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**2018 Holiday
Shopping Guide**

Sound of the Season

The beauty of the bells
rings in the holidays

Kids' Fun Pages



pp. 28 & 29

Crossword/Sudoku

pg. 30

Timeless Treasures at Every Turn

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ON THE COVER

Glimmering handbells will usher in the holidays.

Photo by
Shane Kirkpatrick.

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Subscriptions are available at the rate of \$35 per year or \$3.50 per issue. Subscriptions should be sent to: NOW Magazines, P.O. Box 1071, Waxahachie, TX 75168. For advertising rates or editorial correspondence, call (972) 937-8447 or visit www.nowmagazines.com.

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Sally

Sally Fuller
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Charles Dickens wrote, "It is good to be children sometimes ..."

"... and never better than at Christmas." Say "humbug" if you will, but I insist there is magic in the very air this time of year that brings out the child in us — or at least I hope so. And there it is, the word that so beautifully encapsulates the true magic of this season: *hope!*

I am a child turned grown woman turned grandmother who, although I never awoke on Christmas morning to a puppy squirming out of a box under our tree, refuses to relinquish the childlike hope that Christmas prayers are answered. Yes, I prayed for, wrote letters for and drove my parents crazy (I'm sure) for that white puppy with the red bow that never materialized. Still, I have hope that the gifts waiting beneath the metaphorical Christmas tree of life at this season, and beyond, are far better than a cuddly puppy — although that's admittedly a tall order.

This time of year is a reminder to have hope like a child in the wonder of hope itself. Though you can't wrap it in a box and tie a ribbon on it, you can give it away to everyone you meet. Let's sprinkle these holidays with hope like a kindergartener left alone with a bottle of glitter! Merry Christmas, North Ellis County!

And "God bless us, every one!"

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

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Merry Christmas!

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SOUND * OF THE * Season

— By Sally Fuller

Whether it's a ping or a ding, a bong or a dong, the sound of ringing bells touches the human psyche in a way other musical instruments simply can't. From ancient times (think pre-Egyptian pyramids), the almost mystical property of the bells' melody has played a part in major religious and secular events and ceremonies. In more modern times (think Middle Ages), bells chiming from a tower in the center of town could summon hearers to worship, to a celebration or to a battle. Even today, bells still are tolled at memorials, rung at weddings, and in North Ellis County, played by a choir.

Twenty-eight years ago, the centuries-old tradition of handbell ringing found a home in North Ellis County when Red Oak's First United Methodist Church Handbell Choir was formed. For almost three decades now, the choir has literally rung in the holiday season for the community as only the nearly celestial beauty of the bells can. First United Methodist Minister of Music Larry McCord believes the music of the bells signals the arrival of the season.

"I think most people relate the sound of the bells to Christmas. They hear it, and they're like 'Oh, it's Christmas again!'" Larry said.

"Christmas again" for those listening for the call of the bells begins a few days after Thanksgiving with the church's annual Hanging of the Greens celebration. During this service, the sanctuary transforms into an evergreen wonderland, complete with lights, wreaths and a Christmas tree. Church members and nonmembers alike take part in the decorating. When the transformation is complete, the handbell choir takes its place behind the



long cloth-covered, padded tables and with gloved hands rings in the season playing what Larry called “sacred Christmas music.”

Larry has served as the church’s music minister for just over four years, but it is by no means his first gig. He earned his master’s degree in music from Southern Methodist University and is currently a full-time instructor of music at Hill College. He’s served as music minister in other churches and denominations throughout his decades’ long career, a career choice doubtless influenced by his father, who also dedicated part of his work to church music ministry, and his mother, who played music in church throughout her life.

His formal education, many years of experience and growing up in a musically gifted family helped when Larry joined First Methodist with *no* handbell choir experience. “I actually had not really played handbells before I came here except once at a workshop, so I had to basically learn from the ground up,” he said. Happily, with assistance from other handbell directors and his “right hand,” Jo Wilsford, Larry has learned the requisite techniques and the handbell choir continues its tradition of creating an atmosphere that is both celebratory and sacred for any and all who come to hear.

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For several weeks throughout the holidays, under Larry's direction, the members of the handbell choir take their places at the back of the church to play the traditional songs of Christmas for the community. These services are some of the most memorable of the year for those who attend and particularly for the handbell choir members.

Jo, a church lay leader and handbell choir member, said playing behind the congregation makes the performance even more special. "I like most of all that we play usually from the back, and the music just seems to float over the congregation. It's not like a performance," Jo said.

She added that, for her, the unique sound of the bells creates a more "spiritual" experience. "I just love the music of the handbells. It's just a different sound and different experience to hear that music," Jo shared.

The choir originally formed in 1990 under the direction of former music minister Jan McCall. A member of the group since its inception, Jo said bringing the special sound to Red Oak was no small feat. The three-octave set of Malmark handbells was acquired through donations from the congregation.

Permanent labels attached inside the leather handle of each bell memorialize those donations as contributors dedicated their gifts to others. Jo dedicated her bell to her two daughters, who also have been part of the handbell choir.

Larry admitted the gleaming brass bells are expensive, but quickly added "worth every penny" when placed in the hands of his ringers. Handbell choir members practice and study their parts for many hours in anticipation of their

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performances not only at Christmas, but throughout the year. Each handbell ringer is responsible for three or four bells that are close together, so they have to learn only where those particular notes are, but there are special techniques to master, such as the gyro, where the bell is rung and then moved in a circular motion to create a unique sound.

Jo, who is also a member of the chancel choir, said even though a handbell ringer is only responsible for a few notes, that responsibility is significant. "There's a different musical skill with the handbells, because you are the only one on that note or those few notes so it really takes a lot of concentration and a different kind of skill ... In a choir, there are five or six sopranos, so if you miss a note, no one will probably notice. That's not the case in handbell choir," Jo explained. "If you're not there or miss a note, it's obvious. That challenges me as a musician to practice and do the best I can with the notes I'm responsible for," she stressed.



Choir membership is open to anyone, and members range from teenagers to those in their 70s, from experienced musicians to those who've never looked at a piece of sheet music. "If only music readers could be in it. I probably wouldn't have a handbell choir," Larry said, laughing. That is not something anyone wants to have happen. **NOW**

Editor's Note: For more information on the FUMCRO Handbell Choir and its performances, contact the church office at (972) 617-9100.

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TIMELESS TREATS *at Every Turn*

— By Rick Mauch and Sally Fuller

Walking through Miki Canada's home is like stepping back in time. Not that her house is old — quite the opposite — but cradled within the walls of the tastefully decorated home is a treasure trove of collectibles and antiques that is truly awe-inspiring. At every turn, visitors are invited to let their eyes feast on the banquet of memorabilia, antiques and artwork throughout the 4,000-square-foot home. At Christmastime, Miki unpacks even more treasures as she readies her home for the holiday season.

Christmas is Miki's favorite time of year, and though she no longer puts a tree in every room as she once did, she still loves decorating. Among the highlights of her Christmas decorating is a collection of more than 100 handmade Byers' Choice Caroler figurines.

A sampling of Miki's caroler collection atop a black-lacquered baby grand piano greets holiday guests as they enter her home. A handbell choir and their conductor, an assortment of London street criers and Bob Cratchit and Tiny Tim are among the characters in this particular grouping of about 50 carolers. In a corner of the same room, Clara, The Nutcracker Prince and the Mouse King



AT HOME WITH MIKI CANADA



URES

from *The Nutcracker* adorn the top of a second piano. A Salvation Army band of carolers, their mouths opened in perpetual silent song, stands on yet another tabletop in the music room.

"I used to live in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Most of them came from there, but I've also found some in various places," Miki said of her extensive collection. The caroler collectibles are handmade in the Bucks County workshop where they originated more than half a century ago. A native of Pennsylvania, Miki has lived in North Ellis County since 2002, and although the carolers are not as easy to find in Texas, her passion and persistence have enabled her to continue to add to her collection.

"There's a place in Plano. I just got a call that they have some, so I'm anxious to get over there and see those," she said, a hint of excitement in her tone.



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She also has found the figurines at the Dallas Arboretum and a few specialty stores in the Dallas area.

Also in the music room is a French antique, glass-fronted armoire that houses a collection of Bijoux M.G. Czechoslovakian multicolored glass Christmas trees. The reds, blues, pinks, purples and greens of the vintage glass sparkle like new, despite being more than 60 years old. Miki came across the first of these gleaming trees in an antique store a few years ago. "I bought them all from one lady at Old Town Village Antiques in Waxahachie. She has one now that has some yellow on

it, so I think I may go get that one," Miki said, smiling.

A set of handmade, hand-painted santon clay figurines makes its home on a shelf between the kitchen and the foyer. Santon collectibles originated in the Provence region of France during the French Revolution when churches were closed forcibly and nativity scenes were banned. An artisan by the name of Lagnel is said to have made the first santons to depict common folk from all walks of life making their way to the Nativity of Jesus.

Miki is a self-proclaimed lover of American history. A flocked Christmas

tree in her foyer is adorned in her collection of historically and politically themed ornaments. Among subjects depicted on the ornaments are the White House, the Declaration of Independence, George Washington and some of President George W. Bush's original paintings. "And, of course, we have to have the lion and the lamb for Jesus," Miki said of the two glass animal ornaments nestled amongst the history.

While her carolers, Czechoslovakian glass trees, santon figurines and historical ornaments take center stage this time of year, other collectibles and items of historical significance fill Miki's home year-round. Porcelain figurines from the Royal Doulton Pretty Ladies Collection help fill the glass-fronted



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armoire. "My husband gave me this one year," she said, pointing to a "lady" clad in deep burgundy.

Another of Miki's favorites is a unique piece of art titled *Three Sisters* that she purchased at an African art exhibit at the Dallas Arboretum. It depicts three women joined together as one. "When I saw the Zimbabwean sculptor working on it, I said, 'I'd love that.' I'm one of three sisters," she said, punctuating the significance of the piece.

In the hallway is an antique grandfather clock from Reading, Pennsylvania. Inscribed on the inside of the door are handwritten notes chronicling the times previous owners had the clock worked on. One inscription reads *February 3, 1876*. Nearby is an antique baby buggy from the early 1900s. Upstairs, visitors are met by a 5-foot-high spinning wheel. "I didn't really have room for it, but I fell in love with it," Miki joked.

Also, upstairs is a collection of handmade quilts, dating back as far as the 1800s. "My mom made this Grandmother's Flower Garden quilt," she said of the quilt whose green border creates a pathway weaving in and out of multicolored flowers, then launched effortlessly into the lineage of some remaining quilts as though they were old friends being introduced to a guest.

"This one was in my father-in-law's family. This one was in my former pastor's family. This quilt I got from an estate sale in Highland Park. It was a prize winner at the fair." She paused and pointed to a red, white and dark green quilt hanging on the wall. "That is from the Civil War era," she said. "That border is 'Turkey Red.' It's a unique dye that was very sought after back then because it didn't run. It has a Christmas look about it," she mused.

Besides working on her remarkable collections, Miki has recently taken up playing the flute again, is interning to be a Master Gardener and taking Spanish lessons. "I like to stay busy and keep myself active," she said, adding with a laugh, "This is a big place, but I can only wander around it so much."

Miki has no plans to move. "Where would I start?" she said, a little skeptical at the idea of downsizing such a formidable collection. "All of this represents my life." **NOW**



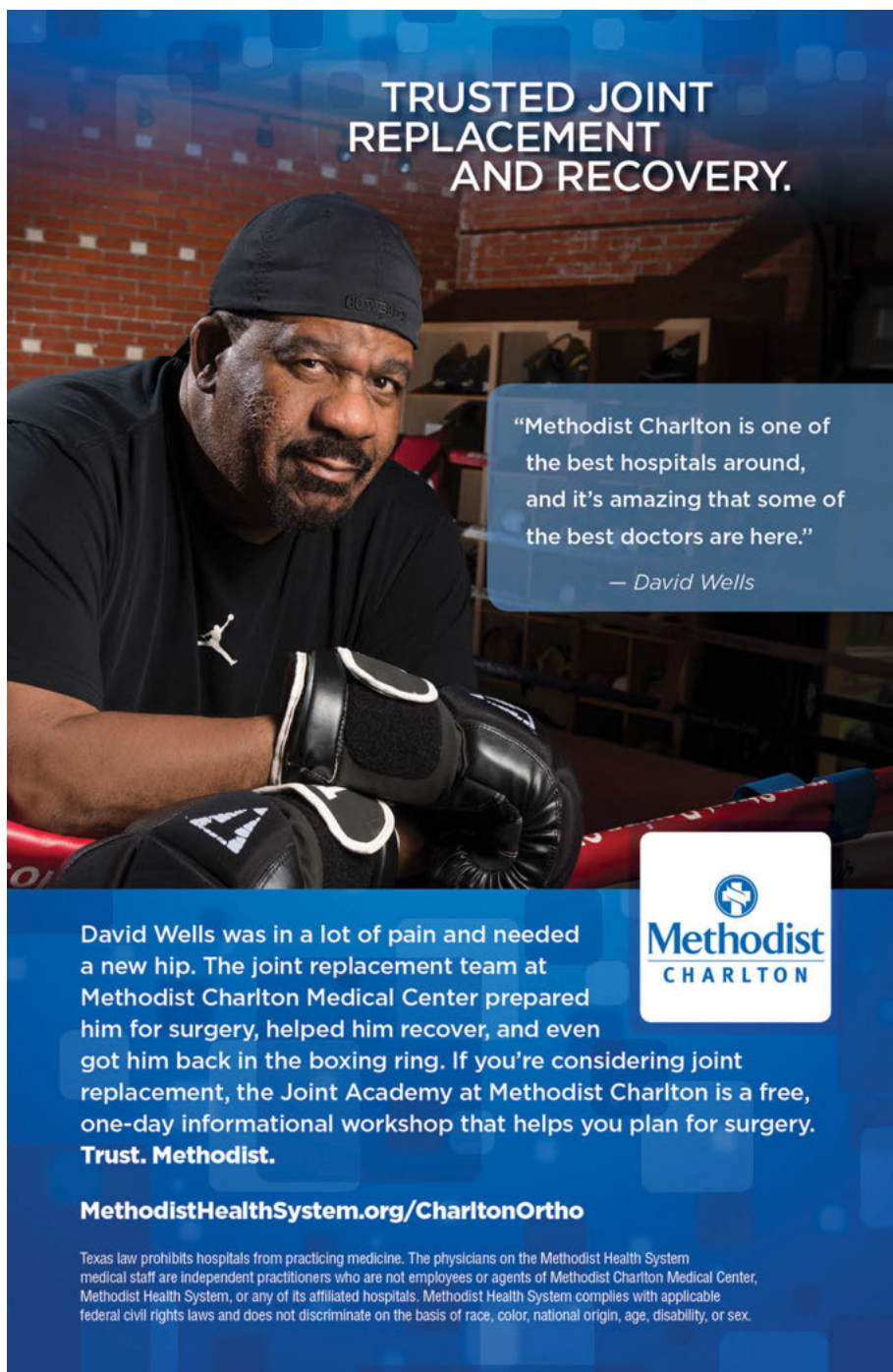
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Joyeux Noël, North Ellis County!

— By William T. Smith

When Leone Bromley came to Texas, she brought more with her than an intriguing French accent. Born in Newfoundland and raised in Quebec, Canada, Lee (as she's known) began celebrating Christmas with French-Canadian traditions in her Carrollton home. Now in Ovilla, Lee and her family are sharing their unique customs with a new set of friends in North Ellis County.

Lee's blend of Newfoundland and Canadian upbringing meant Christmases that included a mix of traditions. "I was raised with Anglo traditions at Christmas. Attending midnight Mass as a family inaugurated this important event, after which we always shared a meal. In typical Newfoundland fashion, this was usually comprised of wild game, mostly rabbit or partridge soup and mustard pickles," Lee shared.

Lee credits her daughter, Vanessa, who was born in Canada and spent her childhood there, with the inspiration for carrying on the family's Christmas traditions. "[She said] 'Mom,

we need to do our Christmas like we used to at home,'" Lee recalled, noting that was very different from the typical American celebration.

Guests begin arriving around 4:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve, and children go to bed early, so they can be awake to attend midnight Mass and the celebration that follows. "When we return home, the children open some of the gifts before the elaborate spread is served. The meal may extend into the wee hours of the morning," Lee said.

"In French, the meal is called Réveillon, and it includes preparing pork, beef and veal for meat pies," Lee explained. "The meat pies are called tourtières, and the meat spread is cretons. We use French-Canadian spices that *must* come from Canada."

There is also meatball stew, and going back to her Newfoundland roots, Lee added, "We had to add pease pudding, which should be made with yellow split peas and onion mashed with tons of butter. It's eaten with turkey and ham."

The emphasis of the celebration is French-Canadian, but keeping with the spirit of the season, the celebration includes everyone. "Since we are in America, we've added some traditional American dishes. My son-in-law, Mike, likes for us to include his aunt's stuffing," Lee said, smiling. Even though

the feasting may last until around 2:00 a.m., guests leave room for dessert, which may include a Christmas log and traditional cookies made with dates, cherries and walnuts.

Bedtime for young and old comes in the early morning hours after the massive meal. "After a few hours of much needed adult sleep, the children are awakened, and we continue with Mike's traditional American exchange of gifts on Christmas Day. Christmas stockings are usually kept for later in the day, and much of the day is spent quietly playing card games and drinking hot chocolate and rum," Lee said.

"In French, the meal is called Réveillon, and it includes preparing pork, beef and veal for meat pies."

The Christmas 2017 celebration almost didn't happen. Citing exhaustion from a recent move and Vanessa changing jobs, Lee said they considered foregoing their regular celebration in favor of a quieter Christmas. "In our state of exhaustion, we decided to keep the guest list to a minimum. Apparently, we had underestimated how much our friends had enjoyed the prior years. They were calling, saying things like, 'Did we do something wrong that we are not being invited this year?'"

Not willing to disappoint their friends, Lee said she and Vanessa began a campaign of text messages and emails, and on Christmas Eve, the house was full.

Although no one has taken a headcount, Lee estimates between 30 and 40 friends and neighbors typically attend the family's Christmas celebration. Lee hopes that number continues to grow as they make new friends in Ovilla and surrounding areas. Christmas traditions, like those Lee and her family share with their community, create memories and relationships that build bridges from generation to generation and from culture to culture. **NOW**

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CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With

RHONDA LANDRUM

— By Sally Fuller



Rhonda Landrum says her “down-home” cooking is an inherited skill. “About 90 percent of the cooking I do is an inherited way to cook a certain food or an inherited recipe,” Rhonda said.

While Rhonda admits she “loves to eat,” the most important part of any meal is who’s around the table, not what’s on it. “I love family and the times we share food together. I have many fond memories of food, family and holidays, Christmas being my favorite and the spread my grandmother and mother prepared,” she recalled.

Rhonda learned to cook from her family matriarchs, and apparently, she learned well. “One of my biggest triumphs was when my dad said I cooked as good as my mom. My mom can cook!” Rhonda exclaimed. **NOW**

Original Nestle Toll House Cookies

- 2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 cup shortening
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 3/4 cup brown sugar, firmly packed
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 eggs
- 1 12-oz. pkg. Nestle Toll House Morsels (approximately 2 cups)
- 1 cup chopped nuts (optional)

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. In a small bowl, combine flour, baking soda and salt; set aside.

- 2. In a large bowl, combine shortening, sugar, brown sugar and vanilla; beat until creamy.
- 3. Beat in eggs. Gradually add flour mixture; mix well.
- 4. Stir in chocolate morsels and nuts.
- 5. Drop by rounded teaspoonfuls onto ungreased baking sheet; bake 8-10 minutes.

Mother-in-law’s Pecan Pie

- 3 eggs, slightly beaten
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup melted butter or margarine
- 1 cup white Karo syrup
- 1-1 1/2 cups whole pecans
- Pinch of salt

- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 9-inch deep-shell piecrust

- 1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Mix all ingredients together in order; pour into unbaked pie shell.
- 2. Bake for 45 minutes. Turn oven off, allowing pie to cool in oven.

Strawberry Cookies

- 1 box strawberry cake mix with pudding (or substitute other flavors containing pudding)
- 4 oz. Cool Whip
- 1 egg
- Powdered sugar, to taste

- 1. Preheat oven to 325 F. Mix all ingredients, except powdered sugar, with a pastry blender. Roll into half-dollar-size balls.
- 2. Roll in powdered sugar; bake on ungreased baking sheet for 8-10 minutes. Note: Do not overbake.

Mom’s Sweet Potato Casserole

- Casserole:
- 3 large or 5-6 medium sweet potatoes, about 6 cups (If pressed for time, use 1-2 large cans of candied yams.)

- 1 can Eagle Brand sweetened condensed milk
- 1 can evaporated milk
- 1 stick butter, melted
- 4 eggs
- 1 Tbsp. vanilla
- 1 1/2 cups sugar

Topping:

- 1/2 stick butter or margarine, softened at room temperature
- 1 cup brown sugar, firmly packed
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans (more if desired)

1. *For casserole:* Boil potatoes until tender; drain. Let cool until handled easily.
2. Peel potatoes and process in a blender in small amounts with wet ingredients (for ease of processing) until smooth.
3. Stir sugar into potatoes. Place in 10x13-inch buttered casserole dish.
4. *For topping:* Mix butter, sugar and flour with a fork until crumbly. Add pecans and sprinkle on top of casserole. (For a thicker topping, increase ingredients by 1/2.) Bake at 350 F for 50-60 minutes.

Christmas Morning Wassail

Makes approximately 20 6-oz. servings.

- 2 qts. apple juice
- 1 46-oz. can pineapple juice
- 1 12-oz. can frozen orange juice
- 1 6-oz. can frozen lemon juice
- 1 orange juice can of water
- 4-6 sticks whole cinnamon
- 1 tsp. whole cloves
- 1/2 cup light brown sugar

1. Combine juices and water in a large coffee percolator.
2. Place cinnamon, cloves and brown sugar in the basket of a percolator and percolate.
3. Remove basket from pot; serve hot.

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— By Virginia Riddle

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Starting a business? Or own a business that's drowning in financial record-keeping and legal requirements while facing ever-changing tax codes? Following a passion and being one's own boss are part of the American dream, but finding time to grow that business can be difficult. Kevin McDonnell, CPA, JD and Jim Richardson, CPA, CGMA, partners in McDonnell Richardson CPA, PC, are experts in handling administrative tasks so business owners can focus on their businesses. "We

listen, so we know what the client's needs are," Jim said. "We're proactive."

"Further, we want to establish the client's objectives and determine how we can meet their needs effectively," Kevin added.

In 2003, Kevin realized his dream and grew his business from a shared office with one employee. Today, Kevin and Jim employ 30 people in the firm's Waxahachie and Ennis locations.

The team at McDonnell Richardson assists Jim and Kevin in tax preparation and filing, general accounting, payroll, controller services, income tax audits, IRS disputes and commercial property disputes. Jennifer McDonnell, CPA; Destiny De Leon; Craig Fenton; Ava Willard, MBA; and Greg McElroy, EA, help manage the accounting practice of McDonnell Richardson. Dustin Coates, JD, is Kevin's law partner in the legal practice of McDonnell Coates, LLP.

The legal and accounting services were recently brought under one roof in the firm's Waxahachie office. "Bringing everything together allows us to operate with efficiency and

effectiveness, which results in additional benefits to our clients,” Kevin explained. “It’s an honor, and we enjoy helping clients and employing people. We’re making lives better.”

Kevin and Jim meet the challenges of staying knowledgeable in employee benefits including health care, tax and accounting laws and changes in retirement. “We keep up with clients’ business growth,” Jim said. “It’s a full-time job for us and a burden that we’re releasing for clients. Our mission is to always stay proactive and provide a better experience.” The firm provides a free mobile app with beneficial tools that are downloadable to iPhone, iPad and Android devices.

A native of New Orleans, Kevin earned his Bachelor of Science in accounting with a minor in management and a Doctor of Jurisprudence from Tulane University. He lives in Midlothian with his wife, Jennifer, who is also a CPA, and their two children, Alex and John. Kevin is an instrument rated pilot and academic. “I love learning,” he said. A founding member of Ellis County CASA, Kevin is also a St. Joseph Catholic Church advisory board member. He holds memberships in the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants and the State Bar of Texas.

Jim grew up in Arlington, Texas. He earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from The University of Texas at Arlington. Jim also holds memberships in AICPA and TSCPA and has recently earned his property casualty insurance license. He lives in Waxahachie with his wife, Paige, and their three children, Caitlin, Allan and Carson. Jim served as band booster treasurer and as a select soccer team board member. He’s on the finance committee at First Baptist Church Waxahachie.

McDonnell Richardson CPA, PA and McDonnell Coates, LLP are members of the chambers of commerce in Waxahachie, Midlothian, Ennis and Red Oak. Kevin said, “We love the Ellis County environment and people.” **NOW**




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The City of Lights

— By Corey C. Poole

Natchitoches is known for many things — its culture, cuisine and hard to pronounce name (Nack-a-tish). Named after a Native American Indian tribe, Natchitoches translates to “pawpaw eaters,” a fruit tree once plentiful in the region.

From its roots as the oldest settlement in the Louisiana Purchase, Natchitoches was established in 1714 by French explorer Louis Juchereau de St. Denis as a French Outpost along the Red River. After the river changed its course in the late 1800s, Cane River Lake was created, a 33-mile long section of the Red River that is now landlocked. The downtown Historic District is nestled along the banks of this picturesque body of water.

“The City” is known as the filming location for *Steel Magnolias*, as the Bed and Breakfast Capital of Louisiana and as a popular tourism destination. Nicknamed “The City of Lights,” Natchitoches is best known for its six-week Christmas Festival of Lights, featuring more than 300,000 lights that make the town twinkle with magic. Starting the weekend before Thanksgiving with a “Turn on the Holidays” celebration, the festival continues through January 6. The official Natchitoches Christmas Festival Day is the first Saturday in December. A Christmas parade winds its way through downtown. Vendors sell fresh meat pies, and bands perform through the night. 2018 marks the 92nd annual celebration.

While this is the most popular festival, there’s a plethora of events to enjoy year-round. Enjoy a day of competition, and cheer on rowers at the Dragon Boat Races, held annually at the beginning of March. In April is the Melrose Arts and Crafts Festival, where more than 100 vendors sell

their wares beneath the canopy of oak trees at Melrose Plantation, just 17 miles south of Natchitoches. And the Natchitoches Jazz R&B Festival is held annually in May with four stages playing a variety of music from jazz to rock.

For 39 years, the Natchitoches/NSU Folk Festival has been held annually in July in the air-conditioned Prather Coliseum on the Northwestern State University Campus. Browse through vendors and demonstrations, and listen to an eclectic variety of musicians.

Both the Fall and Christmas Tour of Homes offer sneak peeks inside some of the town’s historic buildings, presented by the Natchitoches Historic Foundation and the Association for the Preservation of Historic Natchitoches. Also in the fall, stroll the streets and look under the hoods of antique autos at the annual Natchitoches Classic Car Show.

Each October, prominent figures from Natchitoches’ history come to life at History Among the Tombstones: Stories from the American Cemetery. And the Grand Ecore Visitors Center, Los Adaes State Historic Site and Fort St. Jean Baptiste each offer unique programming throughout the year from lectures to demonstrations and re-enactments.

Stroll through downtown shops like Kaffie Frederick — Louisiana’s oldest general store. Bring a boat and cruise Cane River and Sibley Lake for some of the best fishing spots around, or grab a kayak and take it slow. Whatever adventure you have in mind, Natchitoches will welcome you with its true Southern charm and hospitality. **NOW**

Photo credit: Poole Photography.

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One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well.
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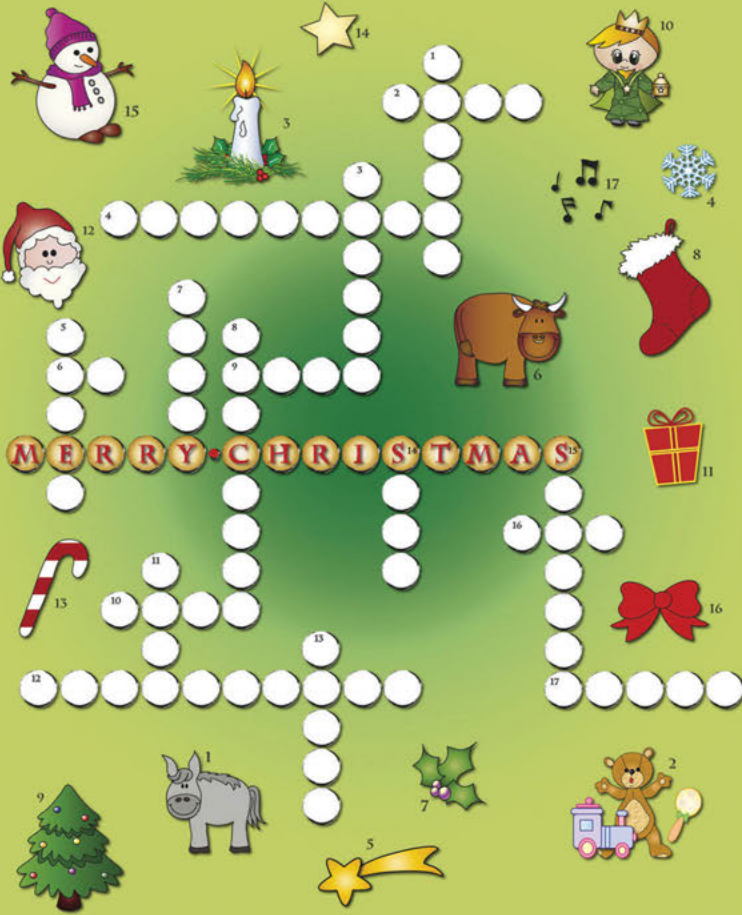
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Kids' Fun Pages

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD



..... Time for Presents

Can you spot the two identical pictures?



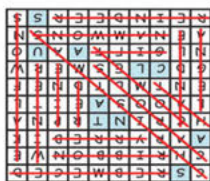
ANSWER: 1 & 3



MYSTERIOUS WORD:

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

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BERRY
CANDLE
CAROLS
CHRISTMAS
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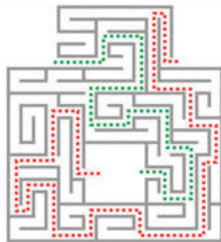


Kids' Fun Pages

Help the little elves to find the way to Santa's sack.



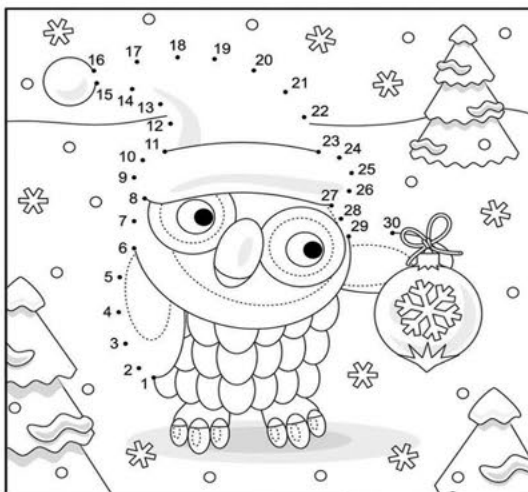
ANSWER:



Draw a line from dot number 1 to dot number 2, then from dot number 2 to dot number 3, 3 to 4, and so on. Continue to join the dots until you have connected all the numbered dots. Then color the picture!



ANSWER:



ANSWER:

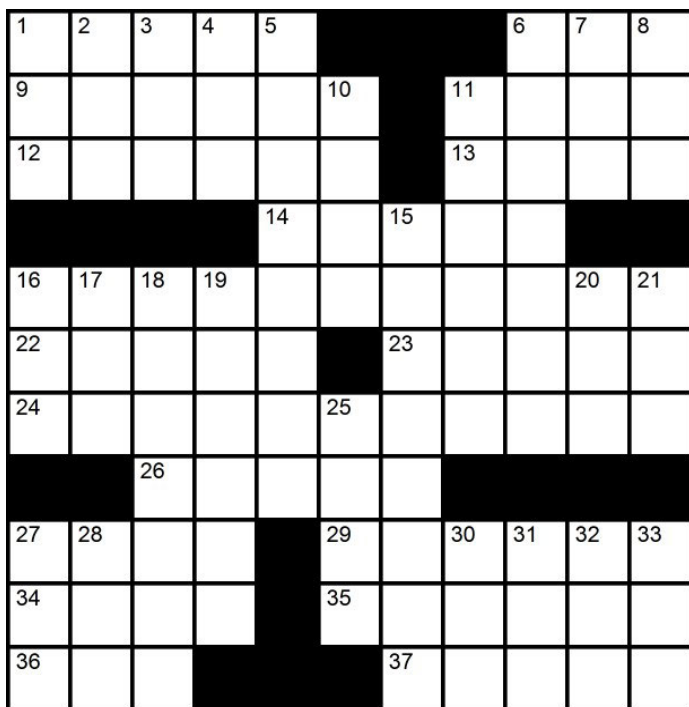


Help Santa get through the HAT maze to catch up to his hat. It was blown away by the wind.

ANSWER:



Crossword Puzzle



Crosswordsite.com Ltd

Across

- 1 Spud source
- 6 Short boxing punch
- 9 Roomy autos
- 11 Sainly symbol
- 12 Accident
- 13 "I suppose"
- 14 Match
- 16 Turnpike convenience
- 22 Solo numbers
- 23 Like certain organs
- 24 Multiply rapidly
- 26 Teacher
- 27 Gratis
- 29 Onetime Disney chief
- 34 Obstructs
- 35 How bodysuits fit
- 36 They go with outs
- 37 Pixie

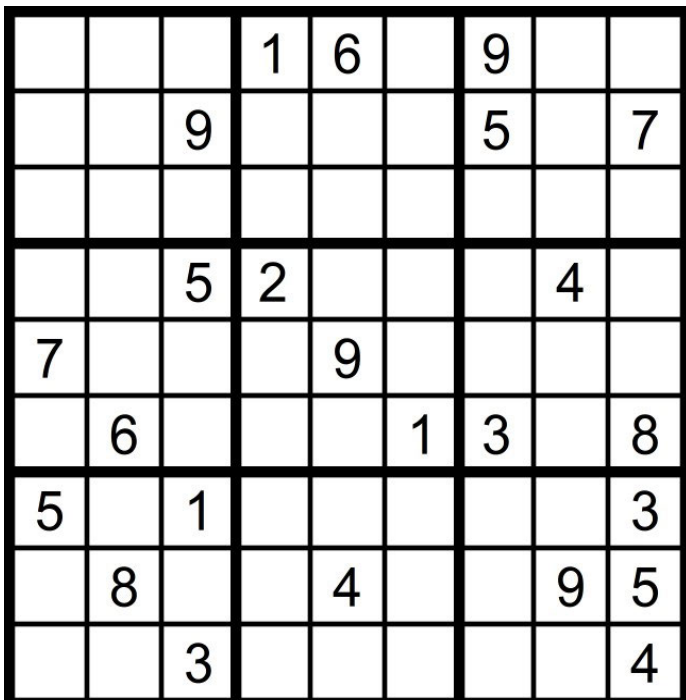
Down

- 1 Doctrine
- 2 Agnus or Opus follower
- 3 Sales aids, for short
- 4 "Baloney!"
- 5 Stopping by
- 6 Capital of Indonesia
- 7 Cotton state
- 8 Early man?
- 10 Building detail, briefly
- 11 Type of balloon
- 15 Breaking off
- 16 Plant juice
- 17 Sin
- 18 Unruly mob
- 19 Appraises
- 20 Consume
- 21 Malt beverage
- 25 Hatfields and McCoys
- 27 Crime fighters
- 28 Hurried
- 30 Daystar
- 31 The Y is one
- 32 Horror street
- 33 Cereal grass

[Solutions on page 35](#)

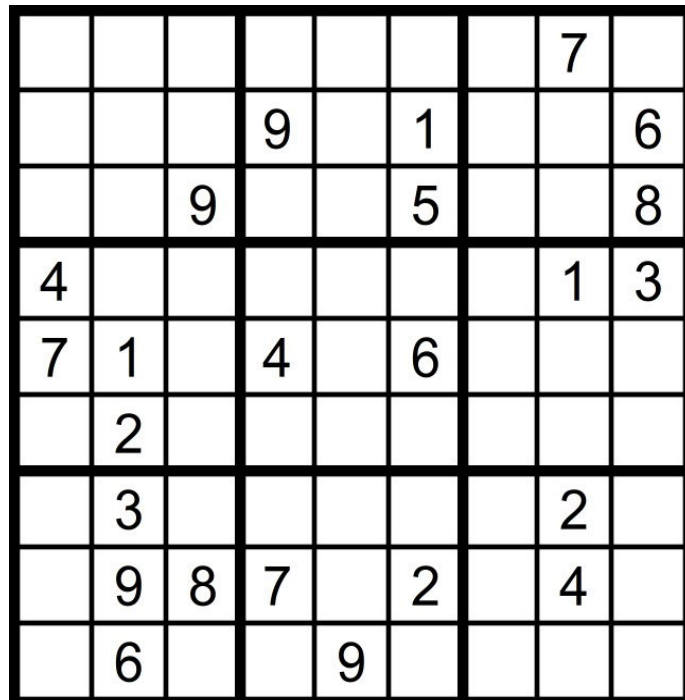
Sudoku Puzzle

Easy



Crosswordsite.com Ltd

Medium



[Solutions on page 35](#)



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- Proverbs 22:6

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Zoomed In:

Daniel St. Ama and Karen Anderson By Sally Fuller

Daniel St. Ama and Karen Anderson were two of several hundred folks who came out to run, walk or simply watch this year's Red Oak Hawk Hustle. The annual 5K run and 1 Mile Fun Walk raise funds for the Red Oak ISD Education Foundation.

Karen, who is the foundation's executive director, said the benefit of the event is twofold. "It's an opportunity for us to celebrate health and fitness, as well as raise funds for the foundation." The foundation provides innovative teaching grants for classrooms throughout Red Oak ISD.

This was Daniel's first year to participate. As manager of one of the local businesses that sponsored this year's event, Daniel said he was there to run, have fun and "support the community and the schools."



Ferris HS seniors Leo Figueroa and Bryon Juarez inspect a cup tower during a tour of TSTC's Red Oak campus. The tour was for robotics, engineering and ag students.



Zachary Horn with the 5U Red Oak Hawks T-ball team tags homeplate during an exciting game at the Red Oak baseball fields.



Angel Medel and Brenda Bazaldua are crowned ROHS 2018 Homecoming King and Queen during a pep rally at the school.



Cole and Erin Spradlin of CSE Mobility, with friends Jordan and Christina McClary, enjoy a Casino Royale experience at the Red Oak Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner and Auction.



Meisa Mason of Glenn Heights takes a break from some outdoor chores to enjoy a cool autumn afternoon under the trees.



Virginia January displays the 2018 Ferris Pioneer of the Year award she received for her outstanding community service.



Wonder Woman (also known as Aria Feliciano) and her parents, Stephanie and Danny, enjoy a night of super (hero) fun at Grace Church of Ovilla's Trunk 'N Treat celebration.

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12/1

Bodacious Bows! at the Ferris Public Library: This will be a class on making giant bows to top your Christmas tree or easy, small bows to decorate presents. Attendees should bring ribbon and chenille sticks (pipe cleaners) or wire. Noon-1:00 p.m., 301 E. 10th St., (972) 544-3696.



Christmas in Red Oak: Festivities begin with the Christmas parade proceeding west on Main Street to Watkins Park (101 Live Oak St.). Other activities include Santa, a hayride, inflatables, food, vendors and more. Noon-3:00 p.m.

12/1-12/2, 12/7-12/9

Bethlehem Revisited: Step back in time 2,000 years to the town of Bethlehem where you'll meet storekeepers, Roman soldiers, shepherds and a young couple and their newborn baby. Free. 6:00-9:00 p.m., 402 N. College St., Waxahachie.

12/2

Christmas Concert with Hollyn: Christian pop singer and American Idol finalist Hollyn will perform at the Oaks Church. 9:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., Oaks Church, 777 S. I-35E, Exit 408, Red Oak, (214) 376-8208.

12/6

PJ Polar Express Movie Night: Come dressed in your favorite holiday pajamas

to watch the family favorite *Polar Express*. 6:00 p.m., Red Oak Public Library, 200 Lakeview Dr., (469) 218-1230.

Ferris 7th and 8th Grade Band Concert: 7:00 p.m., Ferris High School Gymnasium, 1025 E. 8th St., (972) 544-3737.

12/8

Ferris Chamber of Commerce Christmas on the Square: Photos with Santa, arts, crafts, a Lighted Night parade and a chili cook-off to help kick off the holidays. 2:00 p.m., activities on the Square; 6:00 p.m., Lighted Night parade.



City of Glenn Heights Christmas Tree Lighting and Holiday in the Park: A night of fun for the whole family with a trackless train, pony rides and more. 4:00-6:00 p.m., Heritage Community Park, 400 E. Bear Creek Rd., (972) 223-1690.

City of Ovilla Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration: 6:00 p.m., Ovilla Heritage Park, 105 Cockrell Hill Rd.

Breakfast with Santa: The Ferris High School foyer will be transformed into Whoville for a plated breakfast with Santa and a FHS theater performance of *A Seussified Christmas Carol*. Breakfast is \$5; all other activities free. 8:00-11:00 a.m. (theater performance at 10:00 a.m.), FHS, 1025 E. 8th St., (972) 544-3737.

12/9

Community Christmas Choir Concert: 7:00-9:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church of Ovilla, 1403 Red Oak Creek Rd., (972) 617-8840.

12/10

Red Oak High School Holiday Band Concert: 7:00 p.m., ROHS Performing Arts Center, 220 S. State Hwy. 342, (972) 576-8644 or (972) 617-2941.

Ferris 6th Grade and High School Holiday Band Concert: 7:00 p.m., FHS Gymnasium, 1025 E. 8th St., (972) 544-3737.

12/11

Red Oak Middle School Holiday Band Concert: 7:00 p.m., ROHS Performing Arts Center, 220 S. State Hwy. 342, (972) 576-8644 or (972) 617-2941.

12/13

Red Oak High School Choir Winter Concert: 7:00 p.m., ROHS Performing Arts Center, 220 S. State Hwy. 342, (972) 576-8644 or (972) 617-2941.

12/15

Jingle and Jolly at the Ferris Library: Jingle the Elf and Jolly the Snowman will present a magic show, snowman race and zany inventions from Santa's workshop. Attendees under 8 must be accompanied by an adult to this free event. 1:30 p.m., free refreshments; 2:00 p.m., show time, 301 E. 10th St., (972) 544-3696.

12/24

Vertical Church Candlelight Service: 4:00-5:00 p.m., 5:30-6:30 p.m., 3333 Ovilla Rd., Ovilla, (469) 401-1685.

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to sally.fuller@nowmagazines.com.

Crossword - Sudoku Solutions

1	I	2	D	3	A	4	H	5	O	6	J	7	A	8	B
9	S	E	D	A	N	S	10			11	H	A	L	O	
12	M	I	S	H	A	P	13	O	K	A	Y				
				14	V	E	S	T	A						
16	S	E	R	17	V	I	C	E	A	R	E	20	21	A	
22	A	R	I	A	S		23	V	I	T	A	L			
24	P	R	O	L	I	F	E	R	A	T	E				
			26	T	U	T	O	R							
27	F	R	E	E		29	E	I	S	N	E	R			
34	B	A	R	S		35	S	N	U	G	L	Y			
36	I	N	S			37	G	N	O	M	E				

Easy

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

Medium

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



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DEC. 30 - 8:30 | 10:00

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Merry Christmas



From Red Oak ISD!