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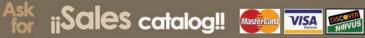
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#### On The Cover



Tim and Misti Kilgore's holiday collection includes 29 nutcracker statues.

Photo by Vanessa Polozola.

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#### Editor's Note

Dear Friends,

This time of year, I enjoy a comforting hot chocolate every now and then. I've found an extreme version at the holistic nutrition store. It's actually bone broth protein powder combined with cocoa and sweetener, but when you mix it with a tablespoon of organic butter and 8 ounces of boiling water, you get the taste of rich hot chocolate in the form of health food!

That's the easiest way to take in the goodness of bone broth. Otherwise, every festivity turns into three days of slow-cooking the leftovers of roasted

lamb, beef, turkeys and chickens before I can enjoy the simplicity of consommé, a grandmotherly form of a hot toddy.

This month, if you've got grandparents to share a hot drink with, you are really blessed. Get together with them and raise a toast to good health and good years — those in the past and all those to come.

Have a great month!

#### Melissa

Melissa Rawlins MansfieldNOW Editor melissa.rawlins@nowmagazines.com (817) 629-3888

P.S. The publisher and staff of NOW Magazines wish you and your family a very merry Christmas and the happiest of holiday seasons!

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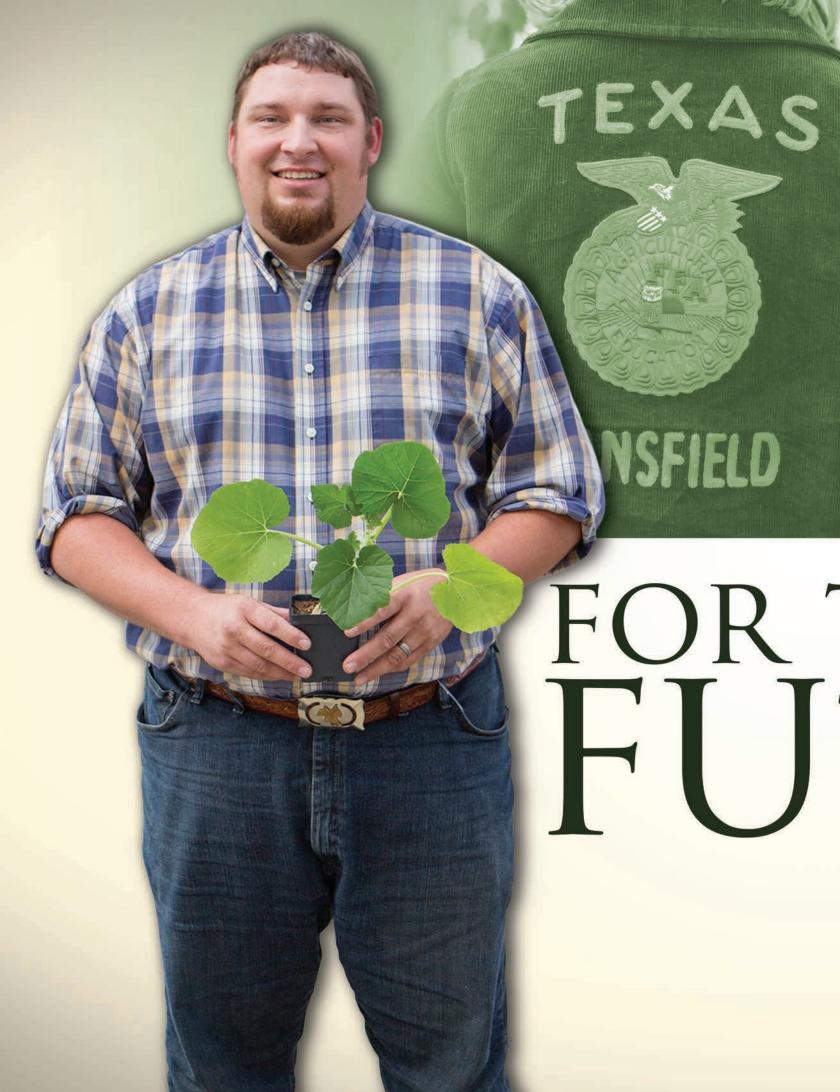
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# THEIR — By Melissa Rawlins THEIR STATES OF THE STATES OF

In the middle of his 15th year teaching students from elementary through high school, Doug Klaudt's enthusiasm makes his agricultural science classes the favorites of several youth enrolled at Ben Barber Career Tech. A stickler for detail, Doug never neglects standards of academic excellence, while providing his students with real-world experiences offered through three channels. Kids alternate between sessions of note-taking, while seated on tall chairs at massive worktables, and hands-on learning out in the barn. For their evaluation, they plan and produce supervised agricultural experiences. And for leadership development, Doug's students may volunteer for service projects and competitions within the Future Farmers of America organization.





FFA was not an option where Doug grew up. His family lived out in the country in Montana, and he had a lot of small animals. It was 4-H that gave him the opportunity to show his pigs and horses, and he was the first in his family to attend college. With no idea what he'd major in, his father encouraged him to make a decision before enrolling in college. "I was a counselor at a summer camp," Doug recalled. "The director must have talked to my dad." Doug's dad turned around and suggested to his son that he try teaching. "It made sense, since I seem to have a knack for giving kids guidance."

He is well prepared for his current position of training agricultural science teams. After graduating from Oklahoma Christian University with an elementary education certification, he taught four years of language arts and eight years of science in MISD. "This district does a great job training the teachers with effective tactics that work for all levels," Doug said. He even uses some of the same techniques when he helps adults, both at his church and within the federal prison system, where he volunteers weekly to lead Bible study.

An experienced educator, Doug defines teaching much as some would describe fatherhood. "Teaching is a lot more involved than being a summer camp counselor," he quipped. "Teachers give opportunities so each student can expand his or her knowledge and become a better person, able to grow not only in knowledge but also in their human side. Teachers also put students in situations where they can be successful."

Doug encourages his 15 students in creative investigation of solid agricultural practices. For example, after discussing



different zoonotic diseases that can pass between animals and humans, they learn how to keep the barn clean and neat, so it's safe for both the animals and the students. They've learned to always wear gloves and wash their hands. This practice was of the utmost importance when Pressley Wiley produced her supervised agricultural experience (SAE).

With a team of other students to help her feed, weigh and water chickens, even on weekends, Pressley tested the efficacy of different types of feed. She took data over an extended period of time and made charts to support conclusions in the 30-page paper she wrote. As Pressley's team became comfortable converting pounds and ounces into metric measurements, consistently controlling variables while caring for the animals, they learned management of resources, team dynamics and responsibility. After the team found some chickens had died, Doug encouraged the students to dissect the birds and learn as much as possible from that experience.



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While studying breeding practices, students learn about conditions affecting the outcome. Not only do they incubate eggs, keep chicks and raise chickens, they also breed rabbits. "We do a lot of testing in here to see whether the food, water and other conditions have an impact," Doug said. "For example, when it's too hot outside, the sperm die in the rabbits, so you could breed them but won't get kits." Once they are bred, the students track the doe's kindling, weigh the kits throughout the weeks and track their survival rate and conformation.

At the end of this semester, all this testing translates into the SAE, which takes the place of a final exam. At the beginning of the school year, Doug gave his students examples of things that worked in the past and clearly communicated rubrics to shoot for.

"It's important to have empathy for what a student will be able to succeed in," Doug said. Since some have two jobs outside of school, he helped them plan SAEs that fit their time and financial constraints. Encouraging their creativity, he talked about how intriguing their project was, while helping them see it was not overwhelming.

Some students have built chicken coops and practiced building skills. Others are testing whether playing rock 'n' roll, country, classical or no music will produce differences in the growth of plants and chicken embryos. Another student is testing the best ways to store hay to prevent hay spoilage.

Each student presents his or her findings on an SAE project board to the class. While Doug grades the youth, he enjoys the spark in their eyes. "My favorite part of teaching is seeing the kids when they learn something new. Their eyes light up because they understand why a past experience happened," Doug





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said. "They're not studying for a test here. They're studying for their future, basically."

Through the upcoming semester, some students will take their SAE further to five science fair competitions throughout the state. They'll develop awareness of how their project impacts other people. "In the end, agriculture is about feeding everybody else and being responsible with the resources you are using. All people like growing plants and taking care of animals. I think it's ingrained because it goes back to Adam, whom God charged with taking care of animals and plants. Seeing the plants and animals grow naturally brings joy to our hearts," Doug said. "It's refreshing to see that joy in my students."

Parents were as excited as their kids when Doug invited a professional from All Star Equestrian to give a presentation at the barn about handling horses. "When you have community support, it helps a lot," Doug said, explaining that he wants to see the FFA chapter grow in the community so opportunities for the students expand. "A big part of high school is finding something you can get fired up about. A lot of students are undecided about their career field, just like I was. It's awesome that with Ben Barber School of Innovation, they get a solid opportunity to explore career fields and find something they can be passionate about for a lifetime."

No matter the long hours Doug puts in, he's found his true calling: to provide both inspiration and avenues for exploration. As his students find their passion and start working toward their dream job, Doug will be alongside, helping them get good experience early, so they can find their futures in positions they love. **NOW** 



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and I knew I would never go pro, so even though I received a few college offers, I passed them up," he remembered. Instead, he pursued a degree and a family.

Rather than beating the ball on the court during college, Scott hit the books and studied to become a chiropractor. He knew, firsthand, the physical requirements and subsequent abuse the sport demanded of its players. So, in essence, Scott's time on the court set him up for his career choice.

Little did he know, the sport he loved so much would also become a shared love that has forged a huge bond between him and his son, Nick. "I started playing basketball with Nick as soon as he could hold a ball," Scott explained. Nick took to it like a fish in water, which was no real



surprise to Scott, who happens to be an impressive 6 feet 6 inches tall.

At 13 years old, Nick measures in at 5 feet 9 inches and is currently wearing a size 13 shoe. "He's taller than almost everyone around his age. He's kind of like this great German Shepherd puppy," Scott laughed. "He is full of energy and big in size."

He's also on the seventh grade basketball team at Wester Middle School. With previous experience playing on teams with the YMCA basketball league and from countless hours playing ball with his dad, Nick knows exactly what it takes to be a strong member of his team.

A few years ago, Scott and his wife, Bonnie, moved their kids, Nick and Marley, back to Mansfield to help take care of his aging mother. With his practice established and his family happily settled in his very own childhood home, Scott delighted in shooting hoops and playing a few friendly, yet competitive, games of horse with his and the neighborhood kids. "These days, I save it all for the driveway," Scott smiled, and playing ball in the driveway with his kids is where he can be found when he is not working or catching a Dallas Mavericks game on television.

It has been during these driveway sessions that Scott has taught Nick the very basics of the game, including: dribbling, shooting and passing. He also taught his eager son that even though winning is a team's ultimate goal, it is not all about winning. "There is so much emphasis on winning that winning,









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As a father, Scott understood that these basics of the game were critical life skills he wanted to instill in his children. "What I like about basketball is that it's a target sport, like golf and hockey. When you play, you actually have to use skill to aim at a target," he explained. "To me, that's not only fun, but symbolic." In life, establishing and aiming for a goal is crucial to success. Otherwise, a person just wanders aimlessly through life hoping for the best outcome but never really working toward making those best outcomes possible. This metaphorical philosophy is one Scott has taught Nick and Marley well.

"Marley will get out there with us and bounce the ball around, but she is more of a girlie girl, so a lot of the time it's just Nick and I out in the driveway shooting hoops," Scott explained. So whenever they can, father and son hit the pavement, challenging one another to a little one-on-one showdown under the net.

"It helps me to play with my dad because he knows what to do, and he can tell me what I need to do to improve or







fix whatever I might be doing wrong," Nick said. While Nick admits his least favorite part about basketball is drills, he understands how critical they are in becoming a solid, skilled player. Scott and Nick agree that proper technique and fundamentals are critical, and although Nick would rather play for fun than spend hours on perfecting layups, cutting and screening, he realizes drills are unavoidable in order to reach his goal of playing ball as an MHS Tiger, like his old man.

One of the best things about the sport for both of them is the versatility. "You can play basketball almost anywhere as long as you have a ball that bounces and something to shoot at," Nick stated. "You can't play football by yourself, but you can play basketball alone." Even if he is simply shooting a few free throws to pass the time or playing a fun game of one-on-one with a friend, Nick is sharpening his technique, and that, in turn, helps improve his game.

"It is definitely an accessible sport," Scott added. "A basketball is rather inexpensive, and there are parks and school yards all over town where anyone can go and get a game going."

Although Scott's games these days are much more casual and have far less fanfare than when he played as a MHS Tiger, there is glory, and it comes from engaging and bonding with his son. Nick is getting to experience a time-honored tradition - practicing the basics of one of America's favorite sports in the driveway with his dad. **NOW** 



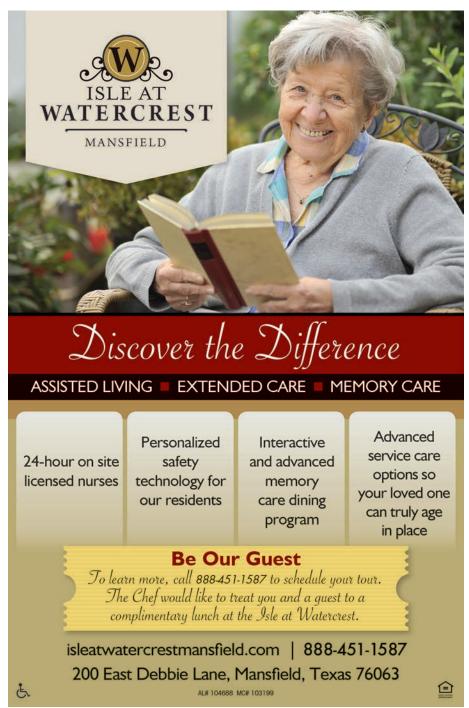
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"And family and friends have come to expect it now," Misti added.

It all starts with a 12-foot tree decorated to the hilt downstairs at the bottom of the home's spiraling staircase. Among the many others is the trip tree in the upstairs alcove surrounded by a train on a platform. Another tree is completely decorated with

ornaments their children have made over the years. "For me, Christmas has always been my two brothers and their families coming back to Pecos," Tim said, referring to his hometown. "What we do each year reminds me of those special times."

With six children and one grandchild, including two children still living at home, just their family alone provides plenty to gather to enjoy the holiday festivities in the Kilgore household. However, Tim and Misti open their home for a variety of friends to partake. "Our coaching family always enjoys having the Christmas party here. I also enjoy hosting a holiday party for my counseling staff," Misti said, referring to the couple's co-workers.

Tim is the offensive coordinator for Mansfield Legacy High School's football team. He has been coaching there for 10 years. He had been serving as the head coach at a school in Houston, but accepted the offer for offensive coordinator when Legacy first opened. Misti is the lead guidance counselor at Arlington Seguin High School. She also counsels professionally at First Baptist



Tim and Misti

Kilgore









Church in Mansfield. In all, she works with individuals ages 13 to 75. "My life's like a Jinga game," she said with a smile. "If something were to be pulled out ..."

Their oldest child, 26-year-old son, Andrew, manages a restaurant and is married with a baby, while attending The University of Texas at San Antonio. Twenty-five-year-old daughter, Maggie Greer, works in home furnishings in Dallas and has a husband who is also a Legacy assistant coach. Their 22-year-old son, Kenneth, is studying finance at UTSA, and their 20-year-old son, Chris, is studying pre-law at The University of Texas at Arlington. The two children still living

at home are son, Beau, 13, and 8-year-old daughter, Gracie. The family is completed by their Havanese puppy named Sadi. Beau and Gracie each have a tree in their own room. Beau's features a Dallas Cowboys theme and Gracie's has an owl theme.

Tim and Misti love to travel and have been to a variety of places around the globe, some of which include: Venice, Egypt, the Philippines and the Dominican Republic. One favorite photo is of Tim playing a round of golf in the Dominican Republic with a beautiful view of the ocean in the background. This photo is proudly displayed in the home office.







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Someday has arrived. And the decorations include much more than the trees. There's a life-size Santa Claus, Rudolph and even 29 nutcracker statues ranging from tiny to 5 feet tall. "The real work is putting the lit garland on the stairwell," Misti admitted.

The holiday decorating begins in October with a harvest theme in the yard and the nook. It includes bales of hay and scarecrows. Later, a Thanksgiving theme, including turkeys, lasts through that holiday. After that, Christmas overwhelms everything else.

Aside from the holiday season, there is plenty to enjoy in the Kilgore home. The 3,700-square-foot residence is spacious, starting with the large living area seen immediately upon entrance. Visitors are welcomed by a friendly porch swing the Kilgores brought from their previous home in Mansfield.

Once inside, a look to the left reveals a 55-gallon aquarium containing a large fish about a foot in size, an African Cichlid. "He can't have any guests. He doesn't play well with others," Misti said. For those wishing to sit and watch the fish for a while — and he is quite the conversation piece — there are two lovely old chairs. They look comfy enough to sit in for an entire afternoon, or even into the evening. Next to them is a quaint, antique lamp. "These were mom's chairs," Tim said. "She got them in West Texas in the 1950s. We recovered them, and they are solid as a rock."

Crossing into the den, which is neighbor to the kitchen, a 60-pound, bell-shaped chandelier hangs in the hallway. Tim and





his father-in-law spent a fair amount of time installing it. "He came through. It was a lot of work, but it looks great," Tim said. "A friend brought a one-man lift, and it took several hours. We divided and conquered."

In the den is a fireplace that measures 5-feet-tall by 5-feet-wide. The ceiling is about 25 feet high. "I love the openness," Misti said. Tim began to appreciate the open space after the installation of the chandelier.

The family's love of sports is evident in the upstairs game room. Along with a ping pong table are a variety of photos on the wall, including a couple that Misti took herself when they were at a game in Chicago between the Dallas Cowboys and the Bears. "It was the best 40th birthday I could hope for," Misti said, as Tim pointed out shots of Dez Bryant, Tony Romo and Jason Witten.

Photos are a large part of the Kilgore family. The hallway wall, known as the Wall of Shame, is filled with family pics and shots of the children. The downstairs office has an abundance of photos depicting the family history, including one of Gracie wearing an infant dress that Misti also wore. "Now Gracie can do the same thing for her child — if it's a girl," Tim said, chuckling.

With a home like this, why leave it when you don't have to — not even to see a movie. The Kilgores have their own media room, complete with an overhead projector, five reclining chairs, a fridge, a 150-inch screen and even a popcorn machine. Out back is a patio suited for entertaining up to 10 people. They describe the neighborhood as an "extended family."

So, if the opportunity to become a head coach does indeed present itself again to Tim, they would love for it to be in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. After all, it's hard to find another dream home — especially one with room for so many trees.

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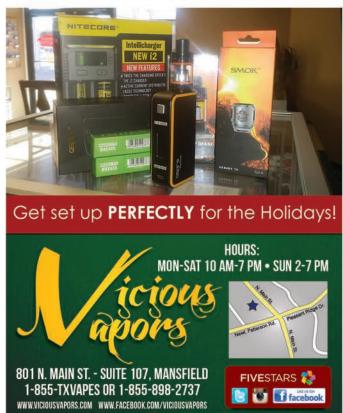




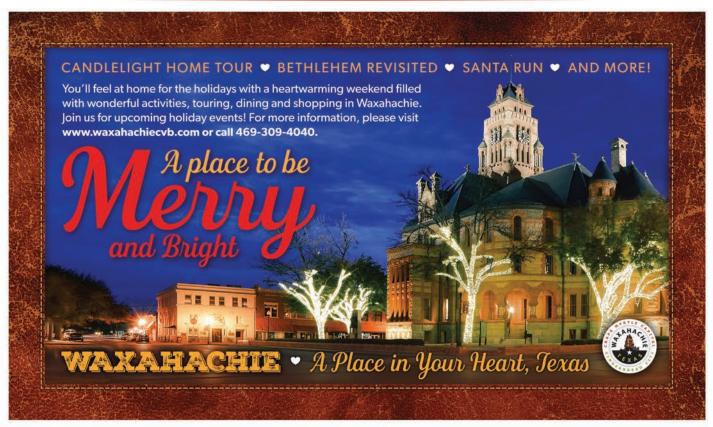






































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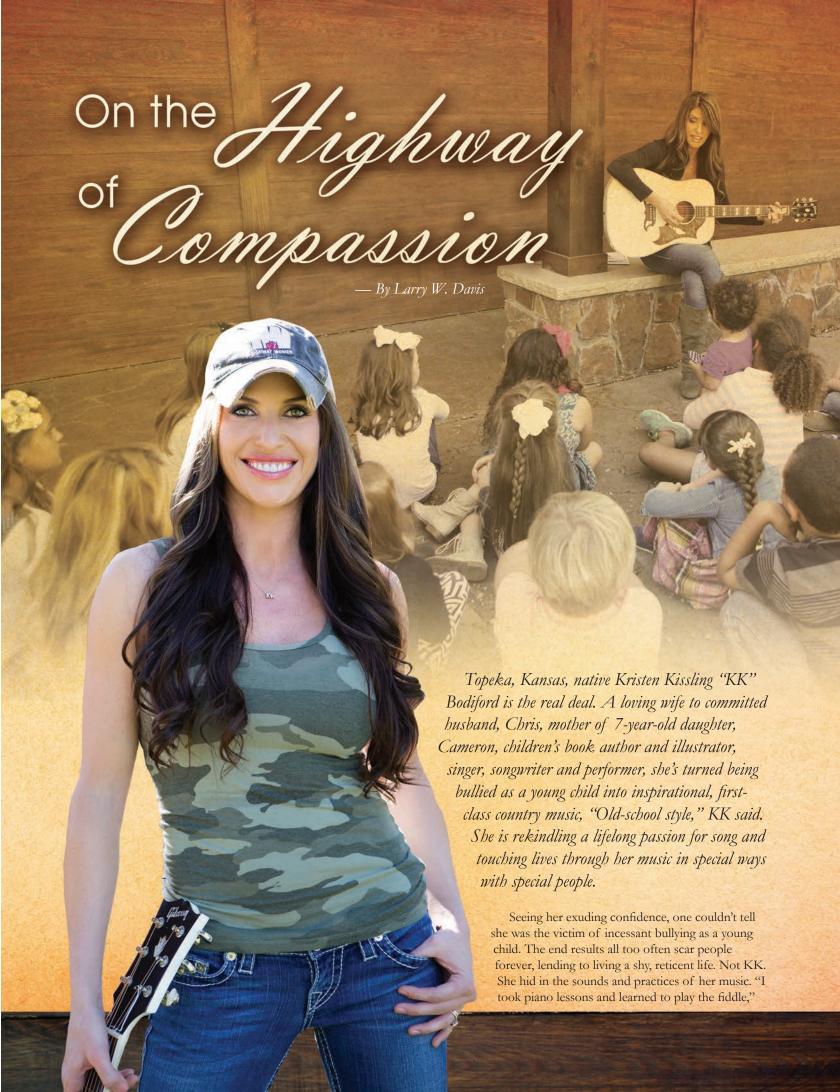






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she said with a smile. She lived for stage performances and the adulations of audiences. "I loved escaping in performances," she beamed. "It was my own type of therapy." KK played and sang anywhere she could, and along the way, she taught herself how to play the acoustic guitar. On this instrument, she's "electric" with her own distinct style and sound.

After high school, she left for college, thinking it was the right thing to do, knowing her parents would be proud. She enrolled at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas. KK was in school, "but I had no desire," she admitted. "I changed my major almost every single semester." However, she knew she wanted a life in country music. So, after graduation, she did what a lot of aspiring artists

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, SANCTUARY

4:00 PM | Traditional Worship and Children's Nativity\*

6:00 PM | Traditional Worship\*

8:00 PM | Contemporary Worship\*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, SANCTUARY

10:00 AM, 2:00 & 4:00 PM | Family Worship with Nativity\*

6:00 PM | Contemporary Worship (live streamed online)\*

8:00 PM | Traditional Worship (live streamed online)

10:00 PM | Traditional Worship

11:30 PM | Christmas Carols & Communion

\*Nursery available for children under 5

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do — she packed her bags and headed to Austin, Texas, a mecca for live music performances. Austin is a place known worldwide for allowing musicians to gain their reputations, make their bones so to speak. There she fell into her groove, honing her craft, playing and singing anywhere she could. "I knew I just had to follow my passion of writing and singing music," she stated.

Along the way, she supported her dream by working as a pharmaceutical rep, singing and playing her guitar in doctors' offices. "I would write songs about the disease state and clinical information and perform for the physicians and staff," she giggled. Music, country in particular, is just simply and deeply embedded in her. It seems to flow freely from her. She writes music at every turn and opportunity, even in casual conversations. Although KK's aspirations aren't focused on stardom, she exudes a star quality all her own.

Her life began to explode positively in all directions. Playing anywhere and everywhere she could, KK was in demand as an artist, culminating with an invitation to audition for USA Network's



reality television show, Nashville Star. She made the cut and was chosen as one of 12 finalists, alongside now country music star Miranda Lambert, with whom she shared a room. The experience solidified her desire to make it in the industry. Being chosen showed her she was almost there, right at the doorstep she had dreamed and worked toward for so long.

However, for KK, something was missing. "I wanted to be a mother so badly," she confessed. After all of the hard work, KK made an unconventional decision for anyone at the cusp of life's goal achievement. She placed her musical life and artistic aspirations on hold to become a mother. KK was blessed with her daughter, Cameron. "She absolutely





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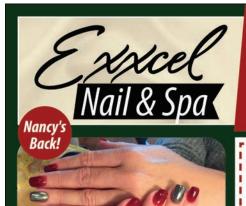
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makes me complete," she said. Then at the urging of persistent friends, she met the love of her life. Chris is her kindred spirit. "He loves country music just as much as I do," she added. Becoming a wife and mother had been quite rewarding for KK. There's a gleam in her eyes when she talks about her family, especially the support of Chris in her quest for musical immortality.

At the end of December 2015, KK accomplished another successful dream. She became a published children's book author. Her book is entitled, Anything About You. This multitalented lady isn't just the author, she's also the illustrator. The book and accompanying CD are the centerpieces to an anti-bullying campaign initiative she's taken to schools and youth programs. There's a book reading, interactive group activities and a live performance of the song penned by her with the same title as the book. The book and program set a spark that began to smolder within her soul.

Then a chance Facebook view allowed her to see something that would bring an average mortal down. A friend's daughter from middle school and high school in Topeka was diagnosed with an inoperable form of brain cancer. KK was overwhelmed with emotion, especially since Cameron is around the same age. "I felt a spiritual calling to write a song for her," she stated. She put everything in her career "on hold" and flew to Los Angeles, where she recorded a beautiful masterpiece, entitled "Dance Right Through the Storm." The video and song can be viewed and heard on YouTube. "The message has been traveling," she explained. "People from around the world are sending messages saying the song is leading them to fight harder through their own storms."



KK realized that her compulsion is to make an impact on the lives of others. Just a few short months ago, she received that fateful call from Victory Music. They were forming a four-member female country music group called The Highway Women. Yes, it's a rejuvenation of the legendary pioneering outlaw country super group — The Highwaymen comprising members Johnny Cash, Waylon Jennings, Willie Nelson and Kris Kristofferson. That's quite an honor, as far as KK is concerned. The female quartet is very talented. Their goal is to capture and bring back the essence of old-style, deep-rooted, heartfelt, downhome outlaw country music.

The ladies had never met prior to a recording studio date. "It was an explosion of melded talent," she admitted. "The first time we came together, we all knew it was special." These are four women on the road to bringing outlaw country music back to the masses. With support from her husband, KK was able to jump back into her music with full force zeal.

KK is a woman on a mission. She was hardened by childhood bullying, but she faced it head on, not allowing it to stunt her growth, using music as her calling card. KK's a mother, wife and friend. She's also an accomplished and very talented musician, singer, songwriter and performer. Her children's book authorship and work with children has aided others to overcome, persevere and thrive. Her presence, flair and effervescent smile will, no doubt, carry her all the way to the top. She's an authentic example of what hard work coupled with determined focus can accomplish. KK is the real deal. NOW







Christmastime is near, and you may already see adornment and trimming on your neighbors' houses. Many people have family heirlooms or other sentimental pieces inside their homes, but they are typically more open to trying something new on the outside of the house. Be creative, and let your house front be your pallet. If you are ready to change up how you dress your house for the holidays, here are some ideas to win your neighborhood decorating contest!

### Lights, Decor, Action!

• Know your options. There are dozens of styles of light strings, with slight variations along the way. While regular





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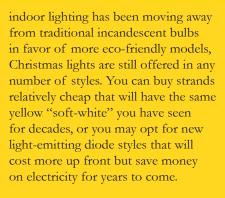
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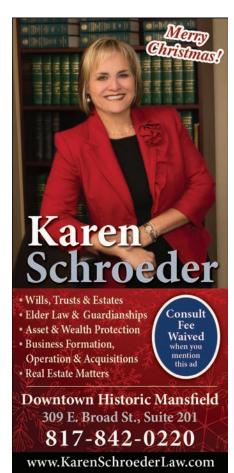
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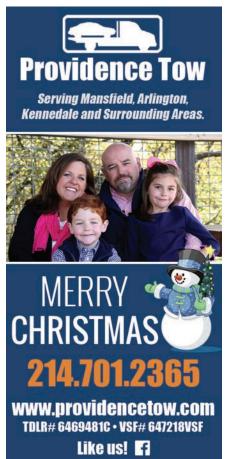


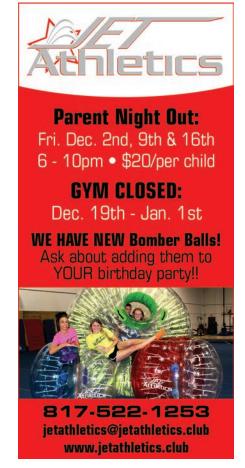
• Bulbs are not created equal. The other side of having plenty of options is that you have to be careful when buying new strands. When it comes to LED's, especially, every company will have slightly different hues, so buy enough strands. Lights are categorized by size,













but even sizes can fluctuate between brands. When you find the color and style you want, consider buying several extra strands. Spending a little now will outweigh having to start over in a few years just because a few strands are dead.

• Plan before you hang. When decorating, it is a major source of frustration to reach the end of your last



strand just before you get to the edge of your house. Measure your edge, and factor in losing a few inches per strand for the slack you will inevitably have and the inches you lose at each strand connection spot. If you end up with extra lights, you can either hide them in the gutter, or you can take out a bulb to cut the power to the excess lights. A professional Christmas light installation company can assist you in creating the look you are dreaming of.

### Use the Yard

- Less is more, sometimes. Somewhere between an empty front yard and a Griswold-style Christmas, there is a happy medium, displaying just the right amount of holiday cheer. You want to avoid crowding too much outside, but think about adding lights to your trees or bushes. Companies even make light nets that make it easier than ever to cover your shrubs and small trees.
- *Include a statement piece*. There is much more than lights available for decorating your yard. There is an evergrowing list of variety in inflatable decorations, so you can be the first on your block with the latest trends.













Reindeer made of wire or cut out of wood are a great addition, and you can even use hunting decoys with a few accessories for a truly unique look. A Nativity scene is a popular choice with lots of options. You can display something as simple as Jesus, Mary and Joseph, or opt for the entire scene, complete with wise men, animals and a lit up Star of Bethlehem.

- "Spruce" it up. Most people put either an artificial tree or a cut-down real tree in their house for the season. One fun option is to plant a Christmas tree in your front yard. There are many varieties of pine trees, especially, that will grow well, and their increasing size lets each year be a new decorating experience. This is especially great if you have young children who grow older as the tree gets bigger each year.
- Plan your power. If you are adding lights to your trees, make sure to start the chord at the bottom, otherwise, you will have to run power up into your branches. Also, have an idea of where you will plug each chord running into your yard. You want to avoid too many possible tripping hazards, and if you can, try to hide the cords so as not to detract from the yard's beauty in the daylight hours.



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## Merry Christmas



Happy Holidays

From the

NOW Magazines family to yours!



## Themes Bring Everything Together

- Take it "light-ly." There is no specific right combination of lights, especially when decorating the outside. You can go all white, colored or settle on a blend of the two. But, symmetry is usually more visually appealing, so try to have a pattern to your light and ornament setup. The key is to avoid one strand or section that looks out of place among the rest.
- Your lawn needs focus. If you have a hunting Santa next to a newborn Jesus, all behind a skeleton from *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, your display may be sending mixed signals. Pick a genre and fit your decorations within that theme. Some great options include: gingerbread men, toy soldiers, Santa and his elves or religious themes. You can also get creative and add lights, red hats and jingle bells to any lawn motif to make a theme of your own.
- *Plan with the neighbors*. If you can get people on your block to agree, consider having an entire neighborhood theme. One option is to do something simple like coordinating your light color and placement. For something really special, work together to put on the 12 Days of Christmas, or you can even create an entire Dickens' Christmas village.

Whether you want a simple yard with well-placed, coordinated lights, or you want to transform your entire neighborhood into a white winter wonderland, use these tips and start with a solid plan to ensure your yard is full of holiday cheer!

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Decorate your home with furniture as fine and strong as the Canales family, who encourage you to browse their 6,000-square-foot showroom.

## **Family for Family**

The innovators at Canales Furniture/Muebleria help you make your house a home. — By Melissa Rawlins

Looking to furnish your home or office? Let the family operating Canales Furniture show you their fresh selection of furniture and financing. Offering products from over 40 different manufacturers, the options inside the wide-open taupe walls range from rustic to modern to Old-World elegant, and the colorful kids' room is full of unique furniture for children. You'll leave satisfied and comforted by the affordability of your purchases.

Canales Furniture offers payment plans for their high-quality furniture. They provide a program for customers to receive a rebate from the purchase made. And with their Family To Family project, a person earns the "Sale and Win" commission on sales made in store to any new customer they refer.

People all around the DFW Metroplex have enjoyed sleeping on Canales Dream World mattresses, made exclusively for Canales

Furniture. This month, they introduce their private collection of 34 items for living, dining or bedrooms, in antique, elegant or casual styles.

You'll enjoy looking at the desks, dressers, couches, beds, lamps, mirrors and paintings on display at the 6,000-square-foot store in Mansfield, just north of In-N-Out Burger. This is the second store opened in Mansfield by Veronica Canales, who started her business in 2003, selling door-to-door out of catalogs.

Veronica and her eight siblings built the business together out of a desire to have a better quality of life and keep the family together. "We all used to work in warehouses, and Veronica worked in a cleaner center," human resources director Nelly Canales Hernandez said. "My sister went to buy furniture for herself and got the idea to sell furniture from a catalog to friends and family."

### Business NOW

With one suitcase on wheels, Veronica carried catalogs around her apartment complex and knocked on doors, asking if her neighbors wanted to buy furniture. "She wasn't afraid of anything. She really wanted to have something better," Nelly said. "We had been working since we were very young, and our father always told us to stay united and work hard." Now, everybody in the family — including their grandmother — supports Veronica and her innovative business ideas because they all desire to do something good with their lives.

# You'll leave satisfied and comforted by the affordability of your purchases.

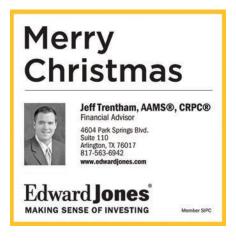
In 13 years, the Canales clan has built Canales Furniture to 10 stores throughout the DFW Metroplex. They integrated financing companies, so they could help people without credit to get furniture. They provided delivery and setup, always making sure there was no damage to the purchases. Their customers continued to refer other customers. And the stores still beat any price in town.

Employees, along with family members, have been loyal throughout the life of their business. Helping each other along the way, they're all now married with children—several of whom contribute ideas and elbow grease to the family business when they're not in school.

"We enjoy work because we feel like we're planting a work ethic in our children," Nelly said. "We believe God has a purpose for us. We are inspired to awaken every morning and do our best every day."

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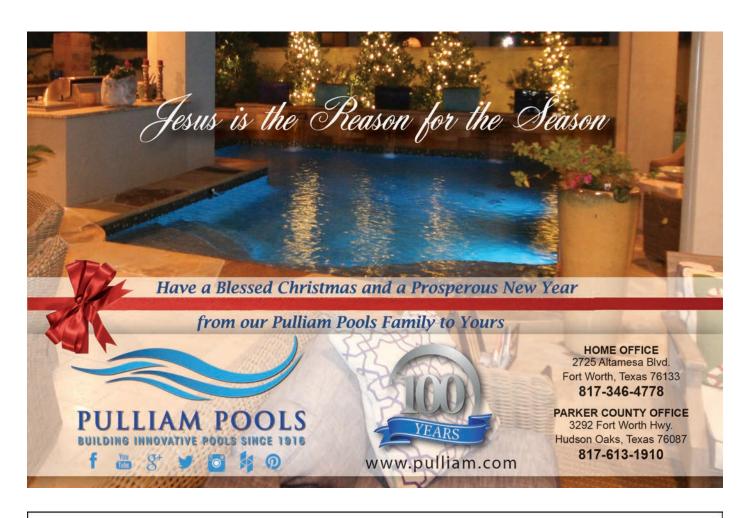


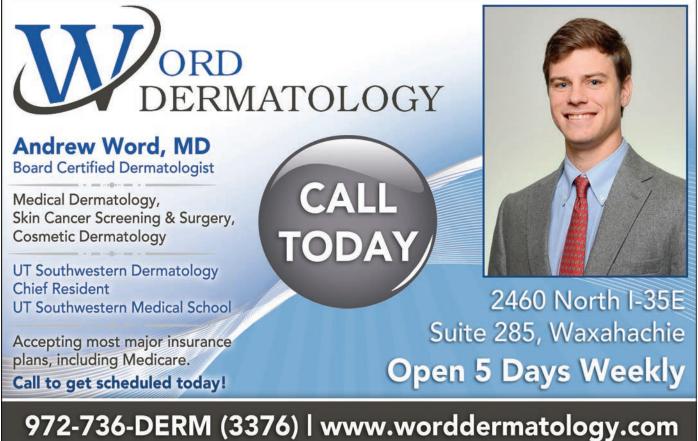


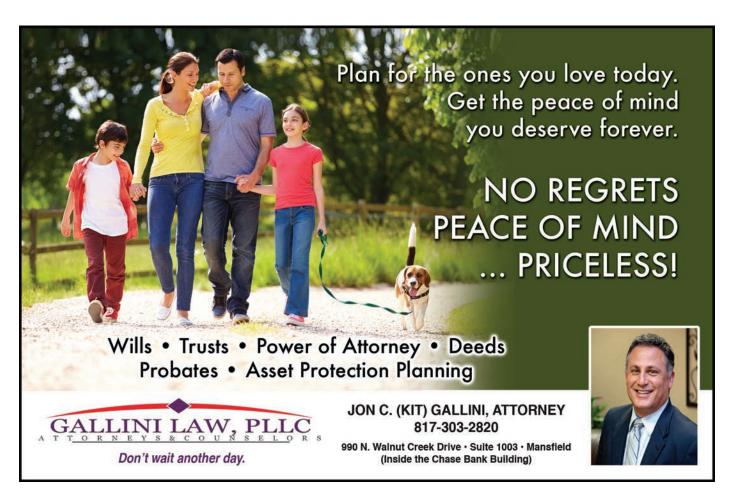














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### December 1, 15

Happy Hour: 4:00-6:30 p.m., The Pavilion at Creekwood, 2100 Cannon Creek Dr. Socialize with people who care about enhancing the lives of everyone in our community while enjoying wines and cheeses selected for the season. RSVP to Emily Featheringill, (817) 779-6500.

### December 2, 3

Hometown Holidays: **Friday**, 5:00-9:00 p.m., City Hall. Slide on ice, visit Santa and Mrs. Claus, shop the market, watch fireworks after the tree lighting and experience the Dallas Zoo penguins. **Saturday**, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Katherine Rose Memorial Park. The Kiwanis Falalala 5K and Fun Run kick off the day, followed by a noon performance of *Elf Jr. The Musical* by The Music Place. Then at 2:30 p.m., in Historic Downtown Mansfield, enjoy the Hometown Holidays Parade. Admission is free. Contact City of Mansfield Cultural Arts/Special Events Supervisor, (817) 804-5795.

### December 3

House of Hotrods and Classics 13th Annual Toy Drive & Car Show: 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., 2301 Hwy. 1187, Suite 201. Free admission with new, unwrapped toy. Call (817) 466-9942.

### December 4

Holiday Home Tour: 1:00-6:00 p.m., selected locations. Mansfield Women's Club hosts this popular event to benefit area charities serving women and children in need. \$25 when tickets are purchased in advance at Tom Thumb Customer Service Desk, The Cellar on Main and Poured on Debbie Lane. For details, visit www. mansfieldwomensclub.com.

### December 7

MISD Toys for Tots Community Event: 5:00-10:30 p.m., The Center for the Performing Arts, 1110 W. Debbie Ln. Bring new, unwrapped toys for the less fortunate. Free activities include photos with Santa and entertainment by MISD School children, Art Ballet Academy, Mariachi Sol Azteca. Call Jeanne Cassidy, (817) 299-1252.

### December 10

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off: 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Mansfield Environmental Collection Center, 616 S. Wisteria. Free. Contact David Macias, (817) 276-4239.

### December 13

Mansfield Fire Rescue Toy Drive: 3:00-5:00 p.m., Mansfield Community Bank. Dasher and Friends will be there with live reindeer, pictures with Santa and a Mansfield Fire Truck and firemen for kids to meet. Contact Amanda Hatley, amanda.hatley@pinnbank.com.

### December 16

Open House Holiday Celebration: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Mansfield Chamber of Commerce. Bring your best dish for our delicious pot luck gathering. Call (817) 473-0507 or visit www.mansfieldchamber.org.

### December 31

Financial Peace University: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., First Methodist Mansfield, 777 N. Walnut Creek Dr. Registration for this biblically-based, practical, entertaining and interactive series of 13 sessions must be complete by **December 31**. Email anner@fmcm.org.

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your event details to melissa.rawlins@nowmagazines.com.





### End-of-year Planning

As 2016 winds down, investors should take the time to consider a few items before the holidays take full swing. Some actions you take may have an impact on your tax situation for 2016, and others need to be done before the end of the year. Here is a short list of items you may want to consider.

- 1. Are there any investments you hold that could be sold for tax loss purposes? Gains and losses may be offset and could help reduce your capital gains tax liability. Check with your tax advisor or CPA before making any changes. Your financial advisor should be able to help you identify investments that might help with this situation.
- **2.** Have you taken your RMD? If you are over 70 1/2 years old, or have a beneficiary IRA, the IRS requires you to take a Required Minimum Distribution from those accounts. Most situations require you to take that distribution before the end of the year in order to avoid a penalty. Your financial advisor and/or tax advisor should be able to help you calculate the amount you need to take from the IRA, if they have not already provided you with that amount. Keep in mind, these distributions are most likely taxable.
- 3. Has your family experienced any weddings, divorces, births, deaths, adoptions or other family changes? Review the beneficiaries on all life insurance, annuity, retirement accounts and Transfer on Death agreements. Sometimes investors tend to forget this important aspect of their financial plan once the original document has been signed. The end of the year is a great time to review your primary and contingent beneficiaries.
- 4. Have you fully funded your IRA, Roth IRA or company retirement plan? While you have until April 15 of the following year to fund a Traditional or Roth IRA, if you have some extra cash that is not working for you, consider funding your retirement accounts before year end. You may need to check with your payroll department at work to change company plan contributions. Again, check with your tax advisor or CPA before making any deposits or changes.

- 5. Did you ever consider converting your Traditional IRA into a Roth IRA? Some investors can convert a traditional IRA into a Roth IRA. Doing so could result in taxable income for the year, but may also result in tax-free income later in life. There are many tax issues to consider with this item, so do not make any changes without first reviewing your current tax situation, income level and IRS regulations with your tax consultant or CPA.
- **6.** When did you last review your will, power of attorney and other legal documents? If you cannot remember when you did a legal document review, this might be a great time to dust off those documents and schedule a meeting with your attorney. Again, family changes, asset changes, address changes and other situations may require an amendment to those documents.

Even the best plans should be reviewed periodically. Take advantage of your team by contacting your financial advisor, tax advisor and attorney to schedule an appointment to discuss your investments, tax situation and legal documents. These meetings take time and may cost something, but planning ahead can sometimes help you avoid expensive and time-consuming events in the future. Once you finish these important meetings, enjoy your holidays!

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### Cooking NOW



### In the Kitchen With Sydney Valentino

— By Melissa Rawlins

Although 10-year-old Sydney Valentino knows desserts are not necessary for a healthy lifestyle, she enjoys eating them. Her favorite cook is her great-grandma, Billie Caruthers, whose banana pudding Sydney cherishes.

"I like to help in the kitchen anytime someone will let me," Sydney said. Her first memory, in fact, is baking Valentino Cookies with her whole family at Grandma Valentino's house around Christmastime. "It is fun, because we all help out." Sometimes she helps prepare dinner, too, but when she makes desserts, this adventurous girl's goal is for it to be delicious. Here, Sydney divulges her family's recipes, passed down from different cooks through the generations. Sydney and her family are making these sweets together this month, and sharing their joy-filled tastiness with friends.

### **Valentino Cookies**

This recipe from Great-grandmother Lucille Valentino makes 75-85 cookies.

1 orange (divided use)

1/4 lb. powdered sugar

1 lb. flour

1/4 lb. brown sugar

1/4 lb. white sugar

1/4 cup cocoa, or dark chocolate cocoa

1/4 tsp. baking soda

1/4 tsp. salt

1/2 Tbsp. cinnamon

1/4 Tbsp. allspice

1/4 lb. raisins

1/4 lb. chopped pecans

1/4 lb. Crisco, or butter at

room temperature

2 eggs

1/4 cup sour cream

1.5 oz. cold coffee

1/4 tsp. vanilla

**1.** Halve the orange, juice it and stir powdered sugar into the juice to make a glaze. Reserve until the cookies are removed from the oven.

**2.** Grate the peels, reserving the shavings onto a plate.

- **3.** Mix together dry ingredients. Add remaining ingredients, including the reserved orange rinds.
- **4.** Roll into balls the size of walnuts. Bake at 350 F for 12 minutes.
- 5. Glaze immediately.

### Kransekake

Norwegian Christmas cake recipe from Great-grandma Solveig Rudolph and Greataunt Kathy Bennett.

### Dough:

4 cups powdered sugar

3 Tbsp. flour

1 lb. almond meal

3 egg whites, extra large

Royal Frosting:

I egg white

1/4 tsp. cream of tartar

1 1/2 cups powdered sugar, sifted

**1.** For dough: Sift the powdered sugar and add flour. Stir in almond meal and mix well. Work in egg whites until thoroughly mixed so the texture is like Play-Doh. Roll with your

hands into 1/2-inch diameter strips. Place in buttered or sprayed Kransekake pans and bake at 375 F for 10-15 minutes, or until golden brown. Cool on racks. Note: Do not remove from pans until you are ready to assemble the cake tiers.

2. For frosting: With an electric mixer set at high speed, beat egg white and cream of tartar in a small bowl until foamy. Beat in powdered sugar, gradually, until frosting stands in stiff peaks and will hold a sharp line when a knife is drawn though it. Cover bowl with a wet paper towel to keep it from drying out as you are working with it.

3. Pipe a zigzag of Royal Frosting around

each ring as you stack them with the largest on the bottom, smallest on top. Decorate with Norwegian flags or candy, or your preferred ornaments. To serve, start at the bottom and break the largest ring into pieces; remove as many rings as you wish.

### **Divinity**

Recipe from Great-grandma Mary Hoover.

1/2 cup water2 cups sugarPinch salt1 7-oz. jar marshmallow crème1/4 cup chopped nuts

- **1.** Combine water, sugar and salt. Bring to a boil and boil for 2 minutes.
- **2.** Put marshmallow crème in a large bowl, and pour the hot mix into the marshmallow. Stir until gloss is gone. Mix in nuts.
- **3.** Drop by spoonfuls onto waxed paper. After 2 hours, divinity should be firm and ready to transfer to a serving plate.

### **Peanut Patty**

Recipe from Grandma Debbie Patterson.

2 1/2 cups sugar 1 cup half-and-half

3/4 cup white corn syrup

3 cups raw peanuts

1 stick butter

1 tsp. vanilla

2-3 drops red food coloring

- **1.** Combine first 3 ingredients and add peanuts. Cook and stir over low to medium heat until it forms a soft ball.
- **2.** Add remaining ingredients and beat 10-15 minutes, until creamy. Spread over waxed paper.
- **3.** Cool completely. Break into pieces and enjoy.



in the spirit of this holiday season!





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