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MARCH 2021

Sons and Daughters

More than Travis,
Bowie and Crockett
defended the Alamo

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt

Kids' Fun Page

Crossword/Sudoku

Tomorrow's Dreams

Inass Barnes teaches
perseverance

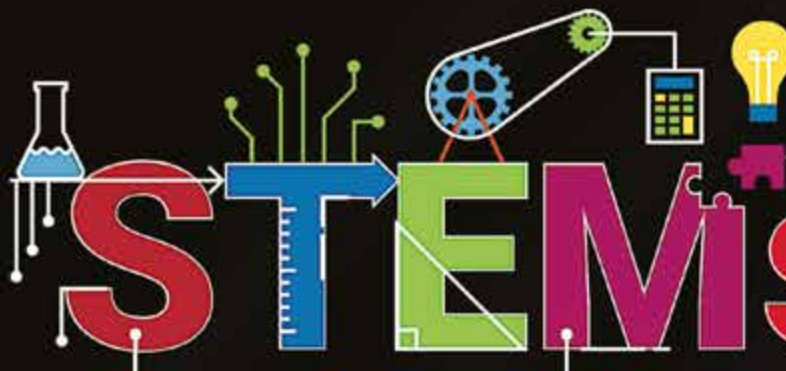
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Teril Woodward

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*Inass Barnes
radiates positivity.*

Photo by
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Subscriptions are available at the rate of \$35 per year or \$3.50 per issue. Subscriptions should be sent to: NOW Magazines, P.O. Box 1071, Waxahachie, TX 75168. For advertising rates or editorial correspondence, call (972) 283-1170 or visit www.nowmagazines.com.

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Adam

Adam Walker
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Sam I am!

I don't know anyone who likes green eggs and ham. Chinese century eggs tend to be kind of blueish, and that's OK. But green? Yet, what is an American childhood without Dr. Seuss? March 2 is his 117th birthday. With some of his titles approaching 100 years old, he still tops the bestseller lists for children's books. There's just something magical about cats in hats and guys with 500 hats. (Did I mention I collect hats?) And if you want your child to accurately count fish and identify their colors, there is no greater expert!

Theodor Seuss Geisel started working as a political cartoonist for magazines and doing advertising campaigns for oil companies before he found lasting fame writing for children. Sometimes, life is just about finding your niche. Dr. Seuss, who also wrote as Theo LeSieg, when anyone else did the illustrations for his text, didn't just write nonsense, though much of it is cleverly disguised as nonsense. He wrote children's books about consumerism, environmentalism, racial equality, dictatorships and the arms race. Maybe that's why his books have lasted. They're silly and fun, but they are not fluff. He treated children as people with brains, even though he never had kids of his own.

I loved his books as a child, and I still do as an adult. They're fun to read to children. And I also enjoy reading them in languages I'm learning! Children's books in foreign languages are great fun. How do you say electro-who-cardio-slux in Latin? It's important to know!

Maybe I do like Green Eggs and Ham!

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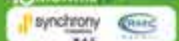
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Inass Barnes lives the American Dream. Her parents brought her here as a small girl, fleeing the civil war that was destroying Lebanon. They came to Dallas and made a new home here. "I was born in Beirut, Lebanon. Then in the mid-'70s, the civil war destroyed everything. My parents spoke no English and had no jobs, but my uncles were here, so we came to Dallas. I started school as an ESL student. It was a struggle, but by third grade, I had decided that I wanted to be a teacher, because I had such good teachers," she recalled. "Those experiences help me relate to students who struggle. I know what to look for, when to slow down."

Inass has never been back to the country of her birth. For many years, the civil war that caused her family to come here, kept her from returning. She was in college when she became a U.S. citizen. "After I gave up my Lebanese citizenship, going back became more of a challenge. I was really little when we came here, so I don't remember it much. Mom only brought a box of pictures and some clothing with her."

By the time she started college, Inass had decided to go in a different direction. "I studied interior design and art the first couple of years. But it wasn't satisfying. Something was missing. Both of my parents worked so hard and paid for me to go to college. I called them and told them, 'I know you're paying for my college, but I really want to change majors.' I had reached out to some of my high school teachers, and they had encouraged me. My father was proud of my choice to be a teacher before he left this earth, and none of this would have been possible without him. When I switched, it was like food to my soul."



Tomorrow's Dreams

— By Adam Walker

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Inass did her student teaching in Ft. Worth in an ESL program. "I felt like *Yes! This is what I want to do.*" She found out about an opening in Cedar Hill, which was still a fairly small town, at a new elementary school, Plummer. "The principal gave me a chance, and 23 years later, I'm still at Plummer! This is my purpose on Earth. I see myself retiring as a teacher, not an administrator. I'll be turning off classroom lights when I leave."

In her years with CHISD, she has taught second, third and fourth grades. "I've taught fourth grade, 16 of my years here. A few times, I've been able to loop up, to teach the same group of students two years in a row, teaching them in third grade and moving up with them to fourth, for example. I really enjoy doing that. Last year, I did that with my third-graders because of COVID-19. Looping up with them helped give them some stability. You get to build incredible relationships, not only with your scholars, but with their parents, too."

Relationships are essential to the way Inass teaches. "The most important thing is building relationships with your scholars. It comes before lesson plans, classroom decorating, anything. If you have a good rapport with the students, they're willing to do whatever you ask. If not, they won't learn. You have to let them know they can trust you. Usually, the administrators put some of the most challenging students in my classroom. If I can find out what they like, I can reach them. I tell them about how I struggled. I've been knocked down several times, but I always get back up. It's the Lebanese way. We do a project on Lebanon, and I tell them about how I didn't know how to read





or write or how to speak English when I came here.” Projects like that help her tie together English Language Arts and Social Studies, two of the subjects she commonly teaches.

“Reading can tie into writing, allowing the scholars to reflect on what they read. I bring in books about characters from all parts of the world. Literature in my classroom covers the world, and the scholars learn that not everyone looks like you or eats the same things. It’s exciting to see their comprehension levels and test scores go up throughout the year.”

Turning her students into strong readers means giving them more options. “You see a scholar having a bad day pull out a book. They become part of that world. They escape whatever happened to them that day.” Reading offers constructive ways of dealing with life.

“Plummer is an amazing school to work at,” she explained. “We’re more than co-workers. We’re family. We help each other out in our classrooms. We rally around and help find solutions for teaching better during COVID. We’re always learning from one another. There’s something special about this school. It’s home. It gives me peace.”

After 23 years, Inass has already built quite a legacy as Plummer’s Teacher of the Year twice and CHISD’s Teacher of the Year once. “I have a quote in my classroom, *Never let yesterday’s disappointments overshadow tomorrow’s dreams*. I let my scholars know that there’s nothing they cannot do. No disappointment can hold them back from accomplishing anything. I’ve had former students, now in college, write to me, telling me they remember that quote. It’s OK to have disappointments, but it’s not OK to give up!” **NOW**



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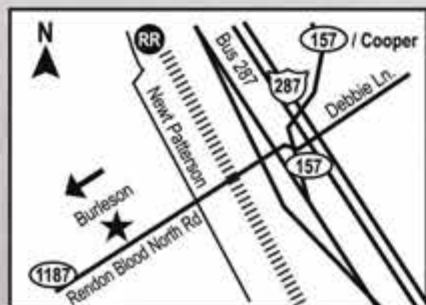
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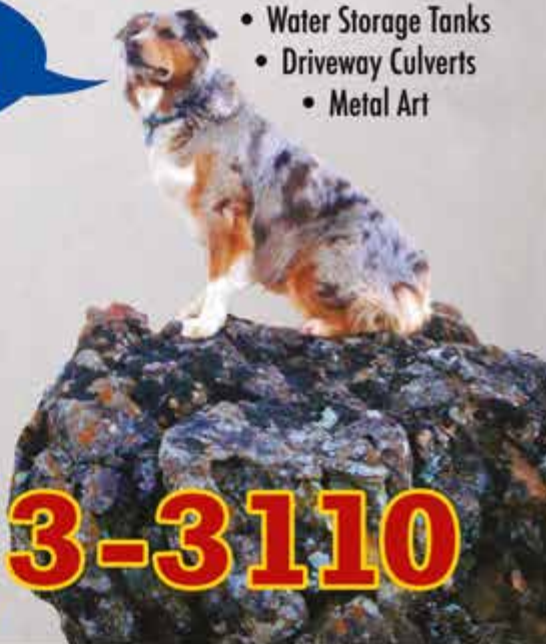
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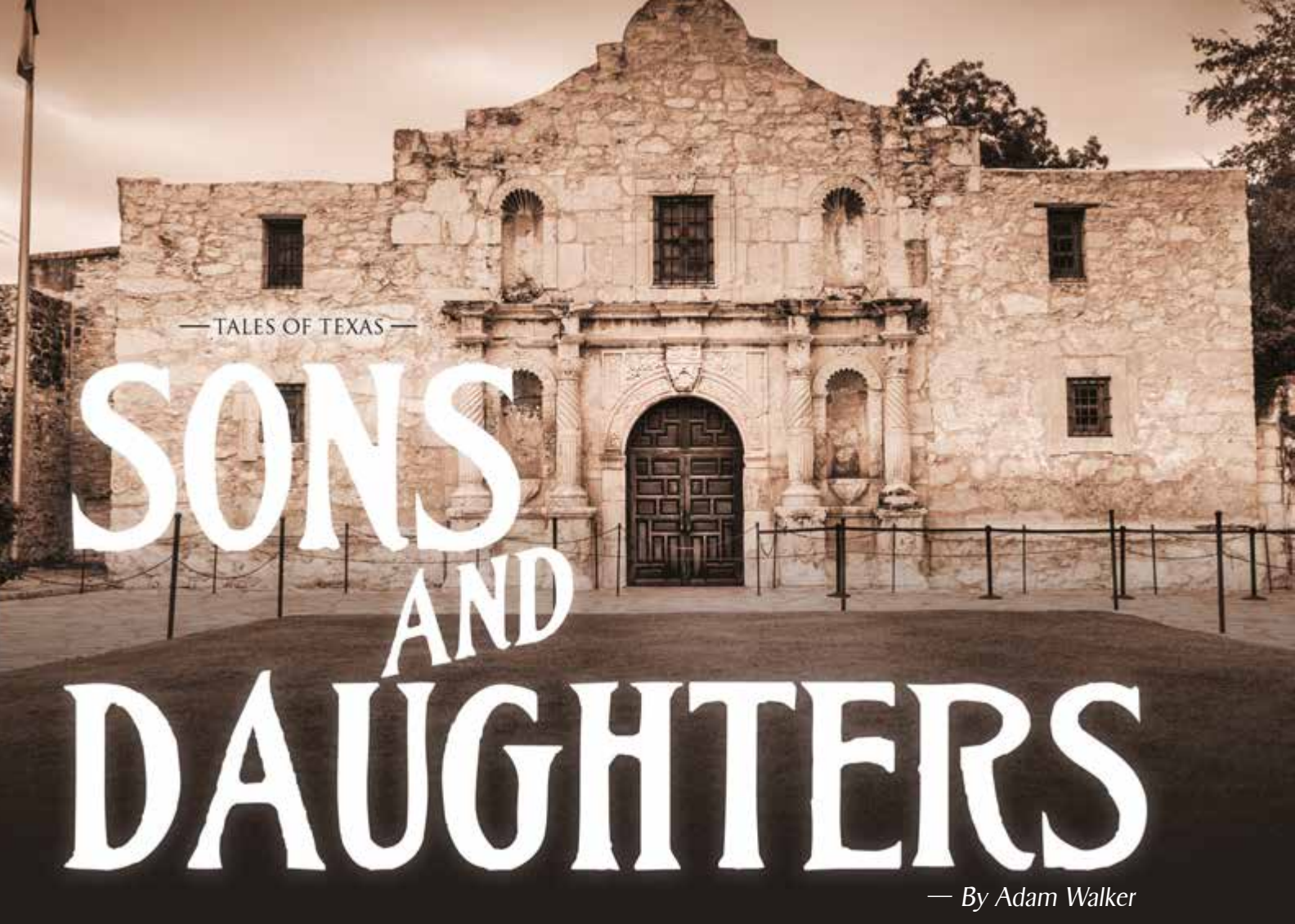
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SONS AND DAUGHTERS

— By Adam Walker

As Texans, we grow up being enjoined to, “Remember the Alamo!” But how many of us know much about this thing we are supposed to remember? We probably know something about Lt. Col. William Barret Travis, James Bowie and his knife and Davey Crockett and his cap. But there were a lot more people in that battle than those three famous men. There were Mexican citizens, Black slaves, women and children inside the walls of the Alamo during the siege. How many of their names do you know?

There were only six native-born Texans inside the Alamo during the battle: Juan Abamillo, Juan A. Badillo, Carlos Espalier, Gregorio Esparza, Antonio Fuentes and Andrés Nava. All of the native Texans who died in defense of Texas’ freedom from Mexico were Hispanic. But 189 men died that day. All the rest of them were immigrants, either from other

parts of Mexico, from various U.S. states or from European nations. And they ranged in age from 16 to at least 57.

Seventeen-year-old Carlos Espalier and his 24-year-old cousin, Charles Despallier, were Mexicans of French descent and friends of James Bowie. Both of their families were deeply involved in the fight for Texas’ freedom. Carlos, with the bravado of youth, was one of those who slipped out of the Alamo to burn the huts Santa Anna’s army was using for cover, and then returned to the mission’s defense. Charles was a signer of the Goliad Declaration of Independence. Both cousins fought in Travis’ unit, and both died defending the Alamo, as did all the Mexican men in the Alamo, when it fell to the Mexican army under Santa Anna.

There are highly conflicting stories about the African-Americans inside the Alamo during the siege. The sources don’t even agree on the number. But they were there — some slaves, some freedmen — at both the December capture of the fort by the “Texians,” and at the March fall to the Mexicans. One of the freedmen was Hendrick Arnold, son-in-law of Deaf Smith, who helped scout the Texas victory. Another was Joe, who was body servant to Lt. Col. Travis. When Travis fell in the first barrage, Joe fired several times in defense of the Alamo, before being captured. He was sold to pay off Travis’ debts, but escaped and walked out of Texas,

across Louisiana, Mississippi and part of Alabama to get word to Travis' family about his death.

And it wasn't just brave men at the Alamo. Courageous women endured the battle as well. Most were adults, but there was at least one 15-month-old girl inside the walls when the defenses collapsed. Her mother, Susannah Dickinson, and she were the only Anglo survivors of the battle, though Susannah never recovered from the trauma. Susannah is often noted as the only survivor of the Alamo, but that just isn't true. Another six Mexican women, and their children, also survived. These women were now widows whose husbands died in the cause of Texas freedom. One of these women, Andrea Castañón de Villanueva Candelaria, lived to be 113, and told her story to newspapers and others over the years. Her stories changed quite a bit during her long life, and historians now doubt she was actually there. But no one seems to doubt the presence of Susanna, whose stories also changed significantly over time.

The only woman to die in the battle was Sarah, a slave woman who was found dead between two of the cannons. Joe, the body servant of Travis, reported that Sarah became frightened by the battle and ran out of her hiding place to meet her death.

Texas has always been multiethnic, multicultural and multilingual. Many of the threads that make Texas what it is today can be found here in the cradle of her independence. But that tapestry has only grown richer over the years. Born Texans and others who got here as fast as they could fought side by side to make Texas what it is today. Remember the Alamo! **NOW**

Sources:

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Zoomed In: Mark Walker

By Adam Walker

Cedar Hill resident Mark Walker loves gardening. “I was about 12 when I started growing corn in my backyard. A few years later, I spent time with Aunt Dot, helping her with potting plants, and that really got me going. Then the sickness got way worse when I bought my own house,” he laughed, displaying a tray of various screaming hot peppers, including Carolina Reapers.

“I turned the chicken coop that was here into a green house, since there is no way we’re going to have chickens this close to the house!” He enjoys trying new techniques like deep water culturing and grafting fruit trees. He stays busy with his YouTube channel, *The Overworked Gardener*, where he documents his family adventures in gardening.



First Methodist School children donate 306 food items to First United Methodist Church’s Open Table Ministry and Duncanville Outreach Ministry.



Pamela Reese-Taylor retires after 45 years in nursing.



Sixth-grader, Amelia Oum, and fourth-graders, Minh Doan and Brayden Weaver, celebrate their achievements in the CHISD spelling bee.



Operation Connection volunteers reach out to Duncanville students who are missing classes.



Brianna Turner prepares to premier in *The Wiz* play.



Raisha Allen teaches science remotely.



INSPIRE Executive Director Tara Bollinger presents 800 books to Bessie Coleman Middle School Principal Jared Peters.



DorothyAnne and Dustin Dauenhauer celebrate a snowy Valentine's Day.



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Keeping yourself healthy and safe is always your first priority, but maintaining your financial health is also vital to ensure you're able to make it through the challenges that life can present. Here are some reminders that will help with your personal finances:


- Expect the unexpected. Now is not the time to be reckless with your household finances. Look for ways to cut expenses, even if only temporarily.
- Manage stress appropriately. Resist the temptation to soothe anxiety or boredom by indulging in online retail therapy or a big splurge, such as a new car.
- If you're still working, consider boosting your emergency fund. There may be ways to channel money you aren't spending on commuting, dining out, clothing etc. to savings.


- If you're not working, use your emergency fund as you need it.
- Seek help when you need it. COVID cases across Texas remain at high levels, exacting an economic as well as physical toll. If the pandemic has affected your income, proactively reach out for help from lenders, landlords and utilities before you miss payments and damage your credit score.
- Take care of business. The Small Business Administration has reopened its Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) until March 31. If your business received a PPP loan last year, talk to your banker about applying for loan forgiveness if you have met the program's requirements. And if you need additional financial assistance, consider your bank's own small business lending programs for help.
- Stay calm. If you're an investor, the current volatile stock market may have you on edge, but investment decisions made emotionally can actually hurt you financially. Take a deep breath, think about your goals and talk to your financial or wealth advisor for guidance. **NOW**

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Monica Kenney is senior vice president of Frost Bank in Duncanville. (214) 515-4796.





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CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With

TERIL WOODWARD

— By Adam Walker

Teril Woodward grew up cooking. “My parents loved entertaining, so I was the helper. The menus were simple, so I was Mom’s assistant from a young age. As a broke young adult, I preferred grilling at home or making a big pot of soup over going to a restaurant.” In recent years, she’s abandoned cookbooks, in favor of looking up recipes online.

Teril met her husband, Dick, at a restaurant in Dallas, and now they work together at their own restaurant, Dick’s Uptown Cafe in Cedar Hill. “My style of cooking has become increasingly simplified, now that I’m a grandmother. I love spending time with family! I could still make anything I want to, but why? Life doesn’t need to be difficult to be delicious!” **NOW**

Mimi’s Spinach Artichoke Dip

- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 8 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup Parmesan cheese, grated
- 1 15-oz. can artichokes in brine, drained and chopped
- 5 oz. fresh spinach, chopped

1. Preheat the oven to 325 F. Blend the mayonnaise, cream cheese and Parmesan

well. A potato masher works well for this.
 2. Stir in the artichokes; fold in the spinach.
 3. Bake for 45 minutes; serve with crackers or vegetables.

Julie’s Sesame Salad

- Dressing:*
- 1 tsp. Accent Flavor Enhancer
 - 1 Tbsp. sugar
 - 3/4 tsp. salt

- 1/4 cup cider vinegar
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1/2 tsp. black pepper

Salad:

- 1 head iceberg lettuce
- 4 green onions, chopped
- 6 slices bacon
- 3 oz. sliced almonds, toasted
- 3 Tbsp. sesame seeds, toasted

1. *For dressing:* Combine all of the dressing ingredients; set aside.
2. *For salad:* Remove the core of the lettuce; rinse and chop. Add the green onions; toss together with the lettuce. Refrigerate until ready to serve.
3. Fry the bacon until crisp. Remove from the pan to cool. When the bacon is cool, crumble it.
4. Add the bacon, almonds and sesame seeds to the salad; toss with the dressing and serve.

Roasted Broccoli

- 1 lb. fresh broccoli florets (bite size)
- 1 tsp. minced garlic
- 1/4 lb. bacon, diced
- 1 cup pecans, chopped (Substitute for or add with the bacon.)
- 4 Tbsp. olive oil
- Sea salt, to taste
- Ground black pepper, to taste

1. Preheat the oven to 400 F. Line a cookie sheet with aluminum foil.
2. Toss all the ingredients together; spread onto the cookie sheet.
3. Bake for 15 minutes. Toss to recoat; bake for 20 more minutes.

Easy Salmon

- 1 salmon, large enough for each serving to be 6 oz.
- 1 tsp. olive oil per serving
- Musket Powder (or other Cajun seasoning), to taste

1. Preheat the oven or gas grill to 400 F.
2. Cut the salmon into 6 oz. portions. Rinse and pat dry.
3. Coat the filets on skinless side with olive oil. Sprinkle heavily with Cajun seasoning.
4. Lightly oil a foil-lined cookie sheet; put the salmon on the foil.
5. Bake for 15-20 minutes, until forked fish shows no dark pink.

Easy Grilled Chicken

- 1 chicken breast per serving
- 1 tsp. olive oil per serving
- Musket Powder, to taste

1. Preheat a gas grill to 400 F.
2. Pound the chicken breasts until they are even. Rinse and pat dry.
3. Coat lightly with olive oil on the first side; sprinkle heavily with Musket Powder. Repeat on the second side.
4. Grill for 5 minutes; turn and cook for 5 more minutes.
5. Remove; let rest for 5 minutes before serving.

Cooler Whip

- 4 oz. cream cheese, softened at least 1 hour
- 1/3 cup powdered sugar
- 1 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 cup heavy cream

1. In a mixing bowl, beat the cream cheese,

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powdered sugar and vanilla until soft and smooth. Transfer to a small bowl.

2. In the same mixing bowl, without washing out the cream cheese residue, pour in the heavy cream; beat until soft peaks form.

3. Add the cream cheese mixture, one third at a time. Beat until stiff peaks form.

4. Refrigerate until ready to dollop onto your dessert!



Easy Salmon

Strawberries for the Love of Your Life!

1 lb. ripe strawberries
2 Tbsp. balsamic vinegar
Coollest Whip

1. Wash, core and halve strawberries, removing the caps.

2. Sprinkle balsamic vinegar on the strawberries; toss to coat.

3. Refrigerate until dessert time, 30 minutes to 2 hours. Top with Coollest Whip; serve!

Frijoles à la Charra

1 qt. pinto beans, washed
2 1/2 cups water
1/4 lb. lean slab bacon, diced small
1 cup yellow onion, minced
1 cup green bell pepper, minced
2 large cloves garlic, peeled and crushed
1/4 cup vegetable oil
4 medium ripe tomatoes, peeled and chopped (reserve the juices)
4 serrano chilies, finely chopped (or 1/2 to 1 tsp. red pepper flakes)

1/2 tsp. ground coriander
1/2 tsp. ground cumin
1 Tbsp. salt
1/4 tsp. black pepper

1. Put the beans and water in a pot; soak overnight. The next day, add the bacon; bring to a boil over medium heat. Reduce heat to simmer; cover and cook for 1 1/2 hours, or until the beans are firm-tender.

2. Meanwhile, sauté the onions, bell pepper and garlic in the oil, until limp, about 5 minutes. Add tomatoes and their juices. Add all remaining ingredients. Reduce heat to low; let mellow until the beans have finished cooking.

3. Stir the tomato mixture into the beans and simmer very slowly, about 30 minutes, until about the consistency of chili. If too thick, add some water to thin. Taste for salt, and add more, if needed; serve.

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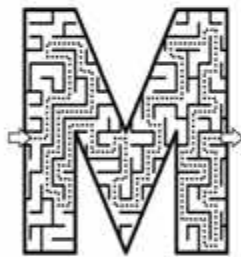
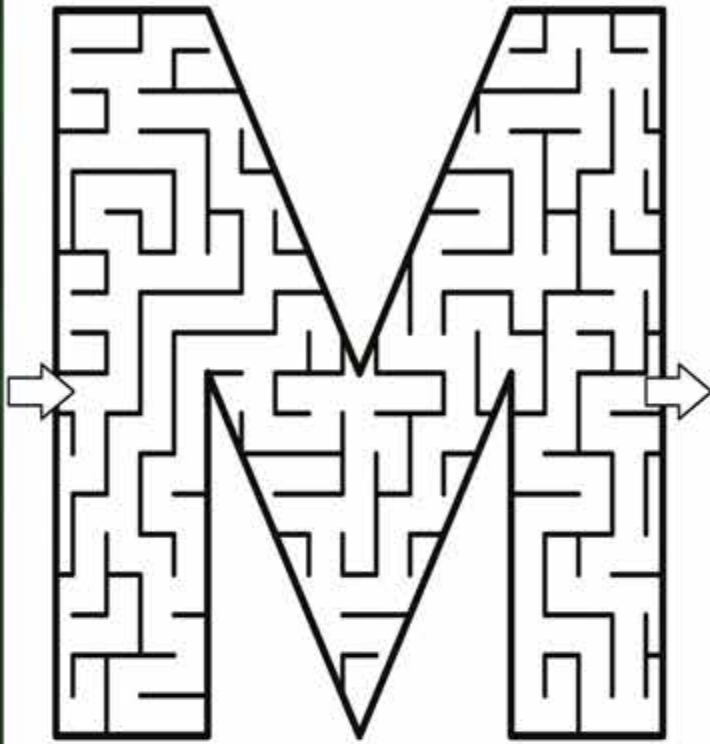
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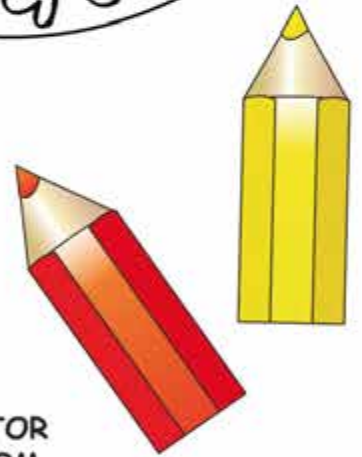
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Kids' Fun Page



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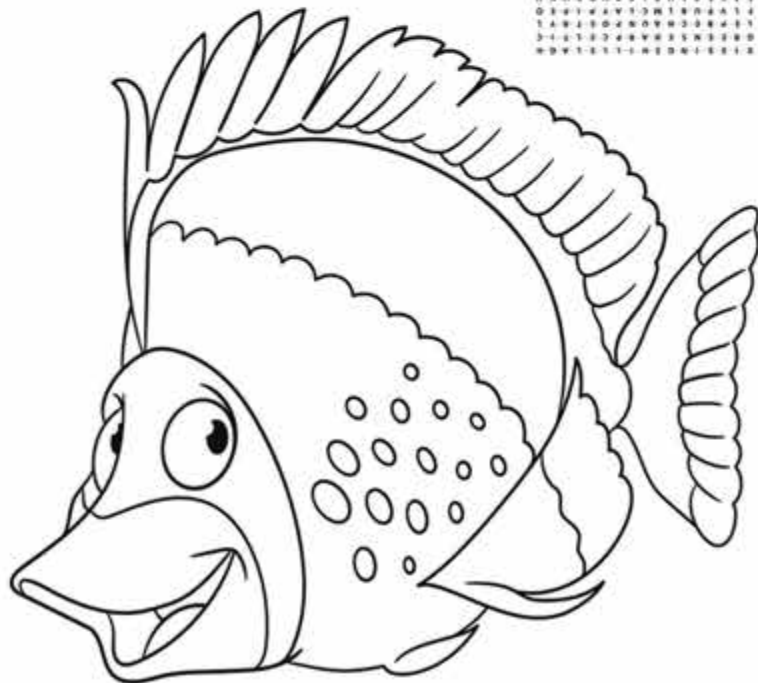
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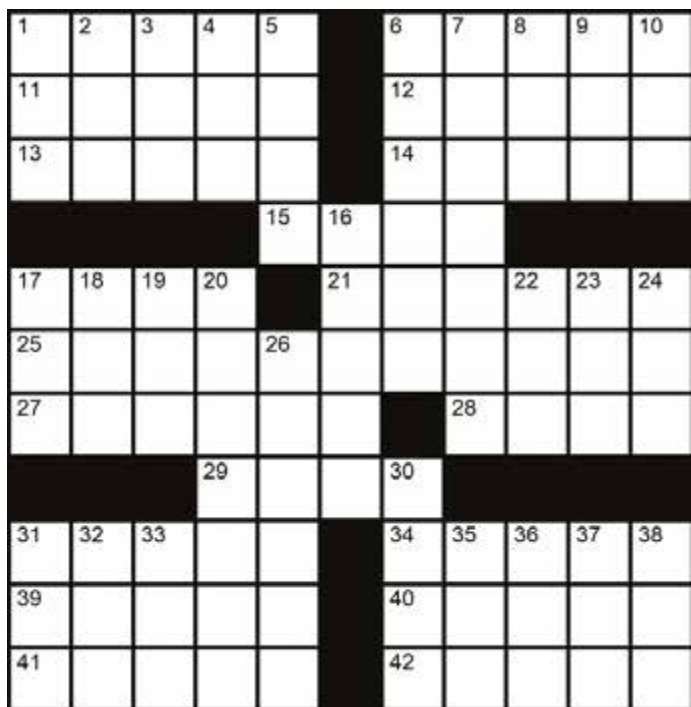


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Crossword Puzzle



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Across

- 1 Arm and a leg
- 6 --- Capped Romance (36 Crazyfists)
- 11 Egg producer
- 12 Uncle Tom's creator
- 13 Child Harold author
- 14 Doesn't possess
- 15 Blacken
- 17 Tex. neighbor
- 21 "The --- File" (Frederick Forsyth)
- 25 Sailor's jacket, maybe
- 27 With sharp side first
- 28 Bloodsucker
- 29 Heavy blow
- 31 Contempt
- 34 Has become rancid
- 39 Like Muzak
- 40 Donald Duck's nephew
- 41 Rowdy ---, an early Clint Eastwood role
- 42 Descriptive record

Down

- 1 High shot
- 2 Excellent tree climber
- 3 Besmirch
- 4 Fraternity man, briefly
- 5 Harmony
- 6 Slightly
- 7 Eye impolitely
- 8 Discouraging words
- 9 "My --- Private Idaho" (1991 film)
- 10 Freshly painted
- 16 They're locked in battle
- 17 Have creditors
- 18 Little goat
- 19 Very cold fuel
- 20 Aim of every undergraduate
- 22 Snow runner
- 23 Fraction of a min.
- 24 Ancient boat
- 26 Bounces
- 30 Top gear for a house
- 31 Spot
- 32 Preceded by the O S S
- 33 Plump
- 35 One kind of offspring
- 36 Unfashionable
- 37 Cone producer
- 38 Visionary

Solutions on page 44

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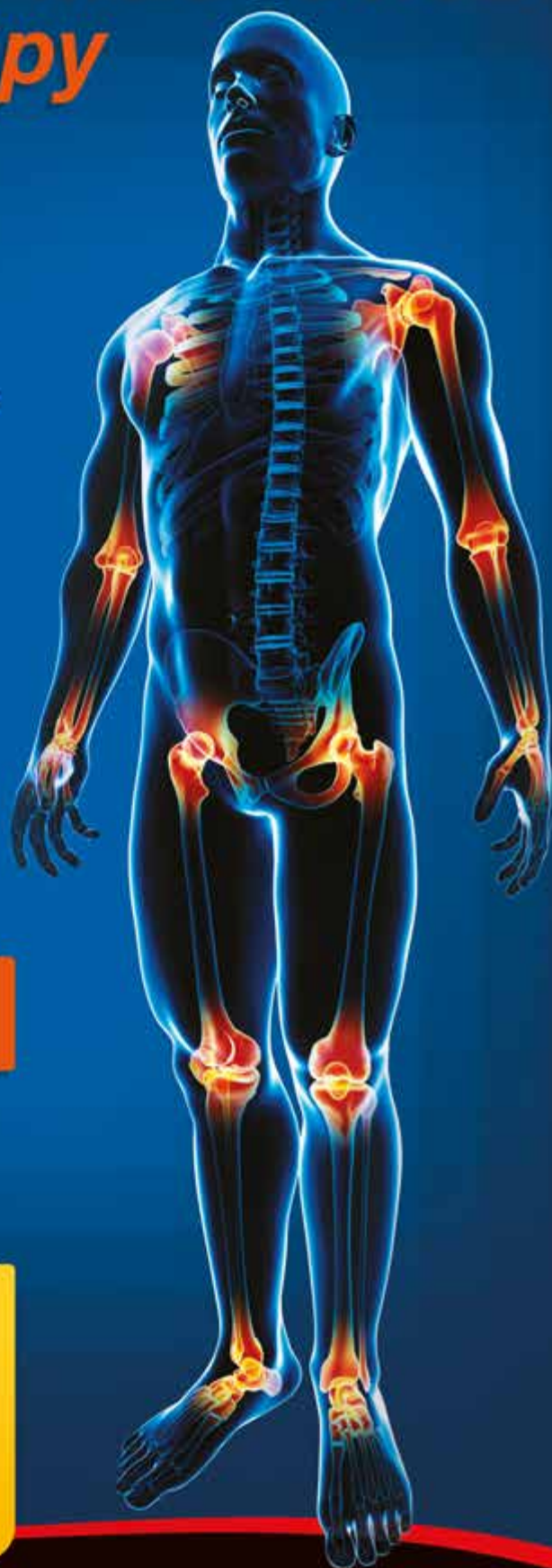
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Easy

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

Medium

6		1			4		8	
			5					
		2				7		1
					1		4	
		9				5		
	5			6				
		8	9			1		
	2						3	7
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
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Solutions on page 44


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3/1

Spring Reading Challenge:

Sign up at the Duncanville Public Library or online. Complete 10 challenges and win a free book for spring break. Call (972) 780-5044 for details.

3/5

Bowling Meetup:

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3/6

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3/15-3/17

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3/20

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3/27

Easter

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11	O	V	A	R	Y	12	S	T	O	W	E
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17	O	K	L	A		21	O	D	E	S	S
25	W	I	N	D		26	B	R	E	A	K
27	E	D	G	E	O	N					
						29	G	U	S	T	
31	S	C	O	R	N						
38	P	I	P	E	D						
41	Y	A	T	E	S						

Easy

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

Medium

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

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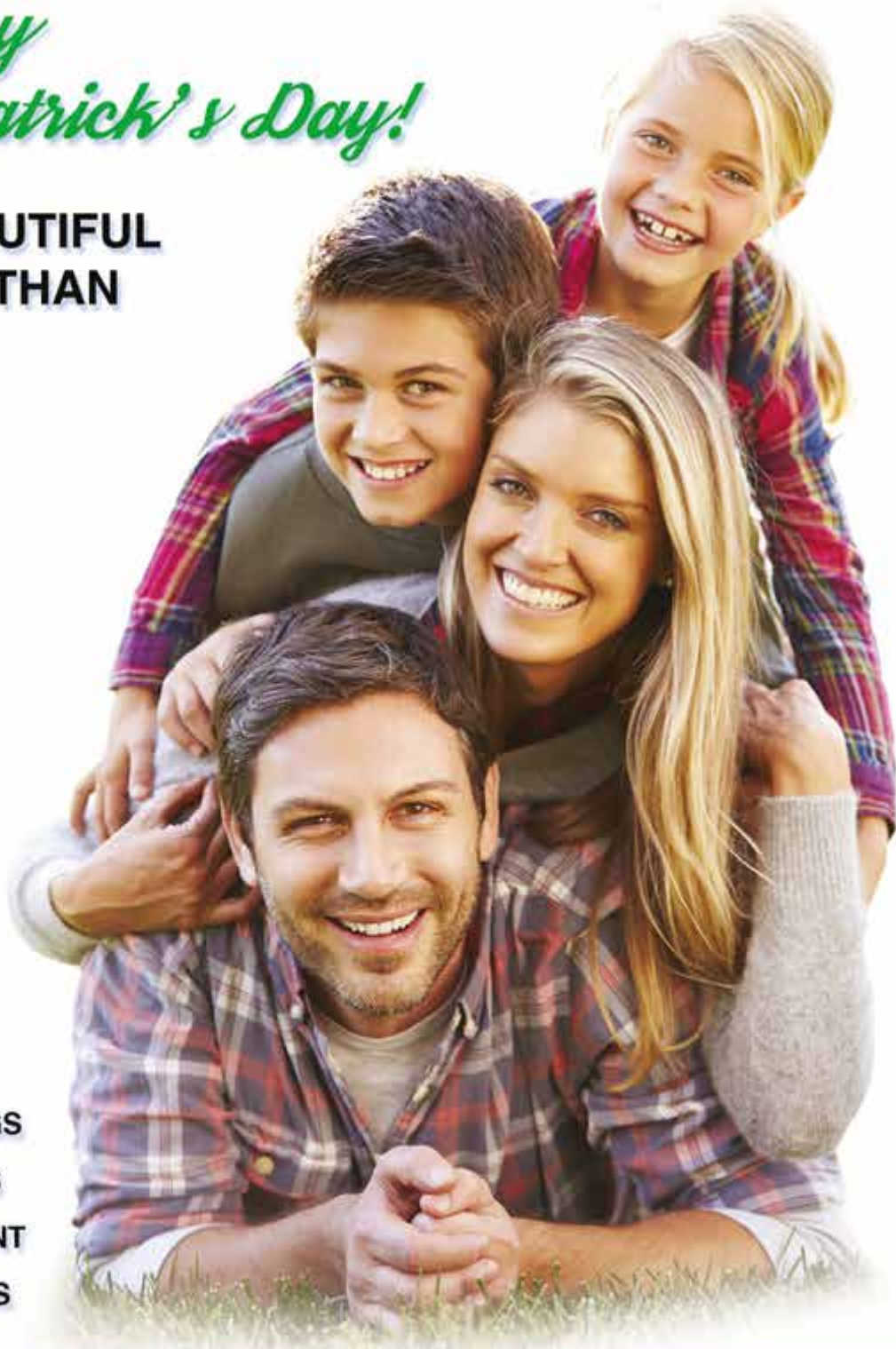
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