

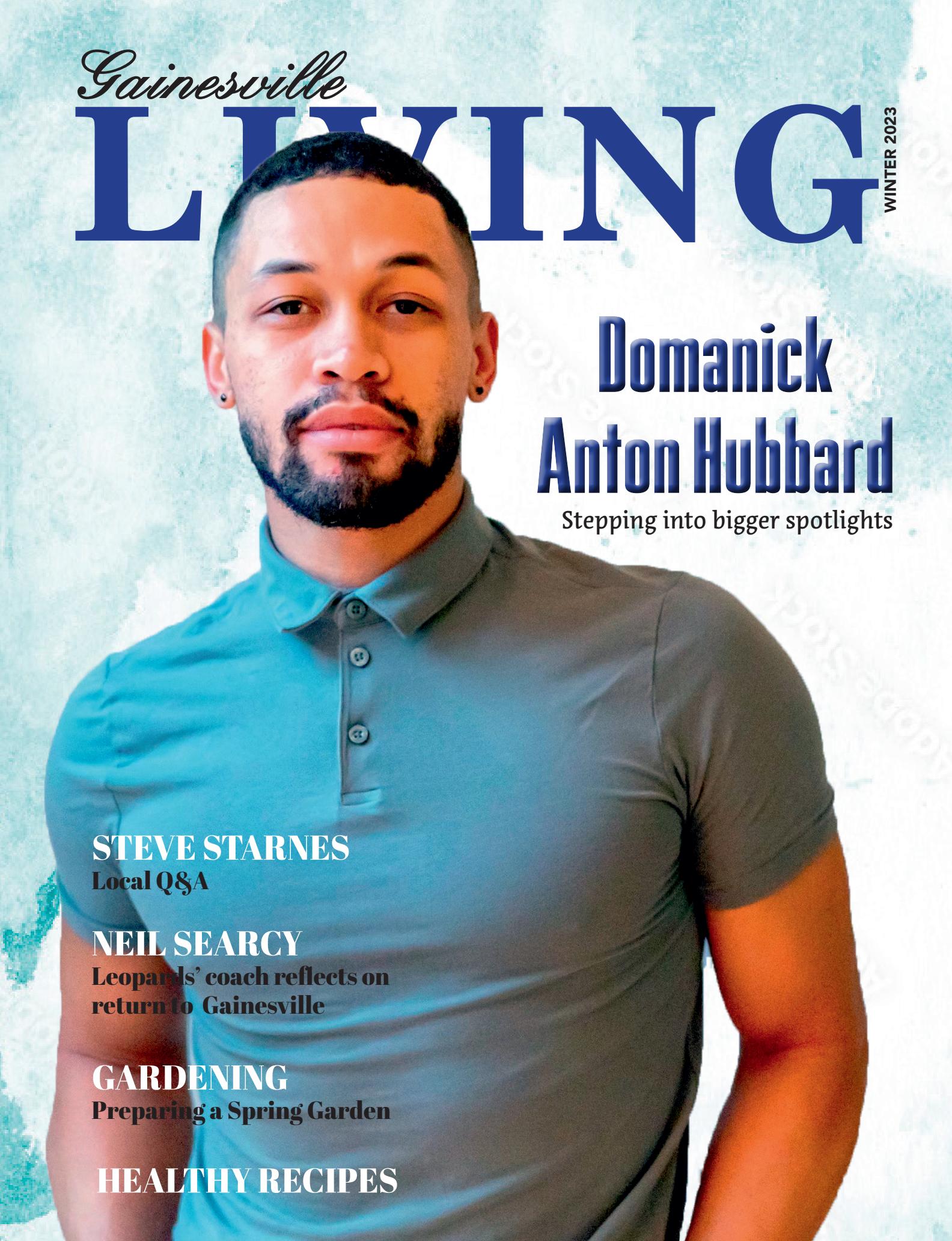
Gainesville

LIVING

WINTER 2023

Domanick Anton Hubbard

Stepping into bigger spotlights



STEVE STARNES

Local Q&A

NEIL SEARCY

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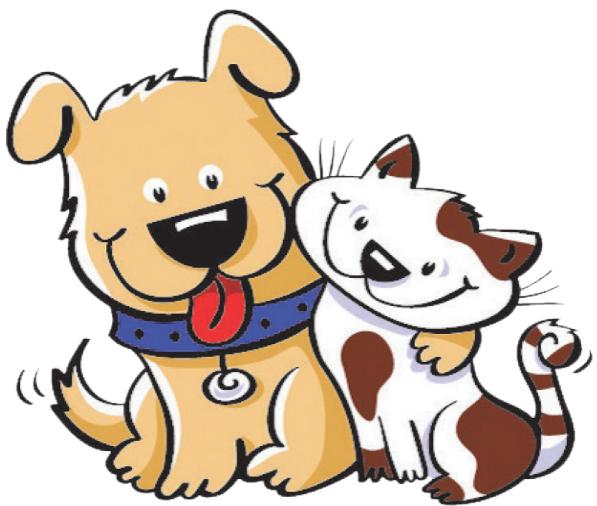
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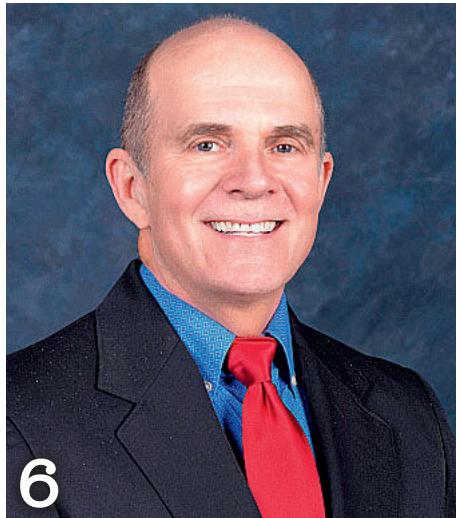


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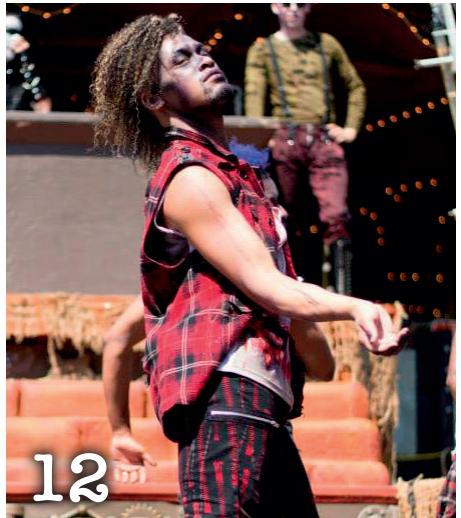
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On the Cover

Domanick Anton Hubbard photo, submitted by the subject

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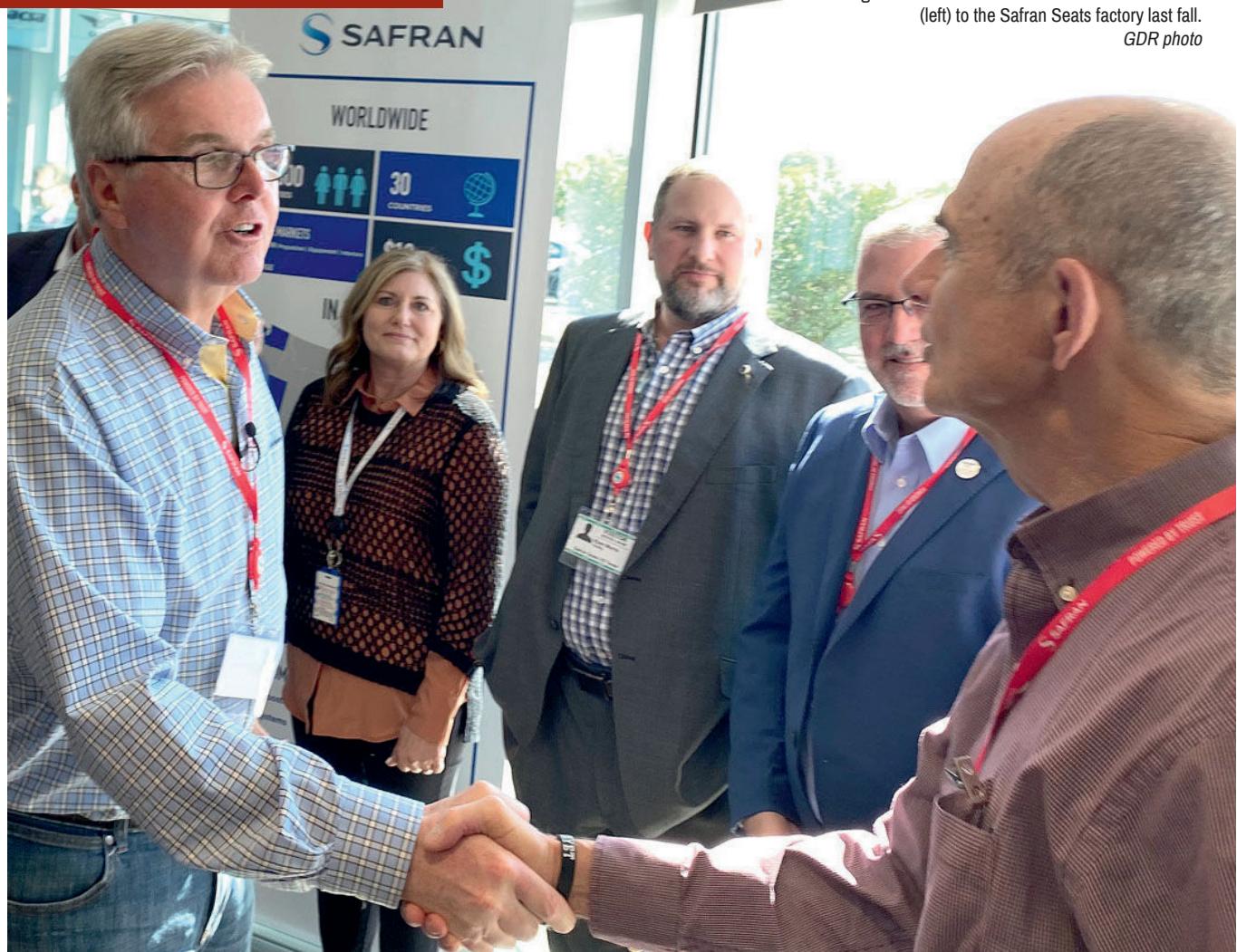
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Local Q&A



Starnes (right) was part of the local Republican delegation that welcomed Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick (left) to the Safran Seats factory last fall.
GDR photo

STEVE STARNES

Tell us a bit about yourself—where you're from, how you got here, etc.

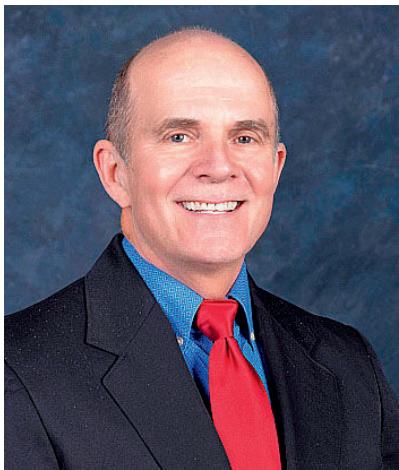
I am originally from Bowie, Texas, but I have lived here for over 40 years. I took a summer job at Weber Aircraft in 1979 while attending college at Midwestern. My first job at Weber was working on a metal shear as a helper. Little did I know that this summer job would become a career that would last for over 41 years.

My wife, Brenda, and I have five children and ten grandchildren. We live on a small ranch on CR 182, where we breed cutting and barrel horses and run a few cows.

We both enjoy working on the ranch and being around horses.

What is Safran and what did you do there?

Safran (originally Weber Aircraft) is a commercial aircraft interiors company that moved from California to Gainesville, Texas, in October 1967. The plant has built seats, galleys, food service carts and modules, ovens and coffee makers. Weber has supplied seats to both the United States Air Force and NASA in addition to commercial airlines. Early on, Weber provided ejection seats for NASA's Lunar Landing Trainer Vehicle (LLTV), as well as the Gemini Spacecraft, and the Apollo 3-man Crew Couch system. The Weber NASA ejection seat was used successfully on three occasions, the first time by astronaut Neil Armstrong. And the fourth and last LLTV that



survived the program and was restored for use in Tom Hank's movie *Apollo 13*. Today, Safran provides Economy and Business Class seating to most major airlines, both domestically and internationally, around the world.

I was employed by Safran (Weber Aircraft) for 41 years in several different leadership positions, from Operations

to Supply Chain. It was a great workplace with many opportunities to grow and advance. I was fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to manage budgets in the hundreds of millions, negotiate contracts, coordinate acquisitions, and lead large teams.

How did you become involved in public service?

I had been retired about six months when Judge Brinkley resigned to run for another office. Several local friends encouraged me to apply, and they thought my management experience could be beneficial in the public sector.

Public Service had always been a passion of mine as my undergraduate studies at Midwestern State were in political science, but my career just took a different turn. I was honored to be selected for the County Judge position and enjoyed serving the citizens of Cooke County. We have a great team working for the county, and I was proud to be part of that team.

You retired one day from Safran and took over as Judge not long after. Why, exactly?

My wife was still working at the time of my retirement, so I had time on my hands. The Judge's position allowed me to pursue an avenue I was always interested in while giving back to my community. I think staying active in our community and the issues we face are essential.

Compare being an executive at a public company with being an executive over a public body.

The challenges are very similar both in private and public entities. There are always more things needing to be done than the resources available. And like a business, we need to assess the needs, prioritize those needs and then formulate a plan that is cost-effective to meet those needs. We are always

looking to eliminate inefficiencies and reduce costs. There is tactical planning for the day-to-day operations and strategic planning for the future. Ultimately, the key to success in either area is collaboration between all the stakeholders. When we all are pulling in the same direction, things get done.

What do you do in your spare time?

There is little spare time as I am attending Texas A&M school of law online, and work is always needed around the ranch. Mending fences, mowing pastures, and vaccinating animals, so that keeps me busy. And once my wife retires, we plan to take the camper and visit several U.S. national parks. Other hobbies include hiking and camping. We love the outdoors. I have an old car I'm restoring; I play a little golf and make noise on a guitar.

Are you retired for good now?

I can't say that I will ever really retire as I like to stay busy, and I plan to stay involved in community activities as a volunteer. I have also been working with local healthcare providers on legislative initiatives to help make rural healthcare readily available and more affordable. Our county and communities have many opportunities to grow and prosper in the coming years. Should there be opportunities for me to contribute in some capacity in the future, I would be more than happy to help.



GDR photo
Starnes, seen here being sworn in, served as Cooke County Judge for nearly two years after his predecessor Jason Brinkley resigned in 2021 to pursue other elective office.



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Gardening



Preparing a Spring Garden

By Tanah Lowe, Cooke County Extension Agent

Nothing is better than fresh tomatoes, cucumbers, or squash from a home garden. Reaping the benefits tastes even better when they come out of your own garden. So where do you start?

The first step for a spring garden is deciding on a location. If you have a garden spot that has worked well in the past, you should be set to reuse that same plot. If you are new to gardening, find a spot that has easy access to water and lots of sunlight. Avoid low areas where water pools.

Places that are clear of weeds might seem appealing, but where weeds don't grow, neither will anything else. Make sure not to plant under a tree, as trees will steal nutrients and sunshine. Plant away from structures, or on the south side to ensure

adequate sunlight. You want to look for soil that drains well, so avoid places with a lot of hard clay. Now is a good time to have your soil tested so you know what nutrients are already available.

Can't find a good spot or don't have land to garden? Consider container gardening. Drill some holes in the sides toward the bottom of some 5-gallon buckets, layer the bottom with some rocks, gravel, or wood scraps, and add plenty of good quality soil. Now you're ready to start your own portable garden. Other options include old tires, feed tubs, troughs or any other containers you have on hand. Most vegetables will need at least one square foot of room to grow. Get creative with it.

Once you have selected your spot, it's

time to clean it up. Pull or treat any weeds and remove big rocks. Building raised beds is a good option to raise the garden up away from poor soil or prolific weeds, and it might save you some back pain – after it's built. Think hard about how big you want your garden to be: a bigger garden might mean more produce, but it will also take more time, labor and water.

Next, decide what you want to plant. The first consideration is to plant what you want to eat, or what you like. Next, consider the growing conditions and the USDA hardiness zone (see adjacent map). Cooke County is divided into two zones. The north half is considered zone 7b, and the south half is considered zone 8a. When you select plants, look up the hardiness

zone to make sure the zone range includes these zones for North Texas. Also consider the time it takes from planting to harvest. Varieties of squash are productive within a couple months and continue to produce through the season. On the other hand, asparagus takes up to three years after planting before a harvest.

When will you need to start planting the selected varieties? Plants are either cool season, or warm season.

Cool season plants include carrots, broccoli, onion, and cabbage, and can be generally planted in this area between February and March. Warm season plants include corn, squash, tomatoes and lettuce, and can generally be planted between March and May. Some warm season plants might be sensitive to the extreme heat we experience; however, others like Okra thrive in the extreme dry heat.

Once planting is done, your work isn't over yet. Remember to water deeply and infrequently. Too much water is just as bad as too little water. To test if your garden needs watering, feel with your finger about an inch into the soil. If it feels wet or moist, you don't need to water. If it feels dry, go ahead and fully saturate the soil. You may find you need to water more often when conditions are dry – hot or windy – and you don't have to water as often when it rains. Keep an eye out for pesky weeds and pluck them as soon as they pop up. Inspect plants weekly or more often for insects. While we hope to encourage pollinator species such as wasps, bees and butterflies, some insects are natural enemies of gardeners. Aphids, grasshoppers, cucumber beetles and tomato hornworms are all known to feast on garden

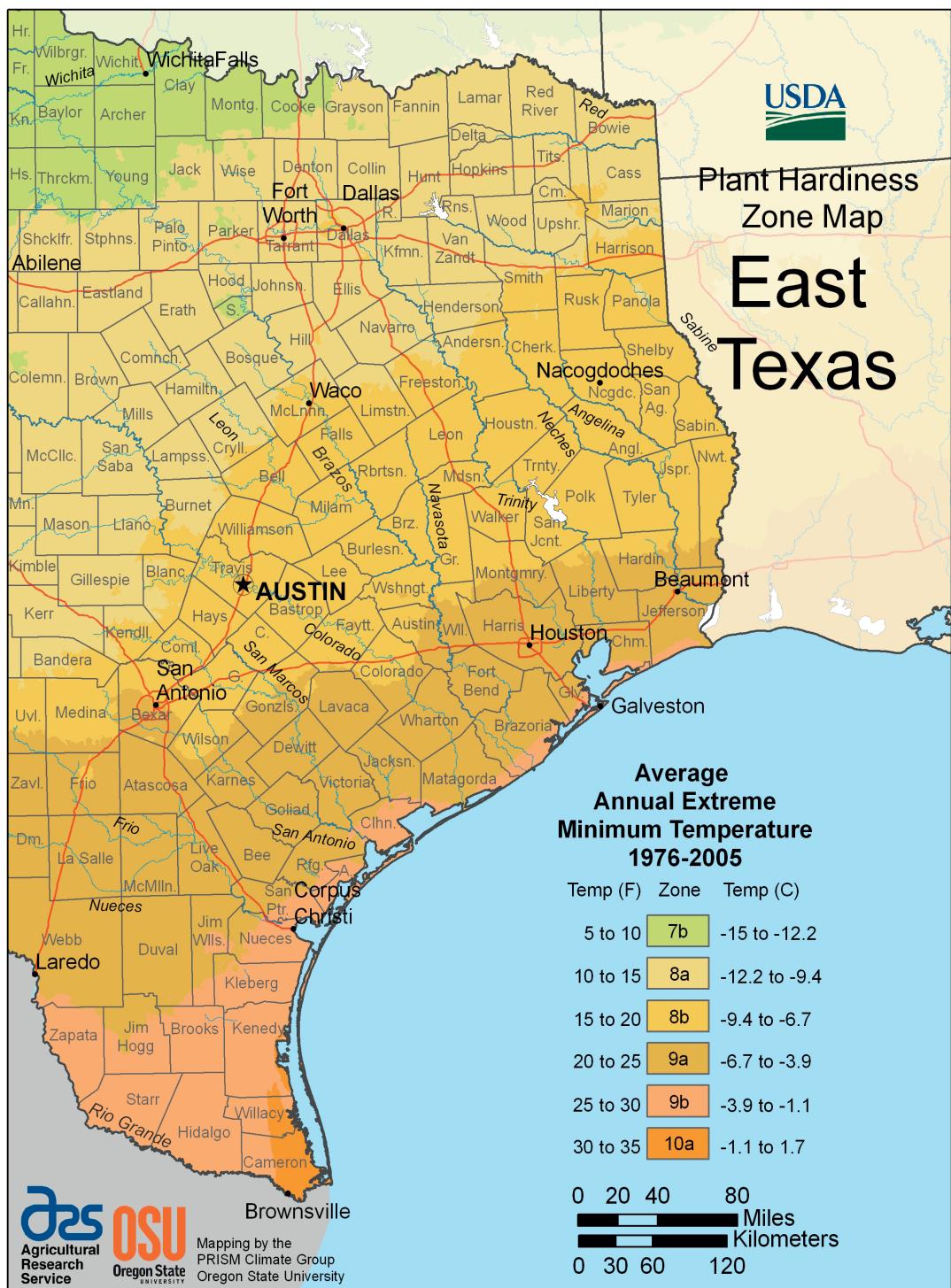
plants. Many insects can be knocked off the plant into a cup of soapy water or rubbing alcohol, while others may warrant more serious treatment.

If you haven't tried gardening before, now is a great time to get started. Once you put in the work, you will be able to reap your own tasty rewards. You might be pleasantly surprised at your production.

Happy gardening!

For a list of recommended varieties in Cooke County, specific planting dates and any questions or concerns about your garden or suspected pests, contact the Cooke County AgriLife Extension office, Tanah Lowe at 940-668-5413.

Tanah Lowe is Cooke County Extension Agent for Texas A&M AgriLife Agriculture and Natural Resources.



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Stepping into BIGGER SPOTLIGHTS

A Gainesville High School graduate has had a long journey from the Butterfield Stage to large theaters nationwide, but he is now living his dream.

Gainesville local Domanick Anton Hubbard is on his second Broadway National Tour, a decade and a half after his start in a Butterfield production of "High School Musical" in 2008.

"It was right after my sophomore year of high school, and I did it with my best friend," said Hubbard. "She had always sang and danced, and I was like, 'I'll do it with you,' just because I thought it was funny. Then I remember getting on stage for the first audience and doing 'Stick to the Status Quo' and dancing and being like, 'This is what I want to do with my life.'"

He continued performing throughout high school at Butterfield and North Central Texas College. As he approached graduation in 2010, he knew he wanted to go to college to study theatre.

"I didn't know much about auditioning for programs and stuff," said Hubbard. "The Electric Red Drill Team coach at the time told me about her husband's college and they took me on a tour there."



Submitted photo

Hubbard as Mrs. Green in 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory', which toured the country for over three years.

Hubbard attended the university, where he majored in theater and minored in dance. He worked with the Oklahoma Shakespearean Festival, which is hosted at SOSU each year. He went pro after graduation.

"I went to this national audition, where you get onstage and you have 90 seconds to do a monologue, sing a song, whatever you can fit in 90 seconds," said Hubbard. "I want to say it was for 100 companies, maybe even

more than that, and then they posted the callback list, and I didn't get one single callback, so I thought my career was over."

Not all hope was lost, however.

"Then the composer of the Six Flags Over Texas shows came and did a workshop with the program at the college, and he asked me to come audition for Six Flags," said Hubbard. "Outside of college, that was my first professional career there. I stayed

for two years doing their Summer, Halloween and Christmas shows."

In 2015, Hubbard left Six Flags and started auditioning in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

"I decided I wanted to go back into musical theater," said Hubbard. "I got cast in six different musicals in six different theaters in the area, and I made my equity house debut at Casa Mañana in 2016."

Hubbard continued to work

“

It was right after my sophomore year of high school, and I did it with my best friend. She had always sang and danced, and I was like, 'I'll do it with you,' just because I thought it was funny. Then I remember getting on stage for the first audience and doing 'Stick to the Status Quo' and dancing and being like, 'This is what I want to do with my life.'

— Domanick Anton Hubbard

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professionally in the area. While most of his work was performance-based, he served as the resident choreographer for the Granbury Theatre Company. He enjoyed teaching and choreographing, his passion was to be onstage.

"I wanted to further my career, and the only way I could do that was by moving to New York, so I moved in 2018," said Hubbard. "I got my feet on the ground there working at a gym; I became a group fitness instructor and I did a six-week vocal intensive for dancers in January of 2019."

Still, the desire was to perform, and the opportunity came.

"I got my first equity principle contract at Virginia Musical Theatre playing Curtis in *Sister Act*, and then I was like, 'Okay, I can feel the wheels are turning,'" said Hubbard. "I had been in callbacks and auditions since I had been in New York."

Finally, Hubbard's golden ticket arrived.

"I booked my first Broadway National Tour in 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' as Mrs. Green and part of the ensemble," said Hubbard. "I did that from 2019 to 2022."

After getting off of the "Charlie" tour, Hubbard came back to Dallas for a bit to perform in "Kinky Boots" at Uptown Players, but more was yet to come.

"A month after that, I booked my second Broadway National Tour, 'Jesus Christ Superstar,' and that is what I'm doing now," said Hubbard.

"Jesus Christ Superstar" is a rock opera by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice. This current tour is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the show.

"Actually, my first equity show at Casa Mañana was 'Jesus Christ Superstar,' so since I did it then I have just fallen even more in love with it, and now I'm getting to tour it," said Hubbard. "It's nice to be doing a show that is so real and true."

Working as a Performer

While community theatre and professional work are very different, they have their similarities.





Submitted photo

Hubbard and the cast of 'High School Musical' — his first work on stage while attending Gainesville High School.

"Each job is what you make it; each gig can be the experience that you make it," said Hubbard. "It feels very similar because you're still just working with people that are passionate and love what they do. It's just on a different scale."

The work, no matter the form, always fosters camaraderie and connections.

"Anything that you do is always going to have ebbs and flows ... We dream as performers of doing stuff like this, and it is everything you dream of," said Hubbard. "But it comes with moments where it's a bit hard and you can't really escape ... I luckily have a beautiful circle of friends here on tour that get me through ... That's why I say it's great because even in the bad days, I'm still reminded why I'm here and that I'm so lucky to be doing what I'm

doing."

It's not all work on tour. Hubbard also gets to explore the places the tour takes him.

"I try to find ways to go enjoy each city we go to ... finding the best local coffee shop, doing something that is recommended by the locals or just taking a walk around," said Hubbard. "I also try to stay in the best shape I can and go to the gym five to six times a week, and I try to find a local gym to do that in. It's how I try to balance life and touring."

Family

While his fellow cast mates on tour become like a family, he still enjoys getting to see his actual family when he can.

"I rarely come back to Gainesville, maybe once or twice a year. I try to

make it there at least one holiday as most of my dad's side of the family still lives there," said Hubbard. "My mom's family lives in Houston and my tour just finished performing there, so they got to come see the show and I got to share with them what touring is like. They had a BBQ dinner for everyone and I got to take a few cast mates over to their home, so I not only got to share the tour with my family, but I got to share my home with my tour family."

Hubbard has been grateful for the support he has had from his family through thick and thin.

"My family has always been very supportive. It took some time as no one in my family truly understood what I did until they started to come see me perform. Now they try their best to come to every show that they can," said Hubbard. "I feel very supported and

loved in what I do, not only from my immediate family but my chosen family as well."

Even with all the traveling, Hubbard still considers Gainesville home and hopes to encourage the young thespians of Gainesville.

"I do hope to one day go back to the high school and talk to the artists at the school, to let them know that if this is a career they want to pursue they can," said Hubbard. "I haven't been back to the high school since I graduated in 2010, so it would be interesting to walk those halls again."

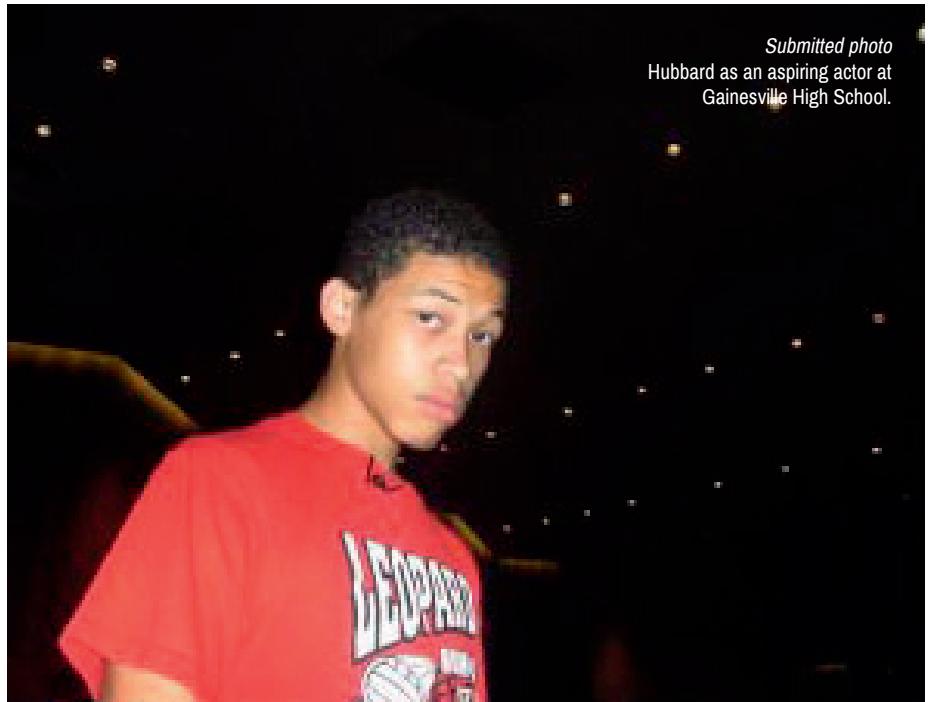
Hubbard shares his story wanting those who follow in his footsteps to know it takes time.

"We only tend to see and remember the ones that make it easily," said Hubbard. "Patience is a big key in success because everybody's time is different ... The 'no's are just steps to a 'yes'."

'No' is part of it

Hubbard credits his experience with surviving rejection to present professional success.

"I got my first 'no' in high school, my senior year for One-Act play. We were doing a comedy and I knew I was going to be the lead, and I didn't even get cast," said Hubbard. "It taught me so much and helped me grow. It's not the end of the world, and look where I am now. I made it, and I'm going to continue to make it because that first



'no' showed me it's okay to not get everything, but if you want it, you just gotta keep chasing after it."

Even after that first 'no,' the 'no's continued until Hubbard got the 'yes' that got him to where he is today.

"I love sharing my story because I didn't have it easy," said Hubbard. "People should know that if you really want to make it, it's going to take some time. It's like one in every 1,000 people who make it directly out of college or before they even get to college; it's very rare — I made my National Tour debut with a lot of people who were around my age ... Everybody has a

different journey."

Even outside of theatre, everyone has their own journey where they sometimes feel alone.

"I have always been accepted by the people that love me the most, and these are the people you always want around," said Hubbard. "You're not alone; it may seem like you're the only person living the life that you're living ... but there's so many people that are on a similar page. You're in charge of your life and your destiny, so if you feel that where you are is not meant for you, it is okay to go other places and find where you fit best."

“

Each job is what you make it; each gig can be the experience that you make it. It feels very similar because you're still just working with people that are passionate and love what they do. It's just on a different scale.

— Domanick Anton Hubbard

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Submitted photo

Hubbard as an aspiring actor at Gainesville High School.



LEOPARDS' COACH REFLECTS ON RETURN TO GAINESVILLE





There's no place like home for Neil Searcy.

Gainesville ISD hired the 1990 Gainesville High School alumnus (or graduate) last May as the head football coach and athletic director after spending six years in Killeen.

"There was no other place that I'd have left Killeen High School to come but home to Gainesville," said Searcy, just a couple months after his first season at Leopards' helm.

Searcy played football at Texas A&M-

Commerce after graduating from GHS, then started coaching. He was an assistant coach in multiple sports at GHS in the 1999-2000 school year, before moving on to opportunities elsewhere.

He said being a Leopard again has been a tremendous experience.

"Probably the number one thing are the kids," Searcy said. "I really enjoy these kids that are here, that are involved in athletics. They're just a pleasure to be around every day."

Although some things have changed over the years since Searcy graduated, he said the town and the school district still feel a lot like they did when he was a student. It still has that small town feel where everyone knows everyone.

GETTING MORE KIDS INVOLVED

One thing that has changed, Searcy said, is participation in youth sports. During his brief time back in Gainesville two decades ago, Searcy worked as athletic director at the Boys and Girls Club of Cooke County. He said they used to have around 40 football teams and 40-50 basketball teams each year, not to mention other youth sports.

Those numbers have fallen in the 21 years since Searcy left. He said getting more kids involved in sports, whether in school or out of school, is a big goal of his.

"Athletics is a lot like life," Searcy said. "There's a lot of different experiences that you have in athletics that once you get older are gonna be things that you revert back to, to be able to help you through tough times and things that you're dealing with in life."

"There's lifelong friendships that are made through athletics. There's a lot of different qualities and traits that you learn in athletics that are gonna help you as an adult, as a young man, as a young lady that are gonna help you in your life. I think athletics play such an important part in everyone's life over a lifetime, not just for the time that they're playing a sport."

HIS OTHER HAT

Searcy is more than a football coach. He is also the athletic director, putting

“

Probably the number one thing are the kids. I really enjoy these kids that are here, that are involved in athletics. They're just a pleasure to be around every day.

— Neil Searcy

”

him in charge of all sports in Gainesville ISD. He said he doesn't spend all day in his office. Rather, he is out in the hallways building relationships with students. He said his biggest impact as athletic director is trying to help kids achieve their goals, both academically and athletically.

As he builds relationships with students, he said he hopes to recruit more of them to play sports.

"We want every kid that's in Gainesville, Texas, to be a part of our athletic programs," Searcy said. "That's probably my biggest challenge as well, trying to get more kids involved in athletics, and especially with our girls' athletics. I think



we have some work to do on that side. That's probably my main focus right now is trying to get more girls out to participate in athletics so we can get our girls' athletics as a top-notch program, as well."

Searcy's goals can't be accomplished without support from the community. Fortunately, there have already been signs of that support.

Gainesville's first two football games this year were played away from home. Anyone who attended Searcy's first home game as head coach without knowing the Leopards' record probably wouldn't have guessed they were 0-2.

So many fans packed the stands for Gainesville's home opener against Dallas Hillcrest, Leopard fans were directed to the visitors' side because the home bleachers ran out of seats. The crowd was electric when the first half ended after Gainesville had scored 17-straight points to make it a 2-point game against a larger school.

"I think the support that I receive, that the coaches, the kids' athletic programs have received from the community has been awesome," Searcy said. "It's been really good and refreshing for me to be able to come back home and to have so much support. So many people are willing to go the extra mile for our program, and it's really been good to see."

FAMILY



Searcy didn't return to Gainesville alone. His youngest son, Cade, will finish his final two years of high school at his father's alma mater — calling signals for the Leopards.

Searcy said getting to bring Cade home with him has made his return even more special.

"He's heard me talk all his life about my experiences in high school and what I enjoyed about being an athlete here in Gainesville and this place, this town and what it means," Searcy said. "So, it's good for me, for him to be able to get to experience that instead of just me talking about it. So far, it's been really good. I

think he's adjusted well and he's enjoying himself being here in Gainesville. So, that's the part that makes me the most happy."

Cade started at quarterback this season for the Leopards. He has also joined the Gainesville basketball team and has been a part of big turnaround seasons for both sports.

His son isn't the only person Searcy brought with him. He hired several other GHS graduates to join his coaching staff, including offensive coordinator Trey Gray and assistant head coach Chris Lewis.

DIFFERENT TONE



Right away, the students noticed a difference. Elijah Gonzalez, a senior, said during the first week of summer workouts it meant more to get coaching from Gainesville natives.

Searcy said there is no doubt these fellow Gainesville graduates have made a difference.

“Each one of them brings such a different view, a different mindset to our program, to our kids,” Searcy said. “They’re all different levels of experience. They all come from different backgrounds of schools where they’ve worked. And to bring all that back to Gainesville, and then all of them being former Gainesville

Leopards and understand what it means to be a Gainesville Leopard and bring all that expertise back, I think has played a huge role in our success so far, and I think it’ll continue for years to come.”

Searcy’s impact on the Gainesville football program is already evident. The Leopards started slow in his first season in charge, but they finished strong. Not only did they reach the playoffs for the first time in three seasons, but Gainesville beat a favored Sunnyvale team in the first round. This was the Leopards’ first playoff win in 10 years.

Gainesville was picked to finish sixth in its district before the season. The Leop-

ards proved a lot of people wrong by finishing third. Searcy said considering the preseason expectations, his first campaign was good, but not great. He said there were a few games where Gainesville could have played better, but he is optimistic about the future.

“I think the sky’s the limit,” Searcy said. “We have a good group of kids that are coming back, a lot of kids that played a lot of snaps for us last year. So, our goals are really lofty. We made it to the second round, and we wanna play for a state championship. That’s gonna be our goal every single year. Next year won’t be any different. We’re gonna set lofty goals, and hopefully, we can reach ‘em.”

— Neil Searcy



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Show Dates
March 3, 4 &
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SOMETHING ROTTEN!

Book by Karey Kirkpatrick & John O'Farrell
Music & Lyrics by Karey Kirkpatrick & Wayne Kirkpatrick

Musical Comedy
Director Gene Matthews
Choreographer Stephanie Rodriguez
Musical Director Susan Beall

Show Dates
April 27, 28, 29 &
May 3, 4, 5, 6 at 7:00 PM
April 30 & May 6 & 7 at 2:30 PM

Produced by special arrangement with Music Theatre International.

ANNUAL RITE OF SPRING: 2023 MEDAL OF HONOR WEEK

The Medal of Honor is the highest award which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in U.S. military, presented by the President of the United States in the name of Congress. Since 2001, Gainesville has hosted these heroes annually to promote their actions and patriotism.

This year's celebration kicks off Wednesday, April 19, with a motorcade up northbound I-35 from Dallas to the North Central Texas College campus on Gainesville's westside. Festivities over the next few days will include the Patriot Dinner, tree dedication, annual banquet and a Saturday morning parade through downtown Gainesville. Medal recipients will be out around town throughout the four days, greeting citizens and sharing their stories.

Gainesville Living wanted to share photos from previous Medal of Honor celebrations, partly to honor the



recipients and volunteers and partly to remind readers of this patriotic undertaking. Watch the Gainesville Daily Register — in print and online — throughout March and April for updates on the 2023 celebrations.

Go to medalofhonorhostcity.com/volunteer/ to learn more about donating your time to this worthy cause.







CAULIFLOWER TACOS

Author: Sam Hu | Ahead of Thyme

Total Time: 30 minutes

Yield: 8 tacos

Diet: Vegetarian

Vegetarian cauliflower tacos are loaded with air-fried or baked cauliflower, a delicious seasoning blend, and creamy lime cilantro slaw inside a tortilla.

FOR THE CAULIFLOWER:

- 1 medium head of cauliflower, cut into small florets (about 6 cups)
- 2 tablespoons avocado oil
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 2 teaspoons balsamic vinegar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper

FOR THE CILANTRO LIME SLAW:

- 2/3 cup plain Greek yogurt
- 1 tablespoon mayonnaise
- 1/3 cup fresh cilantro, finely chopped
- 1/2 tablespoon garlic, minced
- 2 teaspoons lime juice, freshly squeezed (from 1/2 lime)
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/4 teaspoon salt (or to taste)
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper (or to taste)
- 2 cups coleslaw mix (or shredded cabbage)

FOR ASSEMBLING THE TACOS:

- 8 corn tortillas or flour tortillas, 6-inch
- 1 cup red onions, diced
- 1/2 cup fresh cilantro, finely chopped





CRANBERRY PEAR CHICKEN SALAD

By Julie Andrews
Real Simple

Cranberry chicken salad features chicken breast, pears, grapes, dried cranberries, celery, pecans and green onion tossed in a maple balsamic yogurt dressing that is loaded with flavor.

Servings: 4

DRESSING:

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup plain Greek yogurt
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup mayonnaise
2 tablespoons Dijon or spicy brown mustard
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoons pure maple syrup
1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
 $\frac{1}{2}$ –1 teaspoon(s) coarse salt
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon ground black pepper

SALAD:

2 cups chopped cooked chicken breast (from about 1 pound raw)
1 medium pear, skins on, diced
1 cup red seedless grapes, halved or quartered
1 cup dried unsweetened cranberries
2 medium stalks celery, diced
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup chopped pecans
2 medium green onions, trimmed and sliced

INSTRUCTIONS

In a large bowl, whisk together the yogurt, mayonnaise, Dijon, maple syrup, balsamic vinegar, salt and black pepper until combined. Taste and adjust the seasoning, if necessary.

Fold in the cooked chicken, pear, grapes, cranberries, celery, pecans and green onion until combined with the dressing.

Serve immediately or let chill in the refrigerator. Store in an airtight container in the refrigerator up to 3 days.

RED LENTIL CURRY

By Dawn Perry
Real Simple

Here, red lentils, carrots, and potatoes simmer with warm spices and vegetable broth until tender.

Servings: 4

INGREDIENTS

3 tablespoons canola oil
2 tablespoons chopped fresh ginger
2 cloves garlic, chopped
8 scallions, sliced, white and green parts separated
1 tablespoon curry powder
4 medium carrots (about 8 ounces), chopped
1 large russet potato (about 10 ounces), peeled and cut into 1-inch pieces
1 cup red lentils
4 cups low-sodium vegetable broth
kosher salt and black pepper
naan bread and lime wedges, for serving

INSTRUCTIONS

Heat the oil in a large saucepan over medium-high heat. Add the ginger, garlic, and scallion whites and cook, stirring frequently, until softened, 2 to 3 minutes. Stir in the curry powder. Add the carrots, potato, lentils, broth, $\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon salt, and $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon pepper. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, and simmer, stirring occasionally, until the lentils and vegetables are tender, 15 to 20 minutes.

Sprinkle the curry with the scallion greens and serve with the naan and lime wedges.



CHICKEN AND RED WINE SAUCE

Prep time: 10 mins
Cook time: 45 mins
Servings: 12

INGREDIENTS

1 tablespoon olive oil
1 tablespoon minced garlic
3 pounds skinless, boneless chicken breast halves
1 tablespoon paprika
1 cup brown sugar
1 cup red wine
salt and pepper to taste

INSTRUCTIONS

Heat oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Cook garlic in oil until tender. Place chicken in the skillet, and cook for about 10 minutes on each side, until no longer pink and juices run clear.

Drain oil from the skillet. Sprinkle chicken with paprika and brown sugar. Pour red wine around chicken. Cover and simmer, 15 to 20 minutes; lightly baste the chicken with wine sauce while cooking.

Season with salt and pepper to taste. Press chicken into the base and overlapping slightly if necessary, so that they stand firmly.

Bake in the preheated oven until set, about 7 minutes. Cool crust completely before filling.





SPINACH AND FETA QUICHE WITH CAULIFLOWER CRUST

Author: Sam I Ahead of Thyme

Total Time: 40 minutes

Yield: 6 servings

Diet: Gluten Free

Spinach and feta quiche is healthy and gluten-free with a keto cauliflower crust and savoury vegetarian filling. Serve for breakfast, lunch or dinner.

FOR THE CAULIFLOWER CRUST:

- 1 small head of cauliflower, cut into florets
- 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 egg, slightly beaten
- nonstick cooking spray

FOR THE SPINACH AND FETA FILLING:

- 5 eggs
- 1/3 cup milk (or heavy cream)
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- 2.5 oz. baby spinach
- 2 scallions, thinly sliced
- 1/2 cup feta cheese, crumbled (plus more for garnish)
- Parmesan cheese, grated (optional, for garnish)

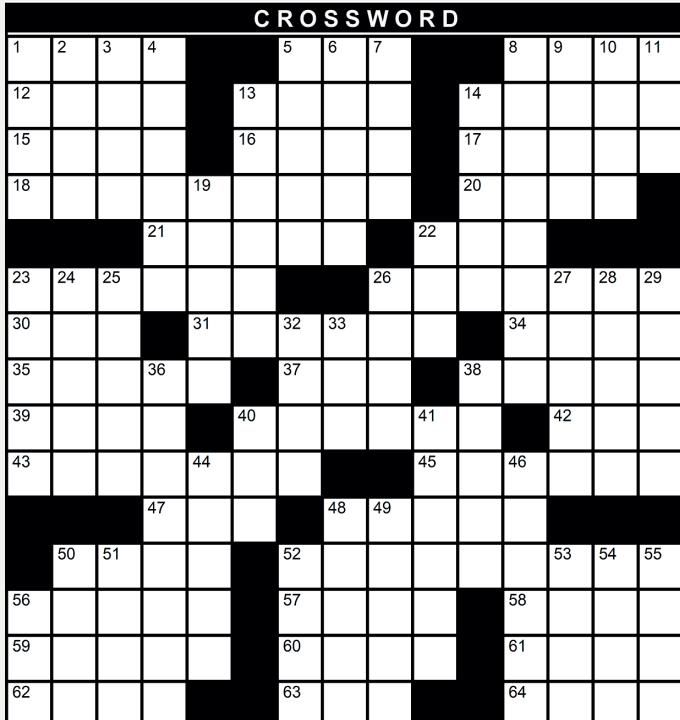


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Theme: Valentine's Day



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ACROSS

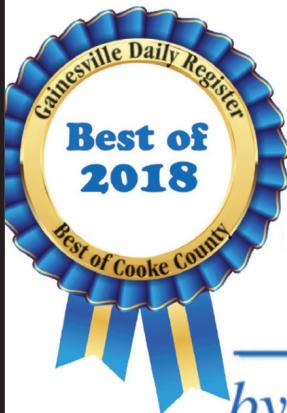
- "Without further ____," pl.
- Sweet 16 gift
- Steps to the river, in India
- *Michael Bublé's "____ the Last Dance for Me"
- Bigger than big
- Nonkosher
- Big-ticket one
- October birthstone
- *#5 Down's target
- *Reason to celebrate Lupercalia, Valentine's Day predecessor
- Make over
- Omit
- Hexagonal fastener
- December birthstone, pl.
- Most gem, tlich
- Ed.'s request
- Two dots above a letter
- Brussels org.
- Church recesses
- ____ or chicken?
- Encourage (2 words)
- What hoarders do
- He crossed the Rubicon
- Jet follower
- English county courts, in the olden days
- Gentlemen's gentlemen
- Chop off
- Paparazzo's quest
- Port in Yemen
- *Heart-shaped box content
- Range
- Top notch
- Baron Munchhausen, e.g.
- Journalists and reporters
- Speed unit
- All is well that does this well
- Bald eagle's nest
- Ever, to a poet
- Tinkerbell's powder

DOWN

- "Clueless" catch phrase
- *Get-together
- End of a break-up phrase
- Explosive of Czechoslovakian origin
- *Winged one
- September stone
- Bank on
- *____ card
- Not tails
- '70s hairdo
- Sylvester, to Tweety
- Wholism, alt. sp
- Monotonous hum
- Intestinal obstruction
- "Wayne's World" catchphrase
- Japanese por
- Necklace clasp location, pl.
- Affirmatives
- *Kisses' partners
- National emblem
- Type of weasel
- BBQ tool
- Pasturelands
- Accompanies wisdom?
- *a.k.a. St. Valentine's Malady
- *Muse of love poetry
- Large edible mushroom
- Long-legged shore bird
- Regions
- Bummed about
- Bell's invention
- Laurels
- Homesteader's measure
- Active one
- Soap block
- Hokkaido language
- Small amount

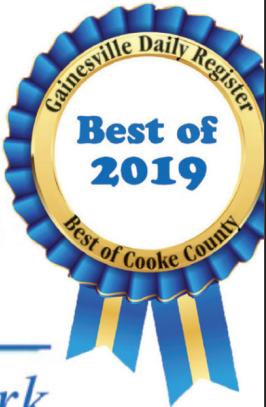
- Formerly, formerly
- *Romantic destination





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