with our community," said Chief Bart Chambers of Weston Fire and Rescue, referring to the \$500,000 Custom Saber Pumper the department recently purchased.

The new engine seats four firefighters, carries 3,325 feet of hose and 750 gallons of water, and can pump that water at 1,500 gallons per minute, according to the specifications requested by the department. During the push-in, parade attendees stood around the front end of the engine while Mason DiNicola, a Weston volunteer firefighter, backed the engine into bay #3 of the Main Street station.

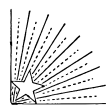
This tradition is one that's shared by fire service members all across Collin County, and sometimes the push-in ceremony of a newly acquired apparatus will be coupled with the opening of a new fire station. "What we like to do is when there's a new subdivision that opens up, we build a fire station that's dedicated to the residents in that subdivision," said Chief Mark Metdker of the Celina Fire Department. "We want to involve the entire community because we're saying, 'This is your fire station; these are your firefighters; this is your fire engine; and when you dial 911, these are the people who are going to respond.'"

Giving residents a sense of ownership of the apparatus is another way some departments make these types of ceremonies interactive and hands-on. "What other time is the general public going to get a chance to crawl over the engine and wash it down than with a push-in ceremony?" said Chief Jeff Bell of the Fairview Fire Department. Fairview's most recent dedication was a rebuild of Fire Station #1 in August of last year. Before that, they held a push-in for an engine that they purchased three years ago. "It's really fun to bring in the community and get everyone involved," Bell said.

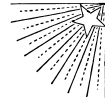
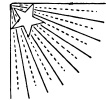
Stuart Blasingame, chief of the Prosper Fire Department, has been including Prosper residents in every dedication ceremony since he's been at the department because "we like the small-town feel of Prosper, so we want to include the community in everything we do," he said. Prosper's most recent push-in was in 2020, and it involved its aerial platform truck. "What we did is we had the kids come up and wash it and dry it," he said. During the past couple years, however, he said most ceremonies have been either limited to only firefighters or heavily modified because departments have taken social distancing precautions in light of COVID transmittal concerns. He also described the ceremony as a celebration, which is what Chambers mentioned during the July 4<sup>th</sup> ceremony in Weston.

Weston did not "wet down" its pumper before pushing it into the station; sometimes wetting down the new pumper with water from the older engine that's being retired or placed into a back-up role is commonplace during these ceremonies. "Other types of ceremonies are wet downs, more commonly seen in the northeast, such as New York," Chambers said.

*Continued on Page 11*







"If the (newly purchased) apparatus replaces another, you take water from the old (it's lifeblood) and pour it into the new apparatus," said Chief Tom Harvey of the Princeton Fire Department. On July 9 of last year, Princeton opened Fire Station #3 and held a push-in for its aerial ladder apparatus. On the invitation, it said: "Many decades ago, firefighters had to push the hand and horse-drawn fire apparatus into the station upon its maiden arrival and after each use." During Princeton's ceremony last year, citizens helped dry off the ladder apparatus before it entered the bay.

To bolster that community connection in Weston, Chambers included a badge-pinning ceremony of one volunteer—Lukas Wilder—who'd recently completed all his firefighter 1 training and coursework. The ceremony involved Wilder raising his right hand and taking an oath to protect and serve the residents of the district much like the oath of a police officer or other public servant. At the end of the oath, his father affixed a firefighter badge to his son's chest.

Two additional community and historical connections the department made with respect to the new pumper were a pair of specialized window and windshield treatments that honor Weston's first-ever fire chief, Kenneth Cowan, who also served as the town's mayor during his tenure as chief. Next door to the station is a building that once housed Cowan's auto and small engine repair business for many years.



First, there's a decal on the driver's side rear cab window of a rooster wearing a fire helmet and holding a halligan bar, a forcible entry tool used by firefighters, in his right wing. Next to the rooster is a fire hydrant, and in green letters across the bottom are the words *Cowan's Garage*. "The rooster/chicken recognizes the chickens we have wandering around downtown Weston and on Chicken Street," Chambers said. "The red hydrant recognizes the Weston Water Supply Corporation. *Cowan's Garage* is in honor of the Cowan family having a garage for so many years, and Kenneth R. Cowan being the department's first fire chief. The clover with the color of the Irish flag shows the founding members' ancestry as well as many within Collin County who became firefighters and community leaders within the community," Chambers said.

The second window treatment, which is being added to the top part of the windshield by Siddons-Martin Emergency Group's service location in Denton, is the phrase: "In Memory of Chief Kenneth Cowan." At a Weston volunteer firefighters meeting more than a year ago during the earliest planning stages of how to outfit the new apparatus, the first one to plant seeds of how to honor Cowan was George Minette, who said something should be written across the front windshield that honors the first chief.



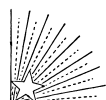
Both window treatments were voted on by the members and passed unanimously. "I spoke to the daughters of the Cowan family to ensure they knew what was being planned and ultimately to ensure they were supportive of this in using their father's name on the engine," Chambers added. In the spirit of showing honor and respect for those firefighters who've served in the past and making sure younger firefighters carry on this tradition, several chiefs echoed Chambers' sentiments. "They need to remember their roots," Celina fire chief Metdker said of the importance of passing down this traditional ceremony.

In addition to residents, firefighters from several neighboring departments attended Weston's ceremony—volunteers from Josephine, Nevada, Westminster and Lowry Crossing. Chief Kenny

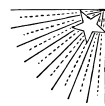
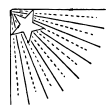
McCarty of the Josephine Volunteer Fire Department said the push-in ceremony helps firefighters show respect for those who've served in the past. Referring to firefighters who served during those years, Metdker said, "They were very rugged individuals. They were tough, hardworking people."

Although Weston's ceremony was the first one McCarty's attended in his seven years in the fire service, he said he was so impressed with the turnout and what he saw on July 4<sup>th</sup> that he plans to ask help from Chambers in planning Josephine's dedication ceremony when it receives a custom pumper at the beginning of next year. "We haven't had one in Josephine since I've been here, but we'll be getting a new engine at the end of this year—beginning of next year—and I definitely want to have a dedication ceremony that involves our community," McCarty said.

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## CONTROLLED CHAOS

By Michael Hill

*Michael Hill is an alderman with the Weston City Council.*

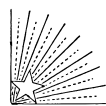
In the spirit of a future partnership with the City of Weston and Weston Fire and Rescue, Chief Bart Chambers reached out to council members Heather Richardson and me with an invitation to attend a live fire training session at the impressive new Collin College Public Safety Training Center not far from the Collin County Courthouse in McKinney.

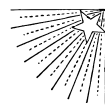
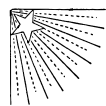
Several volunteer fire departments in Collin County including Westminister, Nevada, and Lowry Crossing, participated with Weston in an important advanced training at the sprawling facility. Leading the training were long time and former fire chiefs with over a hundred years of combined experience who shared their experience and passed on the traditions of firefighting to the next generation.

The campus is anchored by a beautiful and functional headquarters designed like a working professional fire station where instructions were given to participants. The actual training took place in ingeniously designed replicas of different kinds of structures that might be encountered on real life fire calls. Though Collin College owns the campus, it was meticulously designed by experienced fire officials with breathtakingly real elements to lend authenticity to the drills.

The exercise that we witnessed took place in a house layout with elements like a garage, a grill, and a kitchen with gas jets set in concrete and steel so trainees could actually fight the fires with hoses and water. There was also a safe smoke generator to simulate the low visibility conditions that might be encountered. In the event of an emergency, the gas could be turned off immediately and the smoke cleared in 25 seconds. In a short amount of time the fire was put out, and the once-burning structures were unharmed and ready to train firefighters for another day.

The most memorable part of the experience was watching the firefighters work in full gear as if truly responding to a fire. With military precision, everyone knew their part. They exhibited a calm and assured demeanor in the midst of what the head trainer described as “controlled chaos.” The cooperation level was awesome with designated backup and emergency rescue units ready for any contingency. The layers of preparation down to the smallest details and the wisdom of those in charge would surely give comfort to someone experiencing a fire at their house. All in all it was a great and humbling opportunity to get to see our firefighters at work.





## CARDS FOR KIDS

By Erin Robbins

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

For the past four years, writing cards for hospitalized children is one of the activities most enjoyed by the Prairie Adventure Camp students. Prairie Adventure Camp is a children's summer camp at the historical village at Chestnut Square in McKinney. It is a living history camp, where children aged seven to fourteen dress up in historical costumes and spend time in the antique houses at Chestnut Square. Writing cards for sick children is such a simple thing to do that warms the heart and gets the creative juices flowing. It's also a great rainy day activity and anyone young or old can do it.

At camp, we pair the cards with our lessons about various historical arts and crafts. In the past, we have made cards featuring quilt block designs while we learned about the history of barn quilts. We've also practiced Victorian pin pricking, a very satisfying and relaxing craft where students create images on paper without paint or pencil. This year, we have been busy collaging on the fronts of our cards.

When making our cards, we first work on the inside, especially if we are using glue. For the inside of the cards, we address the child generically because we don't know the names of those who receive our cards. We write greetings like "hi there", "hey you", or "to a very special person". Then, we write an uplifting message such as: "stay strong", "you are awesome", or "have a great day". We avoid writing anything about illness: the children don't need reminding that they are in the hospital. We also avoid including any religious messages in accordance with the requests of the Cards for Hospitalized Kids organization. The camper then signs their first name and writes that he or she is from Texas.

No card seems complete without a good joke, so we are sure to add one. The following are a few of the campers' favorite jokes:

What kind of shorts do clouds wear?

Thunderwear

What do you call a penguin in the desert?

Lost!

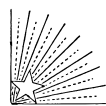
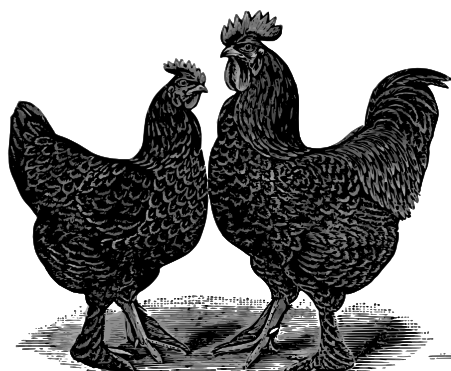
Why is the teddy bear finished eating?

He's stuffed

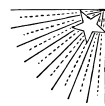
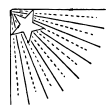
Want to send cards to children in the hospital? More information can be found at the Cards for Hospitalized Kids website <http://www.cardsforhospitalizedkids.com/>.



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## WESTON'S CEMETERY SPOTLIGHT

Local historians are always looking to learn more about the known and lesser known cemeteries in the area. The following write-ups of these Weston area cemeteries come from Joy Gough's <https://collincountyhistory.com> and her book Cemeteries of Collin County, Texas.

### Mugg Cemetery

The cemetery is not fenced and is on a hill. It is visible from FM455. There is a sign on FM455 for the cemetery. A deed is listed in Vol 53, p 357, and is for 4 acres. It is deeded to the Missionary Baptist Church of Weston. The cemetery is well cared for and appears to be active.

The Mugg family was instrumental in establishing the town of Weston. Richard M. Mugg is one of three families who donated land for the town. In 1858 he set aside 4 acres of land for a cemetery. He died a short time later and was the 4<sup>th</sup> burial in the cemetery. He helped found the Weston Baptist Church. The Friendship Baptist Church, which was in the Highland community, was organized in his home in 1850. It later became First Baptist Church of Anna. He also donated 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  acres of land to the Christian Church in Weston. The Bosbie School was started by his son, Perry Melton Mugg, for the education of the black children in the area.

In one corner of the cemetery are numerous footstones that have been removed from graves, probably for mowing purposes. One stone has a 6-foot tall statue of a girl next to it. There is a creek on the west side of CR 1096.



### Helms Cemetery – FM455

This is the Robert Skaggs headright. There is a story that Mr. Skaggs fought off the Indians for an entire winter from his cabin on the hill behind the present-day house. At night he would slither down to the creek to get water. In the field around the cemetery the farmer has recovered several arrowheads from the area near the creek.

This cemetery is said to contain about fourteen graves. These include two cavalry officers, some Indians, members of the Helms family and some Skaggs. There was once a bois d'arc marker inscribed with "Mary Skaggs, 1849". One of the stones has crudely scratched on it "1855" and "REPP". It is believed that Robert Skaggs died in 1855.

Today the cemetery has only 3 stones with no writing on two of them. The history of the cemetery is family lore. Six generations of the Porters have lived on this property. There was a Helms School south of this area.



### Alexander Cemetery – CR288

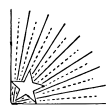
The Alexander Cemetery is on the J. M. Kincaid survey. The first grave was that of William Alexander in 1855. The cemetery was given to the "precinct" by James Alexander in 1890 in Vol 46, p 382. It covers about 2 acres of land and is near Hurricane Creek.

This cemetery is fenced with a 4-foot chain-link fence and a gate. There is a large wooden sign on the fence saying "Alexander Cemetery." There were once several bois d'arc markers. One wooden marker has become embedded in some tree trunks over the years. Slaves were buried in their masters' family plots.

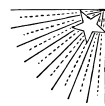
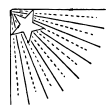
The cemetery has several cedar trees and 2 large burr oaks.

On June 25, 2012 <https://www.collincountyhistory.com/alexander1.html> reported that the tombstone of Mary Hayes has been returned to its original site perfectly fitting it to the base from which it was broken years ago—at Alexander Cemetery outside the small town of Weston, near McKinney, in Collin County, Texas.

The stone was found lying face up in a vacant lot adjacent to the Texas State University campus in San Marcos. It came into the possession of the Hays County Historical Commission when a TSU student's father spotted it and reported it to county officials last December.





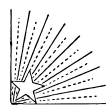


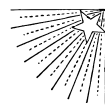
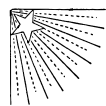
University police determined it was on TSU property and allowed HCHC to take it with the stated intention of trying to return it to its point of origin.

Thankfully, several folks at Texas State had been “on the case” long before HCHC got any call and had, in fact, determined the stone’s North Texas origin. University Archivist and Records Manager Kris Toma had led the research after employees at TSU’s Swinney House spotted the stone last November. Kris had reached Richard Hollis, who was instrumental in determining the stone’s original site—and we eventually included Joy Gough, Historical Marker and Cemetery Chair for the Collin County Historical Commission, in the conversation.

Carrol Alexander is the caretaker of this lovely rural cemetery today and he was especially gracious in meeting up to guide the HCHC “contingent” to the cemetery and the family plot from which Mary’s stone had been taken “years ago.”

Best to all of you who had a hand in this “restoration” of this stone to the young girl’s gravesite some 110 years and two months after her death!





## SUMMER WINNERS

Congratulations to Landon Muller Johnson and Samantha Evans for winning the elementary and middle school grade categories of the Collin County Historical Commission's summer art and poetry competition.

Landon is an eight-year-old homeschool student in Anna. Landon created a comic book and transformed it into a video. Landon drew all of the characters in pencil and then scanned them into the computer. He used the "paint" application to add color and then he compiled each scene using the different characters, items, or scenes he had drawn. Then, he transformed the completed scenes into a movie as well including voice over and background sounds. He learned how to draw cartoons with his mom, who is an artist, herself.

Landon was inspired by the stories of the Magic Treehouse, the Cat Kid Comic Club books (which you can find at your local Wal-Mart), and by the Anna Depot and Museum. He previously interviewed Elden Baker, the Director of Anna Depot and Museum, and wanted to include him as a character.

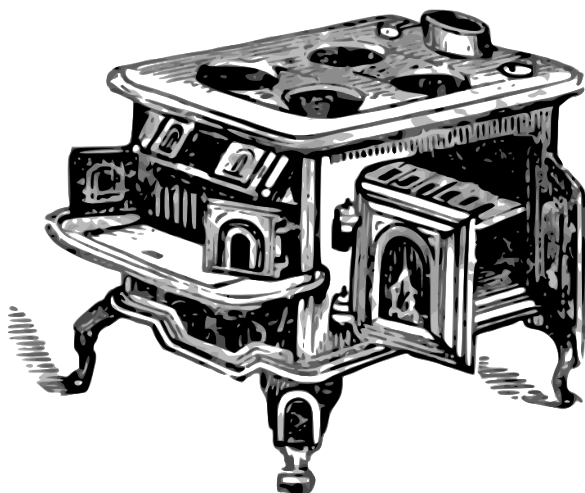
The youtube link to Landon's comic video is <https://youtu.be/ee5GWUAe9DU>.

Samantha Evans is a twelve-year-old student at the Anna Education Center. She created a mixed-media piece using watercolor paints, pen, and collaged paper.

Samantha wanted to show change over time in Anna and felt the main thing her piece conveys is how things become slowly rundown. Her artwork depicts the Anna water tower and the old Sherley Brothers hardware store. She decided to use watercolor to give it a rustic touch. Concerned that her work was looking "boring," Samantha decided to collage paper onto her painting to give it greater depth.



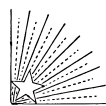
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## CHILI SUPPER

The Women of Weston group will be hosting a chili supper for the community on Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at the Weston Community Center from 6p.m.-8:30p.m. Bring your own chair and shake your tail feather with us as we party on Main Street with live music. The proceeds will help fund Weston Fire and Rescue's ice machine and will support Weston's Christmas extravaganza: Miracle on Chicken Street. This fantastic Christmas celebration will be held on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

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## 2022 COLLIN COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION'S STUDENT ESSAY COMPETITION

**When:** Due Monday, October 10, 2022

The Collin County Historical Commission is hosting an essay competition for all K-12 students. We encourage all students to participate, including homeschoolers. Prizes will be offered to the best elementary, middle, and high school essays and their essays will be shared widely by the CCHC.

Along with using proper grammar and spelling, we encourage students to research and use evidence to support their thesis. Your essay needs to be a minimum of 500 words, double-spaced, and typed in Times New Roman font size 12.

Please include a title, a bibliography page, and list your name, age, grade, school, and contact phone/email. These items are not included in the word minimum for your essay. Submissions are due by midnight on October 10, 2022.

Please email your submission to [CCHCsubmissions@gmail.com](mailto:CCHCsubmissions@gmail.com).

Please write an essay on one of the following topics:

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

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

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# SHARK TEETH AND FOSSILS IN HONEY CREEK

By Macen Rogers

*Macen is a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade homeschool student who lives in Weston.*

We live outside Weston in a house we remodeled that was once my great-grandparent's home. We have lots of animals like horses, dogs, cats, and a few others. My family and I love going to Honey Creek. The first time we ever went, we looked for arrowheads. We did not find any but my parents found shark teeth! I thought that was really cool and I think they are there because of Noah's flood. My brothers and I didn't find any shark teeth but we found fossils that looked like shells and clams. I want to find some shark teeth myself so every time we go I am always looking.



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## AS AMERICAN AS APPLE PIE

By Brittany Yurkovitch

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

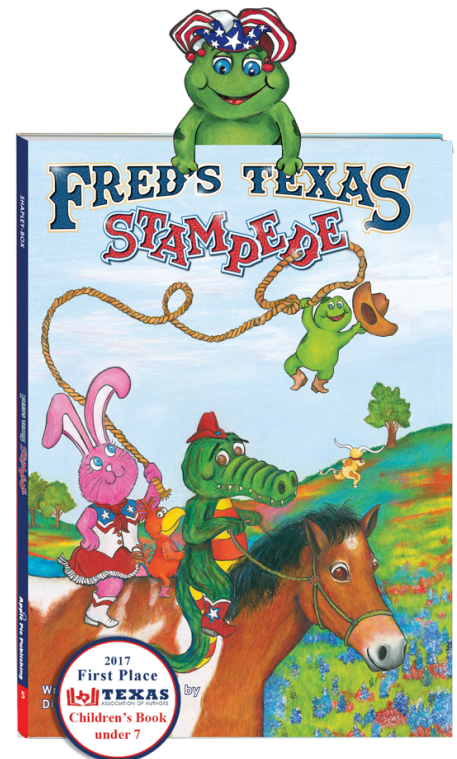
As a Texas history lover and a homeschool mom, I could not resist buying Diane Shapley-Box's beautifully illustrated children's book *Fred's Texas Stampede* at the McKinney Arts in Bloom Festival in the spring. Her book has quickly become a favorite of my three and five-year-old daughters.

*Fred's Texas Stampede* follows Fred the frog and his animal pals on a Texas adventure after they lose a longhorn at the dude ranch. They travel across the state looking for the steer and tell an unforgettable story about their journey across the Lone Star State. The pages explode with gorgeous illustrations of iconic Texas landscapes and landmarks, including Big Tex, the Alamo, and the Fort Worth Stockyards. Her Texas landscapes rival in beauty with those of Steven Kellogg's classic illustrated retelling of *Pecos Bill*. To create her stunning illustrations, Shapley uses Prismacolor pencils for their vivid color and superior blending qualities.

Not only does Diane Shapley-Box write and illustrate her own children's books, she also operates her Apple Pie Publishing business in Rockwall. All her books are printed in the U.S.A. and many of her Apple Pie Publishing books have won numerous awards; *Fred's Texas Stampede* won the Texas's Association of Authors children's book award.

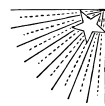
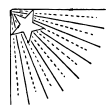
Overall, I am very impressed with *Fred's Texas Stampede* and am thrilled that Diane Shapley-Box keeps her business all-American. My favorite part of the book is the artwork, especially the landscape drawings of Texas wildflower fields. *Fred's Texas Stampede* is a fantastic choice for Texas families wanting to add to their collection of treasured children's books. It will quickly become a classic in your home.

Want to learn more about Apple Pie Publishing? You can find Diane's books at <https://applepiepub.com/>.



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## A FANTASTIC JULY FOURTH

On Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, Weston came together to celebrate our nation's independence with its 37<sup>th</sup> annual parade. Instead of the mayor, Joseph Kellum, was the Master of Ceremonies. The color guard and Megyn Fancher's singing of the national anthem kicked off the festivities. Longtime residents Robbie and Donna Estep served as Grand Marshals of the parade. A stream of classic cars, fire trucks from multiple districts, motorcycles, decorated tractors and vehicles, clever floats, horseback riders, and other patriotic participants lined Weston's streets and wowed the audience. Five year old Sarah Levine enjoyed waving at all the parade participants and catching candy with her Weston friends. Suzanne Scott remarked that "the parade is always a great celebration of our independence...it was very nice to see other surrounding fire departments participate in the Weston parade."

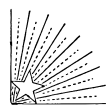
Besides the classic parade of floats, tractors, classic cars, and family participants, visitors enjoyed lots of other activities. The historic post office museum opened its doors to visitors looking to learn a little bit more about Weston's history. The Women of Weston group hosted a fantastic bake sale and cookout for Weston Fire and Rescue. Families enjoyed taking cute pictures by the cutout boards designed by Tralyn Hendrix and kids eagerly waited to get their face painted by the talented Alice Yeager.

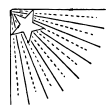
Celina's Hometown Dippin' Dots satisfied the sweet tooth of parade goers and Weston Fire and Rescue fed hungry folks with a cookout. The fire department also sold lots of great T-shirts. Between the cookout, bake sale, T-shirts, and donations, the fire department raised over \$1000! Classroom Counterpoints hosted a raffle to raise money for the printing of *The Weston Post*. Creative Connections quilting group, Caudalie Crest Winery, Maria Whitworth, Carol Decker, the Levine family, the Richardson family, Diane Shapley-Box, Texas Range Honey, and Courtney Taylor generously contributed fantastic raffle items that truly celebrated the pioneer spirit of Weston. The raffle raised over \$700 which supported the printing of this magazine edition.

This year's parade was a big hit thanks to the City of Weston, fire department, parade participants, vendors, and many volunteers who came together to organize the event. Thank you to the Sheriff deputies who helped guide traffic so smoothly. The parade volunteers are already talking about how to make next year's event bigger and better than ever!

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

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## MOVING FORWARD

By Brittany Yurkovitch

*Brittany is the editor of The Weston Post, founder of Classroom Counterpoints, and serves with the Collin County Historical Commission.*

Since the beginning of 2020, my husband, Mitch, and I have proudly delivered eleven great issues of *The Weston Post* to the community. We are so proud that the magazine has been recognized by the University of North Texas' newspaper archival program as a historically significant publication and is now included in their Portal to Texas History. However, producing this quarterly magazine requires a significant time investment. Between parenting three young children, Mitch's full-time work, homeschooling, homesteading, and volunteering in the community, we are stretched too thin.

During the summer, we spent some time evaluating our priorities. We both felt that we needed to eliminate something from our plates. Thus, it is with a heavy heart that we are announcing the end of *The Weston Post* magazine. All editions will be archived in UNT's Portal to Texas History. We are still volunteering in Weston and are excited to be able to focus on the Weston Heritage Guild, Weston's new historical preservation organization. Thank you to everyone for your support over the past few years!

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### Thinking about Homeschooling?

Many families are new to the homeschool world. Weston has a thriving homeschool community that is willing to help you meet your learning goals. If you need help navigating curriculum or locating enriching activities locally, then please contact Brittany at [classroomcounterpoints@protonmail.com](mailto:classroomcounterpoints@protonmail.com).

### Get in the Loop

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

### Weston Heritage Guild

Are you interested in helping to preserve Weston's history? The Weston Heritage Guild is a new organization that is in progress to become a 501(c)(3) organization. We are looking to recognize cemeteries, buildings, and other important places with markers as well as collect oral histories from the elders in the community. There is lots of exciting work to do! We meet at city hall on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30p.m. Contact Brittany at [westonheritageguild@gmail.com](mailto:westonheritageguild@gmail.com) to learn more about the Weston Heritage Guild.

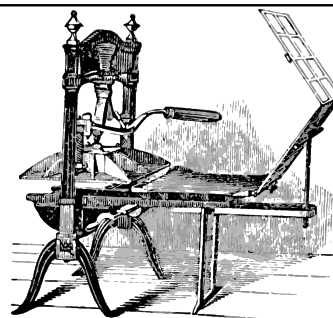
### Gotta Have Faith



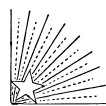
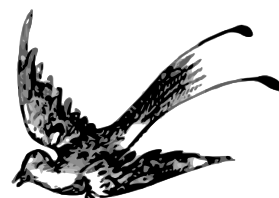
If you don't have a local faith community, then consider contacting one of Weston's three churches: Calvary Chapel Honey Creek ([www.calvarychapelhoneycreek.org](http://www.calvarychapelhoneycreek.org)); First Baptist Church of Weston ([www.fbcwestontx.com](http://www.fbcwestontx.com)); and First Christian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

### Portal to Texas History

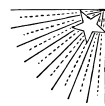
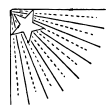
*The Weston Post* is now being archived in the Portal to Texas History with the University of North Texas Libraries. The Portal to Texas History is a gateway to rare, historical, and primary source materials from or about Texas.



Thank you Legacy Print Group for supporting the print edition of *The Weston Post*! Legacy Print Group is owned by Weston residents. Shop local and visit [legacyprintgroup.com](http://legacyprintgroup.com) for your printing needs.







## JOIN OUR TEAM

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



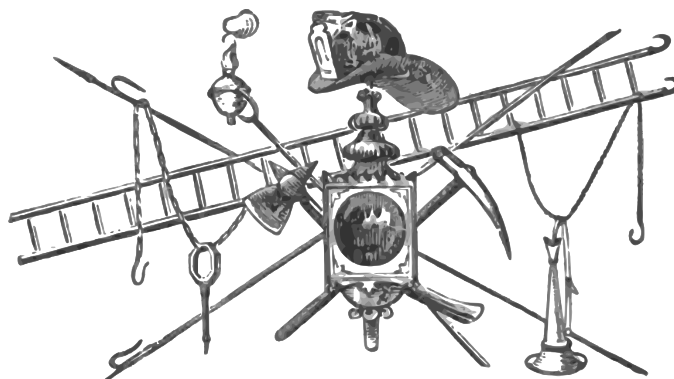
Weston Fire and Rescue is currently asking the residents of Weston Fire District to become volunteers. You will receive training in firefighting or emergency medical services. All the training provided to you is FREE of charge and is always ongoing. Your responsibilities as a member will include responding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

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

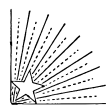


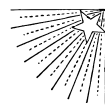
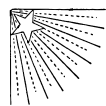
Photos: First Responders Photography

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



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## THE GOOD OL' DAYS

The spring edition of *The Weston Post* featured a write up of an interview with former county clerk Jean Young conducted by Judge Nathan White. During the interview, Jean Young enthusiastically recounted her fond memories living on a busy family farm and visiting a bustling downtown Weston on Saturday evenings to enjoy the skating rink. Weston Alderman Michael Hill wrote a summary of the interview and expressed his surprise at her stories of a prominent skating rink as he had never heard mention of this exciting attraction. Later, in July, Hill sat down with longtime resident Billie Ross Isabel, who said she remembered the Weston skating rink sitting in the lot of the new post office.

While researching newspaper archives in the University of Texas's Portal to Texas History, editor of *The Weston Post*, Brittany Yurkovitch, found mention of this skating rink in a 1939 article from *The McKinney Examiner*. It's always exciting to find evidence in the historical record that supports the stories recalled by our local elders.

Hearing the century-old tales of Weston's bustling skating rinks and reading the newspaper snapshots of a once-thriving downtown can inspire feelings perfectly encapsulated by the Welsh word *hiraeth*. *Hiraeth* has no English translation but roughly describes a homesickness or a yearning for a home that you can never return to or that never existed. It's hard to believe that Weston, like so many other small American towns, were healthy communities filled with large intact farm families and a thriving Main Street.

Rural towns like Weston were once the cornerstone of the American nation. At one point, over eighty percent of the American labor force was engaged in agricultural activity and the population was concentrated in rural areas. Today, less than two percent of the nation's labor force works on a farm and the average age of a person running a farm is 57. Most people live in cities and have very little connection to the land or appreciate where their food comes from. I think many of us in Weston feel a sense of longing for the good ol' days along with an uncomfortable uncertainty about what the future holds as suburban sprawl creeps our way. It's difficult to see how we can return to the good ol' days of small town farm communities when the pastoral lifestyle has been all but obliterated.

The following *The McKinney Examiner* article includes a piece originally published in *The Sherman Democrat*. Hopefully, these glimpses into Weston's past will serve as a reminder to our leadership for how things once were and could be for Weston tomorrow.

*Continued on Page 34*

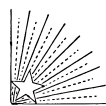
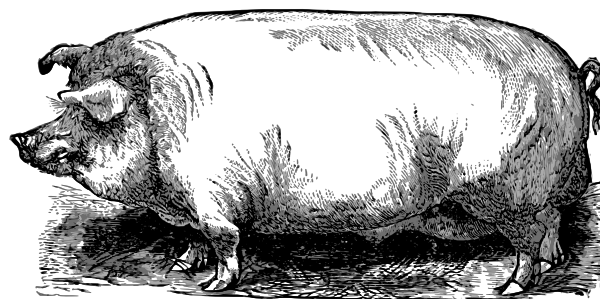
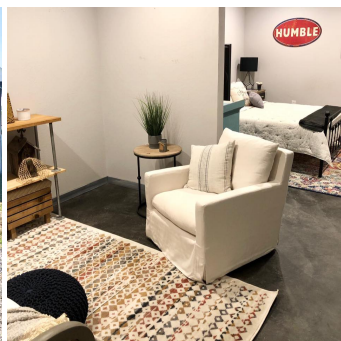


## LONESTAR GUESTHOUSE

Tucked away in the Celina countryside on Lone Star Road, sits a lovely vacation rental, perfect for accommodating those visiting their Weston friends and family. Roxanne Flores, owner of the Lonestar Guesthouse, warmly invites visitors to stay at her small cottage. Built in 2016, the approximately 500 square-foot guesthouse has a queen bed and twin daybed, accommodating three guests. It boasts an open floor plan with a full kitchen and full bathroom with a large walk-in shower. Don't worry about driving into town to do laundry or grab a coffee; the guesthouse features a stackable washer and dryer and includes amenities like a hair dryer, coffee maker, microwave, and fully stocked kitchen.

The guesthouse has an amazing outdoor space and visitors will make fantastic memories on the patio. Guests can cozy up at the guesthouse's fire pit and enjoy the covered patio made from an old silo. Roxanne noted that "it makes me so happy to see families want to enjoy the silo and the patio and all the amenities the guest house has to offer."

Want to book a stay at the Lonestar Guesthouse? Contact Roxanne at 972-977-2350 or email [lonestarcelina@gmail.com](mailto:lonestarcelina@gmail.com)







# The McKinney Examiner

Office of Publication Opposite County Jail

Volume 53, No. 43.

McKINNEY, TEXAS, THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 1939

12 PAGES—SECTION ONE

## Inland Town Weston Good

### Many Descendants of Pioneers of 1850 Still Reside in Town

(Special to The Sherman Democrat)

WESTON, Texas.—Weston is located in Northwest Collin on land which was owned by William Culwell, Richard M. Mugg and John Choate in 1850. Today, descendants of each of these men own land which the three settled.

William Culwell, III, of Warner, Okla., owns the original home place of William Culwell, Sr., who was a farmer, blacksmith and doctor. William Culwell, IV, is also a doctor, being an assistant surgeon at Mercy Hospital in Baltimore, Md. A home which was built by the elder Culwell about 70 years ago is still standing. His son, John Wesley Culwell, of Weston, lives on part of the original place.

F.B. Choate, son of the late John Choate, owns and resides on a part of the farm settled by his father. The Mugg place is owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. J. Lee Howell, the latter a granddaughter of the late Richard M. Mugg. B. M. Hamilton of Sherman is another descendant of Mr. Mugg.

The original town plat of Weston consisted of 21 acres, seven each being provided by the three donors. Lark Adamson, grandfather of Willie and Elby Adamson of

Weston, built and operated the first grocery store here. He named the town for his home town, Weston, Mo.

Lee Wilson, grandfather of Mrs. Ina Mitchell of Weston, and John Douglass, father of Mrs. Bill Cassaday of Weston, were the first trustees of Weston. W. T. Button, father of Henry and Elzy Button of Weston, operated one of the first saddle and harness shops here.

Years ago Weston was said to be one of the most up to date inland towns of its day, having stores, saloons and hotels of note. The Weston bank closed its doors November 30, 1927.

Early doctors here were Doctors Russell, Stogdill, Black, Harris and Gotcher.

At present there are approximately 165 persons living within the limits of Weston. The business section consists of grocery stores operated by Roy Mayes, T. C. Mitchell, J. Lee Howell and Kerr Crosswhite, who is also postmaster; a blacksmith shop operated by Ed Cravens; cafe, Burtis Willis; garages and filling stations, Troy Cowan and Joe Frair; barber shop, G. O. Jones; laundry, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Jones; ice house, S. M. Berry and his son-in-law, Ted Morris. J. J. Brown of McKinney and Douglas Cassaday of Weston own and operate the local gin and skating rink.

There are three churches, pastors of which are the Rev. Tommy Sandlin, Methodist; the Rev. J. R. Hilger, Baptist, and the Rev. A. D. Rogers, Christian.

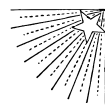
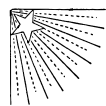
Weston also has a gymnasium, and a school building program is underway to replace the school which burned April 23 this year. Weston has its own water system and now has rural electric service.

Source: <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1234452/m1/10>

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### Donation Appreciation!

Thank you to Charlotte Almageur, the Celina Garden Club, Jazmine Coleman, the Deal family, DRPR Marketing, the Levine family, James McClure, the Randall family, the Richardson family, and Courtney Taylor for your contributions to Classroom Counterpoints and keeping this edition of the print edition alive!



# COLORING PAGE



"LOVE THY  
NEIGHBOR"

John 13:34

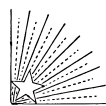


Tralyn 2022

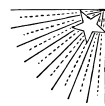
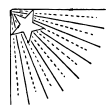
In memory of:

MARK Estep, Kenneth Hendrix,

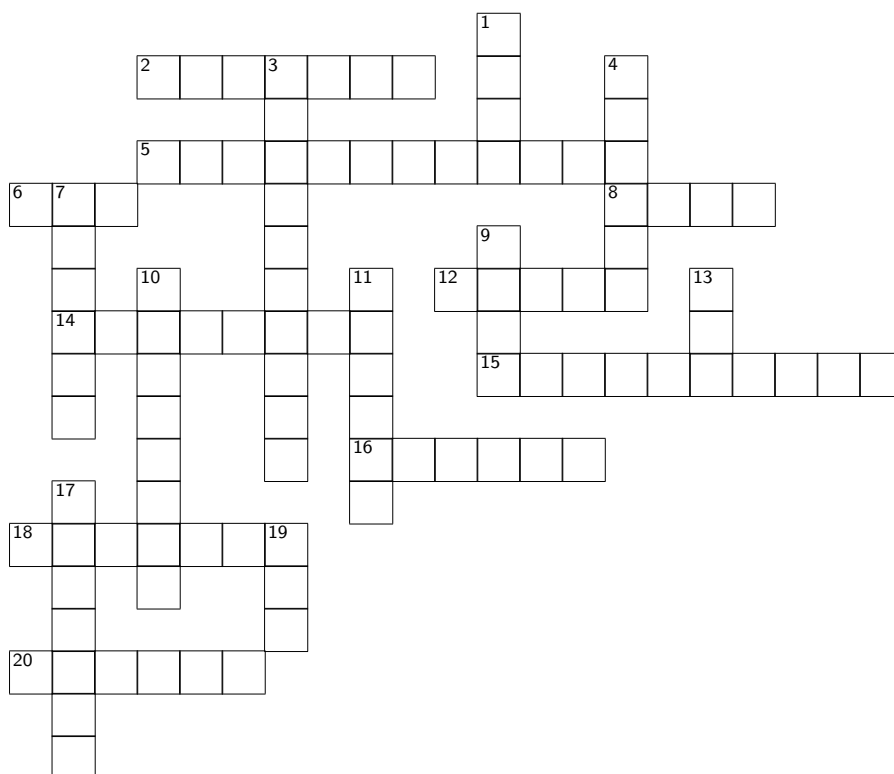
Genie Hendrix. Miss you so...  
Tracy Lynn  
Hendrix







# CROSSWORD



## Across

- 2 Celina Fire Chief
- 5 Morrell's camera business
- 6 Percent of US workforce doing farmwork
- 8 "Controlled Chaos" writer
- 12 Hunts for shark teeth
- 14 Fred's Texas \_\_\_\_\_
- 15 Celina ice cream vendor
- 16 Total issues of *The Weston Post*
- 18 Welsh word meaning homesick
- 20 Collects rainwater

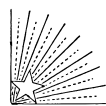
## Down

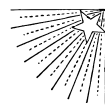
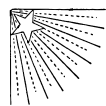
- 1 "Anna \_\_\_\_\_" CCHC winning submission
- 3 Surname of fallen WWII brothers
- 4 Fire department tradition
- 7 Weston alderman
- 9 Paper craft for ill children
- 10 Forcible entry bar
- 11 Hall of \_\_\_\_\_
- 13 Victorian \_\_\_\_\_ pricking
- 17 Fallen Warrior Portrait Project artist
- 19 Tool for moving bricks

Answers found at bottom of last page.

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Thank you [www.superteacherworksheets.com](http://www.superteacherworksheets.com) for permission to use their crossword and word search generators.



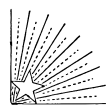


# COLORING PAGE

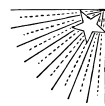
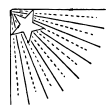


By Cate Robbins  
[www.caterobbins.net](http://www.caterobbins.net)

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# WORD SEARCH

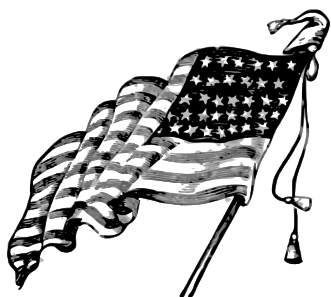


Find the 20 solutions to the crossword hidden in the word search.

Y K O J Z W Y F A Y M K C P Z M I X A P G Q T  
 I H L T K D G B S F M O M Z F R E K D T E M E  
 I S E H I L L Z T M I W A R N O K Z N I M H D  
 S S R G Y V J K R W F P C N E K M E A R Q T E  
 W V R K Z O L M O B Y P E B V B D K T D D U P  
 H W A B B G H J F P P D N O E H I D X M R K M  
 I Y B Y P T E K A N H R T Y L I P H N X A I A  
 G N U F N W R R C U L P F V E R P Z I E C M T  
 G I S O M O O Q T N Z B H V M A I B U G Y B S  
 V H Q I H W E F O S R U G V O E N U I R N A X  
 D S O K A H S A R S U H Z Y K T D T I R H L L  
 L U T M Q H B R S U G C C O W H O S M A N L F  
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 O A Q N O N J K C X P U Z R A O S R D O H E B  
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 to use their crossword and word search generators.

## SUDOKU

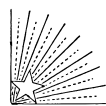


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	9	6			7	4		5



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Answers found at  
 bottom of last page.



# TEXAS LORE

by Patrick M. Reynolds

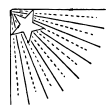


For 20 years, Patrick M. Reynolds researched, wrote, and illustrated *Texas Lore*, which appeared weekly in *The Dallas Morning News* and other publications. Reynolds has given *The Weston Post* permission to use his images.

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

- ★ September 17 Constitution Day
- ★ September 23-25 Oktoberfest in Downtown McKinney
- ★ September 24 Celina Heritage Festival  
9a.m.-12p.m.
- ★ October 4 National Night Out at Weston Community Center  
5:30p.m.-7:30p.m.
- ★ October 6 Meet the Candidates  
at Weston Community Center  
6:30p.m.-8:30p.m.
- ★ October 8 Chili Supper at Weston Community Center  
6p.m.-8:30p.m.
- ★ October 10 Columbus Day
- ★ October 22 Weston Fall Sweep in Downtown Weston  
10a.m.-2:30p.m.
- ★ October 22 Beware! of the Square in Downtown Celina  
4p.m.-9p.m.
- ★ November 6 Daylight Savings Time ends
- ★ November 8 Election Day
- ★ November 11 Veterans Day
- ★ November 18-December 23 Miracle on 134<sup>th</sup> Street  
[www.miracleon134thst.com](http://www.miracleon134thst.com)
- ★ December 10 Miracle on Chicken Street
- ★ January 19 Confederate Heroes' Day

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## FILING DEADLINES FOR NOVEMBER 8, 2022 GENERAL ELECTION

The City of Weston will hold an election on November 8, 2022, for three aldermen.

- ★ October 11 Last Day to Register to Vote
- ★ November 8 Election Day

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### Meeting Schedule



**Weston City Council**  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday  
6:30p.m.  
City Hall



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



**Weston Water Supply Corp**  
Last Monday  
7p.m.  
Community Center

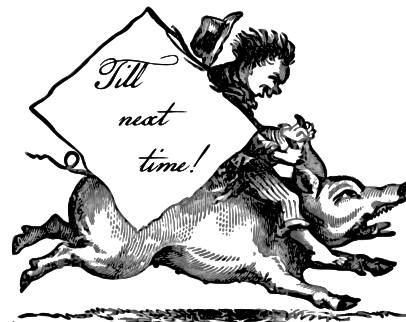
*"The more you think you know  
the less you are capable of knowing."*

—Mitch Levine

## Gardening Tip



Everyone is concerned about their plants in the dry, hot weather. Did you know you can collect a huge amount of rainwater from the roof of your home or even a small shed? Not only can you filter rainwater to use for drinking, but you can use it for your plants. Collect water off a roof and into water barrels close to where you'll most need the water in the garden. Multiple water barrels can be linked together to store even more rainwater. Curious to know how much water collection is possible from your roof? Use this rainwater collection calculator to get an idea of how much water you could collect from your rooftop: [www.watercache.com/resources/rainwater-collection-calculator](http://www.watercache.com/resources/rainwater-collection-calculator)



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

20. BARREL

Answers: 1. RUST 2. METDKER 3. DERKRYBERRY 4. PUSHIN 5. ASTROFACTORS 6. TWO 7. WILSON 8. HILL 9. CARD 10. HALTIGAN 11. HEROES 12. MACEN 13. PIN 14. STAMPEDE 15. DIPPINDOTS 16. ELEVEN 17. KIMBALL 18. HIRAEATH 19. HOD

