

# BurlesonNOW

M A G A Z I N E

December 2018

**2018 Holiday  
Shopping Guide**

**Kids' Fun Pages**



**pp. 34 & 36**

**Crossword/Sudoku**

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## Memories in Time

**At Home With Ford  
and Debney Farris**

## The Best Present Ever

**Love has been so very  
good for Dale and  
Laverne Fleischer**

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## ON THE COVER

*The ornaments displayed by Ford and Debney Farris span a collection of no less than 30 years.*

**Photo by**  
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# EDITOR'S NOTE



*Melissa*

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*What a road we have traveled ...*

Next month might be a different story, but this month is my birthday month, and I can't help thinking of the past. My past is like a road, bordered by signage promoting either storefronts or intersecting roads. Every road sign reminds me of a lifestyle I dwelt in for some time that led me to this road. Every store sign reminds me of a person from whom I learned something. Whether neutral, good or bad, their thoughts had some significance. Those thoughts of lasting value are represented by shiny, easy-to-read signs that beckon me to revisit. I can pull in and out of those parking lots with confidence that I'll make a contribution there, as well. The exchanges with my friends promote the prosperity of the entire community who also travel this road.

You, friends, make mine a road well traveled. As I enter my second half-century, I'm moving east to focus on *MansfieldNOW Magazine* and leaving *BurlesonNOW Magazine*, which I've served as community editor since August 2007 in the capable hands of Rick Mauch. He has been a faithful writer with NOW Magazines for several years, and is excited to travel with you into your shared future.

I'll be seeing you around!

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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Christmas**

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holiday season,  
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# PRESENT *Ever*

— By Melissa Rawlins

*Dale and Laverne Fleischer celebrate their third anniversary on December 19, having met at Boulevard Baptist Church. Grandma Laverne is Grandpa Dale's biggest fan, and he is a fan of hers as well as everybody he meets. "Laverne is a most wonderful helpmate to me — a present from the Lord," Dale said.*

In between making quilts for friends and family, Laverne helps Dale with his ministry of giving away love in the form of hand-carved hair combs. Carving them from expensive, exotic woods, all harder than American Black Walnut, Dale anoints each with almond oil and lavender before mailing it with a letter expressing "love that is overflowing to the brim."

Dale has already given away more than 940 combs. Costs aside, he makes them for people he meets in this life, reminding them to remember they are loved every time they look upon their comb.

Over the years, Dale has enjoyed many hobbies. As a youth in California, his father taught him the pleasures of butterfly collecting. In high school, he collected stamps and coins, while also engaging in rock hounding and electronics. He made short wave radios, and used to listen to HCJB in Ecuador, in Spanish as well as English. He made two telescopes, the biggest a 6-foot long tube with a 7 1/8-inch diameter reflector.



*Merry Christmas*

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"Astronomy was about trying to see the stars better," Dale recalled. "Originally, comb-making started with being curious. I discovered there are so many kinds of pretty woods. Most people have never seen them."

He was young when he started making things from wood — like guns that would shoot rubber bands. Later in life, he made the still-accurate cherry wood clock he keeps in his bedroom.

By the time Dale married his first wife, Rein Elizabeth, he was an accomplished wood-worker. He spent three years serving in the U.S. Army, during which time his marriage was a joy. He made a wooden car for their grandchildren, yet strong enough for Dale to stand on and high enough the toddlers could push it like a cart. "We had three cute kids," Dale said. "I showed my daughter, Cindy Joy, to see things like Saturn and the beautiful stars with the telescope, and my son, Dr. Rick Fleischer, developed his interest in butterflies with me."

Dale's second son, David Fleischer, lives in Bend, Oregon, where Dale lived many years with Rein. Long before she died, she showed Dale a comb she noticed while they window-shopped. After making her a comb out of hard wood, she liked it, and somebody who saw hers said they would like one. "It just kept going," Dale said, recalling the combs were not originally a ministry. "But there was a day that I asked the Lord to fill my heart with His most







wonderful love, and he did. So, then I asked, "How do I do that much loving?" You don't just walk up to somebody on the street and give them a big hug right quick! The Lord's love is wonderful, and it's so neat to share the love with combs and a letter. I want all who receive one to be saved, to know the Lord, none lost."

Laverne calls to ask people's addresses, since Dale's hearing is poor. She explained that Dale splits a long plank of hardwood lengthwise, then makes 24 combs in his work area near a window in his bedroom. He has an octagonal oak table with a bright lamp hovering over a folded towel. Here, he not only oils the tines but also hand writes letters to accompany his creations. "My heart is filled and refilled every time I express to someone God's love, *agapé* in the Greek. His love is so very good for us," Dale said.

It's been so very good for Laverne, who was sick from loneliness while living by herself as a widow. She had lost her husband almost 16 years before marrying Dale, who had been a widower for eight years. "I prayed that God would send me a godly man. My kids kept telling me to go out and eat with men, and I'd find a man friend. I never did do it," Laverne said.

"I accepted the Lord when I was 18, while living with my parents in Rockwall," Laverne said. "There were 13 children in my family. We had to work hard to help make a living." She had lost her dad in 1987, her mom in 1991 and six siblings by the time she found herself thinking about marrying Dale.



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"She and I and a whole church full of people went to church every Sunday," Dale said. "Somehow she got to sitting next to me, and somehow I got to holding her hand. One day, Laverne asked me: 'Why don't we get married?'"

"Then he texted his daughter-in-law and told her what I'd said," Laverne said. "We'd really not dated, hardly."

Before the big day, Laverne moved in with her daughter, Dee, who produced the event. "I was told by Pastor Terry Williams it was the prettiest wedding he'd ever been to, and he must have married a hundred couples before we came along," Dale said. All the children and grandchildren attended.

"I had a real wedding gown, and the back of it was gold," Laverne said. For the reception, chocolate dipped strawberries were displayed atop a family heirloom tablecloth. The groom's cake was a 3-foot long chocolate comb, and the bride's was lemon cake and vanilla icing. "It was so cold that night, we nearly froze."

Since then, love has kept them warm. "Every night, we talk to the Lord. It's like with my first husband. It's the love that God's put in our heart," Laverne said.

"If you don't have God's love, you don't have anything. We share the real thing," Dale said. "God is love, and love is my most favorite word." Blessed with many grandchildren and even great-grandchildren, Dale loves to say, "My sweet, loving new wife is my bestest present." **NOW**



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# MEMORIES IN

*Oftentimes, an old-fashioned, nostalgic Christmas opens a floodgate of special memories from the past and invites new memories to be made. Step into the Burleson home of Ford and Debney Farris, and you will find it magically transformed into a Christmas wonderland. With friends and family visiting during the holiday, traditional yet elegant decor is a significant element for sharing the celebration. Each room contains special pieces expressing the holiday's festive mood, and with areas for entertaining both inside and out, guests are invited to cozy up and experience the warmth of the holiday season.*

In 2016, the Farris family decided to downsize, design and build their current homestead. They planned a one-story home with some personalized features. They created a space they fondly call their "attic room" — an attic on the ground floor, where they store their collection of seasonal decorations and Debney's interior decorating project materials. Then their garage was transformed into living space with a sofa; TV; and old-fashioned, cast-iron fireplace. They can open the garage door and watch their grandchildren play in the front yard.









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Their previous home included a wine room, so incorporating storage space for their collection was imperative. The wine nook was built around one of their first antique pieces — a country French wine hutch, which holds more than 50 bottles. The couple enjoys traveling to vineyards in Texas and California to find local varieties. Their cork collection brings back memories of travels and shared evenings with friends and family.

When designing the kitchen, they included additional “cooks in the kitchen” space in the area between the large island and the wall of soaring dark,

wooden cabinets. On Christmas Day, they celebrate a tradition that began with Ford’s late mother — a taco dinner. “We love Christmas, and we look forward to it every year,” he said. They set out bowls of cheese, lettuce, tomatoes and spicy tomato sauce. Everyone makes a huge salad plate with tomato sauce on top, then fills a fried tortilla taco with the tasty concoction.

As an interior decorator, Debney has an eye for incorporating elegance and rustic charm into their home. The

focus wall in the dining area resembles red brick. “I didn’t want to go that far in doing it permanently, but I wanted the look,” she said.

Ford and Debney enjoy antiquing and purchased a large china cabinet on a trip to Fredericksburg that holds their gold and white tableware. Gold and silver Christmas trees sparkle in the light of the chandelier above the large wooden dining table.

Throughout most of their home, tradition rings true. Red and white





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Christmas pillows add more comfort to seating spaces inside and out. Red and green plaid throw blankets add holiday cheer to bedrooms. Debney's collection of timeless Santas is dispersed, along with varied sizes of decorative reindeer. The living room tree features hundreds of unique antique glass ornaments and many others kept for sentimental value. "We've got ornaments from our grandkids that are over 14 years old and from our kids, probably 40 years old," Ford shared.

Each year when decorating the tree, Debney fills each branch with ornaments. She assembles large decorative bows, adding updated charm to her holiday collection.

Many evenings are spent in the backyard where they find serenity while listening to their babbling Tucson fountain, cozying up to the warmth of the gas fireplace or fire pit and appreciating their wooded acreage seclusion. "It's private. We carved out our walkways and seating terraces and left everything else natural," Debney said.

A stone cottage with an attached fireplace provides lawn equipment storage and a separate nook to enjoy coffee or wine. They transformed the cottage attic into a play space for their grandchildren, complete with carpet, pillows and TV. A swinging bridge connects to a playhouse for hours of fun. Their pups, Bella, Lucy and Sadie have their own space in the side yard, with a doggy door leading into the air-conditioned/heated room in the garage.

Ford and Debney designed the house with the master suite overlooking the back and the other bedrooms on the opposite side for visitors. With two children, Heather and Brant, and six grandchildren, Addie, Madison, Boston, Kenzie, Hudson and Conner, the Farris







home is always open for catching up on life and playtime with the kids. Much of the couple's free time is spent cheering on the grandchildren at sporting and extracurricular events, or whenever possible, and cruising along U.S. coastlines. Debney owns an insurance agency, where Ford works alongside her now. They frequently host socials with their fellow churchgoers from Burleson United Methodist.

Junior high sweethearts who lost touch during their teenage years, the couple tied the knot in their early 20s. They met during choir class when Debney was in eighth grade, and Ford was in seventh. "I thought he was really cute," Debney shared.

Ford moved to Oklahoma shortly after that meeting, and the two were reacquainted during a visit back to West Texas for Independence Day. "She was the same person that I liked before," Ford said. "By the end of the long weekend, we were already making wedding plans."

They are now celebrating 45 years of marriage. Ford said, "She's my best friend and the love of my life."

"I thought he was going to say something like he always lets me have my way," Debney said, grinning. "He's just one of the good guys."

Although they were apart for about a decade in their younger years, time was never an issue for Ford and Debney. Time has solidified their love for one another, and they embrace the moments spent together and with friends and family, especially their grandchildren. "It's very important for us to be part of the kids' lives," Ford said.

When Ford and Debney are winding down in the winter evenings, they enjoy warming up by the rustic stone fireplace in the living room. Clocks collected by Ford over the years count the minutes, each of which they enjoy sharing together. **NOW**

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# Upholding the Law

— By Rick Mauch

Jeff Silverman grew up the son of a Boston police officer. Though he didn't enter the law enforcement profession himself, he is hard at work helping the officers in the Burleson Police Department. Jeff is one of 10 members — and one of five founders — of the Burleson Police Foundation. Their job is to raise funds to help the police department in a variety of ways, particularly helping purchase items the department can't afford with its normal budget.

For example, they purchased a new drone this past spring featuring both an infrared and regular camera. "That's one of the coolest things, the drone we purchased," Jeff said. "It's an awesome tool for officers' safety. It can be pitch black at night, and this can find somebody."

Burleson Police Chief Billy Cordell said the drone was created with first responders in mind. "The capabilities for our department are plenty. We can't afford a helicopter, so this is a great addition," he said, adding the drone is also great for mapping accidents and crimes.

Chief Cordell created the BPF, a nonprofit organization, in August 2016. "It's a good example of our city and its citizens partnering together," he said. "I got here and got to know the heart of this community, and as I kept getting introduced I realized there are a lot of special people in this community. I started thinking our city budget is great, but if we started a foundation that raised money, we can do more."

The BPF raised \$22,000 in 2017 with the first Turn Key Charities Classic Car Show. Steve Barnes, owner of Turn Key Utilities in Joshua, is on the BPF Board.

The primary goals of the BPF include purchasing and sponsoring equipment and training for the police department. Chief Cordell said more than 90 percent of



training hours were paid for by BPF, which also supports the annual awards banquet in February.

The chief stressed there is a difference between the Burleson Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association and the BPF, but they do work hand-in-hand. The alumni are more involved in physically helping the officers in certain situations, while the BPF's main purpose is fundraising, though they will pitch in to help with such things as setting up for the banquet or at the annual Burleson PD Open House.

"Last year, we gave out little toy cars. They were a big hit with the kids," Jeff said, noting the event also included bounce houses, face painting and a variety of family activities. They also gave away four bicycles.

"That's what's special about this board, little things they've done to say, 'We really appreciate what you do. We don't expect anything in return,'" Chief Cordell said. "From a psychological standpoint, it's big for these officers. It tells them 'We've got your back. What do you need, and how can we support you?'"

Though joining the board requires an invitation, there are plenty of ways for citizens to help BPF Volunteers can help in a physical capacity, such as at the car show or the open house.

After completing military service, Jeff moved to Texas in 1977 to take care of his grandfather. He worked for Canon Business Systems for 33 years before retiring and starting his own business, Chisholm Trail Firearms. "I thought about a police career, but somehow I fell into that corporate world. I was good at it and stuck with it," he said. "Since I opened my business in Burleson, I realize I'm part of a bigger community. I've gotten to know so many cool people. Before I got involved in Burleson, with the BPF, I was involved with the sheriff's office, doing the same thing. It's my way of honoring my dad." **NOW**

*Editor's Note: Monetary donations are always welcome and can be made by visiting the website, [Burlesonpolicefoundation.org](http://Burlesonpolicefoundation.org), and clicking on the donations link.*



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CookingNOW

*In the Kitchen With*

BEATRICE SOREKMEKUN-JOLLY

— By Lindsay L. Allen

Beatrice Sorekmekun-jolly remembers her first time cooking and bonding with her sister over a native Nigerian dish — rice and red pepper soup — after school. “This was a time for us to speak in our native language (Yoruba) and discuss our day at school. We did not attend the same school, so this time was precious, as we could not relate to anyone at school because of cultural differences and the language barrier,” Beatrice said.

As she got older, Beatrice became more confident of her cooking abilities as she prepared meals for a family friend, and later on in college became famous amongst her friends for her chicken and spinach soup. These days she cooks to satisfy her “sweet craving” with healthy desserts. **NOW**

## Spinach Stew and Brown Rice

- 1 cup brown rice
- 2 bunches of fresh spinach (Frozen spinach can be used, too.)
- 1 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 Maggi cube, a flavor enhancer
- 1/2 purple onion
- 1 1/4 tsp. curry powder
- 1 Tbsp. organic vegetable or chicken broth
- 1 tsp. garlic salt
- 1 tsp. parsley
- 1 tsp. oregano
- 1/4 tsp. sea salt
- 1/2 tsp. cayenne pepper

1. Cook the brown rice as directed on package.
2. Rinse the spinach and chop. (If frozen spinach is used, thaw it and drain the water completely.)
3. Pour oil into a medium-size skillet on medium heat; drop in Maggi cube. Stir the Maggi cube in the skillet with oil until it is dissolved.
4. Add the onion, spinach and curry powder. Mix well.
5. Add the broth, and let cook for 5 minutes.
6. Add the garlic salt, parsley, oregano, sea salt and cayenne pepper.
7. Stir the mixture, cover and let it simmer on low heat.
8. Serve with brown rice.

## Breakfast With a Purpose

- 1 1/2 cups unsweetened almond milk
- 1/2 cup grits
- 2 tsp. Demerara Cane Sugar (optional)
- 1-2 tsp. I Can't Believe it's Not Butter
- 2 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/2 onion, chopped
- 1/2 cup Gardein, beefless ground
- 1/2 red bell pepper, chopped
- 1/2 orange bell pepper, chopped
- Salt, to taste
- Pepper, to taste
- Garlic salt, to taste
- 1/2 Hass avocado

1. Pour unsweetened almond milk into a medium pan on medium heat; add grits.
2. Stir and let cook for about 10 minutes on low to medium heat.
3. When grits have tripled in size and/or expanded, taste for desired texture; add sugar, if desired.
4. Add butter to the grits.
5. Cover grits with a lid and put on low heat, or turn off heat.
6. In a skillet, add olive oil; add onion once the oil is heated.
7. Add the Gardein beefless ground and stir.



8. Add peppers and turn the heat to low or medium heat and mix well.
9. Add salt, pepper and garlic salt to taste.
10. Serve with grits and avocado on the side.

## Shrimp Pot Pie

- 1 1-lb. bag of frozen or fresh shrimp
- 3 medium purple potatoes
- 1 tsp. extra-virgin olive oil
- Salt, to taste
- 1 bag of frozen organic mixed vegetables
- 1 10-oz. can organic cream of mushroom or cream of celery soup
- 1 9-inch frozen pie shell
- 1/2 tsp. ground parsley
- 1/2 tsp. rubbed sage

1. Preheat oven to 350 F.
2. Wash shrimp and cut into pieces.
3. Cut potatoes into small cube sizes and boil in medium water on stove.
4. Add oil to a medium skillet. Once the oil is hot, add the shrimp. Stir and add salt to taste. Cook until shrimp is pink in color.
5. Drain water from the potatoes when they are soft and well cooked.
6. In a bowl, mix vegetables and soup. Then add the potatoes and shrimp to the mixture; combine well. Season with salt if needed.
7. Put mixture in the frozen pie shell; add parsley and sage.
8. Bake in oven for 20-25 minutes on 350 F, or until crust is golden brown.

## Simple Yam With Eggs and Sardines

- 1/2 yam
- 3 cups water
- Salt, to taste
- 2 tsp. extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/4 cup chopped onion
- 2 Simply Truth organic brown eggs
- 1 can sardines, drained

1. Cut the yam into medium-size cube pieces. Place in a medium pot with water, and add salt to season. Boil on the stove for about 15 minutes, or until it is white and/or soft. Drain the water out.
2. Add extra-virgin olive oil to a medium skillet. Add the chopped onion to the oil. Cook until the onion is translucent in color.
3. Scramble the eggs in a separate skillet, add the sardines; combine well.
4. Add the egg/sardine mixture to the skillet with oil and onion; mix together.
5. Serve on a plate with yam on the side.



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BusinessNOW

# Edward Jones Financial Advisor - Lynn Bates, AAMS

— By Melissa Rawlins

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Have you set retirement as your long-term goal? Think again. Or at least call Lynn Bates at his Burleson Edward Jones office. “My most critical role is to figure out how to get you from retirement through to the end, and make sure you don’t run out of money,” Lynn said.

An Edward Jones financial advisor since 2004, he understands that “long-term” means something different to each person. He helps clients of all ages with their financial goals. “Our goal is to work with serious investors in order to help them reach their long-term goals using an established process,” he said.

Lynn learned the value of that process well before joining Edward Jones. “My dad had heart surgery in 2001 and was in a coma for three months. When he recovered, he rolled the money from his retirement account into an IRA with an Edward Jones advisor in Carrollton, Georgia. I went with him one day in the spring of 2002 and was very impressed.”



The year Edward Jones hired Lynn, his father died. "I wasn't licensed yet, so the account was still with the advisor in Georgia. He and his assistant walked my mother through how everything worked, directing her regarding the house and documentation my sisters and I had to sign. The way he handled that with her left a very strong impression with me that when I got my own office, I wanted to make sure I took care of those ladies whose husbands passed away."

He and senior branch office administrator Carol McKee have frequently been given the opportunity to help people handling very difficult, emotionally charged financial situations. "Especially the younger they are, it's a real scary situation," Lynn said, describing a recent scenario when a woman in her mid-50s lost her husband. "She brought everything she had here, and we were able to review the scenario and assure her that she would be OK."

"Carol excels with handling the estate when mom or dad passes away and is great at helping sort out sometimes-complicated situations. She helps them find everything, get the paperwork sent off, contacts all the companies," Lynn said. "I help them navigate what exactly to do from a financial standpoint. We're kind of like the quarterback in that situation, helping assemble a good team."

In his personal life, Lynn coaches his youngest son's baseball and basketball teams, attends concerts by his eldest child, who is in the Centennial High School band, and cheers at basketball games when his middle child plays at Kerr Middle School. As president of the Midday Rotary, Lynn puts out American flags seven times a year and plans its annual golf tournament. "We have a track record of raising \$30,000-\$40,000 for scholarships and other community projects," he said.

If you have plans and wonder how you'll get there, ask Lynn to review your entire financial picture with you. "Even if their accounts are not with me, I help make sure their financial needs are being met," he said. Give Lynn Bates a chance, and Edward Jones will help you reach your goal, whether that's a vacation, a college education or retirement. **NOW**

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TravelNOW

## 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**

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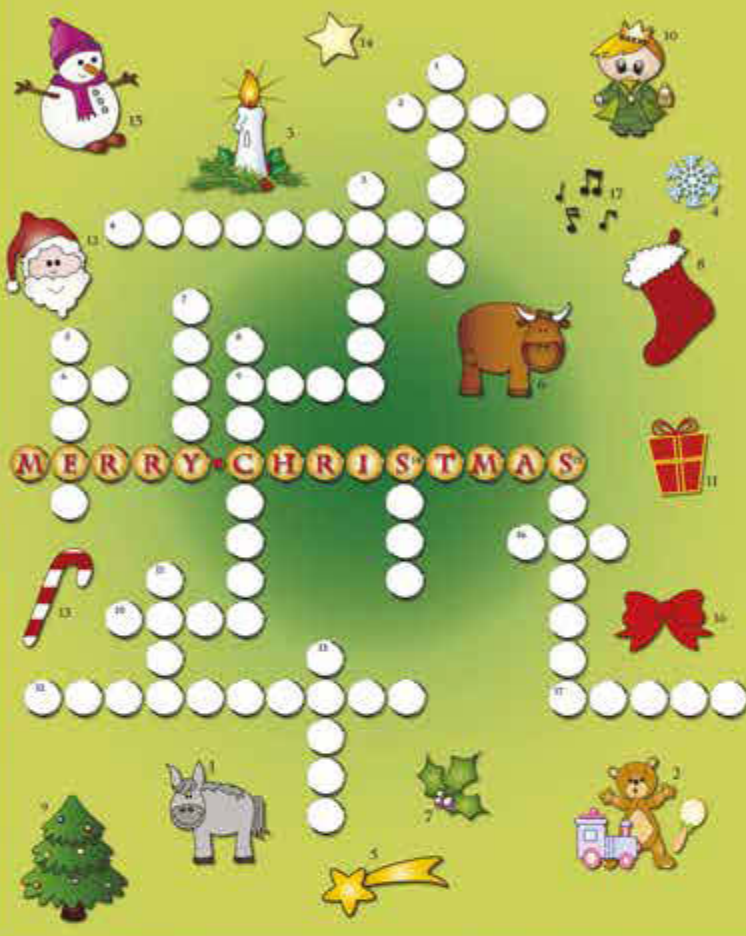
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# Kids' Fun Pages

## CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD



## ..... Time for Presents .....

Can you spot the two identical pictures?



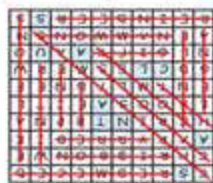
ANSWER: 1 & 2



## 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  
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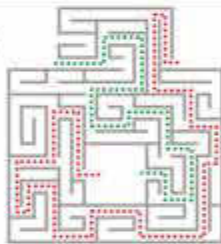


# Kids' Fun Pages

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:

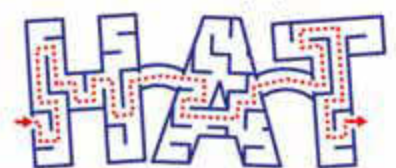


ANSWER:



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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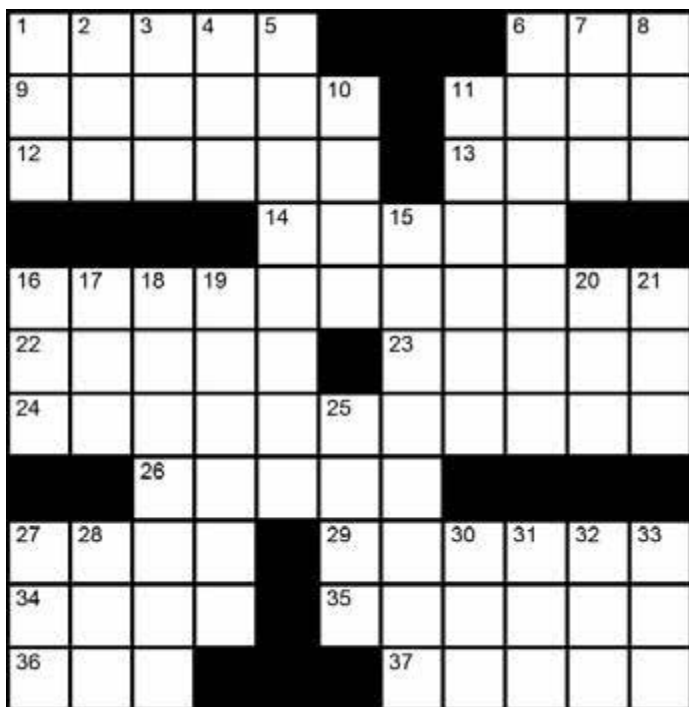
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# Crossword Puzzle



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## Across

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

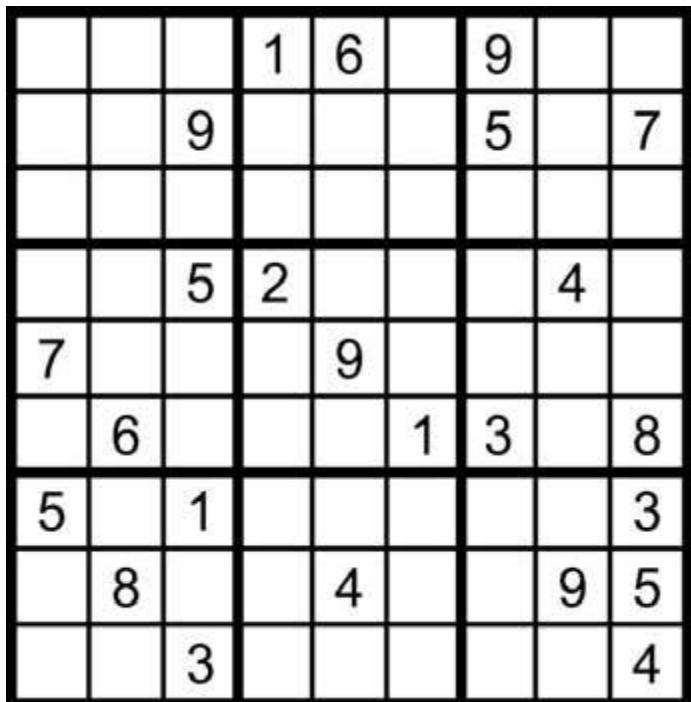
## Down

- 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 43

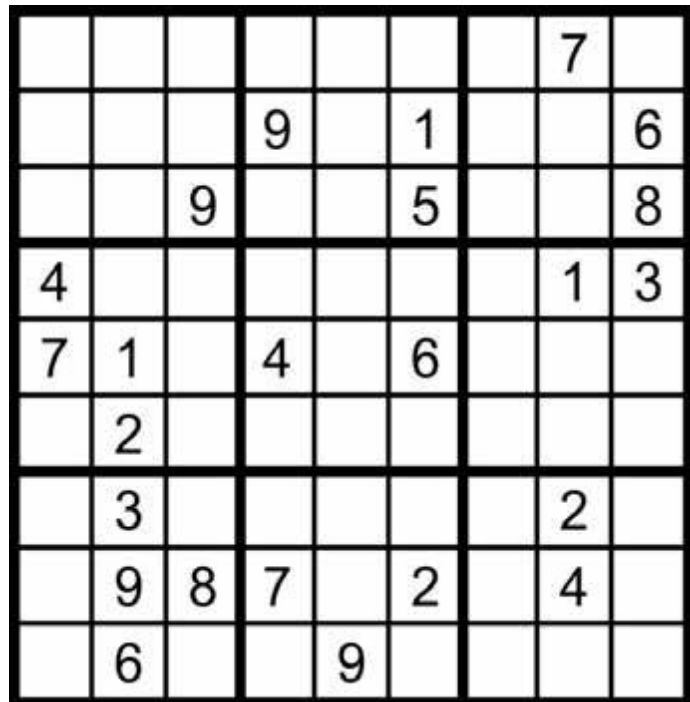
# Sudoku Puzzle

Easy



Crosswordsite.com Ltd

Medium



Solutions on page 43





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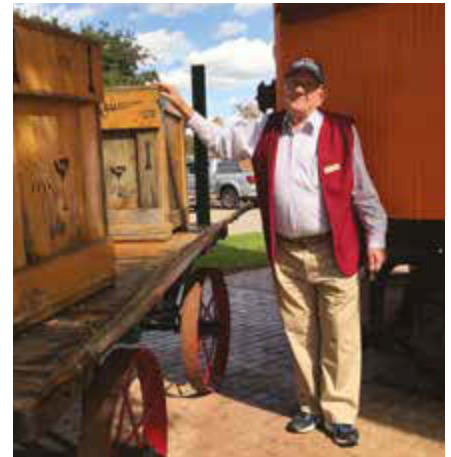


## Zoomed In: Tracy Branch

By Melissa Rawlins

Getting ready for a sit-down dinner, Tracy Branch pays attention to the details. Candles are key. Her plate boasts a tiny, blingy high heel glass slipper. On her husband's plate perches a four-inch snowy owl sporting a white ski cap. "Eddy and I enjoy spoiling people, especially with great food," she said. "He's known for his original gourmet cooking."

In this case, they're hosting a holiday meal to celebrate the work of Round Up For Autism, a nonprofit that builds homes for children maturing with autism. A 30-year board member for the organization, Tracy lights up the lives of the clients, as well as the donors. "We don't forget that this is Jesus' birthday," said Tracy, who invites 200 people, telling them to bring someone who knows a child in need.



Maurice Peterson volunteers at Bureson Heritage Museum and Visitors Center and loves describing to visitors how the Interurban Trolley Line, accepted light freight, as well as passengers.



Lexi Strachan, a first-year Pre Med student, and Nicholas Massie, a second-year Physical Therapy student, get ready for classes at Texas Wesleyan University Bureson Campus.



At Hobby Lobby, Kenny Pearson helps select a frame for Becki Gourlet and Cindy Rankin.



The office staff of the Academy at Nola Dunn is dressed '70s Groovy style for Grandparents Day.





City Market's Brent Weaver stacks wood with help from the two Jills, Jaeger on the right and Martin on the left.



Jennifer Brown and Stephanie Finch wait for their lunch at Babe's, just downstairs from their office at Voyage Medical Solutions.



Walter Norwood, Billy Short and Melvin Eugene Moss, a few of the veterans living at Heritage Place, arrive at Centennial High School for the Veterans Day Celebration.



Sarah Smajstrla reads a holiday book to the rather indifferent Dalmatian at Geek Out.



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12/1

Santa's Breakfast: 7:00-10:30 a.m., BRiCK, 550 N.W. Summercrest Blvd. (817) 426-9106.

Christmas at the Library: Decorate cookies, enjoy refreshments, win door prizes and create ornaments. 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Burleson Public Library, 248 S.W. Johnson Ave. (817) 426-9210.

Christmas Parade, Tree Lighting & Fireworks: The Burleson Rotary Club hosts the annual lighted Christmas parade followed by the City's tree lighting and fireworks show. 6:00-9:00 p.m., Old Town Burleson, corner of S.W. Johnson Ave. and W. Ellison St. (817) 426-9104.



12/4, 12/11, 12/18

Widowed Persons Service meeting: Enjoy breakfast, fellowship and sharing your helpful heart. 8:00-9:00 a.m., Our Place Restaurant, 950 N. Burleson Blvd. Ruth Turner, (817) 713-9372.

12/5, 12/12

English as a Second Language Class: Free service of Oak Grove Baptist Church and HOPE Literacy. 6:00-7:30 p.m., 12351 Oak Grove Rd. S. English, call (817) 988-6818. Spanish, call (210) 865-4338.

12/7

Fiddlin' on the Farm: Participate in an open jam session. 6:00-8:00 p.m., Russell Farm, 405 W. County Rd. 714. (817) 447-3316.

12/7-12/9

Living Nativity: Graceview Baptist Church hosts this outdoor presentation of the real Christmas story. 6:00-9:00 p.m., 1440 S. Burleson Blvd., at the Hidden Creek Parkway exit. (817) 295-6121.

12/8

Christmas Craft Fair: Shop for handmade items. 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Senior Activity Center, 216 S.W. Johnson Ave. (817) 295-6611.

12/10

Burleson Area Retired School Employees Association Christmas Luncheon: The Silver Sisters play oldies by the Andrews Sisters. All retired school personnel are invited. 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 590 N.E. McAlister. For more details, call Linda Henderson at (817) 996-5261.

12/11

Business After Hours: Independent Bank and Orr & Associates sponsor this light-hearted networking affair, free for Burleson Area Chamber of Commerce members. 5:30-7:00 p.m., 201 W. Ellison St. (817) 295-6121.

12/12

Burleson Area Recreational Cyclists: Work with other cycling enthusiasts to create a more rider-friendly community. 7:00 p.m., Spokes Bicycles & Service, 111 S. Wilson St. For details, call Dave Garrett at (817) 447-3505.



12/14

Carols & Cocoa: Enjoy Russell Farm Art Center under holiday lights. 6:00-8:00 p.m., Russell Farm, 405 W. County Rd. 714. For details, call (817) 447-3316.

12/15

Christmas on the Farm: The festivities include pictures (bring your own camera) with a donkey wearing antlers, hay rides, arts and crafts and more. 10 a.m.-7:00 p.m., Russell Farm, 405 W. County Rd. 714. (817) 447-3316.



Holiday Friends: Benefiting the children of Johnson and Tarrant counties, businesses, organizations and churches host Angel Tags and individuals provide toys to make happy memories for our neighbors that would otherwise not be able to provide a gift on Christmas morning. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., The BRiCK. Sharon Goodman at Harvest House, (817) 495-4192.

12/19

Holiday Pot Luck Luncheon: The Salvation Army Women's Service League of Johnson County and Candy Gonzalez host current and prospective members. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 10033 Tantarra Dr. To RSVP, email ggcan.go@gmail.com.

12/23

Happy Birthday Jesus Sunday: Families will receive a special gift. 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Boulevard Baptist Church, 315 N. Burleson Blvd. Contact Chad Handy, (817) 521-9333.

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



# Crossword - Sudoku Solutions

1	2	3	4	5					6	7	8
I	D	A	H	O					J	A	B
9					10				11		
S	E	D	A	N	S				H	A	L
12									13		
M	I	S	H	A	P				O	K	A
					14				15		
					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
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
34											
B	A	R	S						35		
									S	N	U
36											
I	N	S							37		
									G	N	O

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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**Merry Christmas**  
& **Happy Holidays**

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# Holiday Traditions

— By Melissa Rawlins

Vicki Sorensen is chair of the Russell Farm Art Center Historical Committee and dresses in period clothing for special occasions at Russell Farm Art Center. She and nine other women don 19th century costumes when A Vintage Christmas is celebrated at the farm, and the lights lining the rooftops shimmer and shine.

The city of Burleson hosts this old-fashioned Christmas under direction of Russell Farm Art Center Supervisor Mary Ann Spaun, with help from many other community and individual volunteers, including the Kiwanis club and Circle of Friends. The event is filled with simple pleasures, to celebrate old-fashioned ways. “We also want more and more people to know about the legacy of Martha Russell, who pioneered this farm in 1877,” Vicki said. “We want people to know the farm is there, so they can enjoy it throughout the year.”

This season, every room of the Russell-Boren house will be decked with a tree — one covered with snowflakes — and beautiful decorations, many of which came from Martha’s descendant, Charlie Boren, and his family, who lived on the farm until 2011. When Charlie and Louise Boren moved to Austin, they deeded their family farm to the city of Burleson for the purpose of preserving the Borens’ passion for history, agriculture and, primarily, art in different forms, such as painting and wood sculpting.

“It was so much fun getting to go through the Borens’ well-loved house after they gave it to the city for us to make a museum out of it. We inherited a lot of their Christmas decorations,” Vicki said, adding that The Burleson Eumathians creatively repurposed some non-decorations into holiday decor. Unconnected pieces of what was intended to be a white afghan now decorate the Christmas tree in one of the guest bedrooms.

A thousand or more people might come during the December 14-15 celebration. Docents Becky Dunbar, Dorothy Nash, Pat Worrell, Diane Lybbert, Louise Bodiford, Virginia Richardson, Mary Weed, Barbara Black and Vicki encourage visitors to notice and share how simple things in the house spur their own memories. “We take groups, six or seven at a time through the house, which Martha and her five children moved into on Christmas Eve of 1877,” Vicki said.

Outside, old-fashioned fun abounds. The Kiwanis Club of Burleson always decorates the dairy barn, where Charlie had his art studio, and they install a live tree there for people to enjoy while touring the studio-turned-museum.

A fire pit warms people all day, and cowboy poetry or western music is performed around the fire. Children will be able to make snowflakes and pinecone birdfeeders and Mary Ann has planned games for children and adults, like horseshoes and washers.

“We put hay bales out and the kids jump on them just like little goats,” said Vicki, who was instrumental in finding two donkeys, Joey and Sweetey, a home at the farm. At The Vintage Christmas, some of her joys include watching big kids and little ones pet and be photographed with Joey the Reindonkey, enjoy art and learn more of Burleson’s history. **NOW**





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New patients only. Must bring in this ad and proof of book download to claim offer. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Only one offer can be claimed per patient. Monthly payments for traditional braces range from \$150 to \$250 per month. Invisalign® treatment ranges from \$4900 to \$5900 depending on the patient's unique needs. Expires December 31, 2018.

  
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