

380 GuideTM

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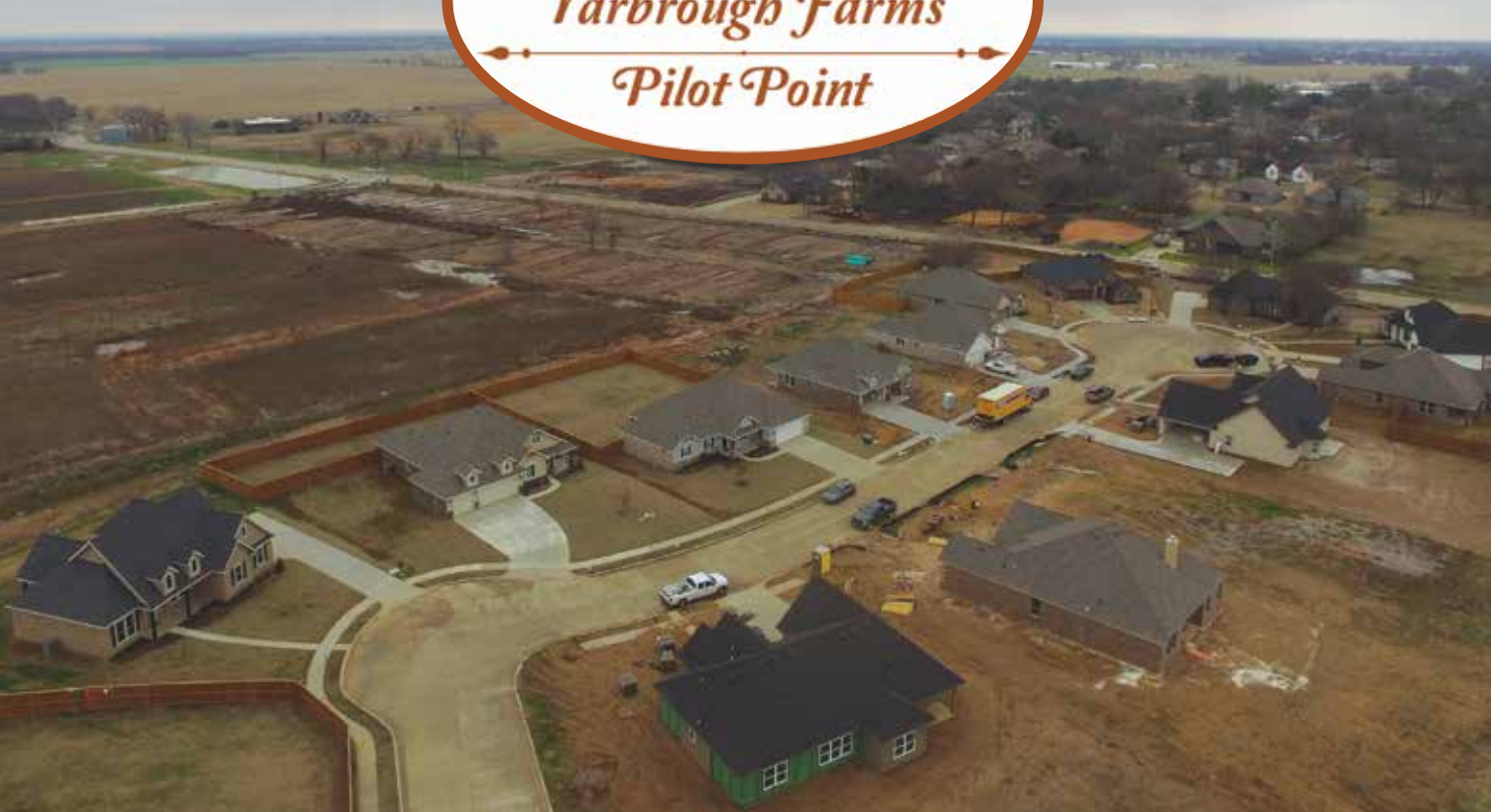
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ON THE COVER:

Photo by Jodie Linton-Prickett. Cedar Depot a must visit location at the edge of Pilot Point and right before Tioga on US-377.

February/March 2020

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Take the **FIRST STEP** to Fitness in Prosper!

The Mayor of Prosper issues 100-mile and 500-mile fitness challenges. A downsized version of the adage, attributed to Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu that a journey of a thousand miles begins with one step certainly applies to the 2020 Mayor's Fitness Challenge.

With that first step? Challenge participants can begin notching miles by walking, jogging, running or biking, toward meeting either the Challenge's goals or by surpassing the minimums and meeting their own personal stretch goals. Official tracking ends at midnight on Wednesday, April 15.

As before, Prosper residents who complete and submit a tracking sheet by the deadline, Monday, April 20, and who complete a minimum of 100 miles afoot, or 500 miles riding self-propelled, will be recognized at a Town Council meeting, receive a complimentary T-shirt, and have a chance at winning a Fitbit watch.

"If one of your New Year's Resolutions was to get in shape, this year's Challenge is a tremendous way to start. There are few things more important than good health," says Mayor Ray Smith. "I encourage residents to form walking, jogging, running, or biking groups. That way, we can hold each other accountable. I'll be logging my miles, and I hope to see my neighbors and friends doing the same thing."

Online registration is now open at www.prosperparksandrec.org. There are two ways to keep track of miles, electronically or on paper. A fillable tracking sheet can be downloaded from the website to participants' computers or mobile devices and miles can be posted electronically. Or, the tracking sheet can be printed for logging miles manually. Paper copies of the tracking sheet can be obtained at either Town Hall, 250 W. First Street or at Parks and Recreation, 409 E. First Street.

"The Parks and Recreation Department challenges everyone to get outside and enjoy a Prosper park during the Challenge," says Dudley Raymond, Director of Parks and Recreation. "The hike and bike trails in Town are ready and waiting for you!"

Updates on the Mayor's Fitness Challenge will be placed on the Town of Prosper Parks and Recreation Facebook page. Participants are encouraged to share adventures on their social media accounts. Details and more information can be obtained by calling 972-569-1160 or by contacting Trevor Helton at trevor_helton@prosper.tx.gov.



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STIMULATE the MIND and EXERCISE the BODY in Prosper

The 407
Rec Center
announces
new spring
classes



The first three classes of what officials anticipate will become a bounty of new offerings at Prosper's 407 Rec Center are scheduled to debut during the year's first quarter, providing mental stimulation and physical exercise for adults and youngsters.

The 407 Rec Center, 407 E. First St., offers Oodles of Doodles; Chess for All; and Flex Yoga for Adults. Registration is now open at www.prosperparksandrec.org for all classes. The website contains full program descriptions, starting and ending dates, and times for these and all recreational opportunities.

"Prosper opened The 407 Rec Center last August as the Town's first space dedicated to Parks and Recreation programs," says Director of Parks and Recreation Dudley Raymond. "Since then, new activities have been added regularly and we'll continue this trend throughout 2020, including after school options for youth and expanded innovative activities for adults."

Oodles of Doodles is a new type of art class designed to spark creativity and relaxation while increasing hand-eye coordination and concentration. Participants will create beautiful art to display at home or share with others. Led by certified instructor Sue Haberer, the one-hour class will start at 9:30 a.m. each Thursday between now and Feb. 20.

Chess for All is designed for youngsters between six and 14 years of age. Instructor and coach Glenn Baumann, who hails from the North Texas Chess Academy, will teach strategy and serve as supervisor for competitive play. Chess has been found to increase problem solving skills, improve memory and concentration, and teach planning and foresight. The one-hour sessions start at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays from Feb. 11 through April 14.

Flex Yoga for Adults is a gentle version of the ancient art, providing all the health benefits of traditional yoga. Designed for adults wishing to improve balance, flexibility, concentration, strength and reduce stress, it will be led by Patty Scheibmeir, a Certified Chair Yoga instructor with 200 hours of teacher training from North Texas Yoga. Classes run one hour on Wednesdays starting at 9:30 a.m. from Feb. 12 to March 11.

Ongoing Parks and Recreation winter programming for youth and adults includes Archery for ages 9-18 at the Parks Operations building; Soccer Sparks for ages two to nine at Frontier Park; tennis for all ages at Reynolds Middle School; and Strength, Core, and Balance and Chair Exercise for Active Adults (55+) at The 407 Rec Center.

More information is available by contacting Trevor Helton, Recreation Supervisor, at trevor_helton@prospertx.gov or by calling 972-569-1064.



Put Down Some Roots Plant a Tree!

By Janet Laminack



You can plant a tree as long as the ground isn't frozen, so basically "always" around here. It is best to get trees planted in the fall or winter so they have time to put down some roots and get established before the scorched

earth summer arrives. Even native and well-adapted trees need a little extra care (i.e. supplemental water) the first two-three years while they get established.

Trees are terrific, especially in the urban environment. We know they produce oxygen – which we just can't live without. And they absorb carbon dioxide, as well as trapping other things like noise, dust and smoke. Trees provide shade, windbreaks, prevent soil erosion and help reduce the heat island of our urban centers. Trees are also lovely and valuable additions to a landscape. According to the Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers, a mature tree can add from \$1,000 to \$10,000 to the value of your home. And from my own experience, planting a tree is much easier than renovating a bathroom or kitchen.

Here's something else that might surprise

you. Studies show that small trees establish faster and grow more rapidly than larger trees. There are several factors involved such as how the tree was grown (in a container or dug up) but in general larger trees go through a bit of shock and take longer to establish. Some studies have shown that the smaller trees ultimately result in larger trees in the landscape in a few years. This is great news if you don't have a big budget or like digging big holes. However, I know many homeowner associations (HOAs) and city ordinances have certain requirements for tree size, so some of you may not have the option to start small.

If you can go small, have I got a deal for you! It's time for the Denton County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) seedling tree sale. This is a great opportunity to get affordable trees for a good cause. All proceeds benefit the "Cool Shade for Third Grade" program in Denton county schools. "Cool Shade for Third Grade" happens in October. Master Gardeners hand deliver around 2800 seedling trees to third graders across the county along with a short educational presentation. Such a win-win-win situation: children learning about the importance of trees, children having the opportunity to nurture their own tree and you get a bargain on a tree! A special thank you to Upper Trinity Regional Water District for also supporting our "Cool Shade for Third Grade" project!

Orders for the trees are being taken now and are filled on a first come, first serve basis. You must pick up your trees on Friday, February 28, 2020 at the North Texas Fairgrounds between 9 am to 1 pm. To place an order, stop by the Denton County Soil & Water Conservation District office at 525 South Loop 288 Suite C-1 in Denton or call 940 – 383-2691 extension 3. We also have order forms available at our office.

Excellent shade tree choices this year are bur oak, live oak, Mexican white oak and Shumard oak in one gallon containers. Also available in one gallons are some medium-sized, blooming trees: desert willow, Mexican plum and vitex. All of these trees do really well in our area and the one gallon container trees are \$ 9.50 each.

You can pick up a bare root pecan tree for \$2.50 each. If you are interested in an evergreen conifer, the Austrian pine, pinyon pine and Afghanistan pine are available in a six to twelve inch container for \$ 4.00 each. Also, at that same size and cost you can choose a redbud or catalpa. For more details on proper tree planting and more tree choices for our area, check out www.dcmga.com, email us at master.gardener@dentoncounty.com or call 940.349.2892. 🌱

YARBROUGH FARMS,

Welcome Home

By Jodie Linton-Prickett



combined with forward thinking development and planning.

One of the most exciting elements about the location, besides the property itself, is that you are within ten minutes of beautiful Lake Ray Roberts. Yarbrough Farms is a short drive away from water activities, hiking, biking and riding trails, and year round camping.

Outside of Yarbrough Farms, there is plenty to do with your entire family! Besides the lake, there are several unique city sponsored family activities, one of a kind destination points, locally owned restaurants, distinctive boutiques, and amazing green

Welcome to tranquil country living in Pilot Point's premier master planned development, Yarbrough Farms!

Pilot Point has excellent schools with a low teacher to student ratio. The city offers historic charm

This charming new neighborhood offers the master planned amenities like the neighborhoods emerging along Highway 380, but in the serenity of a small historic town. You are far enough away from the hustle and bustle to relax, nonetheless, you are still easily accessible to highways, shopping centers and airports.

Yarbrough Farms is located on 105 pristine acres, all perfectly situated within the city limits of Pilot Point, while conveniently located near US Highway 377, and within an hour of the DFW Metroplex.





spaces. It is also a community where music and the arts thrive.

Yarbrough Farms has an exciting two phased development, which will consist of spacious estate lots, garden homes, townhomes, four ponds, beautiful greenspace, concrete streets, and public sidewalks for a trail system throughout the neighborhood. All of these features allow plenty of room to relax and enjoy country life and leisure!

The estate lots range in size from one-third to one-half acre with some including beautiful mature trees. The estate residents will have access to an amenity center and pool, both maintained by the Estates of Yarbrough Farms homeowners' association. And yes, there will also be waterfront lots available throughout the community.

The garden homes and townhomes will be a much needed addition to the choices of living accommodations for new or existing residents of Pilot Point. This phase will begin later

this year. The landscaping of these garden homes and townhomes will be maintained by their own homeowners' associations. Giving you more time to do things you enjoy!

At Yarbrough Farms, you will have the opportunity to meet four quality builders. Each builder is committed to building your dream home specifically for your family's needs. Come out and experience homes created by: Lamp Post Homes,

Cashion Homes, TGC Custom Homes, and Red Nail Homes. Each of these builders bring their own exceptional style and experience to the neighborhood.

Just far enough off the beaten path to take you away from it all, you will find Yarbrough Farms. A place for you to rejuvenate your lifestyle, spend quality time with your friends and family, and put down strong roots. Yarbrough Farms, welcome home.





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Insects on the Refuge

Get a Creepy, Crawly Collection!

Join the Hagerman for an Introduction to Entomology. Introductions will be held on Saturday, February 8th and March 14th, 11:30 to 12:30, at Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge located at 6465 Refuge Road, Sherman, TX 75092.

In 2020 HNWR will continue to expand its natural science education effort through the collection of insects on the refuge. The insects will be added to an ongoing curation and exhibition program that will highlight the diversity of insect species found on the refuge.

For those interested in collecting insects for this project, an introduction to entomology will be offered after the second Saturday presentation on February 8th from 11:30 –12:30. On March 14, another lecture will be offered, again following the second Saturday presentation, detailing how to collect, prepare, and curate insects.

After these two presentations, we'll start collecting bugs in the field throughout the spring, summer, and early fall. The program will be sponsored by the Bluestem Master Naturalist Chapter, presented and coordinated by Texas Master Naturalist and Master Entomologist David Parsons.

For more information about these events, please email: friendsofhagerman@gmail.com.



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A Vision that Came to Life

Fitzel Winery in Gordonville

By Krista Hartman



The Fitzel Winery, the vision of Jeanette Fitzgerald, is now open at 125 Heritage Road in Gordonville, about five minutes from Lake Texoma less than an hour from the 380 Corridor. Come out and relax in their beautiful tasting room perched in a great spot for enjoying Texoma sunsets. They also have a permanent (gourmet) food truck, cozy cabins, honey bees, local artwork display, and of course, a vineyard. The Fitzel Winery brings to life a family friendly, family operated, easy going winery experience for all to enjoy.

When you visit, you'll enjoy a picturesque winding drive from the main highway directly to the winery parking. Once inside, you will find the high ceilings of the tasting room complete with a gallery wall featuring local artists. You'll likely be greeted by Vintner Jeanette or her mom,

perhaps her son (and Chef) Mack – unless he's in the Food Truck preparing something fabulous.

At Fitzel Winery you can stand or sit at the tasting bar to enjoy tastings, flights or simply hang out and chat. You can enjoy a variety of seating options depending upon how many are in your party, including a great outdoor space overlooking a small lake on the property. For the local families who visit, this is popular because there are lawn games like corn hole, horse shoes and giant Jenga.

Currently there are eight wines on the menu.

White wines:

- **The Wildflower – sweeter blend**
- **Star White – semi-dry**
- **Sam's White – white blend**
- **Birds and the Bees – dry white**



Red wines:

- **Preston Bend Bandit – dolce red blend**
- **Texas Tiki Torch – dry red blend**
- **Gramp's Red – dry red**
- **Mike's Red – dry red**

There are three cabins located at the far north end of the property. Each one is outfitted with kitchenette, full bath, queen sized bed, and loft for either kids or extra party crashers. These are ideal for an easy overnight in Texoma after a day of winery stops. And because of their position on the property a clear starry night sky is an added bonus here in North Texas.

It is exciting to visit the vision Jeanette brought to life in Gordonville. The wines, the food, the winery atmosphere and entire property create a beautiful destination here in Texoma. Please go see for yourselves. You'll soon learn "when Jeanette puts her mind to it..." it's happening and the outcome is amazing! For more information please visit fitzelwinery.com.



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Festival audiences will be treated to storytelling concerts, workshops, music, a liars contest, and story swaps. Weekend passes, day passes and individual concert tickets are available.

FREE ATTRACTIONS ARE:

Ghost Stories Concert on Thursday: 7:30 pm - 9:35 pm

Spring Break Concert (elementary age kids) on Friday:
10:45 am - 12:00 pm

Story Slam on Friday: 1:15 pm to 2:45 pm

Family Concert and Kids' Activities on Saturday:
10:00 am - 1:15 pm

Fringe Concerts on Saturday: 10:00 am - 11:15 am
and 3:00 pm - 5:15 pm

Sacred Tales Concert and Tai Chi on Sunday:
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For more information on our festival, featured tellers, and tickets, go to: tejasstorytelling.com



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Jazz it Up at the **GOLF BALL DROP**

By Amy Ruggini

The Aubrey Education Foundation will be hosting a Golf Ball Drop fundraiser on Saturday, March 28, 2020 at the Aubrey Festival Grounds. The grand prize winner has a chance to win a \$10,000 prize.

First, second and third place prizes will also be awarded. Proceeds will benefit Aubrey Independent School District's students and teachers. Numbered golf balls can be purchased for \$10 each or in bundles.

The numbered golf balls will be dropped out of a CoServ bucket truck at 4:30 p.m. on the 28th. The ball closest to the Aubrey ISD flag is the winner. The winner will receive an envelope with a number inside. If the number matches the number on the winning ball, that person will receive the \$10,000 grand prize in addition to the first place prize.

The first place winner receives a \$1250 gift card plus a \$1250 grant will be awarded to the Aubrey ISD teacher of the winner's choice. The second place winner will receive a \$500 gift card plus a \$500 grant to the teacher of the winner's choice. The third place winner will receive a \$250 gift card and a \$250 grant goes to the teacher of the winner's choice.

The ball drop is at 4:30 p.m. and everyone is invited to stay for food and entertainment starting at 5:00 p.m. The Aubrey Jazz Band will be performing along with other bands.

AEF is a public 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation dedicated to supporting excellence in education for Aubrey ISD students and teachers. The mission of AEF is to enhance the quality of education and educational opportunities for Aubrey ISD students by raising and providing extra-budgetary financial resources through teacher grants and student scholarships.

For more information and to buy tickets, please visit aubreyef.org.

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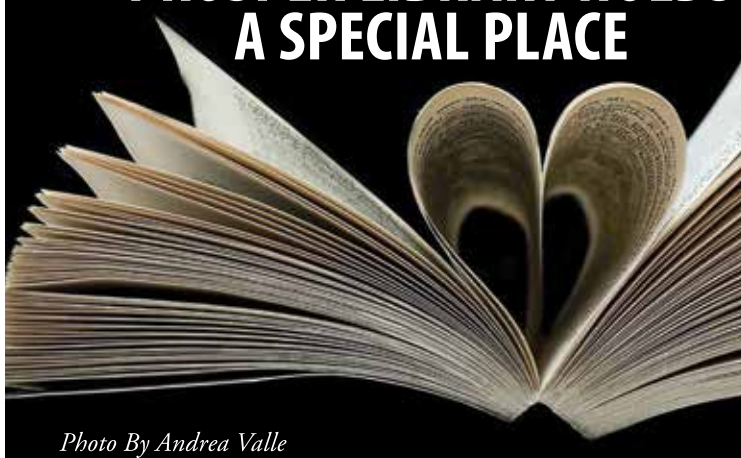


Photo By Andrea Valle

in the Heart of the Community

For many years, Prosper residents have strongly held on to the belief that the presence of a public lending library was essential to the overall wellbeing of the community.

As an undeniable testament to that belief, today's Prosper Library holds a special place in the heart of the community. Anchored at Town Hall, 200 S. Main, the fully-accredited facility is staffed with credentialed professionals providing services to residents, students, and visitors.

Debating an expanded schedule at the start of 2020, it is now open Monday through Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., on Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., and on Sunday from noon to 3 p.m.

Patronage has been steadily increasing. Last year alone, the library's 5,600 card holders performed some 107,000 check outs, either on the over 22,000 physical items or the 35,000 digital items in the library's collections. Many, of course, checked out items in both categories. Taken together, the monetary value of the current collection is estimated to be \$436,309.

Programs for teens, toddlers, and adults are constantly offered, last year totaling over 430. Averaging about 36 a month, the various programs boasted an attendance of nearly 9,500. During the highly popular summer reading challenge, students devoured almost 5,000 titles.

Because books, videos, DVDs, launchpads, audio books and computers are available for use with a membership, library patrons who avail themselves of the material avoid the direct cost of purchasing these items.

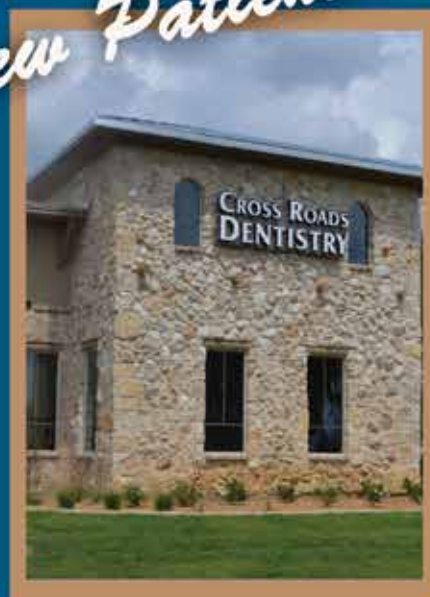
Library officials keep track of the direct monetary value of each transaction and can demonstrate the actual costs being avoided by library patronage. These cost avoidances are further categorized by specific reading preference.

For example, during 2019, readers of non-fiction books saved almost \$45,000 by avoiding the cost of purchasing their reading material and borrowing the books from the library. In the Young Adult category, the savings to readers by borrowing rather than purchasing was about \$50,000.

By far, however, the largest category for 2019 was in Juvenile offerings. Combined, the eight subcategories of Juvenile literature represented a cost avoidance of nearly \$940,000.

In all, borrowers in the 30 categories avoided spending \$1,411,137. For Prosper residents, saving close to \$1.5 million by visiting and patronizing the library is enough validation for their long-held belief in the value of a public library.

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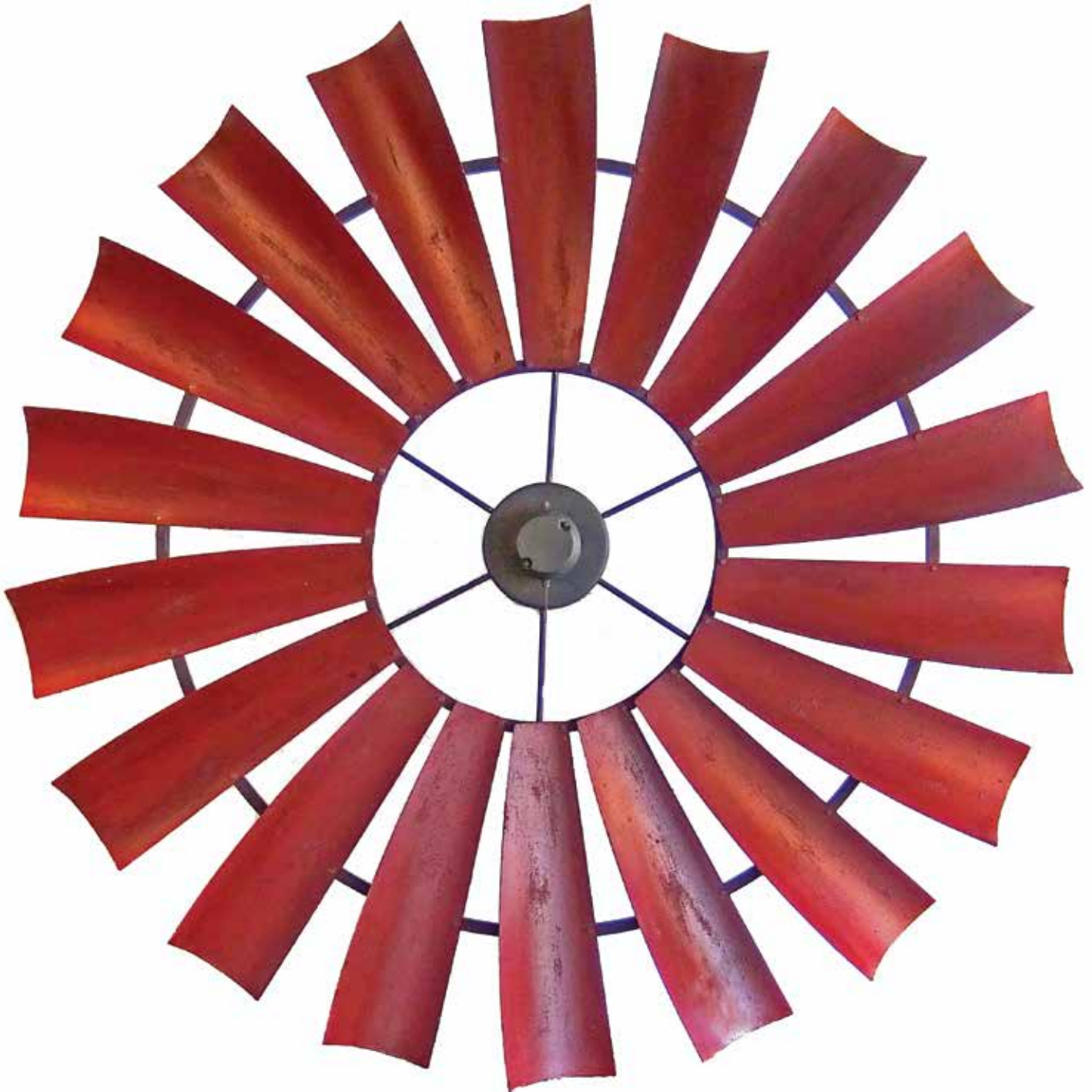
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How
THE ORIGINAL WINDMILL
CEILING FAN COMPANY
Grew from a Love for



All-American Country Living

By Kelly Eggers, Photos By The Original Windmill Ceiling Fan Company

This post is sponsored content presented by the Original Windmill Ceiling Fan Company.

Phillip and Kelly Eggers learned so much from growing up on their family's farm, including patience, hard work, the value of good, clean living, and the blessings of carefree laughter. So it should come as no surprise that they couldn't imagine living anything other than that All-American country life.

The Eggers escaped the city and corporate America to build a custom barndominium in the heart of Pilot Point, Texas. Their sanctuary was perfect in every way, including the additions of various treasures from Kelly's family farm.



There was just one problem -- it was way too hot.

"Our living space was on the second floor, and the horses lived below us. We had 16-foot vaulted ceilings, so it was near impossible to cool the hot air trapped in the vault," Kelly said with a laugh. "At floor level, the temperature was 70 degrees. "But in the vaulted ceiling, it was over 100 degrees."

The Eggers added more traditional air conditioning, which improved things a bit. But everyone kept telling Kelly that what she really needed were fans -- possibly lots of them. That was when her country living inspiration took over. One day, while looking out across one of the pastures, Kelly spotted their old farm-style windmill and realized that was the answer. Sure, it weighed too much and relied on too large of a motor to be placed on a ceiling. But with a little ingenuity, Phillip realized he could custom make an aluminum version lightweight enough to attach to any ceiling.



"It was the perfect solution," Kelly said. "At that moment, The Original Windmill Ceiling Fan Company was born."

The Eggers' company is a pioneer in bringing authentic, historically-designed windmill ceiling fans to homes across America. They are the only windmill ceiling fan company that provides custom finishes, enabling customers to design an original, one-of-a-kind fan perfect for their space. Each fan is handcrafted and fully assembled in the heart of Texas. And because of the aluminum, special ceiling supports are not required, and standard electrical service works perfectly.

"I am so proud and grateful to be able to run The Original Windmill Ceiling Fan Company seven days a week, 24 hours a day," Kelly said. "Just ask our customers. We would love to help you come home to one of our unique, beautiful, functional windmill ceiling fans. You'll be glad you did."

Not surprisingly, the hallmark of this company isn't its ceiling fans. Customers look to The Original Windmill Ceiling Fan Company because they know they are getting a product built from the honest hands of community-minded people who



understand the values and traditions of farm life. Phillip and Kelly grew up on their grandparents' farms in Iowa and Kansas, respectively, and spent their childhood fixing fences, baling hay, hunting, feeding livestock, and making and eating the best home-cooked meals ever -- lard included.

"We both have experiences in the business world that have helped us create and run the Windmill Ceiling Fan Company," Kelly said. "We have lived and learned and know that our knowledge nurtured from the farms and the business world will make our company stronger. You only make certain mistakes once, like being dragged through a manure-filled



feed lot face first holding onto the rope of a running calf too long because your grandfather told you, 'just don't let go,' or being shocked to the core because you touched a hot fence line that your cousin said 'wasn't hot.'"

They'll never work another day away from the land that made them -- and The Original Windmill Ceiling Fan Company -- who they are today.

"I am finally home again," Kelly said. "We work hard every day and appreciate the special life we have together."





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The Perfect Wedding Date

10-10-2020

By Shari Trusty

Thinking about tying the knot? Maybe a vow renewal? Looking for an intimate venue to plan your big event? Fortunata Winery is hosting an all day wedding event on 10-10-2020. The local winery will help you make your wedding less stressful and more memorable.

Venue...check, Officiant....check, Cake....check, Decorations...check, Champagne toast...check, Photographer...check, Flowers...check. Easy....check, Memorable...check.

Here's the cool part. All day weddings from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in different areas of the winery grounds. Be part of the history happening at Fortunata Winery in Providence Village, Texas. The Fortunata Family is wanting to create a relaxed, tranquil event in a friendly environment that will be unforgettable for you and your guests.

You could have your wedding setting in The Blessing Chapel, the vineyard, the white garden tent, the fireplace on the back patio or the fireplace in the tasting room. Do you want to get married by an Ordained Minister, a Justice of Peace, or Elvis (well, not the real Elvis)? It's your choice! Chef Rossana will create wedding cakes for the bride and groom and Fortunata Winery sparkling wine will be served to celebrate your memorable day.

Greenery and flowers will decorate each setting on the vineyard grounds. Bouquets for the bride will be simple yet elegant. Multiple professional photographers will be roving the vineyard taking timeless photos to document your momentous occasion.

Still love your spouse so much you would do it all over again? Well do it all over again at Fortunata Winery. Didn't get to have a special wedding the first time? Do it 10-10-2020! Renew your vows.

For more information on the 10-10-2020 unforgettable wedding day at Fortunata Winery, email Events@FortunataWinery.com or just drop by the winery in Providence Village, 2297 FM 2931

Your spouse can't forget this anniversary date!



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Leigh Hilton, PLLC is pleased to announce Leigh Hilton has been elected to membership in the Fellows of the Texas Bar Foundation ("Foundation"). Fellows of the Foundation

are selected for their outstanding professional achievements and their demonstrated commitment to the improvement of the justice system throughout the state of Texas. Election is a mark of distinction and recognition of contributions to the legal profession.

This is an honor reserved for the top one-third of one percent of attorneys in Texas. The Foundation is the largest charitably funded bar foundation in the country. Founded in 1965 by lawyers determined to assist the public and improve the profession of law, the Foundation has maintained its mission of using the financial contributions of its membership to build a strong justice system for all Texans. To date, the Foundation has distributed more than \$20 million throughout Texas to assist nonprofit organizations with a wide range of justice-related programs and services. For more information, visit www.txbf.org.

Leigh Hilton is an estate planning attorney in Denton, Texas. She has authored three books "Who Gets Your Stuff When You Die?" and two books on Alzheimer's Disease "You're Not Alone: Living with Alzheimer's Disease" and "You're Not Alone: Living as an Alzheimer's Caregiver". Leigh Hilton, PLLC has offices in Denton, Aubrey and Bartonville, Texas. For more information go to www.dentonestateplanninglawyer.com



VISIT MCKINNEY

Welcomes an Increasing Number of Both Domestic and International Travelers

What do antique dealers, miniature book collectors, folklore enthusiasts, Texas authors, football players, marching bands, and brides all have in common? This diverse group of people comprises just a portion of those selecting McKinney as their destination of choice.

Visit McKinney, the tourism arm of the city, wrapped up another successful year in 2019, bringing a wide variety of groups to the city and assisting them in locating a venue, securing hotel room blocks, offering registration assistance, and finding transportation. By providing a variety of services, the Visit McKinney staff strives to help these visitors have the best possible experience while spending time in the city.

“As a destination marketing organization, it’s our mission to be an economic driver for the city. Our goal is to bring new money into the city’s economy by attracting visiting groups and individuals to come here, have a great experience, infuse their money into our economy, and go home with great memories of their visit to our community,” said Visit McKinney Board Chair Bryan Perkins.

According to the most recent figures reported by the state travel office, McKinney had more than 582,000 overnight visitors in 2018, generating \$9.7 million in local taxes from the \$229 million in travel spending by visitors to the city last year. Also, McKinney’s tourism and hospitality industry employs nearly 2,000 people who regularly interact with these visitors.

McKinney is a popular destination for people from around the globe whether they come with family and friends, or travel to the city for a conference, meeting, or other events, according to Perkins. Last year alone, Visit McKinney worked with regional and state groups including Texas Christmas Tree Growers Association, The Antique Divas, Texas Lakes Trail, Texas Agrilife, Texas Pecan Growers Association, and North Texas Yarn Crawl in addition to hundreds

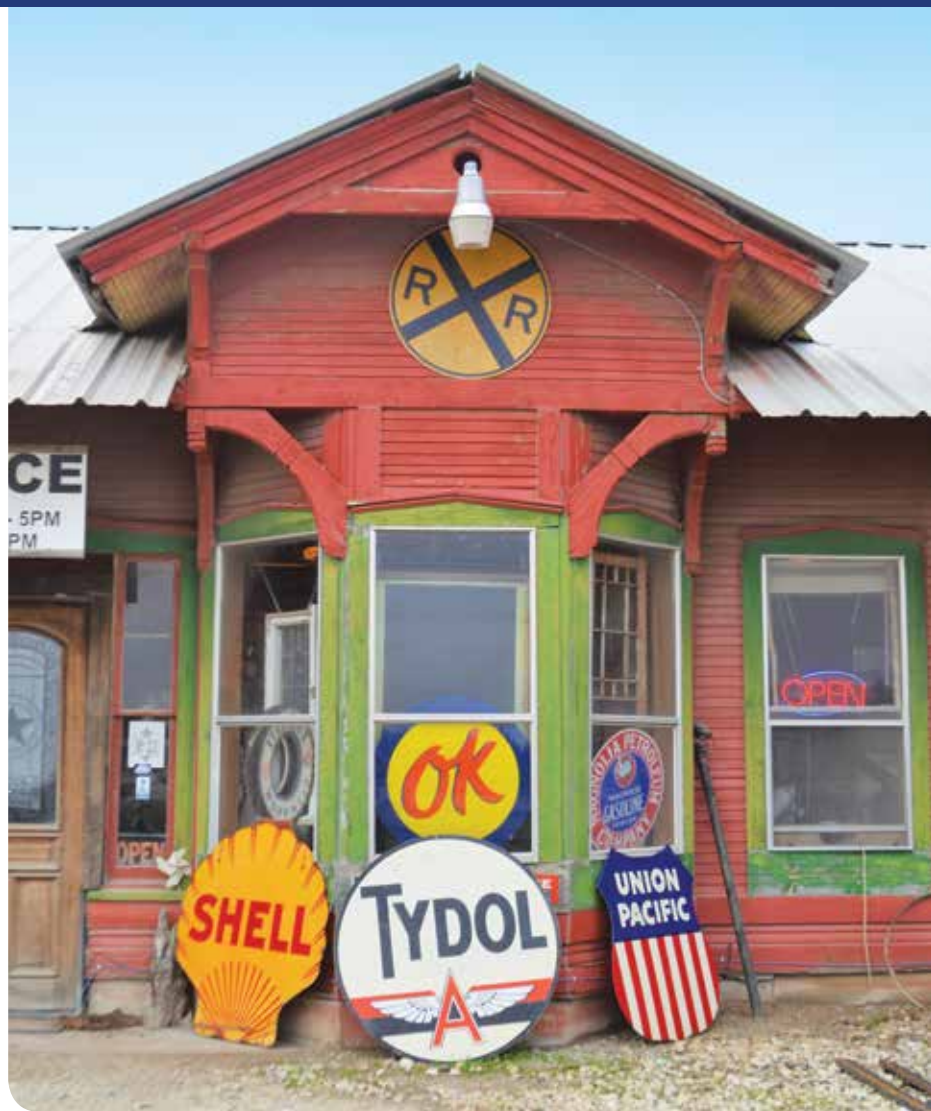
of brides, families, and other travelers. In recent years, statewide organizations including the Texas Downtown Association (TDA) and the Texas Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) have held their annual conferences in McKinney. In fact, TDA’s leaders are returning to McKinney next week to hold a Board of Directors meeting, stay in local hotels, and enjoy some leisure time on the downtown square.

Visit McKinney has also assisted groups in hosting international travelers to the city. McKinney-based Munzee, a Smartphone gaming app developer, has brought its members in from as far away as Denmark and Lithuania, while the Miniature Book Society’s Annual Conclave had people traveling to McKinney from Australia and countries throughout Europe.

Whether here for business or leisure, visitors stop at the Visitors Center in downtown McKinney on a daily basis. When they stop to pick up maps, brochures, and souvenirs of their visit, the staff also invites them to mark their home towns on a world map mounted by the guest book. To date, visitors from all 50 states and more than 80 countries are represented on the map.

Local corporations - Raytheon, Emerson Process Management, Encore Wire, Simpson Strong-Tie, and others - also regularly host guests for meetings and events at local hotels and venues. Sports and recreation visitors playing lacrosse, softball, and soccer have held tournaments in McKinney, as well as the NCAA Division II Football Championship teams who played at McKinney ISD Stadium in 2018 and 2019, and will hold their annual season-closer here for the next two years as well. And in July 2020, McKinney will be welcoming Drum Corps International for a touring marching band competition.

“It’s our hope that visitors to our city bring family back with them the next time they visit and then recommend McKinney as a fun and welcoming destination to their friends,” Perkins said.



CEDAR DEPOT

On the Right Track

By Jodie Linton-Prickett

Just at the edge of Pilot Point and right before Tioga on the west side of US- 377 you will find a curiosity that is too tempting not to explore.

By the name alone Cedar Depot, you may not realize the visual outburst of vintage goodness that awaits you inside. The shop is chockfull of bright, beautiful nostalgic delights. One room leading to another as you explore dipping from one honey pot to another. Real antiques, collectors' items and objects of virtue appear around every corner and behind every door. You will find items that are pristine to ones that are rusted,

weathered, and chipped to perfection.

Even if you are not a collector, a picker, or an avid antique hunter you will find treasures there to inspire you. A Coca-Cola sign from yesteryear might add a pop to your kitchen, a vintage Texaco could bring some character to your garage, or a nostalgic pinball machine to light up your game room; giving your space something distinctive and exciting.

Cedar Depot started its ever evolving presence in 2005 by Doug Phillips. However, the historic 1909 Santa Fe Train Depot was moved in 1998 from its original location in Sanger to where it sets now. More space was

required so an old schoolhouse from the 1930's was conjoined to the depot giving it the distinctive appearance you see from the highway today.

As you walk through the building you will notice old graffiti on the walls dating back to 1915, making a visit to Cedar Depot even more remarkable. The building was also the original home of the Circle J Cowboy Church that now resides up the road in Tioga.

Cedar Depot was cultivated from the memory of the roadside relics and antique stores Phillips would daydream about as a

child, longing to go in and explore. He was already collecting vintage items to decorate his restaurant when he had the epiphany. Why not create a destination that entices people to come in and draw inspiration from bygone times?

While collecting and recreating memories from his past in the main building, Phillips decided to pursue another passion of working with cedar. "I went to school in Austin and always loved the cedar buildings, so I started a saw mill," said Phillips, "My buddies gave me a hard time saying I wouldn't be able to sell cedar." The buddies aren't giving him a hard time now. Phillips ships his cedar coast to coast. It has been used in a wedding venue in Tennessee, several buildings in Fort Worth and most notable Omaha's famous Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium in Nebraska. They also will mill your cedar and are known for their custom tables and other furnishings.

If you are a do it yourselfer, the mill at Cedar Depot can be of assistance to you. They can help you achieve your vision for most any wood related project. From mantels to fencing they enjoy helping seeing a DIY project through.

Inside Cedar Depot, don't be surprised to find a long standing roofing company that has been owned by Phillips since 1995. Through Phillips' antiques, roofing company and cedar mill he has a longstanding relationship in the community and a good reputation of getting the job done right. If you are looking for something specific, especially in historic signage, he is the one to go to.

While inside of the building you will find enough nostalgia that you will feel like you have traveled back in time and outback you will find an aromatic cedar mill. All of which was once a strategic location for Phillips' restaurant. It's funny how things have a way of changing and evolving. Phillips has a long history as a restaurateur specializing in seafood and home-style cooking and originally planned to open his next venture at



the very spot Cedar Depot now sets. Maybe someday he will bounce back to the original idea but he seems to be enjoying the path he is on now.

If you have never visited Cedar Depot drop in and treat yourself to a reflective journey. Find something you have been looking for, or better yet, find something that has been looking for you. If you have been it is probably someplace different already due to the ever-changing new old items being rediscovered by Phillips all the time. All of the items available are continuing along on their journey to someplace new. Maybe it is your turn to own a piece of the past.

Cedar Depot is located at 1965 US-377 in Tioga, TX. For more information please visit CedarDepotLLC.com.



North Texas Wine Country

Budbreak Bash

By Shari Trusty

The North Texas Wine Country is putting on a BASH to celebrate the grapevines waking up after their winter naps and sprouting their buds. These spring buds will soon be beautiful green leaves that lead to precious red and white grape clusters that North Texas wine makers will use for their upcoming 2020 wines.

Over 30 wineries are within an hour drive of the DFW area. They make up the North Texas Wine Country and will be on sight to introduce themselves and let you taste their wines.

Didn't know there were so many wineries in North Texas? Well, that is the reason for the inaugural Budbreak Bash! Fortunata Winery in Providence Village, Texas will be hosting the inaugural Budbreak Bash on Saturday, March 28, from 11a.m. – 3p.m. Mosey around visiting the winery's tents and get to personally know the wine makers and owners of the wineries in your area. Taste their wines, find your favorite, have a glass and enjoy the afternoon.

Invite your friends to come along, taste wine, enjoy food from the food trucks, and check out the garden tent for informational seminars on wine and wine making topics. Want to know more about the history of North Texas wines? It goes back over 100 years. Need tips on growing table grapes in your back yard? Thought about trying to make your own wine? Sit in on a "how to get started" discussion. Of course, don't forget the health benefits of having a glass of red wine every evening! Lots of topics throughout the afternoon you might find interesting. Check out the topic schedule on the website.

Let the North Texas Wine Country Association introduce you to the many wineries you might not have known were just down the road from you. Get your North Texas Wine Country Trail Map at Budbreak Bash, make a list of your "new" favorite wineries and plan a weekend trip to visit the many wineries of North Texas.

There are options for visiting the day of the event. Stop by, visit the tents, purchase a glass of wine and shop around. Or try the following tasting options: \$45 General Admission includes souvenir glass, 20 tastings and access to informational discussions \$60 VIP Admission includes souvenir glass, 30 tastings, snacks, swag bags and access to informational discussions on the wine industry.

For more information and to purchase tickets go to the North Texas Wine Country website www.NorthTexasWine.com or go to the Facebook page, North Texas Wine Country.

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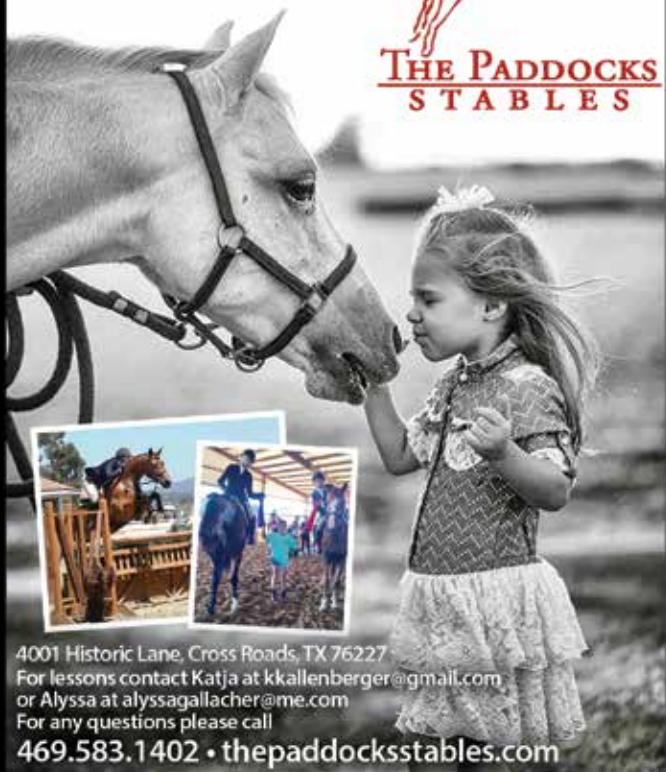


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20/20 Vision In 2020

Seeing Clear Advances in Technology

By Shari Trusty



When many of us were young we thought 2020 sounded really far in the future!

Well it's here! Darn it! We are a few years older and have a few more ailments, but there isn't much we can do about it. We just figure out how to live with it. Fortunately, in 2020, 20/20 vision is sustainable with the many new advances in technology to check your eye health and precise prescription.

Gone are the old school ways of the dreaded puff of air for glaucoma testing and the dilation drops (leaving you feeling disoriented and distorting your close up vision for a while).

Dread the PUFF OF AIR like most of our patients? Today there are instruments that replace the air puff. The iCare tonometer just does a quick touch of your eye and digitally tells the doctor what the pressures in your eyes are. FYI, high pressure in your eye signals your optometrist he needs to do additional testing for Glaucoma. Anyone can develop Glaucoma, but if you do know one of your family members have it, it is definitely a hereditary trait. This is the reason your doctor always has the question if there is a family history of Glaucoma on your medical information.

More good news, today there is digital retinal imaging, The Optomap. This technology gives you a 200 degree view of the retina that facilitates the early detection of sight and life threatening diseases. Diabetic? It can detect retinal hemorrhages caused by high blood sugar. Floaters? It can help distinguish between age related causes, or a more serious cause such as a retinal detachment. High Blood Pressure? This technology can help detect early vascular signs of high blood pressure. Family History of Glaucoma? Bingo! It can also help with the early detection of glaucoma. This imaging only takes just a few minutes during your annual exam with your eye care specialist.

Do you have a high plus prescription that has required you to wear "coke bottle" lenses in you frames in the past? The latest advances in lens technology gives you the option of much thinner and light weight lenses with superior optics. Optometric offices that have knowledgeable frame stylists can also help you chose a frame that cuts much of the thickness out of the lens and keeps the frame from being so heavy and uncomfortable. These lenses will cost a little more but the comfort is well worth the investment.

Contact lens wearers also have lots of new options. Tried wearing contacts years ago and couldn't adapt? The new contact lens material advances allow more oxygen to enter your eye making your eyes less dry and itchy and giving you a more comfortable lens experience. Daily disposable contact lens are also an option for your busy lifestyle. You can just take them out in the evening, throw them away and put a new fresh lens in the next morning. Easy peasy!

Mom, these are a great option for your kids who tend to wear their two week or monthly contact lens too long, many times resulting in eye infections from over wear. Over wearing of contacts can also result in diminished vision because of dirty or deteriorated lens. Total Eyecare and most optometric offices even have a smart phone app that reminds you when to change your contacts and when to order a new supply.

Technology now allows so many of our daily tasks easier to accomplish. Your 20/20 vision and eye health in 2020 is part of that technology. Come visit Dr. Kelby Trusty Therapeutic Optometrist, Glaucoma Specialist and Dr. Heath Coleman, Therapeutic Optometrist, Glaucoma Specialist at Total Eyecare located at 8800 US-380 in Cross Roads, Texas.

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Betty Linton and Jodie Linton-Prickett took their 380Guide with them to Café Louvre in Prague, Czech Republic.



Anita Jean, EA took her 380Guide with her while crossing Charles Bridge in Czech Republic.



Metal Art Company artist, Joe Simmons took his 380Guide on the Historic Pilot Point Square.



Chick-fil-A took their 380Guide to celebrate their ribbon cutting and grand opening. Come visit the new location at Windsong and Highway 380 in front of Kroger.

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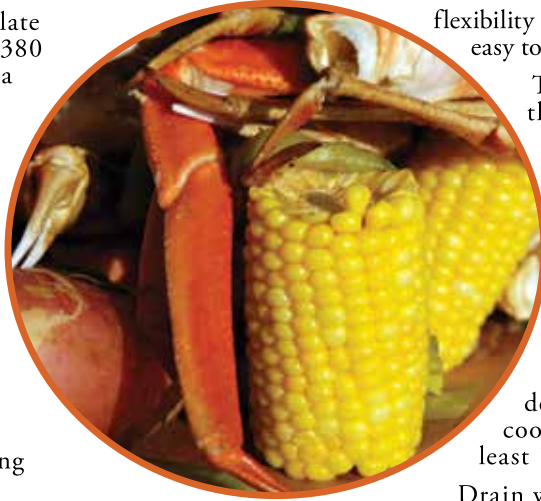
Laissez les bons temps rouler! **WITH A CAJUN BOILING POT**

By Jodie Linton-Prickett

Once crawfish season starts in late February it is a great time in the 380 Corridor to have friends over for a Cajun style seafood boil. If you don't have a taste for mudbugs a simple crab boil will do.

Just cover your patio table with recycled newspapers and pour out the steaming goodness. No plates needed, just a roll of paper towels, some crab mallets or crackers and plenty of yummy libations. Let the good times roll with laughter and plenty of spontaneous conversation while getting your hands messy peeling shrimp, cracking crabs and gnawing corn straight off the cob.

The glorious thing about a boiling pot is that you can make enough just for your family or a giant gathering. Just add more or less of each ingredient to accommodate your needs. It is difficult to go wrong. The ingredient list is just a guideline and



flexibility of types of crab, sausages and onions makes it easy to put your own spin on things.

To get started, you need fresh corn on the cob cut in half, red potatoes, yellow onions, shrimp, sausage, crab legs, salt, cayenne, garlic and crawfish if you like.

Bring a large pot of water to a boil with Old Bay Crab Boil; add potatoes, sausages, onions, corn, and garlic. Cook mixture at a boil until the potatoes are cooked through, about 30 minutes.

Gently drop crabs, shrimp (and other desired shellfish) into the boiling mixture; cook until the shellfish is cooked through, at least 10 minutes.

Drain water and serve.

Once the boil is devoured the cleanup is as easy as gathering up the newspaper and the shells on top and throwing it into the bin. *Laissez les bons temps rouler!*

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