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NOVEMBER 2018

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Allee Blankenship may get knocked down, but she'll always get back up

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At Home With Zac and Laura Murtha

Kids' Fun Pages



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## ON THE COVER

Allee Blankenship stands strong before her opponent.

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# EDITOR'S NOTE



## Sandra

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*Being thankful ...*

November is a special month. I not only turn another year older, but it is the beginning of the upcoming holiday season with all the planning and cooking for my family and friends. I love going to the store for all the items I need to make the feast come to fruition.

Once everyone arrives and the Thanksgiving meal has been blessed, it's time to get in line and fill our plates to overflowing. I find great satisfaction in repeatedly refilling tea glasses and watching as my family enjoys their favorite desserts — homemade chunky chocolate chip cookies and at least two pumpkin pies, as well as pumpkin bread and spice cupcakes with cream cheese icing — lots and lots of cream cheese icing.

By the time the annual gathering comes to an end, my feet are killing me and my back is aching. But, as I relax and reflect about the day, all I do is smile. I recall the stack of dirty dishes that mark the end of another successful Thanksgiving dinner. Time really does fly when you're having fun, and fun for my family includes lots of loud banter. The day was tiring, but I wouldn't trade a single minute of it. I'm just going to sit and bask in my thankfulness.

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**EXU**



*Allee Blankenship is an energetic, spunky and sometimes outspoken 8-year-old. Like most children her age, she wakes up and hits the ground running, with her brunette hair flying in the wind as she chases after her puppy, CoCo. Her grandparents, PaPa (Cord) and MiMi (Donna) Blankenship found a way for her to release some of this energy overflow — karate classes. “Karate teaches her discipline and respect for her elders,” said Master Jackie Self, Allee’s karate instructor. “She’s also learning how to remain focused as she strives to do better each day.”*

With contagious enthusiasm, Allee sits on a barstool at PaPa and MiMi’s house. LEGOs are spread out on the countertop, and she concentrates on the building blocks as she talks. She and her PaPa are two peas in a pod when it comes to multitasking and burning off the energy that’s just a natural trait of who they both are. Exuberance for life and risk-taking is in their DNA.

Allee is like any other karate student under Master Self’s tutelage. There are aspects of the classes she enjoys more than others. “I love the fighting part. I like how Master Self teaches us to fight the right way, and I like to win,” she said with a giggle. “Before we get started, we have to do exercises. I don’t really like that part of the class.”



# BERANT SPIRIT

— By Sandra Strong





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Wise beyond her 8 years, Allee realizes she must work through the bad to experience the good. The exercise time is meant to warm and limber them up. "We do pushups, sit-ups, jumping jacks, kicks and splits," she explained.

Allee began with the customary white belt and has progressed to her green belt. Each new belt color represents a rise in competition levels amongst her peers and at the quarterly tournaments she attends. History states that the belts began white and ended up black because of the dying process. In the early days of the sport, competitors needed an inexpensive way to dye their belt so it was visible, yet simple. The standard belt color system is white, yellow, gold, orange, green, blue, purple, brown, red and black. Due to the dying process of old, it made sense to increasingly use darker colors. Currently, each new level earns a new belt, and the dying system is no longer used.

Each belt color has its own meaning and significance. White signifies a birth or beginning, much like a newly planted seed. Yellow signifies the first beams of sunlight as it shines upon the growing seedling, giving it new strength. Orange represents the growing power of the sun, as growth continues. Green signifies the seed as it breaks through the ground, rising closer to the sun. Blue represents the blue sky, while the purple represents the changing dawn. Brown is the



ripening of the seed. Red is the red-hot sear of the sun as the plant continues to grow. Finally, the black belt signifies the darkness behind the sun.

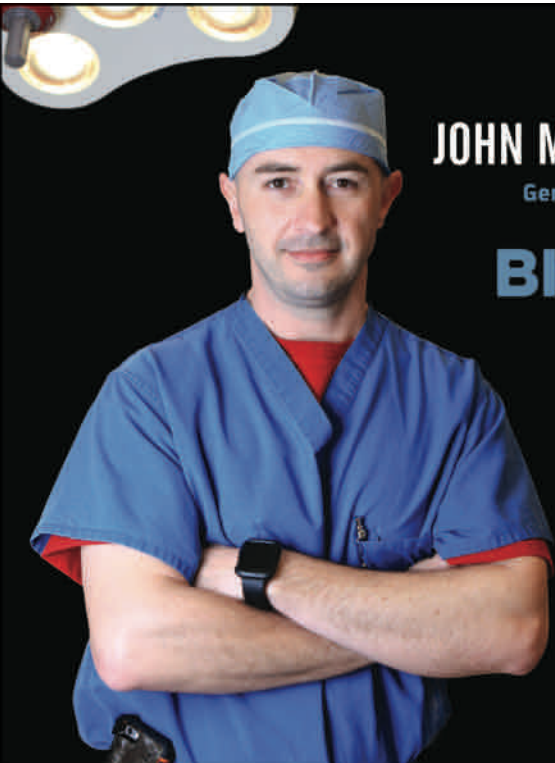
With each new belt color, the student, or “seedling” is “fed” additional knowledge to help him or her grow in the art of karate. Katas are part of this additional knowledge. A kata is a detailed, choreographed movement pattern practiced either solo or in pairs. “Learning the katas is what moves Allee up from one color to the next,” MiMi said. “She is tested on form, and the form must be right to advance.”

**“I LOVE THE FIGHTING PART. I LIKE HOW MASTER SELF TEACHES US TO FIGHT THE RIGHT WAY, AND I LIKE TO WIN.”**



Allee has been to tournaments where she has put her knowledge to the test, several times with girls and boys who are much taller than her. She and MiMi share a story of one such bracket tournament where Allee competed as an intermediate student. “The boy wore an upper intermediate belt. He was taller than Allee,” MiMi said.

The sparring contest was a fight against the boy’s size and Allee’s persevering spirit, which she comes by naturally. The boy kept knocking Allee



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down, winning a point each time. But, her attitude wouldn't allow her to stay down. "He was hitting me hard, but I just kept getting up," Allee remembered.


Most people, young and old alike, are very competitive when it comes to these tournaments. "Everyone is so serious," Allee stated. "I just have fun."

MiMi smiles as she agrees about the fun part, but she also sees Allee's competitive nature come forth with each class and tournament. "The karate classes are also teaching her self-confidence, self-discipline and the ability to take care of herself in this ever-changing world," MiMi added.

Allee, who started her karate journey at the age of 4 1/2, is proud of what she's accomplished so far. "I've won nine trophies, nine medals and three plaques," she said with a smile.


As a third-grader at Travis Elementary, her favorite class is gym, and math, with its problem-solving, is the subject she most enjoys. "Well, I kind of like science, too," she said, with a mischievous smile, "because it has to do with animals and the outdoors."

She also loves spending time at PaPa and MiMi's house, where she plays with CoCo for hours. That love is very apparent as she runs after CoCo, with that brunette hair still blowing in the wind. **NOW**



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# ROOM TO ROAM

— By Virginia Riddle



*Life in the Houston suburbs was leaving Zac and Laura Murtha wanting more for them and their five children. “We realized we were working all the time, just like our affluent neighbors. In Houston, our entertainment was going out to eat on the weekends,” Zac recalled. “We dreamed of living in the country.”*

A job transfer to Dallas for Zac prompted the dream becoming a reality two years ago with the finding of a perfect home and acreage in Ellis County. “This area is close to Dallas but is country. We love this community. People here have a better perspective of what’s important in life,” Laura said. “We can let the kids roam and hear the coyotes and donkeys.”





# AT HOME WITH ZAC AND LAURA MURTHA

Zac agreed. "Now we hang out with Ennis folks and neighbors. We all use our skills to help everyone. Everything's a community affair and a simpler side of life. Since moving to our Seven Apples Farm, I've learned to have patience, step back and let God do his part."

An Arkansas native, Zac graduated from Ouachita Baptist University with a degree in Greek/Hebrew and biblical studies with a minor in business. Zac happened to meet Laura, also an Arkansas native, when he served as her Christian camp counselor, but it wasn't until six years later, while she was a sophomore at University of Central Arkansas, that the couple were reintroduced by a fellow bandmate and started dating. "We went out on a group date," Zac recalled. "Laura was impressed by my motorcycle. I visited

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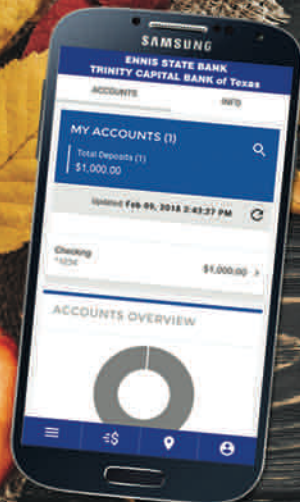
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her at school in Conway, and 10 months later we were married.”

A National Guardsman, Zac was sent to Bosnia on active duty as a captain. “He was there on 9/11. I spent the first year of married life with him in Bosnia,” Laura remembered.

They moved to Houston 17 years ago, and the children started arriving. Olivia (16), Cameron (13), Natalie (12), Jayden (11) and Marley (9) have all adapted well to their new life on the farm and to Ennis ISD schools. Zac has gone into sales representing a Houston-

based window and door manufacturer, and Laura is an office manager in a DeSoto dental office. “I wanted to be a mom and was a stay-at-home mom most of our time together,” Laura stated.

Since living on their farm, the family has introduced many pets. “I say ‘yes’ to animals, so we have six cats, seven dogs, chickens, ducks and guineas,” Laura added.


Their spare time is spent working on the farm; serving their church, The Avenue; and traveling. “We host and lead a weekly life group and youth


group through church, and the kids’ friends know our home has a revolving door,” Laura mused.

Laura also volunteers as a mentor to women in her church. Zac and Laura enjoy traveling to historical places in Europe and the U.S. as a couple and try to do a trip a year as a family, as well.

The Murtha family’s move to Ellis County is also prompting their other family members, including Laura’s mom and sister, to move here, so they are looking forward to hosting family around their dining table (created by Laura’s brother-in-law) that seats 10 at Thanksgiving and throughout







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the holidays. "Eating together is an important time to have conversations you wouldn't have otherwise. The bones and openness of this house allow us to entertain, and Laura always wanted to be that mom everyone loves to go to," Zac explained. "We love to entertain."

Their welcoming home features an entry bench that is family made, and Laura's grandparents' piano, on which four generations have learned to play, is in the family room. Comfortable seating surrounds an antique chest, and windows look beyond to the patio, rock-lined pool with waterfalls and farm buildings. A table clock sitting on a spool table is another one of Laura's grandparents' treasures. "Our style is very eclectic, but my sister, who is an interior designer, helps pull everything together," Laura explained.

The formal dining room looks out over their land to the country lane and their winding driveway. On the dining room wall are implements Laura's grandfather, a fireman, used to string wire when working a side job. An apothecary cabinet, in which the family keeps arts and crafts supplies, completes the room.

Laura's grandmother's chicken salt and pepper shakers and a wind-up bell alarm clock are displayed in the kitchen. "Every room has something from my grandmother displayed," she said. A breakfast nook with its surround windows acts as a home office.

Their three-bedroom home had to "fit" five kids, plus parents. "We've only done cosmetic things, like change out light fixtures, but we repurposed some rooms," Laura said. Olivia's bedroom is a former upstairs bonus room large enough to accommodate a sofa, too.

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Olivia is in the Ennis High School band and serves on the student council. She is also an FFA officer and hopes to become a veterinarian.

The home's isolated master bedroom honors the sophistication of New York City, one of the couple's favorite destinations. A fireplace divide serves both the bedroom and bath. Zac's guitars are at the ready to help entertain.

A former game room works as Zac's new home office, but can double as a guest bedroom with its Murphy bed made by his stepdad. Marley's room reflects her academic achievements and love of reading.

Jayden, as the lone boy in the family, calls his bedroom The Adventures Club and has a world map on his wall. Natalie and Cameron share a bedroom with bunk beds and individual study stations.

"We've been busy learning what 'farmisms' like 'chicken scratch' really mean," Zac said. "This has been a challenging, but great move. We are striving to learn self-sufficiency on the land."

Laura concluded in agreement, "I just love it when people make themselves at home here. It makes me giddy with joy." **NOW**

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## Saving the Ball and Wing

— By William T. Smith

Much has changed in Ennis since the glory days of rail travel. In the 1930s, Ennis was known as the place “Where Railroads and Cotton Fields Meet.” Most residents who grew up in Ennis during the prior century can claim some affiliation to the railroad in their genealogy. The Sunbeam was the iconic passenger train that ran through town, and the “ball and wing” was the easily recognized emblem that graced each side of the engine.

As museum director for the Ennis Railroad and Cultural Heritage Museum, Jessica Diaz recently saw history come to life. “When John McIntosh brought up the ball and wing for the first time in September 2016, I had no idea what he was referring to. I wasn’t aware of the symbolism of that logo, and I had a hard time believing something that interesting had been at the top of a flagpole unnoticed by me all of these years.”

The ball and wing that Jessica referred to is a flagpole pulley that, until recently, was affixed on the flagpole at Pierce Park. The back story of the ball and wing goes much further back than even the origination of Pierce Park in the late 1940s.

According to John, “It was originally on the flagpole at the round house, the railyard on the north side of the city. The pulley was probably moved to the flag at Pierce Park a couple of years after the park was dedicated.”

Gina Rokas, tourism director for the city of Ennis, was also instrumental in the preservation of the pulley. “I remember how excited John was about this Daylight Insignia ball and wing that was removed from the flagpole. I did not know about the significance at the time. I admire John and am thankful he took on this preservation project.”

John said the real preservation came from Kozlovsky’s Collision Repair. An earlier piece of Ennis rail history, a pot-belly stove, had been restored years ago for the opening of the museum by Kozlovsky employee Phillip Vavra, and John knew he would be the best artist to work on the pulley. “I put about 30 hours into the ball and wing restoration,” Phillip said.



But Michael Kozlovsky indicated, "I'd say more like 40 or 50 hours."

Constructed of carbon steel, the ball and wing required removing indentions made when some time in the past it had been used as a rifle target. "There was serious deterioration from just being out in the weather for all of the years, also," Phillip explained. "After the metalwork was done, we applied five coats of black paint, then added the colors, and finished it with two coats of clear-coat. The original pulley was replaced with brass, as the bolt that held it in place for so many years had worn the hole it passed through to elongation from the many raisings and lowerings of the flag."

## AS MUSEUM DIRECTOR FOR THE ENNIS RAILROAD AND CULTURAL HERITAGE MUSEUM, JESSICA DIAZ RECENTLY SAW HISTORY COME TO LIFE.

Jessica related how the flagpole in Pierce Park had seen so many decades of history pass beneath it. "That flagpole has been a cornerstone to our city, watching over our town, silently giving testimony to what was instrumental to its very beginning — the railroad.

"Having a local company, Kozlovsky's Collision Repair, offer to restore the piece at no charge was heartwarming," she continued. "Adding this piece of history to the museum is priceless. Very few things, in my opinion, have such a connection to the railroad and modern-day Ennis. We're lucky enough to display this piece with one of the large American flags that once flew on the pole."

The restored artifact is at the museum today, and Jessica added, "As we have for many years, we will have an open house the evening of the annual Lights of Ennis Parade. As we look forward to the event this year, we anticipate many guests coming by the museum to see this outstanding display of our heritage." **NOW**

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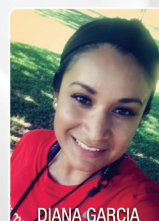
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# 2018 Holiday Shopping Guide

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**BLOCK PARTY**  
**5:00PM**

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**7:00PM**

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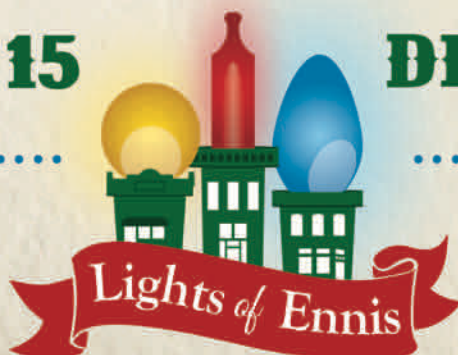
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A quick look at the gift items and discounts available locally.

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**NOVEMBER 30TH -  
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Nov 30, Dec 1, 7, 8, 14, 15

**Thursday - Dec 6 - 7:30pm**

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# CookingNOW In the Kitchen With ALICIA GLENN

— By Lindsay L. Allen

A mother of four, Alicia Glenn grew up cooking with her granny, using foods grown in her garden. Everything was made from scratch. While she admits not everything on her kitchen table is from scratch these days, she has passed on her cooking skills to her two daughters and currently enjoys baking and designing cookies with her youngest, Erin, who is a student at Ennis High School.

“Our family favorites are sweets, Mexican food and breakfast,” she said. “Our family is close-knit and enjoys sitting down and eating meals together.” In fact, Alicia loves sharing counterspace in the kitchen with her daughters. **NOW**

## Chicken Spaghetti

**1 lb. chicken breast**  
**16 oz. spaghetti, cooked**  
**1 medium onion, chopped**  
**1 medium bell pepper, chopped**  
**10 oz. cream of chicken soup**  
**10 oz. cream of celery soup**  
**10 oz. cream of mushroom soup**  
**4 oz. Ro-Tel**  
**1/2 lb. Velveeta cheese**

1. Preheat oven to 400 F. Boil chicken; cook spaghetti per package directions.
2. Sauté onions and bell peppers until they are clear.
3. Mix all soups and Ro-Tel in a medium-size pan; heat thoroughly.
4. Add the onions and bell peppers to the soup mix; add the chopped chicken to the pan. Mix noodles into the pan.

5. Spray a 9x13-inch baking dish with cooking oil; pour all ingredients into the dish, and top with cheese.
6. Bake for 30 minutes until the cheese is bubbling.

## Salisbury Steakbake

**1 10-oz. can Campbell's Cream of Mushroom Soup (divided use)**  
**1 1/2 lbs. ground beef**  
**1/2 cup dry breadcrumbs**  
**1 egg, slightly beaten**  
**1/4 cup onions, finely chopped**  
**1 1/2 tsp. salt**  
**Generous dash black pepper**  
**1/2 cup water**

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Mix 1/2 cup of soup with the remaining ingredients, except for the water.

2. Shape into patties; place in a baking dish. Bake for 30 minutes; spoon off the fat.
3. Mix the rest of the soup with 1/2 cup water. Pour over the patties; bake 10 more minutes.

## Pineapple Cheese Ball

*Makes 1 large ball or 2 medium-size balls.*

**2 8-oz. pkgs. cream cheese, softened**  
**8 oz. crushed pineapple, drained**  
**1/4 cup green bell pepper, finely chopped**  
**3 Tbsp. green onion, finely chopped**  
**2 tsp. seasoned salt**  
**2 cups pecans, chopped (divided use)**

1. Combine cream cheese, pineapple, bell pepper, onion, salt and 1 cup of the pecans.
2. Chill in refrigerator; shape into a ball.
3. Place remaining pecans on a plate. Roll cheese ball in the pecans to coat.

## Fake Thin Mints

**Almond bark chocolate, to taste**  
**1 capful peppermint flavoring**  
**Ritz Crackers, to taste**

1. Break chocolate into squares; melt in the microwave for 30 seconds and stir. Repeat this until it is fully melted. Be careful not to burn the chocolate.
2. Once the chocolate is smooth, stir in peppermint flavoring.



3. Dip the crackers fully in the chocolate; allow them to dry on waxed paper. Best served cold.

## Make Ahead Sausage Cheese Balls

**1 lb. Jimmy Dean Sausage**  
**10 oz. cheddar cheese, grated**  
**3 cups Bisquick**

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Mix all ingredients well; use your hands to squeeze.
2. Roll into 1-inch balls; freeze on cookie sheets.
3. After the sausage cheese balls have completely frozen, transfer them to plastic bags.
4. Cook frozen until brown, approximately 30 minutes.

## Pecan Pie Muffins

**1 cup light brown sugar, packed**  
**1/2 cup all-purpose flour**  
**2 cups pecans, chopped**  
**2/3 cup butter, softened**  
**2 eggs, beaten**

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Grease muffin pans very well.
2. In a bowl, stir together brown sugar, flour and pecans.
3. In a separate bowl, beat butter and eggs.
4. Stir dry ingredients into wet ingredients until just combined.
5. Spoon into muffin pan, filling each muffin cup two-thirds full.
6. Mini muffins bake for 12-13 minutes; regular-size muffins bake 15-17 minutes. Run a knife around the top of each muffin to pop it out.

## THAT Dip, aka Toffee Dip

**1/2 cup brown sugar, packed**  
**1/4 cup granulated sugar**  
**1 tsp. vanilla**  
**1 oz. cream cheese**  
**1 8-oz. bag Heath Toffee Bits**  
**Apple slices, to taste**

1. Mix together sugars, vanilla and cream cheese. Stir in toffee pieces. Dip with sliced apples, and try not eat it all at one time.

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Downtown Waxahachie

#### Christmas Parade & Community Tree Lighting

**Tuesday, Nov. 27 | 6:30 pm**

Downtown Waxahachie

Enjoy a lighted Christmas parade culminating with the community tree lighting on the courthouse lawn! Other activities include - CNB of Texas Train Rides, EwePet Petting Zoo & Pony Rides and other children's activities followed by photos with Santa.

#### Christmas Market & Gift Show

**Friday, Nov. 30 | Preview Party | 6 - 9 pm**

**Saturday, Dec. 1 | 9 am - 4 pm**

Waxahachie Civic Center, 2000 Civic Center Lane  
Sponsored by the Waxahachie Junior Service League  
For tickets and information: [www.waxahachiejls.org](http://www.waxahachiejls.org)

#### SAGU Theatre:

##### A Christmas Carol

**Friday & Saturday, Nov. 30 - Dec. 1 | 7:30 pm**

**Sunday, Dec. 2 | 3 pm**

Hagee Communications Center Performance Hall  
For tickets and information: [www.sagu.edu/christmascarol](http://www.sagu.edu/christmascarol)

#### Bethlehem Revisited

**Friday, Nov. 30**

**Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 1 - 2**

**Friday, Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 7 - 9  
6 - 9 pm**

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#### Candlelight Home Tour

**Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 1, 2 | 2 - 8 pm**

Brighten your holiday spirits by visiting three unique homes spanning from the Victorian era to the 21st Century, all adorned in their holiday finest. Ticket required.

#### Chocolate Sip 'N Stroll with Santa Photos

**Saturday, Dec. 1 | 2 - 6 pm**

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#### Christmas Hay Ride

**Saturday, Dec. 1 | 6 - 8 pm**

Enjoy a traditional hay ride around Getzendaner Park

#### Christmas Belles - Christmas Showcase

**Friday-Sunday, Dec. 7 - 9**

Chautauqua Auditorium in Getzendaner Park  
Tickets available online at [waxahachiecommunitytheatre.com](http://waxahachiecommunitytheatre.com)

#### TICA All Breed Cat Show

**Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 8 - 9**

Ellis County Expo Center

#### YMCA Santa Run

**Saturday, Dec. 15 | 8 am**

Downtown Waxahachie







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## Ellis County Medical Associates

— By Sandra Strong

### Ellis County Medical Associates

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Dr. Larry Jinks came to Ennis in 1984 on a three-year contract. “Three years turned into 34 years,” he said with a smile, as his mind replayed the years that seem to have flown by. “So much has changed, but so much remains the same.”

In 1984, Dr. Jinks worked alongside one employee. “She ran the front desk and kept me organized and on track,” he shared. There were no computers. Everything was posted by hand and payment was expected and made at the time of service.

Fast forward to 2018. Dr. Jinks now works with no fewer than 35 employees, six of them in the billing department. “They take care of the business that grew exponentially over the years,” Dr. Jinks stated. “This growth in employees was warranted with the changes in the business side of medicine, as well as the insurance complexities. There are so many administrative layers between the front desk and the physicians.”

When Dr. Jinks originally came to Ennis, he saw patients in his office and at the hospital, and he was called to the Emergency Room only when it was his scheduled time. “I worked on a six-doctor rotation at the time,” he recalled. “Once you saw a patient in the hospital, they became your patient for the long haul.”

Doctoring was what he did when he first arrived in Ellis County, but now it’s who he has become. “It’s the essence of me,” he admitted. He also realizes that changes in medicine have tried to slowly chip away the close relationships he



and his patients have come to expect. "The art of medicine *has* changed," he admitted. "Art implies that what I do is a craft. It's having a personal touch, and it's much more than a simple phone call." He compares the lost art of medicine to a painter who no longer uses color to evoke emotion.

**"More times than not, holding a patient's hand and saying a prayer does more for them than a phone call or email could ever do."**

Dr. Jinks takes great pride in "really knowing" his patients. "I know them because I see them at Wal-Mart or at church," he added. He has declined the fast-paced ride of the current way medical care is offered. He does not want to be a "tele-doc" who treats patients in an impersonal way by telephone or computer.

"Really knowing each of my patients is a great diagnostic tool," he shared. "I love having it, but I see it slowly going away."

Medicine is not an algorithm. It's been so much more for Dr. Jinks from the very beginning. "More times than not, holding a patient's hand and saying a prayer does more for them than a phone call or email could ever do," he explained. "The art of medicine is vanishing, but patients can and should choose a provider who still values their calling."

When Dr. Jinks came to Ennis, he soon realized the small town needed him. And he's thankful that he's still needed today. "Patients certainly do have choices," he reiterated, "and I'm thankful they still choose Ellis County Medical Associates for the art of medicine we continue to offer." **NOW**

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Dr. Jinks has practiced in Ennis, Texas since 1984. He graduated from the University of Texas Medical Branch, as well as completing his internship and residency at Baylor University Medical Center.



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Photo by Mark P. Starrett.



Photo by Mark P. Starrett.



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TravelNOW

## Fabulous Greek Holiday

— By Mark P. Starrett

Combined, the words “Athens” and “Greece” conjure up visions of ancient ruins and wall-to-wall tourists — all of them frantically trying to take selfie pictures in front of temples of the gods. Scores more scour the Plaka, a neighborhood that sits in the shadow of the Acropolis, looking for bargains and trinkets for friends and relatives at home. A relaxed vacation it is not.

If you really want to soak up true Greek sun, sand and life, then look no further than Voula, Greece, a southern suburb only 10 miles from Athens’ center city, but a million miles away from the frantic pace. You can reach Voula easily by hailing a taxi or using the Beats App from Athens International Airport. The 20- to 30-minute ride is enjoyable.

The picturesque town’s charm will engulf you soon after arriving. Voula is separated by Parko Ethnikis Antistaseos, a green space with a playground for children to run and plenty of shady trees to help fight the sun’s rays. The park runs southwest from Iridos Street to the Saronic Gulf.

Close to the park is the town center, a place where Greek gentlemen and women sit in the early morning, drinking coffee, enjoying a smoke and having fun conversation with their friends. Small children run around, playing hide-and-seek, riding skateboards or playfully kicking a soccer ball around.

The town center has many wonderful restaurants. They all

serve authentic Greek food, such as gyros, moussaka, and kebab. Away from the trappings of Athens, the cost of the meal is very reasonable.

The Greek people are very gregarious and friendly. It is common for a Greek to see a child and call out “*ὄμορφο παιδί*” — beautiful child. The older Greeks love to ask if they can kiss your child on the head and hold their hands.

Voula resides on the coast and looks out over the Saronic Gulf. The views of the water are relaxing and refreshing as you stroll along the seawall. Any day, you can catch Greeks sunning themselves or enjoying the cool water at the many secluded beaches dotting the shoreline.

Kavouri Beach is a top location for family members due to the safe water and the open space of the beach. There are plenty of parking spaces around the coast, but it can get overcrowded on the weekends. Kavouri Beach is easily accessible via public buses, a car or a nice, moderate walk. The beach is an excellent choice for swimming, sunbathing or playing beach games, such as volleyball. It has nice facilities and plenty of cafés located right by the sea.

In the evening, locals and tourists alike head for Notos Café, an elegant, airy seaside restaurant serving modern and classic entrees. Enjoy cocktails from the bar as you sit and gaze out over the open water and reminisce on your fabulous Greek holiday. **NOW**





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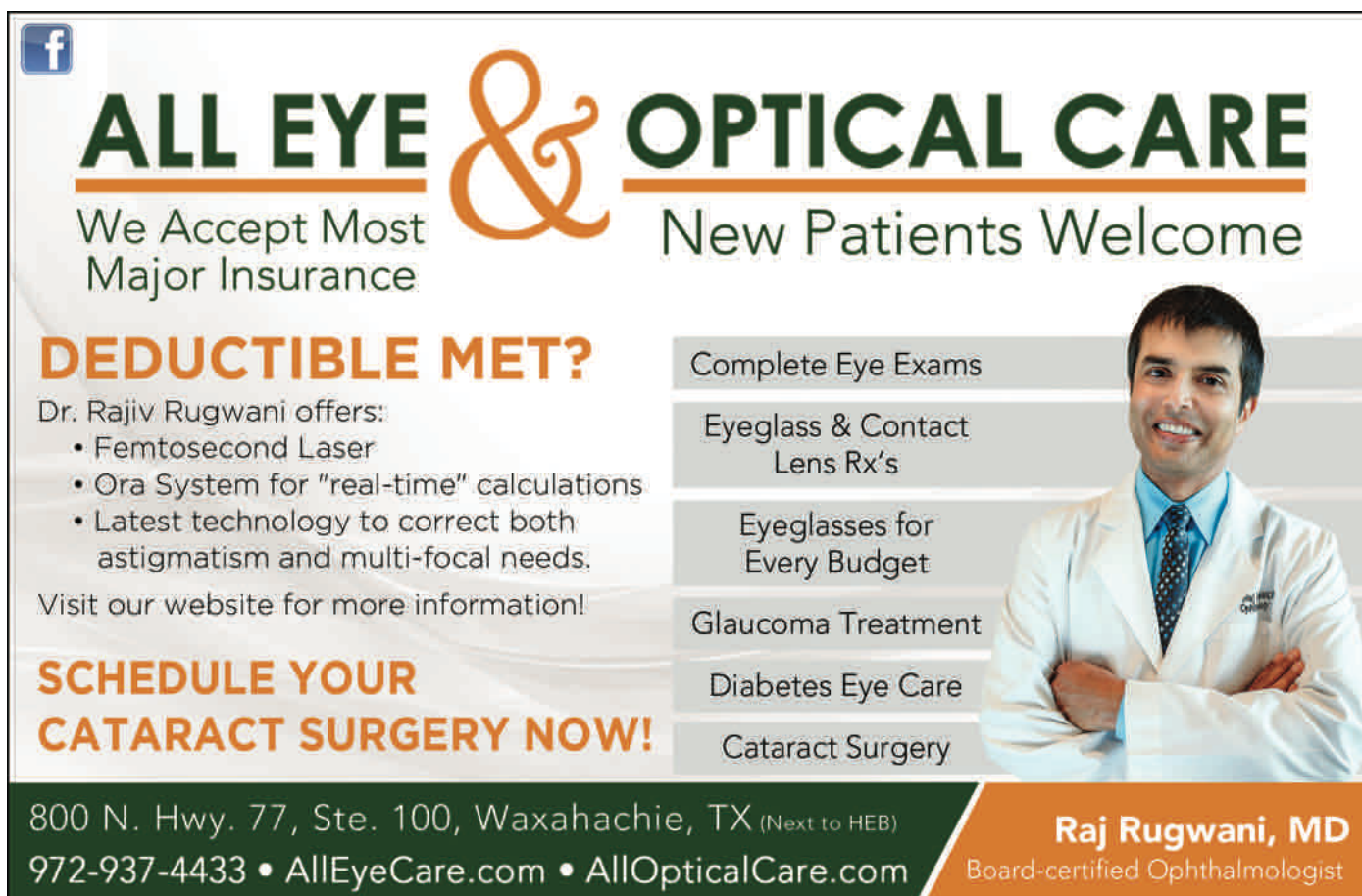
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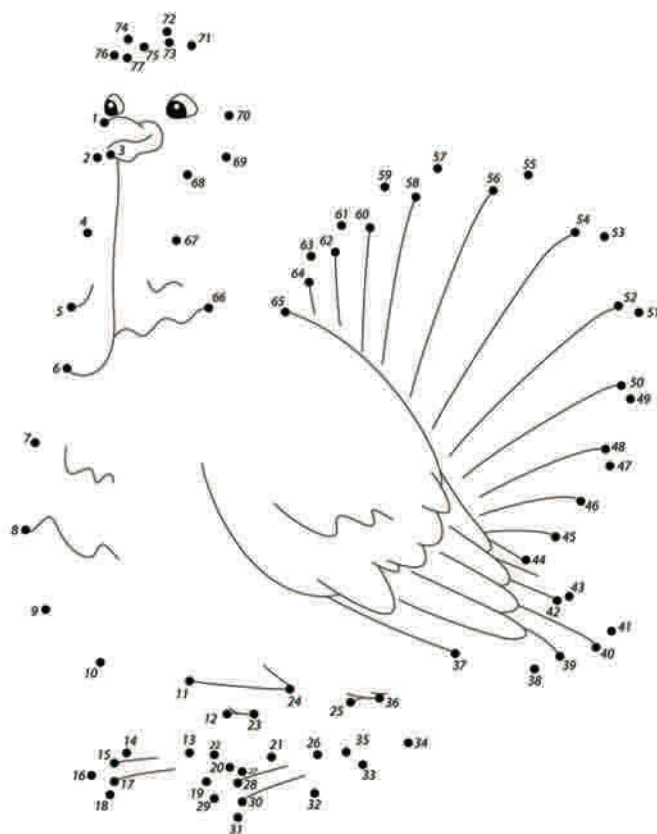
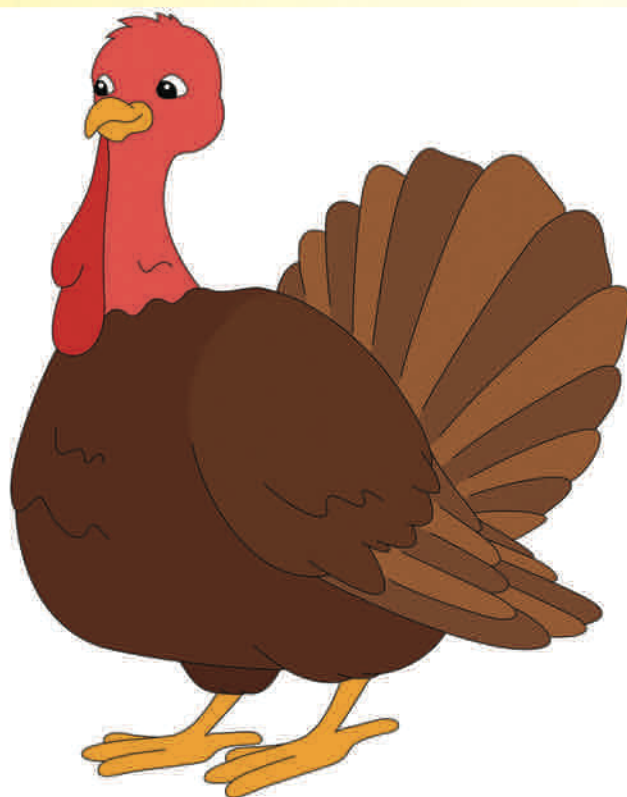
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R	M	A	P	P	L	E	S	P	T
A	E	H	H	A	P	P	Y	U	A
P	R	N	R	O	C	A	R	M	T
E	I	B	I	R	D	E	N	P	S
D	C	F	K	I	N	S	G	K	E
A	A	O	L	N	I	V	I	I	V
E	N	O	I	L	E	A	F	N	R
R	H	D	Y	E	K	R	U	T	A
B	A	U	T	U	M	N	N	G	H

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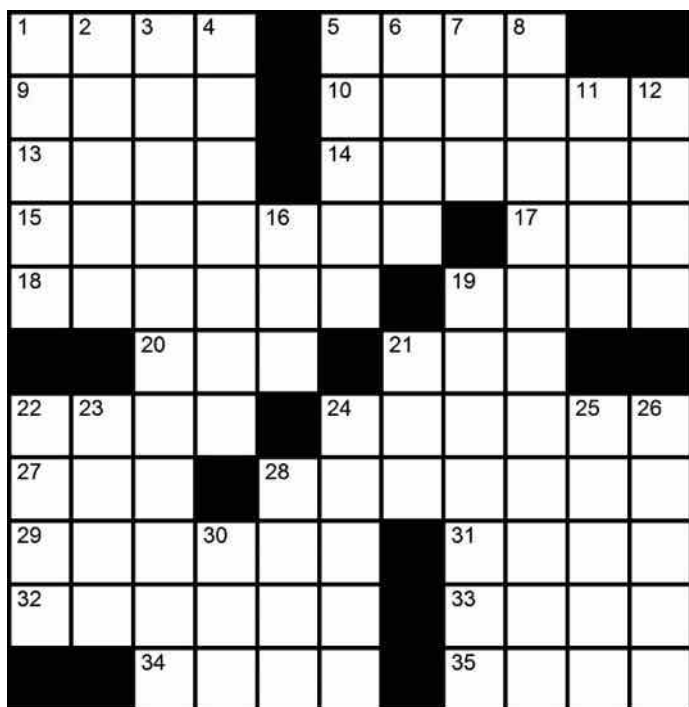


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# Crossword Puzzle



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## Across

- 1 Finn's conveyance
- 5 Rush job letters
- 9 It replaced the franc
- 10 Make over
- 13 Image of a deity
- 14 Kind of recording
- 15 Maidenhair trees
- 17 Confucians' path
- 18 Fanciful idea
- 19 Plug
- 20 Wager
- 21 Photo, briefly
- 22 Astound
- 24 Operated by hand
- 27 Boston Bruins great
- 28 Graceful antelope
- 29 Official count
- 31 Narrative of heroic exploits
- 32 Stick to
- 33 Ollie's mate
- 34 Some butters
- 35 Long fish

## Down

- 1 Prevail
- 2 Pertaining to sound reproduction
- 3 Prime cooking spot
- 4 "The Hobbit" author
- 5 Burning of another's property
- 6 Hardens
- 7 Angelus prayer
- 8 Tiny piece of atmospheric pollutant
- 11 Coarsely ground foodstuff
- 12 Table-top game
- 16 Obtained
- 19 Smoothness
- 21 La --- (South American capital)
- 22 Short stocking
- 23 Woody plant
- 24 Sail poles
- 25 Like pond scum
- 26 Tilts or slants
- 28 Southernmost Mariana island
- 30 Mineral spring

Solutions on page 43

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# Sudoku Puzzle

Easy

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

Medium

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

CrosswordSite.com Ltd

Solutions on page 43

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## Zoomed In: Carolyn McNairy

By Sandra Strong

Carolyn McNairy is like so many others — she loves crafting. And when she can try her artistic hand at something new, that's even better. The newest art form she recently tried was mosaics. "I've never done anything like this before," she admitted, "but I had so much fun!"

The fun for Carolyn came in picking the different colors of glass from a very large selection to make the mosaic cross representative of the colors she likes. Her goal was to make it her own. "I enjoyed choosing the pieces I wanted to use to make it all mine," she said. "I can't wait to grout it, and then do it all over again!"



Hannah Slovacek Watson and her children meet up with EnnisNOW ad rep Linda Roberson at Interior Designs to pick up the State Fair tickets they won.



Karen Buckley, Cathie Morales and Cindy Pechal auction off wine at the Chamber auction.



The ECMA Med Spa hosts its Bubbly & Bling event.



Karri Givens, Meals on Wheels logistic supervisor for Ellis County, spends a Friday afternoon picking up empty coolers.






Mark Novy and Judi Hejny greet guests at Helping Hands 26th Annual Taste of Ennis.






Student Alex DeCroix supplements her income by working at Sonic and greeting customers with a smile.



Vanessa Zmolik, Bradley Dawson and Katrina Martinez of Guild Mortgage celebrate National Night Out.



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Red, White & You Veteran Hiring Fair: 1:00-4:00 p.m., Midlothian Conference Center, 1 Community Dr., Midlothian. The event connects veterans, service members and their spouses to Texas employers. Learn more at [dfwjobs.com/rwy2018](http://dfwjobs.com/rwy2018).

Sip, Shop & Stroll: 5:00-8:00 p.m. After hours shopping event in downtown Ennis.

10

Ellis County Veterans Appreciation: 10:00 a.m., Waxahachie Civic Center. Service will be held indoors, rain or shine. There will be a fly-over afterwards, if weather permits.



Marine Corps Birthday Ball: 6:00 p.m., Texas Motorplex. Tickets are available at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com).

Lantern Fest: Texas Motorplex. Visit [www.thelanternfest.com](http://www.thelanternfest.com) for full details.

24

Small Business Saturday Shopping Event: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., downtown Ennis.

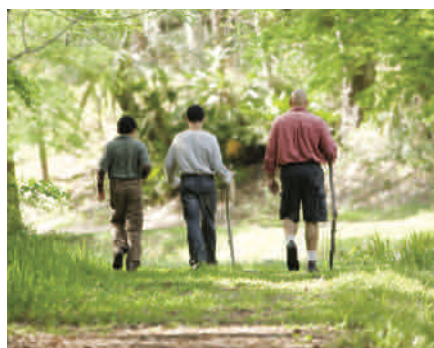
29

Lights of Ennis Parade of Lights and Block Party: 7:00 p.m., downtown Ennis.

Ongoing:

Fourth Mondays  
Texas Master Naturalists Indian Trails

Chapter: 6:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church, Waxahachie. The program begins at 7:00 p.m. For more information about the group, visit [www.txmn.org/indiantrail](http://www.txmn.org/indiantrail).



Creative Quilters Guild of Ellis County meeting: 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Waxahachie Bible Church, 621 Grand Ave.

Second Tuesdays  
Ennis Masonic Lodge No. 369 meeting: dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting to follow at 7:30 p.m., Masonic Lodge, 209 N. Dallas St. For more information, contact Cecil Curry at [c Curry\\_98@yahoo.com](mailto:c Curry_98@yahoo.com).

First Wednesdays  
Bluebonnet Patches Quilt Guild meeting: 9:30 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, 210 N. McKinney. Contact Judy Wensowitch at (972) 921-8800 for more information.



Last Thursdays  
Marine Corps League, Detachment 1452 meeting: 7:30 p.m., Refiner's Fire Church, 1611 W. Ennis Ave. All active, retired or former Marines, Navy chaplains or corpsmen are welcome. For more information, call (214) 803-4954.

Second and Fourth Fridays  
Ennis Bridge Club: 1:00 p.m., Ennis Public Library, 501 W. Ennis Ave. For more information, email Judy at [judytx@sbcglobal.net](mailto:judytx@sbcglobal.net) or call (972) 878-1035.



Fourth Saturdays  
Bristol Opry: 7:00 p.m., featuring local singers and musicians. Sponsored by Bristol Cemetery Association and Caring Hands of Bristol. For more information, contact Jim Gatlin at (972) 846-2211.



Fourth Sundays  
William Henry Parsons Camp #415 Sons of Confederate Veterans: 3:00 p.m., Bubba's Bar BQ and Steakhouse. Visitors are welcome. For more information, visit [www.scv.org](http://www.scv.org).

*Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to [sandra.strong@nowmagazines.com](mailto:sandra.strong@nowmagazines.com).*



## Crossword - Sudoku Solutions

1	R	A	F	T		5	A	S	A	P	
8	E	U	R	O		10	R	E	V	A	M
13	I	D	O	L		14	S	T	E	R	E
15	G	I	N	K	G	O	S		17	T	A
18	N	O	T	I	O	N		19	F	I	L
						20	B	E	T		
						21	P	I	C		
22	S	T	U	N		24	M	A	N	U	A
27	O	R	R			28	G	A	Z	E	L
29	C	E	N	S	U	S		31	S	A	G
32	K	E	E	P	A	T		33	S	T	A
						34	R	A	M	S	
						35	E	E	L	S	

Easy

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

Medium

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

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## *Sandra's* Pic of the Month

Pumpkins, pumpkins and more pumpkins. Orange, green and white pumpkins. Plump, tall and wide pumpkins. As Thanksgiving nears, pumpkins will likely be part of the table decor, as well as the main ingredient in the favorite pie on the dessert table. Crafters who have a knack with ribbon, silk leaves, fall flowers and a glue gun will fashion centerpieces and holiday arrangements to say "Happiest of Thanksgivings" to family and friends. It's all about the pumpkins!

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