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M A G A Z I N E

DECEMBER 2018

Kids' Fun Pages



pp. 42 & 44

Crossword/Sudoku

pp. 46 & 47

**2018 Holiday
Shopping Guide**

**Featured Business:
Hand and Stone**

**In the Kitchen With
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From Old to New

At Home With Jessica Eaves

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You may have already had this diagnosed on an MRI and thought that there is little that can be done about it. That's a major problem: bad information, because in the right hands, a lot can be done for you.

To end the misery caused by Bulging DISCS, you must have the right information. Pay close attention because I'm going to destroy some important myths and give you the facts.

MYTH: Bulging DISC problems will just "go away" with some rest.

FACT: If you are dealing with back pain, buttock pain or leg pain, then you must seek help from a Bulging DISC specialist immediately. If left untreated, the problem can lead to permanent nerve damage - and lifelong pain.

MYTH: Pain is the only problem associated with Bulging DISC problems.

FACT: In severe cases, this problem can lead to the inability to control your bowels, bladder and sexual potency - leading to embarrassing situations.

MYTH: You must take pain medications to deal with Bulging DISCs.

FACT: Drugs like muscle relaxants, pain killers, narcotics, antidepressants, and anti-seizure medications have serious potential side-effects and do not cure Bulging DISCs.

MYTH: "I must have done something wrong to damage my DISC."

FACT: Physical work or simply sitting at a desk for long periods can lead to Bulging DISCs. Accidents and trauma can also be the culprits. Pregnancy can cause damage. DISC Bulges can happen to anyone - including super-fit celebrities like Tiger Woods, Sylvester Stallone, and British Olympic medalist Ian Wynne.

MYTH: Stop exercising and get several weeks of bed rest to let the Bulging DISC recover...

FACT: Staying active can help to relieve the pain and prevent the pain from getting worse. Staying inactive in bed could be the worst advice - based on a recent study in the Netherlands.

MYTH: DISC Bulges or herniations require surgery.

FACT: NO! There's been a huge breakthrough in the treatment of Bulging DISCs.

MYTH: "There's nothing anyone can really do. I'm just stuck with this for the rest of my life."

FACT: With the correct treatment from a healthcare professional who specializes in Bulging DISCs, you can find relief from the core cause - and the symptoms.

MYTH: Getting a Bulging DISC properly diagnosed is expensive.

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CONTENTS

8 MEMORIES
BEYOND
LIFETIMES
Cutting trees and more
provides tradition for more
than 20 years.

16 FROM OLD
TO NEW
At Home With Jessica Eaves.

22 UNUSUAL
TRADITIONS
Unique ways to celebrate
holidays make family
memories their own.

34 MONEY CENTS
Make the most of your year-
end giving and saving.

40 THE CITY
OF LIGHTS
True Southern charm and
hospitality welcome you to
Louisiana's oldest settlement.



30 CookingNOW

38 BusinessNOW

48 Around TownNOW

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ON THE COVER

*Jessica Eaves' historic home
makes a great backdrop
for Christmas.*

Photo by
Kenzie Axtell.

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Lisa

Lisa Bell
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Isn't it amazing?

The lights, sounds, smells. I love December. And yes, I admit it. I sneak over to a store's seasonal area as soon as they put up the Christmas trees and line the shelves with new decorations. Not because I intend on buying a lot of new stuff, but I can't help myself. I can't wait, so I enjoy seeing everything way before I put up my own decorations.

When I was a child, I got to sleep on the sofa in the room with the Christmas tree if we had company. I'd fall asleep with a record on the stereo and the lights twinkling. Sometimes, I sit in my own living room now with all the other lights in the house off and simply enjoy the tree. Almost every ornament and decoration in my house — and yes there are a lot — carries sweet memories. In my heart, I hope for the wonder of a child. I long for the simplicity of coming up with a simple gift I made or saved pennies to buy. Of course, back then, pennies bought so much more than they do now. Still, a heart full of love and giving brings me great joy. And during this season, that's what I most want to experience again.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

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!



I want to express my gratitude to each person that voted for me and supported my campaign; donations, providing a place for signs, placing signs, phone calls, block walking on my behalf. None of this would have been possible without your friendship and support. I am very grateful for each of you that were involved. I want to give a special thank you to my wife, who has been my greatest supporter, along with other family members and friends.

I am humbled that you have placed your confidence in me for another term. I promise to continue to serve with honesty, integrity, and a commitment of excellence each and every day.
Thank you!

Craig Peacock

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MEMORIES BEYOND • Lifetime

— By Lisa Bell





Glenda Dearman didn't grow up on the 4D Christmas Tree Farm. But when she married Dean, she became part of generations who absolutely love this special place in Parker County.

Marion and Ron Dearman met in California on the beach. She was from England, but he came from Knox City, Texas. "She was a beach pick-up," Ron said with a mischievous grin. Slightly older than Ron, she wouldn't marry him until he turned 18. They lived in California before moving to many different states with his job. His parents lived in Fort Worth, so eventually they ended up in Weatherford. Their land was an old salvage yard, yet held beautiful trees and an amazing view. Driving out, the road tops a hill, and the countryside strips away your breath.

They bought and moved to the farm in 1988 when Dean was only 13 years old. As a teenager, Dean had best friends nearby. They spent lots of time exploring and kayaking down the river to the lake. He loved the farm.

Originally, they raised cows and livestock. Before long they changed to growing trees. "Cows get out and eat the neighbors' bushes. Trees don't," Marion said,





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laughing. At first, they had an orchard with apples and peaches. Then in 1997, they planted 500 Virginia pines. They no longer grow pines, and the orchard no longer exists. But they still grow an abundance of Cypress Christmas trees. In 2000, the family opened up their farm to the public and sold their first trees. A year later, they added one card table with one plate of cookies. Since then, they open up on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Although people come to buy a tree, the farm is so much more than a place to cut the perfect Christmas tree. For many, it became an annual tradition. One young family came each year. Now they return with their grandchildren.

Glenda and Dean always talked about returning to the farm. Four years ago, after having their third child, they outgrew their house and decided to make the leap. They built a house backing up to the farm. They can easily help with never-ending work. Brady, their 9-year-old son, already helps out and is learning to drive the mowers. At 6, Hannah claims she will run it someday. Even though Preston is only 4, he already loves planting trees. The kids also have a big part in making sure kid-friendly crafts and games remain part of the seasonal activities.



Each year, the day after Thanksgiving is a special event for the family. The Dearmans adopted Glenda's family. A more-than-30-foot tree towers in the middle of the other trees. The entire family comes out from Fort Worth and Dallas. They decorate it and allow anyone who wants to use it for a backdrop to do so. Every year, many families come out and take a photo in front of the giant tree, measuring their children's growth and enjoying tradition. Whether they purchase a tree or not, it is an opportunity to slow down and simply enjoy time together.

Now, 4D Farm includes hayrides, a barrel train — created for Glenda and Dean's children, but shared with guests — and other farm games to play. A small building provides a place to come in out of the cold and enjoy hot chocolate, apple cider or coffee, along with fresh-baked cookies. The original farmhouse still stands on the property. Although it was literally falling down, they remodeled it, and now Ron's mother lives there. At 94, she still loves baking cookies, which they serve to guests. A warm, clean bathroom was also an important addition. Although they sell some homemade gifts and jams to cover the operation costs of the building, that isn't their primary purpose. They have lots of crafts and goods made by local neighbors, family and friends. One of their cousins has Parkinson's disease, but she makes beautiful cards they place in the shop. It is an outlet to help others, as well.

Marion was a former assistant principal and still serves on the board for Coutts Christian Academy. She wrote a book, *Destination Heaven*. She plans to use proceeds from book sales to support

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the academy. She is currently working on a YA science fiction novel that will teach kids about their self-worth.

"This isn't our full-time job," Dean said. "So, we get to enjoy the families who visit every year." But as he and Glenda are becoming more involved with the farm, it is evolving. They love having crafts and free activities available for the children. Friends gave them a large nativity set, which they place beside the road — a reminder of the true meaning of Christmas.

The sunsets are Glenda's favorite part. "I love hearing the door open followed by, 'Grandma!'" Marion said. Dean simply loves Christmas and growing things. It's getting back to God for him. Ron remains in awe of creation — especially the sunrises and sunsets. "I'm truly a blessed man," he said.

For all of the family, Christmas is a favorite time of year. They love sharing their farm with others. One couple came out last year supposedly to take photos for a special Christmas card. What she didn't know was that it also included an engagement ring and proposal. The Dearman family loved being part of the surprise, and hopefully an annual tradition for these new friends. That's the greatest blessing of their farm — the many friends acquired over the years.

"Glenda's great with people," Marion said, smiling. "She remembers people. Dean does the research, and Ron fixes things. I weed and water."

Dean shared that it takes five years for a tree to grow. "There's always something to do," he said. "We want to keep it going for the next generation." In doing so, they provide a place for families, who become lifetime friends, to return and create memories for generations to come. **NOW**



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AT HOME WITH JESSICA EAVES

From **OLD** to **NEW**

— By Lindsay Allen



It's difficult to use just one, or even two, adjectives to describe Jessica Eaves' home. It's historical, industrial, vintage, yet modern. It's DIY and most of all, it's gorgeous and perfectly decorated. Her talented eye for grouping décor items and staging beautifully refinished pieces keep the eye entertained and drawn to all corners of the home.



"I think the belief is that when you decorate it has to be 'matchy-matchy,' but variety is more entertaining for the eye and draws people into the décor of the home," she said. Her Christmas decorations are perfectly styled, as well, creating a scene that would put anyone in the holiday spirit.

When she moved to Weatherford, she wanted a historical home and ended up purchasing one built in 1896 by Sam R. Williams, a confectioner, and his wife. The home was later sold to a widow who raised her six young sons in the home, along with her mother-in-law and brother-in-law, who lived with them. The home changed owners over the years, only making the history richer for the home Jessica desired.

The exterior at Christmas time is picture perfect. With a white exterior, antique red wagon and old snow sled, all decorated with garland, Christmas wreaths or poinsettias, the home looks adorable and inviting.

The Queen Anne-style home boasts Eastlake-style ornamentations and has been remodeled several times, with the exterior remaining the same. One of the major changes Jessica made to the home was the removal of a huge wall that divided the living room, dining room and office space.

"This house had great bones to it, but I didn't put a bid in until I knew I could remove the wall and open the dining room and living room into one big area,"

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she said. "To separate the two spaces is a huge distressed and stained wooden beam I added that runs along the top and serves as a focal point in the room."

Additionally, Jessica came in and replaced some of the carpet with wood floors carried throughout the home, and



she added shiplap to the ceiling of the dining/living space, along with canned lighting. "Making this open living room/dining room area just how I wanted it was very important, as this is the room my friends and I gather in and where I feel the most comfortable," Jessica said.

The living room has the fireplace that was part of Jessica's checklist when looking for a home and is complete for the season with two perfectly hung burlap stockings, a gorgeous poinsettia-

themed Christmas tree and garland along the mantel. The cream-colored couch is paired with an oversized print chair and rustic red coffee table with a subtle Christmas-themed bowl, Christmas pillows and a lamp Jessica rewired, using an olive basket as the lamp shade.

Jessica aims for a cozy feel in her home. Fortunately, the styled décor for the season, combined with the historical feel, gives the exact vibes she seeks.





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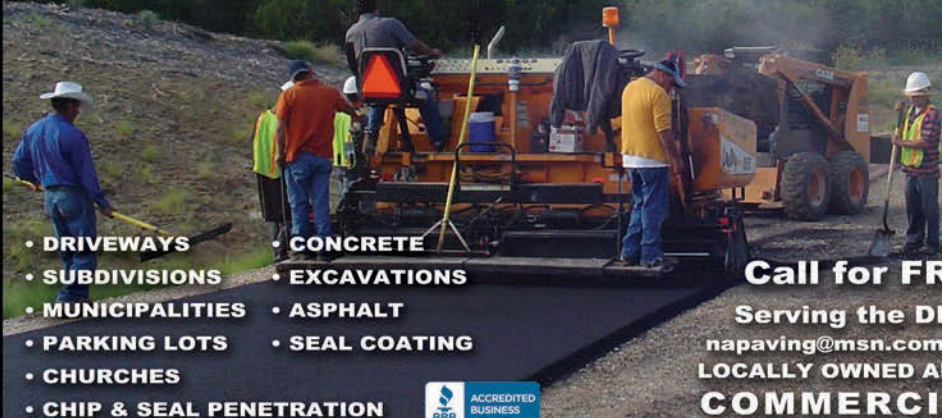
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In the kitchen area, the handmade table is surrounded by chairs from the '70s Jessica had refinished, much like many other pieces in the home, and one side of the table has couch seating. Across from the table is a serving buffet with various Christmas photo frames and knick-knacks that add the extra "pop" in the room. Colorful artwork from an old cigar box is blown up and framed in an antique window.

Jessica's office space has windows overlooking her backyard, with a desk she made by taking an old door, covering it with epoxy and adding bed posts for the legs, as well as barn hinge doors. To the right of her table is a narrow wall and bookshelves carved out of the wall.

Her eye for decorating and refurbishing old pieces doesn't go unnoticed. "What you might call my china cabinets were pieces a neighbor asked if I could use. I refurbished those and they sit near my kitchen table now," she said. "I have a closet full of pieces and décor items that friends decided they no longer wanted, and while I don't have a use for them now or have time to refurbish them, I hang on to them and change out my décor when the time is right."

While her kitchen is smaller than she preferred, it offers beautiful wood countertops, with the countertop space to the right of the sink built at two different levels to improve the ergonomics of the kitchen. The other side of the kitchen has bar-style seating that faces the wall. In the middle is a metal cart she uses as the island, complete with a chandelier above it.

"The island has an industrial feel to it, much like many pieces throughout the home, but I'm always looking to soften the industrial feel with an antique vibe," Jessica acknowledged.

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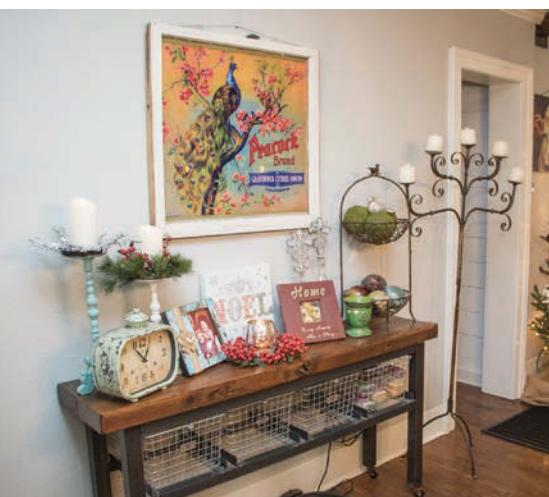
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In the master bedroom, Jessica wired old chicken feeders to serve as lamps that hang on either side of her bed, and she turned an old door into her floor-length mirror. "I cleaned this door and added new hardware and embellishments and then had the mirror attached to it," she said, "It's a duck egg color with a glaze over it."

Also, in the master bedroom is a dresser Jessica found from a lady who sells replica vintage furniture. She uses a robin-egg-blue jewelry cabinet featuring deer antlers mounted above it as a necklace holder. Her room has a door to the front porch, which served as one of the front entrances to the home when it was a duplex.



Adding more of her DIY touch, Jessica built beautiful shelving in the master bathroom using thick wood she purchased, distressed, stained and placed on top of black plumber's pipe. The master bath, just like the guest bath, has wood countertops and an industrial light fixture hanging in the center.

"I'm constantly finding something and have ideas for the embellishments and hardware and what I want for the final product," Jessica said, "Most of the items around the house are 'recycled,' as I pick them up while antiquing, or junktinquing, as my friends and I call it."

Jessica's style, combined with her beautifully restored historical home, was featured as part of the Parker County Candlelight Tour of Homes last Christmas. The tour, which takes place each December, features historical homes in the county that are decorated for the holiday and open to the public for tours. **NOW**



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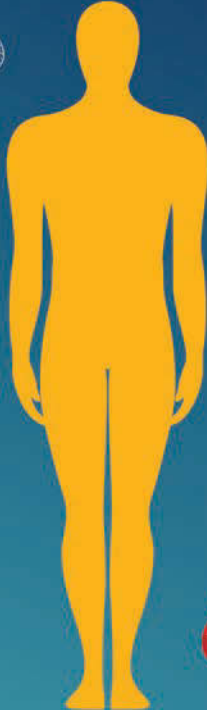
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Unusual Traditions

— By Lisa Bell

As Christmas Day approaches, families gather, each with their own way of celebrating the holiday season. From traditional customs, slightly tweaked, to unique and strange ones, each one is special.

Gift giving is a tradition shared by many. In Gwenn Hamm's large family, each adult brings a gift, and they all draw numbers. Then, in turn, they open a gift. The next number can take the gift or open another. "It's a very economical way to have good quality fun with the family," she said. They laugh at the silly and most unique gifts, competing to get the one they want most.

This tradition, often referred to as "Chinese Christmas," is shared by many families. Mother and daughter, Sue Curry and Tami Pitts, also play this game and others on Christmas Day.

Tami said they have a lot of "stealing" going on. With 25-30 people around for holidays, it's a fun option for gift giving. They also incorporate small prizes for some games they play. They choose traditional turkey and dressing for Thanksgiving. However, at Christmas, everyone brings food to share, usually following a less traditional theme like Mexican dishes or barbecue.

Some celebrate with extended family on Christmas Eve. Jessi Smith said, "We enjoy Mexican food and bingo every Christmas Eve."

Judy Gilliam gathers with her family on Christmas Eve, as well. Although they all bring dishes, her kids think it isn't Christmas without tamales on the table. But she doesn't attempt to make homemade tamales. "Rosa's does a really good job," she said, chuckling.

Summer Wilkes has three sons. In December they welcome their fourth child. She made sure to buy a new ornament for this baby. It is a tradition started for her as an infant. Each year,

her grandparents and parents gave her a new ornament. Now she's passing on the tradition to her children, and her parents give one to them, as well. Like Summer, her kids will have years' worth of ornaments when they reach adulthood and have their own families.

Like many people, Shelley Shrader wants to remember Jesus at Christmastime. While her kids were young, each year, a few days before Christmas, she made a cake, decorated with a nativity on top. On Christmas Day, she gathered around the table with her husband and children, singing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus. It was her way of keeping the special meaning in the holiday. She also made an advent wreath, which she still uses. This family always traveled to a nearby Christmas tree farm and cut their own live tree. With her kids now in adulthood, she's moved away from some of their old customs, but the memories remain.

Emilie Lofgren describes her Christmas traditions as rather international in nature. A Sicilian from New York, she always makes lasagna on Christmas Eve. However, her husband, Magnus, is from Sweden and was a chef by trade. He always makes Swedish crepes (also known as lingonberry crepes) with ice cream and berries on top. Each year, they invite neighbors to come over and celebrate before going to a church service.

When the Lofgren children were younger, they participated in Christmas Lucia, a beautiful Swedish tradition. The girls, dressed in white with a red sash, proceed into the church. The wreaths on their heads may have electric candles, but often they use actual lighted candles, which the girls must keep balanced. "Having my girls participate in Lucia was magnificent," she shared with a glimmer in her eyes. They also have many handmade wooden ornaments from Sweden, which she displays proudly.

Whatever traditions your family uses, Christmas is a perfect time to make wonderful memories. Perhaps you have old ones from your childhood you are passing to your children or you are working at creating new, unique ones. Either way, enjoy this holiday with those you love, and keep traditions alive. **NOW**



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CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With

YZABELLA GALICIA

— By Lindsay L. Allen

Yzabella Galicia has already finished her very own cookbook after she learned how to read at school. The cookbook was handwritten, autographed by Yzabella herself and only one limited edition copy was made. As she continues to try more and more recipes, she continues to add to her cookbook, as well.

“Baking is my favorite, but I love to make grilled cheeses, too!” she said. “I cook because I like to eat.” When given the option, she loves to bake with vanilla and cinnamon, and when given the chance, preparing breakfast for her family is one of her favorite things to do. She credits her cooking and baking skills to the help and guidance of Mom and Meme. **NOW**

Energy Balls

- 1/2 cup peanut butter
- 1/3 cup honey
- 3/4 cup rolled oats
- 1/3 cup cocoa powder
- 1/3 cup coconut, shredded
- 1/4 cup wheat gum
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1/4 tsp. cinnamon

1. Microwave the peanut butter for 15 seconds to slightly melt it. Do this with the honey, as well, to make it more liquified.

2. Combine all ingredients in a mixing bowl. Roll the mixture into balls at your desired size. Refrigerate before serving.

Marshmallow Mermaid Pie

- 5 Tbsp. butter, melted
- 1/2 cup sweetened, flaked and toasted coconut
- 9 graham crackers
- 34 large marshmallows
- 1/2 cup whole milk
- 1 1/2 cups heavy or whipping cream
- 1 oz. unsweetened chocolate, grated

Mini marshmallows, for topping
Maraschino cherries, for topping
Rainbow sprinkles, for topping

1. Preheat oven to 375 F. Combine butter, coconut and graham crackers in a food processor until coarse crumbs form.
2. Press the crumbs to the sides of a 9-inch pie pan; bake for 10 minutes. Let pie shell cool.
3. Heat the marshmallows and milk in a 3-quart saucepan over low heat until smooth; stirring constantly.
4. Remove the marshmallow mix from heat; let it cool completely.
5. In a large bowl, beat the cream at medium speed until stiff peaks form. Fold the marshmallow mixture into the whipped cream with grated chocolate; spoon the filling into the crust.
6. Refrigerate the pie at least 3 hours or overnight. Top with mini marshmallows, maraschino cherries and rainbow sprinkles.

Peachy Keen Tarts

- 4 personal-size containers peach yogurt
- Cheesecloth
- 1 1/2 cups peaches
- 1/2 cup kiwi

1 1/4 tsp. cinnamon
 1 1/4 tsp. sugar
 10 sheets phyllo dough (divided use)
 1/4 cup peach preserves

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Drain yogurt for 1 hour in cheesecloth.
2. Thinly slice the peaches and kiwi. Mix cinnamon and sugar together.
3. Spray tart pan with cooking spray. Press 5 sheets of the dough into the tart pan; fold the edges over toward the center of the pan.
4. Spray the dough with cooking spray; sprinkle with 1 tsp. of the cinnamon-sugar mix.
5. Lay the remaining dough on top; sprinkle with 1 tsp. of cinnamon-sugar mix. Press dough against the sides of the pan to secure it. Bake for 10-15 minutes, or until golden brown.
6. Cool the dough; toss the fruit slices with remaining cinnamon-sugar mix.
7. Spoon yogurt into the pastry shell; top with fruit.
8. In a saucepan, over medium heat, melt the preserves; brush on top of the tarts.

Falling in Love Pie

1 14-oz. can condensed milk
 2/3 cup water
 1 3-oz. pkg. chocolate pudding mix (not the instant mix)
 1 1-oz. square unsweetened chocolate
 2 cups whipping cream
 1 9-inch baked pastry shell

1. In a large saucepan over medium heat, thoroughly combine milk, water and pudding mix.
2. Add chocolate square; be careful not to burn the mixture.
3. Over medium heat, cook and stir very fast until the chocolate melts and thickens. Remove from heat; beat until smooth.
4. Cool the mixture; refrigerate until chilled.
5. Beat whipping cream until stiff. Stir chilled chocolate mixture and fold in the whipping cream.
6. Pour the mixture into the pastry shell; chill for 4 hours.

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your first name and initial

With the holidays in full swing, it's easy to focus on decorating, buying presents and planning parties all the way through New Year's Day. But this is also the time to be thinking about some key end-of-the-year tasks, especially with regard to your finances. By following these tips, you can be sure to end your financial year with a flourish befitting the festive time of year.



MONEY CENTS

— By Zachary R. Urquhart

Helping Others the Financially Sound Way

• *Give before it's too late.* While waiting until after New Year's to give to charity just means you will have to wait to claim until next year's tax returns, it can be nice to use part of your holiday bonus to give one last time to the church or nonprofit of your choosing. Even if you cannot physically hand a donation over before January begins, getting your check postmarked by December 31 should ensure that you can use that last gift on this year's tax return. And if you work at a large



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company, ask if they have used all their charitable funds. Many businesses offer a charity matching program to incentivize employees to give. You could be doubling the contribution to a charity just by asking a simple question at the office.

- *Keep records of your giving.* The rattle of change hitting a red kettle at the mall or grocery store is as much a sound of the season as the bells the volunteers are ringing. If you are wanting to give more than just your pocket change to The Salvation Army, or any nonprofit for that matter, it is better to donate online or with a check, so you can keep track of your giving. Your taxes are nowhere near the most important part of giving to others, but it is nice to get a small break in April as a result.

- *Do not assume paperwork is coming.* If you are giving to a charity you have not previously supported, make sure they will send a letter you can use in case the IRS tries to disallow your exemption. Most large nonprofit organizations do this regularly, but you may want to double check before giving a large sum away. If you wait until the IRS has denied a return, it will probably be too late to avoid penalties.

Prepare Now for Taxes Later

- *Start collecting paperwork.* You will not have all the forms you need to file your taxes for a few months, but you can still start consolidating papers and receipts now. Try to make it a goal to have a file with all the tax paperwork already in your possession before the new year begins. And if you moved into a new home this year, you will want to be sure you have your Homestead Exemption Form ready to file at the start of the year.

- *Check your accounts.* You may not need to do much between now and the flipping of the new calendar, but the

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end of the year is a good time to assess your accounts. Be sure you are paid up and ready for the next round on any property taxes or business taxes if you are self-employed. Make sure there are no changes you need to think about for any bank accounts or mutual funds.

- *Buy now to save later.* If you are already thinking about making any big purchases, it may make sense to buy them before the end of the year. You might forget to claim the exemptions or sales tax on a fridge if you buy it in January and have to wait until next year's tax return. Check if there are any energy-efficient tax credits for appliances you are looking for, as those are not guaranteed to remain next year.

A Penny Saved

- *Know your deadlines and limits.*

When it comes to retirement accounts, you have until the filing deadline, as opposed to the end of the year, to claim contributions on your taxes. The other thing to consider is your yearly limit. You can contribute thousands of dollars through your 401(k), if applicable, at your job. For individual retirement accounts, you can claim up to \$5,500 dollars each year, and you can double that if you are married and file jointly with your spouse. If you receive a large bonus, or anticipate a large raise next year, it might be in your best interest to maximize this year's contributions.

- *Find other ways to save.* Aside from typical mutual funds and retirement accounts, there are other options, especially if you are trying to save money for your children. There are multiple college savings accounts available, and they typically have more flexible limits than retirement funds.

- *Reflect on the year.* If you are taking advantage of an employer's 401(k) matching offer, there is a science involved in maximizing your contribution. You can top out too early or wait too long, so look at the end of the year to see if you did all you could.

This season, while you are staying warm by the fire or watching your favorite holiday movies, take some time to make sure you ring out the old year with as much financial stability as you can. **NOW**



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BusinessNOW

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— By Lisa Bell

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Saturday: 9:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
Sunday: 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Just under a year ago, on January 22, 2018, Frankie Dinwoodie and Joni Eddy officially opened the Weatherford location of Hand & Stone Massage and Facial Spa. The weekend before that, they did a trial run with friends and family. And they haven't regretted a moment since, although Frankie jokingly admitted she gets far fewer massages than she used to.

While the two women looked for a business opportunity,

a friend gave them a gift certificate. They immediately began prioritizing lunch and a massage every month. After about four months of membership, they decided to pursue opening a new location. "What better thing to do for a business?" Joni asked.

Although Frankie is more of a behind-the-scenes computer/software person, while Joni does a lot of the in-office work, both are passionate about Hand & Stone. "It's about self-care," Frankie commented. "Massage is part of it."

While most people think of a massage or facial as a luxury, Joni and Frankie disagree. "If you've never had a massage, it's a great introduction to self-care," Joni said. "Do it for yourself." The women admit some people come to them for issues they used to see doctors trying to resolve. According to the owners, their services make everything in life better. A trip to the spa provides a better mindset, better body and time for yourself to decompress from the stresses of everyday living.

"Our service providers are top of the line," Joni shared.

Their goal is to offer a remarkable spa experience at discounted rates. "It feels like a luxury spa without the price," Frankie added.

At Hand & Stone Massage and Facial Spa, a massage costs about the price of three lattes a week. For Joni and Frankie, it is well worth giving up the lattes if they have to. Massages reduce stress, increase blood circulation, don't cause pain and so much more. In addition to regular massage and facial services, they also offer optional enhancements, such as the mild exfoliant of salt stones or cold stone facials, which can help with sinus issues and migraines. Waxing is also available at Hand & Stone, as well as a beard facial.

**"IF YOU'VE NEVER
HAD A MASSAGE, IT'S A
GREAT INTRODUCTION
TO SELF-CARE."**

With an optional membership, clients pay a discounted price for a facial or massage but with many additional perks, such as product and gift card discounts and membership rewards.

Frankie and Joni receive many requests for donations and have to make wise decisions in responding. But they contributed gift cards for teachers and sometimes donate to the Chamber of Commerce. They also gave massages to the players during "Paws for the Cause."

At Hand & Stone, the staff of men and women are highly professional. Aestheticians are great about explaining the process or simply allowing the customer to quietly relax. The business offers individual and couples' massages, which can be used by any two people. Mom/daughter, best friends, couple's date night — the combination is up to the customer, but at a nice savings.

"Don't be afraid to ask questions — there are no dumb ones," Frankie said. "Don't just get Mom a gift card. Come see us. Make yourself a priority, and do it right now — run." Joni added, "Do this thing for yourself. Definitely during busy holidays." **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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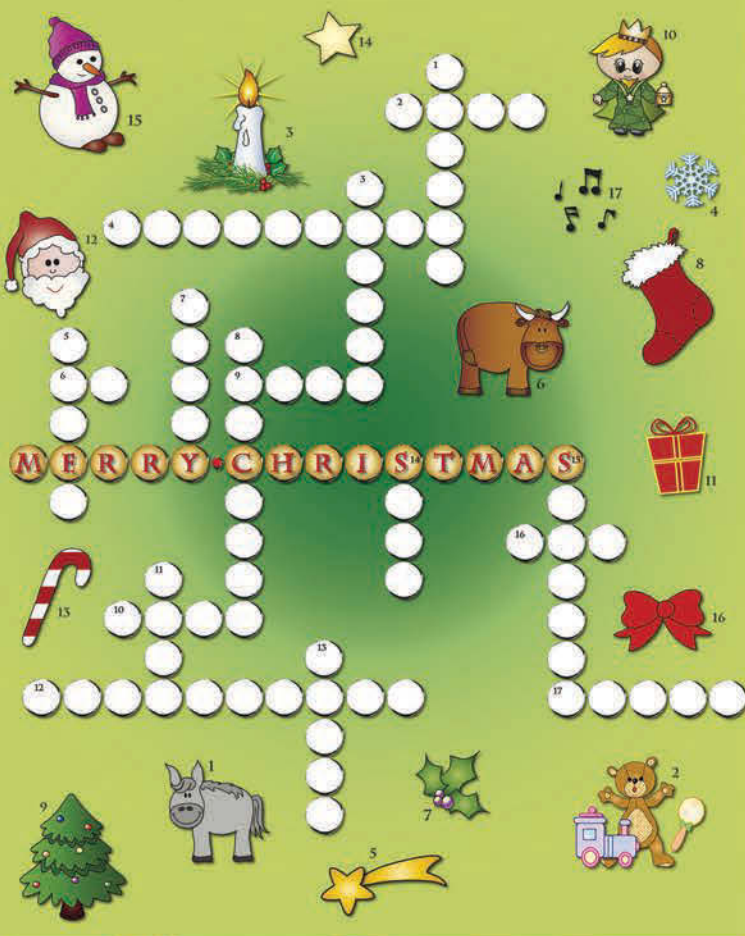
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Time for Presents

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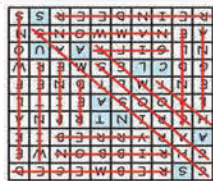


ANSWER: 9 2

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

ANGEL
BERRY
CANDLE
CAROLS
CHRISTMAS
COMET
DECEMBER
GIFT
HAT
PINE
RED
REINDEER
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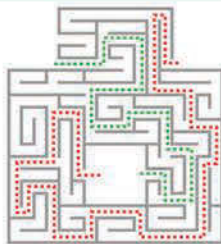


Kids' Fun Pages

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:



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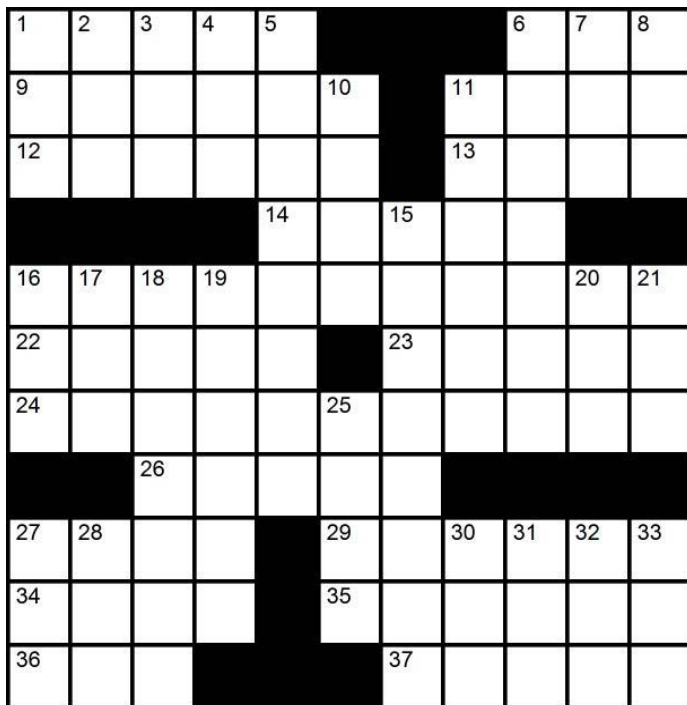
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Crossword Puzzle



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Across

- 1 Spud source
- 6 Short boxing punch
- 9 Roomy autos
- 11 Saintly 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 49

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LUKE 2:11

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Sudoku Puzzle

Easy

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

Medium

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

CrosswordSite.com Ltd

Solutions on page 49



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Faye Thompson gets ready for Christmas decorating.

Zoomed In: Tina Pitts

By Lisa Bell

New to the area, Tina Pitts welcomed their newest family member, a precious baby girl, in November. "I love being a grandmother," she said. Tina and her husband currently live with their daughter, Loren, (also pictured), while building their new house. Both families recently moved to the area.

Tina's other daughter also lives nearby, and they have a son who isn't local, but not too far away. "We look forward to being closer to the girls and retiring in Willow Park," Tina shared. After living in Keller for many years, the decision to live closer to precious grandchildren came easy. Welcome to both families.



Chaplain Raelynn Scott blesses the animals during a Weatherford Whiskers special event.



Daine Electric celebrates their grand opening with a ribbon cutting.



Jeanna Vaughan, Vicky Deaver, Tanya Hodges and Linda Moss enjoy Casa Fundraiser.

Crossword - Sudoku Solutions

1	I	D	A	H	O				6	J	A	B			
9	S	E	D	A	N	S			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	V	I	C	E	A	R	E		21			
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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Calendar

12/1

Christmas on the Square: Parade, ice sculpting, mini train rides, shopping, live entertainment and of course, Santa. 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Historic Downtown area. www.weatherford-chamber.com.



Iron Skillet Pop-up Vendors: Table-top vendors selling great Christmas gifts. Fees paid benefit the roof fund for Twentieth Century Club house and shoppers receive a discount for the restaurant. All day, Iron Skillet Restaurant, 2001 Santa Fe Dr. For details, call (817) 757-2750.

41st Annual Christmas Tyme in Aledo Arts and Crafts Fair: Come by and shop for unique gifts during this day-long traditional holiday event. 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., Church at the Crossing Gymnasium, Aledo. For more information, visit www.aledo-texas.com.

Pet adoption event: Find a pet during Sisters on the Fly vintage trailer tours and Christmas on the tracks. Cowboy Santa Pics, kids' activities, food, pet adoptions. 11:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Peacocks Feed Store. Visit www.facebook.com/peacocksfeed.

18th Annual Christmas Tyme in Aledo: Many attractions scheduled all over the downtown area. Holiday food, fun and entertainment. Santa and his reindeer will also be stopping by. 5:00-9:00 p.m., Aledo downtown area. www.aledo-texas.com.

12/1-12/2

Art and Pie: **Saturday**, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., **Sunday**, 1:00-3:00 p.m., 112 Wild Rose Ct., Hudson Oaks. Enjoy pie while viewing the latest pottery creations by Connie Carlisle of Connie Carlisle Designs and jewelry

by Stephany Loveday of Forgot Me Not. Call Stephanie at (817) 312-6424 or email srloveday@yahoo.com.

12/1-12/22

Santa's House 2018: Visit Santa in his Granbury home. Free to the public. Make memories that last a lifetime. Various days and times with extended hours the week of Christmas, Granbury Historic Town Square, Granbury. www.visitgranbury.com or www.facebook.com/granburysanta.house.

12/3

Iron Skillet Toys for Tots Drive Ends: Last chance to drop off new unwrapped toys for children in the area. All day, Iron Skillet, 2001 Santa Fe Dr. (817) 757-2750.

12/7

Holiday in the Park: Annual event presented by the City of Weatherford Parks and Recreation Department. Free admission. Family fun and food vendors. 6:00-9:00 p.m., Heritage Park, 317 Santa Fe Dr. Michael Howard (817) 498-4034 or www.experienceweatherford.com.

12/7-12/23

Over the River and Through the Woods: Live production for the holiday season. **Friday** and **Saturday**, 8:00 p.m.; **Sunday**, 2:00 p.m., Theatre Off The Square, 114 N. Denton. For details, call (817) 341-8687 or visit www.theatreoffthesquare.org.



12/8

Free Photos with Santa: Bring your own camera. No printed photos available in order to serve more families. 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Weatherford Public Library. Linda Kline, (817) 596-8491 or lindakline@juno.com.

37th Annual Candlelight Tour of Homes: Tour historical homes and sites. Don't miss this year the home of Oliver Loving of Lonesome Dove cattle drive. Tickets online or at the Chamber of Commerce or Doss. \$15 adults/ \$12 sr. or children. 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., various locations, www.parkercountyheritagesociety.com.

Holiday Open House: 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., Candor Gardens. Annual event held in conjunction with Parker County Heritage Society's Candlelight Tour of Homes.

12/8, 12/15, 12/22

Weatherford Whiskers Adoption Events: Looking for that special cat or kitten? Three events in December. 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Weatherford PetSmart Whiskers Central, 807 E. Park. www.weatherfordwhiskers.org.

12/14

Parker County Women's and Newcomers Club: Supports local students with scholarships. December meeting includes sweater contest, sing-along with "Ukalahies" and a Christmas ornament exchange. \$11 includes full lunch. Reservations due by 12/7. 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., FUMC, Family Life Center, 301 S. Main St. RSVP Shirley (817) 757-7379 or Lois (817) 946-1930.

12/15, 12/22

Breakfast with Santa: Kids 10 and under sit with Santa for pictures and enjoy a free breakfast with the purchase of an adult entrée. 9:30-11:00 a.m., Iron Skillet Restaurant, 2001 Santa Fe Dr.

12/21-12/22

Star of Bethlehem Experience: Unique Christmas experience with an interactive first century village feel. Experience history. www.capernaumvillage.com.

Mondays

Lone Star Yoga Warriors: Veterans are supported with science-based, trauma-sensitive exercises to regain resiliency. 1:30 p.m., Circle Y Yoga Ranch, 1303 Russell Bend Rd. (817) 609-6454.

First Mondays-Fridays-Sundays Prior Weatherford First Monday Trade Days: One of the oldest open-air markets in Texas steeped in tradition and located in the heart of the historical district. Old traditions with a new look, attractions and fun activities. 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., 200 Santa Fe Dr. For details, visit rhamilton@weatherfordtx.gov or (817) 598-4359.

Third Tuesdays
Parker County Cruisers: The group for those interested in classic cars and specialty vehicles. 6:30 p.m., Harberger Hill Community Center, 701 Narrow St. For info, call (817) 994-0074.



First Wednesdays
Zonta of Parker County: Zonta is an International organization empowering women worldwide. Guests are always welcome. 11:30 a.m., North Side Baptist Church, Room 118. Brenda (817) 771-9713.

Second Wednesdays
The Twentieth Century Club: Women's volunteer organization meets each month except July and August. Potluck lunch, followed by a short program and business meeting. Noon, 321 S. Main St. Karren Lucas (817) 613-6697.

Thursdays
Doss After Dark: Doss After Dark strives to build relationships across generations through fun programs that appeal to a broad audience. 6:00-8:00 p.m., Doss, 1400 Texas Dr. www.dosscenter.org.

First and Third Thursdays
Connect Camp for Adults with Dementia: Offers a respite for caregivers with physical and cognitive exercises and social interaction

for "camper." Donation-based. Registration required. 12:30-2:30 p.m., Clubhouse behind St. Stephen Catholic Church, 1812 Bethel Rd. (817) 609-6454.

Second Thursdays
Gardeners' Club of Parker County: 10:00 a.m., St. Francis Church, 117 Ranch House Rd., Willow Park. (817) 919-6280.

Third Thursdays
Ladies Night Out: Once-a-month, late-night shopping event. Lots of fun and great bargains. 5:00-8:00 p.m., Historic Downtown.

Quilter's Guild of Parker County: Quilters of all levels are welcomed. 6:30 p.m., Northside Baptist Church, 910 N. Main St. Mary Williams (940) 682-4631 or visit www.quiltersguildofparkercounty.org.

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



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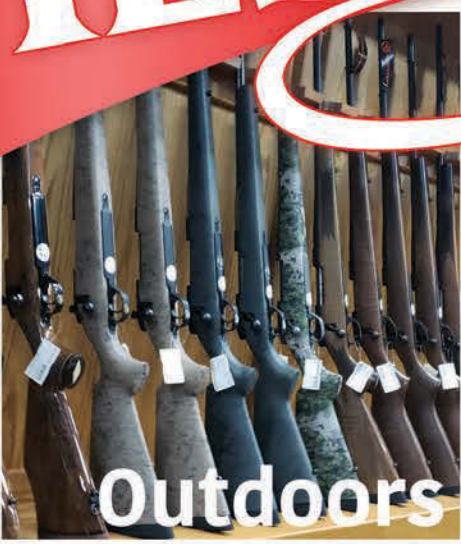
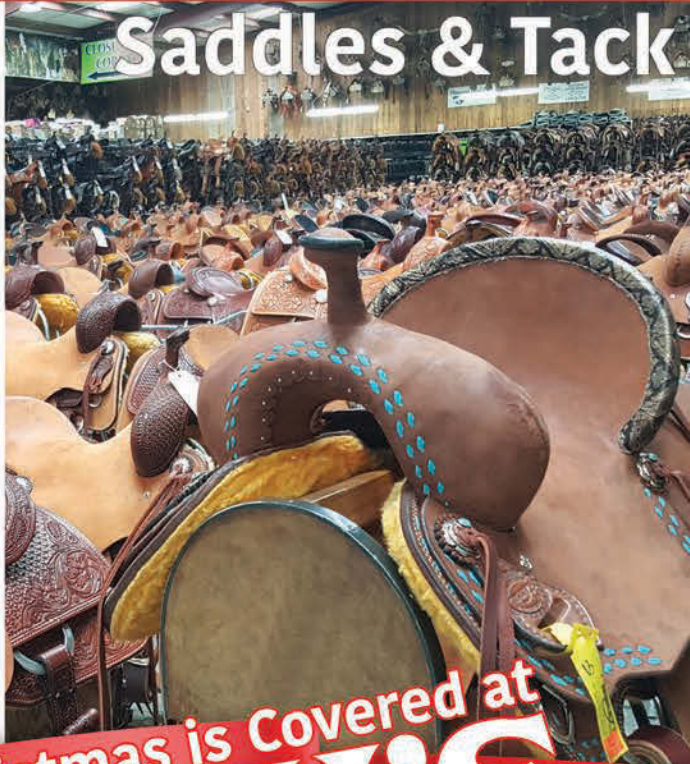


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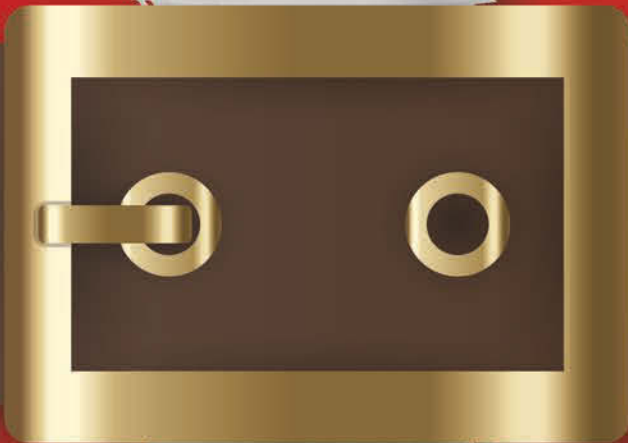
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Merry Christmas Open House

December 14 🌲 4:30-6:00 PM

Palo Pinto Location

Bring a donation of a canned food item



Visit the
Snow Village



Photos with Santa
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