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MADI'S CANVAS

PAINTING HER TRUTH

IMPACT LIFE
EMPOWERING GENERATIONS
ONE VILLAGE AT A TIME

NOT FAR FROM HOME
THE BUFFALO ROAM

TOWN OF LITTLE ELM
MAGIC OF LIGHTS

CELINA'S CHRISTMAS
COUNTDOWN

THE HEART OF TEACHING

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LiFE

EMPOWERING ONE VILLAGE AT A TIME

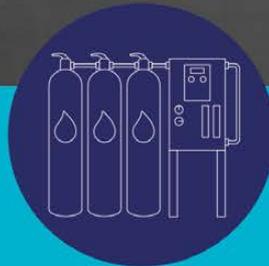
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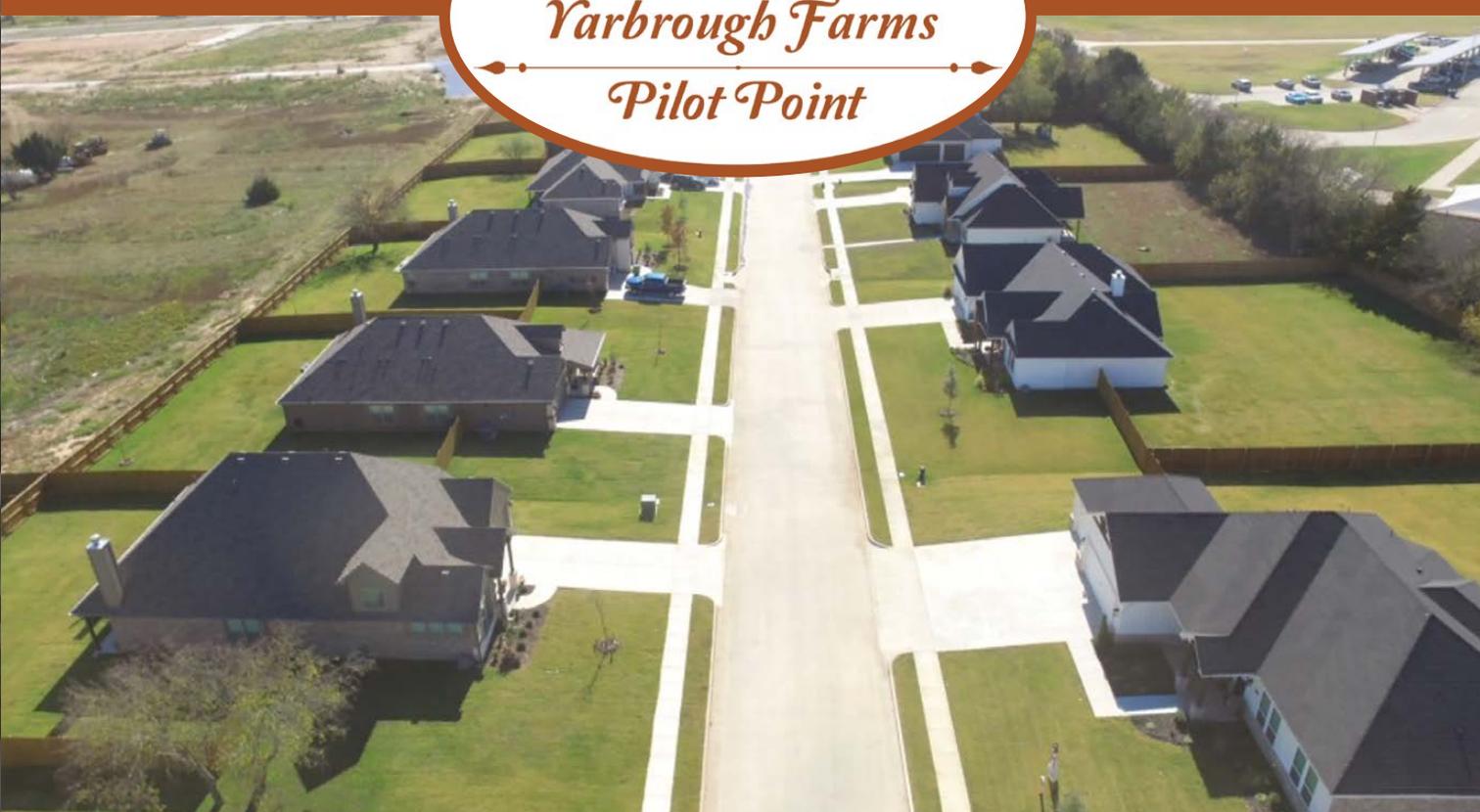
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LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

The Gift of Presence in 2020

I think most people will admit that this year has been challenging at best. With our worlds all topsy-turvy it is hard to tell which end is up. Every holiday season I like to remind people about the gift of presence over presents and this year it rings truer than ever. Sadly, physical presence in many cases will be difficult. Who would have guessed something we take so easily for granted could be stifled so quickly?

With travel being more taxing in the current conditions it may be beyond our reach to visit our far away loved ones this holiday season. Over the years, we have learned an important, yet easy life lesson that presence lasts longer, means more and binds a family tighter than any present ever will. Presence is a gift, which never is out grown, it doesn't get too small or boring, and never wears out or breaks. This is where I would say, "The best thing about presence is that it is always affordable and available for any family at any time. During the holidays, we wish for all of our readers, more presence!" This year might be the first time that presence is not available in the traditional sense of the word. It is more important than ever to stay mentally connected in times that pushes us physically apart. Pick up the phone, Facetime someone, send a photo, or write an old school friend a letter. Find a way to be there even if you cannot actually be there. Presence no matter how it is provided is priceless.

We are completing our fifteenth year of publishing 380Guide, we hope through the magazine you get to know more about all of the fantastic things there are to do right here in the area. We anticipate through our articles you will find some places that will become meaningful to you and your family where you can develop traditions and grow together.

Please remember to support our advertisers when shopping for your gifts this holiday season. It is because of them that we can bring you area events, community information and micro-local articles at no cost to you.

All of us at 380Guide would like to wish all of our readers, good health, warm nights and festive holidays!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Jodie Linton-Prickett, PUBLISHER



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www.380Guide.com

GENERAL SALES

972-658-2033
info@380Guide.com

Readership 90,000

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North Texas Media Group, LLC

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ON THE COVER:

The Wait, by Madi Houck. Original artwork created with Crayola colored pencils and then paint marker for the background on paper. Photo by Shannon Houck.

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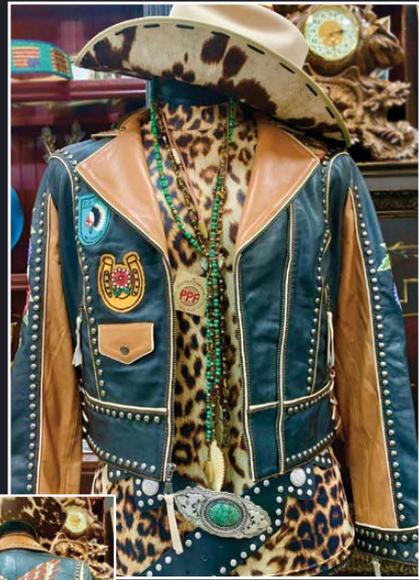
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Celina is among Texas Elite for Design and Visual Aesthetics

By Donna Lynch

The Texas Scenic City Certification Program awarded the City of Celina, TX, with their highest Platinum Certification award. Raha Pouladi, the Senior Planner for Celina, stated, “Platinum certification means that Celina is among the State’s elite for design standards and visual aesthetics that apply to new development.”

The Scenic City Certification Program is a nationally recognized one-of-a-kind model, developed to provide communities with a comprehensive set of standards and evaluations for the design and development of public roadways and spaces. Any Texas city may apply to the Scenic City Certification Program for an objective review of its existing municipal infrastructure ordinances as they relate to the model standards. Assessment is points-based, and every city applicant receives a detailed, scored evaluation that identifies both strengths and areas for improvement. Official certification is earned by cities that score points in the upper range and meet threshold standards for landscaping, tree planting, and sign regulation. Program Managers from the Texas Scenic City noted, “Celina scored 308 out of a possible 338 total points, earning Celina the Platinum Award. Only 17 cities have held the top award from 2010 – 2019 and, making that

distinction rarely happens on the first attempt but rather through ranking up throughout the five-year certification period.” Dusty McAfee, Director of Development Services, Celina, TX, stated, “To our knowledge, Celina is the first city to earn Platinum certification on its initial application, and less than 20 Texas cities overall have earned the Platinum distinction.”

“Several neighboring cities took years to earn the highest certification level, and some are still attempting to climb the rankings.” – Madhuri Mohan, Planning Manager, City of Celina

Certification in the program is good for five years, at which time Celina will have to reapply for a new evaluation to retain certification status. City Manager Jason Laumer stated, “I am very proud that the city has earned this prestigious award. Two of our 2018 Strategic Plan goals were to “Plan” and “Beautify & Brand” the city. It’s been a multi-year effort to update long-range planning documents, modernize ordinances, revise agreements, and amend internal policies to place us in the best possible position to manage our growth.”





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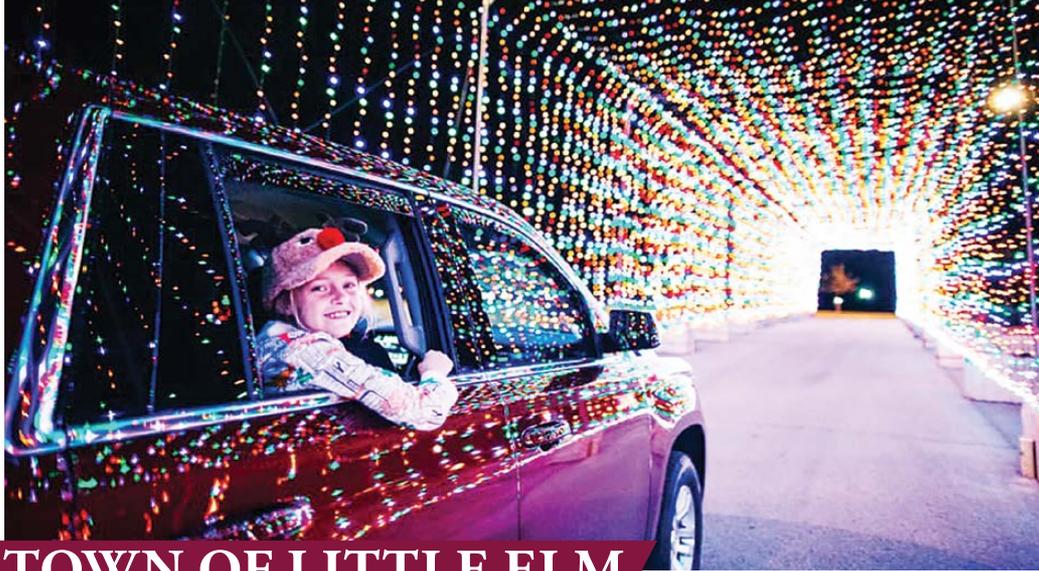
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TOWN OF LITTLE ELM

Magic of Lights

A COVID-19-Safe Holiday

By Meagan Martinez

There is no doubt COVID-19 is changing many things across Texas, and how people are celebrating the holidays is one of them. While many cities are canceling their holiday events, the Town of Little Elm added a new way for families and friends to make holiday memories this

year with the Magic of Lights.

The Magic of Lights at The Lakefront™ is a COVID-safe and fun drive-thru holiday lights event perfect for the whole family in Little Elm. The 1 1/4 mile experience will be held at Little Elm Park, features more than a million LED lights, and

runs until January 2, 2021.

The Magic of Lights is an international show, appearing in seven cities across the United States and Canada. The Magic of Lights in The Lakefront™ is the first time Magic of Lights appears in Texas.

The show features two

Enchanted Tunnels of light, each over 100 feet long, along with a 200-foot long Blizzard Light Tunnel, a Snowflake Forest, and more.

"Our goal for Magic of Lights at The Lakefront™, as with all of our special events, is to give visitors an outstanding, one-of-a-kind experience, and completely COVID-safe event," said Little Elm Director of Community Services Chad Hyde.

Attendees must remain in their cars for the entire drive-thru, but on Saturday, Dec. 5, the Magic of Lights at The Lakefront™ will be a walk-thru only event as the Town hosts its annual tree lighting and Christmas Parade—complete with fireworks.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will also be making an appearance throughout the six-week event, waving at eventgoers as they pass by.

This year's event will also feature a Christmas Around the World display and the Twelve Days of Christmas story, among other scenes, and is expected to draw visitors from across the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex and the state.

Tickets can be purchased at www.magicoflights.com/events/littleelm or the gate. Several theme nights feature discounts for first responders, military, teachers, and healthcare workers. These discounts can only be applied to tickets purchased at the gate.

The Magic of Lights at The Lakefront™ will be closed on Dec. 31.

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MADI'S CANVAS

Painting Her Truth

By Jodie Linton-Prickett

When you look at the intricate detail of Madi's art it is impressive at any age, but when you realize she is an eighth grader and only 13 years old you almost have to take in a little gasp of air. She was born in Waco, Texas but has grown up in Aubrey. "She inherited her artistic abilities from her father," says her mother Shannon Houck.

continued on page 12



Art seems to innately live deep inside Madi. Since she was very young she has had a creative spark. Like most little children she loved coloring books, colored pencils and chalks. However, she moved away from coloring inside the lines to creating lines of her own on any available surface or piece of paper.

It started with little doodles. By the age of eight her parents started to notice how serious her talent was. When she was nine she had fashioned her own set of fully developed cartoon characters, with names such as Fang. It was not long before there was a complete group of the Fang Gang with a series of whimsical stories.

Art is an amazing platform, allowing individuals to articulate their feelings and

ponder their surroundings of the world in which they live. You can see the way Madi views the world through her vivid color and detail. Madi attends Aubrey ISD, where all elementary students are introduced to art through a volunteer based program called, Meet the Masters, which teaches students about artists and their history. Students then create art akin to the artist they studied. It was at this time she became fascinated with Dutch artist Piet Mondrain, born as Pieter Mondriaan. Madi found the art of this major exponent in De Stijl movement, "the neatest art." Besides her delight with his work, there is a long list of artists she admires, although her current inspiration comes from the artists Bob Ross and Thomas Kincaid.

While Madi is still finding



her voice in the world of art, her form of self-expression is engaging. She presents her encounters in a way that affects people. Madi has been in art classes since sixth grade and attended two outside camps in Denton. She has discovered new mediums and techniques offering her new ways to explore self-expression. In seventh grade, she became a member of the Jr. Beta Club and submitted an art piece to the Texas Jr. Beta Club Convention and received third place and advanced to the national level. Disappointingly, COVID curtailed the spring seventh grade competition through her school.

"Madi is such a naturally talented artist! She just knows where to put color, how to use it, and how to pull out all together. Madi instinctively knows how to represent light, which is something I find incredibly difficult to do," says her art teacher Mandy Duncan, "I've always admired the way my artist grandfather could just do that effortlessly. She reminds me so much of watching him draw and paint. Once I watched him paint a crumpled paper bag for an illustration and I remember asking how he knew exactly what shade is brown to use for each crinkle and he couldn't really answer... He





just knew. That's Madi Houck! You can see it in the detail of feathers on a bird she drew with colored pencils, in the shading of a painted owl portrait, the surface of water, or the reflection of light in a frog's eyes-- all the little seemingly subtle things that really aren't. She just gets it, and I am amazed by her!"

By the age of thirteen, over the summer of 2020, Madi has had five pieces of art commissioned by Yvonne Damon. As to be expected, she was excited to have her first paying job. "Every year that Madi's father has worked for me she has made me a Christmas card featuring the Fang Gang. Between her art and the Fang Gang I am

not sure which impresses me more," says Damon, "I have watched her improve her talent to the point that when I needed artwork I called her Mom. I told her my budget and how many pieces. The only instructions I gave were the size and the animal I wanted done. I left the creative decisions such as background and color to her. I wanted an original. I have the honor of being her first client. I can't wait to see her continue to grow her talent. I will most certainly be treating myself to more pieces in the future. It's exciting to see a young person with such talent. It's truly amazing."

When 380Guide asked Madi what her general goals in life are, she responded with, "I'm only 13, so right now I'm focused on finishing high school, going to college and major in something with art." As far as her artistic goals, "I have not figured this out. Where God opens the doors to lead me is where I'll go."

When not creating, Madi is your typical fun loving teenager. She lives with both of her parents, her

brother, and the family dog, Charlie. Madi loves to read, spending time with her family and friends, exploring new things, going to the movies, trips to the art store, traveling and visiting different museums. She also delighted when helping others around her.

Henry Ward Beecher once said, "Every artist dips her brush into her own soul, and paints her own truth into her pictures." It appears Madi does just this. 🌀





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IMPACT LiFE

EMPOWERING GENERATIONS ONE VILLAGE AT A TIME

By Denice Bailey, Photo by L Tucker Photography

Developing relationships in an effort to help foster a solid foundation for a community has been ingrained in the minds and hearts of both Deke and Samantha Alexander, founders of Impact LiFE. Both native to the greater north Texas area, and from multi-generational banking families, Deke and Samantha have taken a bold step of faith to leave behind their respective banking careers and create a foundation in a new place for God's work- the Dominican Republic.

After a short mission trip to the Dominican Republic in 2014, Deke saw firsthand the desperate needs of the community. These critical needs included a lack of water, food, basic education, and, most significantly, a relationship and deep love of the Lord. A year later, in 2015, Deke's wife Samantha took her own trip to the Caribbean Island and her heart was overwhelmed with the longing to ensure that these basic and crucial needs were met. These trips became pivotal turning points for the couple of 13 years to eventually leave their careers in banking to do ministry full-time. The deep impact that these impoverished and suffering communities had on Deke and Samantha's lives led to the inception of an organization that aims to fulfill basic needs while simultaneously planting and empowering local churches to fulfill spiritual needs.

The Dominican Republic has been named the most visited destination in the Caribbean and it's not difficult to see why. There's a seemingly endless spread of white-sandy beaches and palm trees that attract thousands of tourists each year to a similarly limitless range of holiday resorts. While these resort towns cater to the wants of tourists, there are many villages in the Dominican Republic that are virtually unseen. These areas are heartbreaking--poor water quality for human consumption, insufficient or almost unacceptable food for simple nourishment, a lack of rudimentary education and most unsettling, almost non-existent spiritual culture or guidance.

This is where the Alexanders and Impact LiFE come together: to engage,

educate and empower generations, one village at a time by fulfilling basic needs in order to develop and quench spiritual needs. They have developed a program which brings community water filters, wells, water filtration plants and community impact centers to remote villages throughout the Dominican Republic. Providing clean water is the first step in allowing for education, greater life expectancy and the potential to reduce poverty and put an entire community on the path toward a better future.

While Deke leads the organization in terms of operations and logistics, Samantha is steering the initiative in developing a literacy program which will be an integral part of the organization's commitment to engage, educate and empower. "Being Deke's wife, and now ministry partner, is a gift from God," says Samantha, "And I plan to use -and strengthen- that gift to the best of my abilities. And, with God's favor, I'm confident Impact LiFE will succeed in bringing the fundamental necessities to the Dominican Republic." Deke's mother, Debbie Alexander, also a longtime banker, will be joining them as well in this bold step of faith. "At my age, most don't think of moving internationally. After much prayer, I feel the Lord leading me to join my children to impact lives in this area," says Debbie. "I am very blessed and I look forward to the opportunity to be a blessing to others."

Deke, Samantha, their two children, Kennedy who is nine years old and Cash who is four years old, along with Debbie need support in many ways. The family will need financial funding on the mission; emotional provision; and most critical, prayers. The financial support will be directed to the essential needs of the organization --operational needs; wells for clean water; water filtration plants; new multi-purpose community centers for providing food, education and worship services. Deke and Samantha would be honored for you to visit the Impact LiFE website to learn more about this critical need and related ministry <https://impactlife.today/>

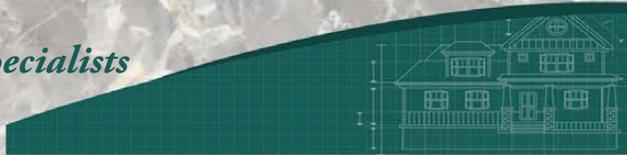


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NOT FAR FROM HOME THE BUFFALO ROAM at

The Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge

By Jodie Linton-Prickett

I don't have to tell you, but this year has been erratic. Things open then close only to reopen and close again. It has been a challenge to make any plans at all in the area you are familiar with, much less planning any type of faraway journey.

As a road less traveled enthusiast, I am often off exploring places most people don't have on their bucket list much less their family vacation horizon. So, needless to say it takes a lot to get me enthusiastic. This endless feeling of isolation looming around COVID doesn't help at all. With unpredictability, restricted hours, limited access and strict reservation requirements it makes it next to impossible to plan a getaway with any certainty.

However, when you have to have a change

of scenery that travel bug is almost impossible to shake! I wanted some type of moderate adventure with tranquil scenery, no masks mandates and lots of clean, fresh air. What I needed was a quick fix that was close to home, and I found it. It ends up, what I was longing for was just over the Oklahoma boarder on the outskirts of Lawton. There you will find The Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, located at 32 Refuge Headquarters in Indianhoma.

The amazing thing about this is that it is such a short two and a half hour drive northwest of the 380 area. It is so close it could easily be visited on a long day trip. Just pack a picnic, leave early and arrive just in time for an early lunch; allowing several afternoon hours for exploring. The kids

will probably be so exhausted after their day of adventure they might sleep all the way back home. If a day trip is too rushed, it is inexpensive to camp on site, or find affordable accommodations in the immediate area.

This 59,020 acre refuge was founded in 1901 to reestablish species to the area and protect the endangered wildlife. You can expect to see coterie's of prairie dogs, herds of wild buffalo, burrowing owls, turtles, historical and cultural legacy species of long horns, white-tailed deer, beavers, a variety of lizards and spiders, wild turkey and Rocky Mountain elk. All of these creatures roam and flourish in their natural environment. On a quest for nature you could expect to encounter up to 50 different mammals, over 800 plant species, 36 types of fish, almost 250 different species of birds, and 64 amphibians and reptiles. The rocky and jagged mountains, scrub oak forest and wild grass prairies will delight with the abundance florae and wildlife.

Due to the diverse environment and terrain, it is perfect for all levels of activities. The Jed Johnson Tower Trail is a beautiful out-and-back footpath that has just a small 62-foot elevation gain. It is lightly trafficked, so you can expect to encounter a few other hikers along the way. Then there is Mount Scott that rises above the west of Lake Lawtonka at 2,464 feet. In all there are about 15 miles of designated hiking trails. Even the most seasoned hikers will find a rewarding experience. What about Fido? Yes, he can come along as long as he is on his leash.

Young children enjoy the dam that you can walk across and the old historic dam is still visible below. The area around the dam offers some nice fishing spots, along with the 12 other locations for public fishing throughout the refuge. You will need an Oklahoma





fishing license. Channel catfish, largemouth bass, crappie and sunfish can be caught in these peaceful lakes.

Another unexpected find is Holy City, designed to resemble Israel during Biblical times. It is spread out over a 66-acre area surrounded with perimeter walls and watch towers. You will also find several impressive full sized buildings made from granite quarried from the area. The structures include, the Lord's Supper building, Pilate's Judgement Hall, Herod's Court and Temple Court. There is also a wedding chapel and a brick memorial for the victims of the Oklahoma City bombing.

In 1937 at Holy City, a full length film of the passion play was produced by the U.S. Government. The Prince of Peace, is the nation's longest running Easter Passion Play. There is a hill for audiences to watch at the annual sunrise Easter performance. In 1939 a record 225,000 people attended.

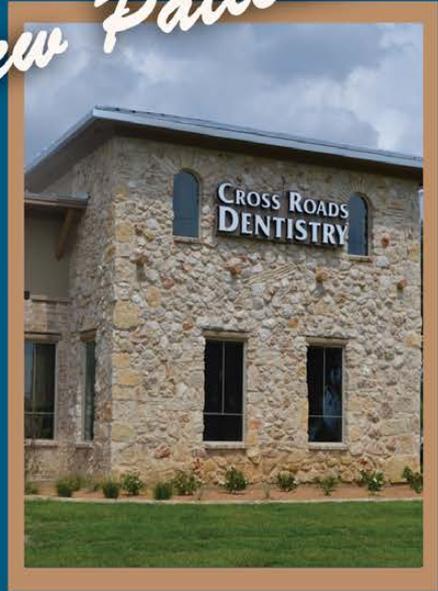
While you are there make sure to visit Medicine Park, Oklahoma's first resort town founded in 1908. In the center of downtown you will find Bath Lake a swimming hole with shallow and deep areas, and relaxing waterfalls. The lake is only open in the summer but the spa town offers a great place to stroll, dine and shop the little boutiques year-round.

Fort Sill is also a nearby place to visit. We were lucky enough when we were at the refuge to see the fighter jets performing drills above us. It made for some unexpected exhilaration!

Why is it worth a visit? It gives you a refreshing change of scenery, full of nature and outdoor activities, and it is free to enter and explore. You feel like you went somewhere really special and very far away but it is an easy and scenic drive from home. While some of the education centers are closed the outdoors are wide open. Before embarking on your journey check out their website for any updates or changes at fws.gov/refuge/wichita_mountains/.



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Celina's Christmas Countdown

Donna Lynch

Did you hear? Santa is really interested in Celina this year! We want everyone to show him our holiday spirit. Join us in Downtown Celina for the month of December for an authentic holiday experience, The Countdown to Christmas. We have something planned for every day leading up to the miraculous day of Christmas. Events include the annual Christmas on the Square, pictures with our very own Reinsteer. Don't confuse Reinsteer with a reindeer. This is Texas after all. We will be serving up delicious hot cocoa, and decorating Christmas tree ornaments, these are just a few of the activities we will host throughout the month. Plus, you won't want to miss a magical live reading with the jolly Ms. Clause of The Night before Christmas! This will happen on December 24th at 6:00 p.m. at Celina's Public Library located at 142 North Ohio Street. Don't miss any of our exciting holiday countdown events. Follow us on Facebook for complete details @LifeinCelinaTX.



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The Heart of Teaching

Jackie Fuller Elementary School

By Amy Ruggini

Aubrey ISD held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Jackie Fuller Elementary School. At the ceremony, Aubrey ISD Board President Dr. Joey Saxon spoke about the board's wish to name the district's third elementary school after an educator.

Jackie Fuller's name came up in their discussion as a teacher who had dedicated her life to the education of children and was still actively involved in the community and the school district following her retirement in 1995. It was announced by Aubrey ISD Superintendent Dr. David Belding that Jackie Fuller would be the name of the new school at the groundbreaking ceremony in February of 2019.

"I am very thankful for this journey that God has allowed me to take," Mrs. Fuller said during her speech at the ribbon-cutting ceremony. "It has been such a joy to teach in a school system where I began as a 1st grader. To have my name on this wonderful, fantastic laboratory of learning is so humbling. My prayer and hope is that students will come to know that learning is a great adventure."

With its distinctive silos, the Jackie Fuller Elementary School building opened its doors

in August of 2020. Due to Covid-19, the ribbon cutting for the school was delayed, but Aubrey ISD held a small, private ceremony in October.

The district's third elementary school was built by Pogue Construction on 15 acres of land in the Silverado housing development off FM 2931.

Huckabee, the District's architecture firm, designed the new elementary school, which showcases the history of Aubrey while also blending innovative and traditional school methods within the building. The 93,820 square foot facility serves students from pre-K through 5th grade.

Dr. Belding introduced numerous people at the start of the socially-distanced ceremony that were part of the planning process for the school and supportive of the bond project. This included members of the school board, the Aubrey ISD Facilities Planning Committee and the town councils from the City of Aubrey, Krugerville, Providence Village and Cross Roads. Representatives from Huckabee Architects and Pogue Construction were also in attendance.

Standing in front of more than 40 family members, Mrs. Fuller reminisced about her upbringing in Aubrey and Denton. She talked about her education at Aubrey and Denton schools and the surprise of being named Denton High School's valedictorian in 1951.

In 1959, Mrs. Fuller began her teaching career in Keller ISD. She taught 5th grade there for four years before moving on to 6th and 8th grade. She stayed at Keller for nine years before moving back to Aubrey and began her 21-year teaching career in Aubrey in 1974.

Three of Mrs. Fuller's former students from her very first 5th grade class in 1959 were in the audience. During her speech, Mrs. Fuller asked the three men to stand up and thanked them for coming.

The heart of Mrs. Fuller's speech was about teaching and the teachers that inspired her to become a teacher.

"I thank them so much because they truly inspired me to become a teacher," Mrs. Fuller said.

Fuller principal Kari Abrams also spoke at the ceremony. She was on the original design committee

for Elementary No. 3 as it was first known. Mrs. Abrams talked about seeing the designs of the school for the first time and how they captured her heart. She was part of the process from the blueprints, to the dirt, foundations, walls, roof, lighting and all the way to move-in day.

She ended her speech by speaking directly to the Fuller family in the first few rows.

"To Ms. Fuller and her family- you have my personal vow that we will always be dedicated to honoring the spirit of your family and to enriching the lives of our students in reading, writing, math, science, and history.we just may inspire a few "Jackie of all trades."

Jackie Fuller Elementary School was part of the \$51 million bond package that voters in Aubrey ISD passed in November 2017. Other construction projects included in the with bond package were additions and renovations to Brockett Elementary and Monaco Elementary Schools, additions to Aubrey Middle School, and additions and renovations to the agriculture science facility. The only remaining projects are a new band hall and auditorium at Aubrey High School.

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The Goralski family from The Cold Truth AC took their Pilot Point Guide to Wolf Creek pass in Colorado (just past Pagosa Springs, CO).

Beau Foster of Broken Trail Productions captured Jolene Wadds-Foster reading her Guide while getting ready to show horses.



The 14th Annual 380Guide Cup was a COVID safe event with private small groups spread out through the grandstands. Isidro Olivas, International Polo Player had his 380Guide with him between matches. Anita Jean, EA looks amazing with her 380Guide. Longtime friends Jeanie Shrode, Jan Penn, Donna Stowell, Paula Hook and Estelle had their 380Guide with them. The event was hosted by Dena Miller at Prestonwood Polo Club, Jodie Linton-Prickett, David Prickett from North Texas Media Group, LLC and Anita Jean, EA. Join us next year for the 15th Annual 380Guide Cup on the last Saturday of October, 2021.



Daniel and Mariah Acevedo took their 380Guide to Lake Murray in Ardmore, Oklahoma.

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