

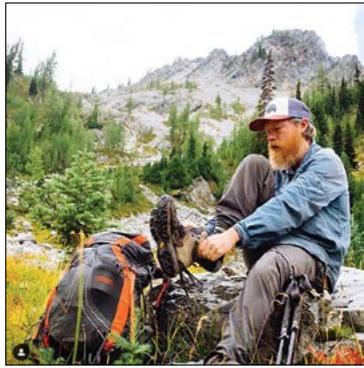
BEEN THERE, DONE THAT

If a picture is, indeed, worth 1,000 words, the collection of photographs here represents a veritable book on natural beauty and unwavering grit – two aspects at the heart of a story recently lived by an Arlington man, Justin McCormick.

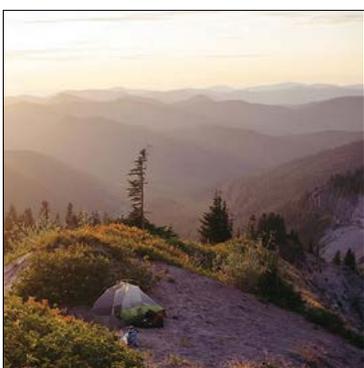
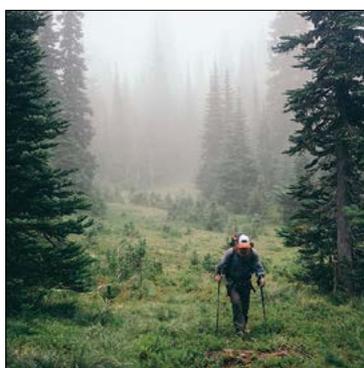
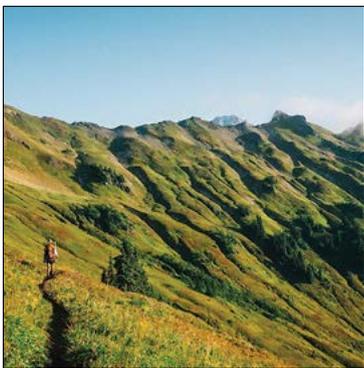
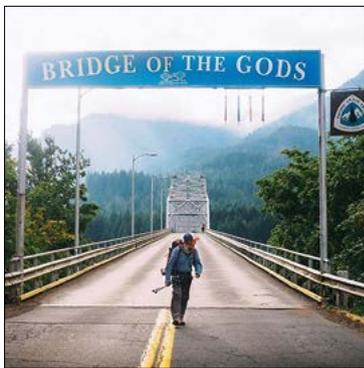
From March 11 to Sept. 14, McCormick hiked from the United States-Mexico border to Canada along the Pacific Crest Trail, a trek of some 2,653 miles that provided both thrilling and grilling adventures as he made his way through California, Oregon and Washington. Per the records of the Pacific Crest Trail Association, just more than 7,500 people have finished the trail to become members of the “2,600 Miler List.”

The latest addition to that roster faced a plethora of dangers, many born from having to navigate treacherous mountain passes during the heavy snow season. He walked through a figurative mine field of avalanche zones. He had scrapes with natural predators. He had to overcome the excruciating pain of a broken rib sustained when a snow bridge he was crossing collapsed.

In the end, though, he finished – some five months after he started. And that’s something only a few brave souls can claim. **A**



Photos: Justin McCormick's Instagram account



NOW, THAT'S AN ACT OF KINDNESS



Principal Sarah Schecter (pictured in the inset photo) embraces Nate Jones following her decision to donate a kidney to him.

Photo: ABC News

Local principal donates a kidney to help save the life of the father of three of her students

A recurring theme in the teachings of a local principal focuses on the importance of kindness. In January, she “walked her talk,” and saved a life in the process.

Dr. Sarah Schecter, the head of the lower school at The Oakridge School, recently donated a kidney to the father of three of the school’s children, giving health and new hope to a family she had grown to love.

Schecter found out that Nate Jones was in need of a new kidney. Jones’ wife Amenze told Schecter he began experiencing vision problems, which led to more significant problems, and he was finally diagnosed with renal failure.

“It sounded really bleak,” Schecter said in an interview with *The Dallas Morning News*. “I didn’t really know him; I didn’t see him as much as I did her, but I thought it was weird that kidney failure

would come up on somebody so fast.”

Schecter said it was then that she felt God calling her to help him, even if she was somewhat reluctant to answer that call.

“I know this sounds weird, because I’m not the type of person who hears the voice of God, but I just felt called to give him my kidney,” Schecter said. “I did not want to; it was not on my list of things to do. So, I just kept thinking that someone else would give him a kidney, and that it would work out ... But I was the person to do it.”

She was deemed a perfect match last November, and the surgery was done on Jan. 13. Jones and Schecter reunited after the surgery, sharing an emotional hug and words of encouragement.

“Bless you. Bless you. Bless you,” Jones said. “I never thought this day would come.” **A**



Sam Mahrouq

THANKS, SAM!

AMA honors Mahrouq for his generosity through the years

Sam Mahrouq, entrepreneur and longtime supporter of the visual arts, was recognized for his generosity to the Arlington Museum of Art with the naming of its mezzanine galleries in his honor during the museum’s third annual Eat Your ART Out event last month. The Sam Mahrouq Family Galleries will span the entirety of the museum’s mezzanine level, which is composed of three galleries.

In 2016, Mahrouq gave the largest single gift in the history of the Arlington Museum of Art. Through his donation of \$550,000, Mahrouq single-handedly retired the museum’s mortgage and laid the foundation for future growth.

“Sam has helped the museum plan for a sustainable operational model for the museum,” says Brian White, AMA Executive Director. “The overwhelming generosity of the Mahrouq family has allowed the AMA to continually grow, bringing world-class art here for the enjoyment of the entire Metroplex. We rely largely on private donations and are grateful for his support.”

“The Arlington Museum of Art provides wonderful spaces in which everyone can experience art of all types,” says Mahrouq. “Its educational programming, giving individuals from every walk of life the opportunity to engage first-hand with stimulating fine art, is among Arlington’s greatest assets. I am proud of everything our museum is doing now and know that its position as a premier arts destination in the region will continue to grow.” **A**