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M A G A Z I N E

DECEMBER 2018

**2018 Holiday  
Shopping Guide**

**Win Prizes  
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**Kids' Fun Pages**  
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## The First Day of Christmas

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year to be bigger than  
the last

## To Sell or Not to Sell

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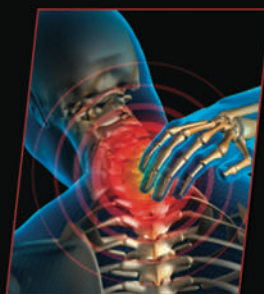
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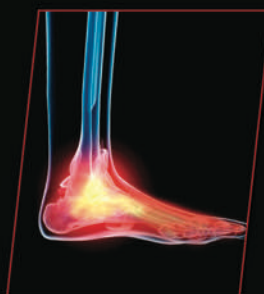
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## ON THE COVER

*Everything's coming up  
glittery and gold for Christmas.*

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# EDITOR'S NOTE



Virginia

Virginia Riddle  
CorsicanaNOW Editor  
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*Merry Christmas!*

As I was recently making sure my granddaughter, Sophia, was buckled snugly into her car booster seat, I remarked to her, "Beautiful Princess Sophia enters her coach regally." My sister, the driver, overheard and then, "Do you remember when...?" guided our car conversation. We recalled the many Christmas Eve "programs" my three sisters and I scripted, directed and performed for friends, neighbors and family during our childhood and teenage years. Our home was full of drama, music and wonder, especially during the holiday season, and I still love occasions when I can share children's imaginative play and the world's wonder!

I took my childhood scripting experiences further by enrolling in a Baylor University class this year. I hadn't been a college student or worked on a Mac computer since last century, so it was intimidating at first. However, I learned script writing, directing and filming a "short" using my cell phone, editing the piece and uploading it to the web for viewing — all needed abilities as the writing world moves increasingly from print into digital media. As you begin to create your list of New Year's resolutions, I challenge each of you, dear readers, to choose something new to learn, do or create in the coming 12 months of opportunity. It's a blast!

See you "Around Town"!

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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THE FIRST DAY OF  
*Christmas*

— By William T. Smith





*Advent is a time of anticipation and preparation leading up to the grand event of Christmas on December 25, but for the Wind and Fire Motorcycle Club, planning begins much earlier. "This is our 12th year for the Toy Run at the VFW, and we have been planning this one since the end of the last one," related club member Marty Stevenson.*

If one can speak both shyly and enthusiastically at the same time, it would describe how Marty and her husband and fellow club member, Darrell, shared the details of the event. "This is not a Marty and Darrell story. There are so many people involved in the toy run, there is no way we could name them all," Marty continued. "Jan Ivie was a beloved teacher and the toy run was an idea she had. Her husband, Pete, is a member

of Wind and Fire and a retired lieutenant from the Dallas Fire Department. Their daughter, Rheann, is also a teacher and contributes more than I can say, more than you can imagine."

Wind and Fire is a motorcycle club that is much larger than the local chapters that host the toy run, as it is an international organization, with chapters as far away as Belgium and all over Europe. The name comes from the members being either active or retired firefighters. Darrell retired from the Corsicana Fire Department as a captain. "There is no rivalry between the different chapters in Wind and Fire," he said. "There are two chapters in Navarro County, and we support each other. The Dallas Chapter also comes and helps."

"We also get assistance from the Blue Knights in organizing the ride," Marty indicated. "The Blue Knights is the motorcycle club of law enforcement."

The VFW hosts a gathering for the auction. "It benefits the toy run to have it there, of course, and the VFW is not only a contributor, but also a benefactor in having so many people participate on that day and use the VFW facility," Darrell said.





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The number of participants that actually ride varies from year to year, and may be influenced by the weather. "One year, it was about 12 degrees and sleeting. We only had one motorcyclist brave the weather, Jim Tallant, but still had the event at the VFW with a good crowd, and children who otherwise would have done without received their gifts," Marty related. "We generally see 30 to 40 bikes in the ride. Some have single riders and others are couples. There may be 150 people at the VFW to eat and contribute through the silent auction and raffle."

Marty is quick to acknowledge those who cook for the rally, including baked goods that are in the auction. "Everyone knows Diane Douglas' reputation as a baker. I think one of her pecan pies brought \$300 in the auction last year! Rheann participates in the bidding, as well."

Each club member who participates brings either a new, unwrapped toy or a \$10 donation to participate in the event, but many give much more. The community is encouraged to attend the event at the VFW. "The toy run always falls on the same day as the Corsicana Christmas Parade," Marty said. "We get started around 10:00 a.m. and by the time the ride makes it to the VFW and we have the meal and auction, things wind up mid-afternoon."

The community can make a day of it, kicking off the Christmas season with a Saturday filled with the parade and local shopping, donating and attending the lunch and auction.







The Salvation Army is another partner in the toy run. They distribute toys after they are collected and provide a list of specific needs the club tries to meet with money that is raised. Besides toys, the club purchases gifts of clothing and even diapers for families in need. "We have tried partnering with some other groups in the past, and there are a lot of charitable organizations that benefit the children at Christmas, but through trial and error over the years we have found what works best for us," Darrell said. "Right now, we don't plan to make any changes in the toy run. Linda and Toby Romack, former officers at The Salvation Army, did an outstanding job helping us know the needs and then making sure what we are able to raise goes to the right place.

"Last year, we filled a motorcycle trailer and the back of two SUVs with gifts and clothes for children. Our focus is on those who are from infants to the tweens, about 12 years old," Marty continued. "We don't have a specific goal in mind, but we know we want each year to be a little bigger than the year before."

Marty said donations to the auction are always needed, and new items are welcomed. "When I know someone is taking a trip anywhere near a Harley Davidson motorcycle store, I ask them to bring us a Harley T-shirt for the

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auction. Of course, they are very popular with the club members. We have had them donated from as far away as Alaska, Kuwait and Belize."

Darrell added, "Steve Slater does custom painting and paints miniature bikes that are put in the auction. It is amazing what some of them auction for. People really appreciate the quality work Steve does, and it's just another benefit for the kids."

Promotion for the event takes many forms, and "word-of-mouth advertising" helps a lot. There is a banner that goes up every year near the Aldi's at 45th Street and Highway 31, as well as flyers distributed to gas stations and other popular places that bikers frequent. "Another thing that everyone does is promote the event on social media, like Facebook," Marty commented.

"Marty has a charitable heart," Darrell complimented. "She is one of those people who would give you the shirt off her back if you needed it."

"It's just about the children," Marty demurred. "I know the toys are not the reason for the season, but I'd hate to think of a child not having Christmas."

In *A Christmas Carol*, Charles Dickens wrote of a family that would have had to do without at Christmas except for the last-minute generosity of old Ebenezer Scrooge. The community is grateful during this season for benevolent hearts and charitable organizations like the VFW, The Salvation Army, the Wind and Fire Motorcycle Club and so many others that are a testament to the spirit of Christmas. **NOW**

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# TO SELL OR NOT TO SELL

## At Home With Shelly Simmington

— By Rick Mauch

*"I love pretty things," Shelly Simmington, owner of Twyst, said. Specializing in antiques to hairstyling, Shelly loves to help people enjoy the beauty that surrounds her. You have to watch me, or I'll sell something right off the wall of my home," Shelly said with a smile.*

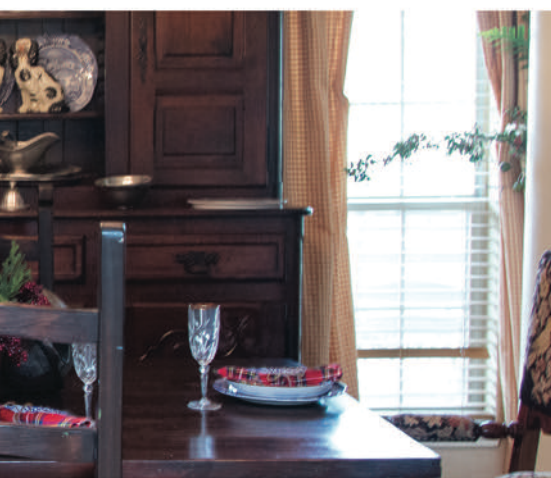
Just inside the front door of her home is one of her favorite items — a farm table large enough to comfortably seat eight people. It is filled with holiday decorations, including a giant reindeer made of hard resin displayed "smack dab" in the middle.

The table, however, is smaller than the massive china cabinet next to it. An import from Europe, it stands 8 feet tall, is 10 feet wide, and is filled with another of her favorite things — Blue Willow china. "I collect that. My children gave me that set for Christmas a few years ago," she said proudly, pointing to the keepsakes, then returning her attention to the cabinet itself. "It took four people to move that cabinet in here. Whoever gets the house after I'm gone will have to take this because I just can't imagine it being moved again."

Shelly has lived in the 2,750-square-foot home with three bedrooms and three-and-a-half baths for three decades. Her son, Justin; his wife, Kayla; her 16-year-old granddaughter, Jaycee; and her 10-year-old grandson, Jaxon, have lived next door for more than a decade. Shelly's parents graciously deeded a portion of the land to each family to build their homes. "It's nice out here. It's quiet," she said. "Deer walk right up to the backyard.








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There's also a family cabin on the property that's used for get-togethers. My dad built it soon after his retirement from Navarro College. It's not unusual to see a deer family sprinting across the grove in front of the cabin."

Her father, who owns the land, does not allow hunting on his property. He's been asked numerous times, but he prefers to allow the animals to live in peace with him and his family.

Shelly especially loves her grandchildren being next door. "It's nice with them being so close. I try to go to all their events. They are both competitive swimmers, and I love to watch them," she said.

Shelly's other son, Jason, and his wife, Tiffany, live in town. They have a 2-year-old son named Aedan, and Tiffany works with Shelly. "She's so talented. She can free-hand paint anything," Shelly said.

One of Shelly's favorite stories is of painting the large, southern staircase that dominates the entryway of her home. She sanded the entire thing and re-stained it, all by herself, several years ago. "You talk about months of work. That took me a long time," she said with a laugh. "Now you can buy a stain that goes right over the builder's grade. I wish I'd waited 15 years."

Shelly also loves to dabble in painting for art's sake. She attended a painting workshop in Oxford, England, with people from 10 different countries. "It was so cool. The language was different,



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but when you're doing art you don't have to talk. The art does the speaking," she said.

"I just doodle. I'd love to paint like that," she said, pointing to a painting of the English countryside above the fireplace. "Artistic expression helps the mind and the spirit."

Then, she moved over to a nearby dresser and picked up a wooden bowl, one of several throughout the home. "My dad taught industrial education at Navarro College. He made these bowls. They are so smooth," she said.

While Shelly is willing to part with some things, that's not so with others. She is a collector, though she insists she's not and things "just worked out that way." If she loves something she's going to collect it, such as her array of Christmas statuettes, complete with houses and churches in a village like that in Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. It lights up, and there's even a miniature Bob Cratchit and Ebenezer Scrooge.

The quaint kitchen features a stove in the middle, so whomever is cooking can remain in the middle of any conversation going on in the living room. There are no doors to separate, as the home has a very open style. And in the middle of the kitchen counter is a big red rooster statue, as if he's overseeing the cooking and the entertaining conversations.







In the corner of the living room is a lighted Christmas tree. Shelly leaves it up year-round. "The more you take them down, it's hard on them," she said. In another corner is an antique desk with another small tree on top, accompanied by two shepherds.

The master bedroom features a chifforobe with a mirror that stands about 9 feet tall. "These are getting hard to find. I found this one at an auction," Shelly continued. "I'll never buy new furniture again."

Another chifforobe, though not as large, highlights the master bathroom that could serve as a college student's apartment. With the large vanity counter and mirror, it takes one back to the days when getting ready to go out was an experience.

Shelly uses the upstairs for storage, since her children have moved. However, the landing between the two upstairs bedrooms is storage-free and offers a great view of the living room.

While Shelly's home has stories, she has an inspirational one of her own. She is a breast cancer survivor, battling the disease in 2015-2016. Her mother was diagnosed before her, and her aunt shortly after, all within two years. All three are doing fine now. "We got strength from each other and God," she said. "But my dad's favorite saying is, 'Bluebirds are gonna fly,' and they did! I'm blessed to have family close, both physically and emotionally. I've been through a lot in this house, and they've been through it all with me." **NOW**

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## Something New

— By Rick Mauch

Jamey Pritchett is a dreamer, and proud of it. He's living his dream, and he's always looking for new ways to enhance the dreams of himself and theater lovers. He became the executive director of the Warehouse Living Arts Center in January, replacing Sandra Mahood, who retired after holding the position for more than two decades.

Jamey came to the position after teaching theater for five years at Mildred High School, his alma mater. "When I heard she was retiring, I knew I wanted the job," Jamey, 36, said. "I worked with her [as an intern] and learned a lot. I was introduced to backstage and a lot of the business area. I worked in the box office a lot. I knew with all I had learned from her that I was ready for this position.

"There are some big shoes to fill. She had a way of doing things, but we're able to try some new things," Jamey added.

As the theater enters its 48th year, Jamey is partnering new ideas with traditional shows to create a season he

believes will entertain all. WLAC is introducing a Studio Series, shows presented in the smaller theater on the Fator Studio Stage, with seating for an intimate audience of about 75 people — with the exception of one show.

The series runs January 24-27, 2019, with three one-act plays written by David Ives, known for his short comedic works. The plays feature pairs of characters who fall in love through various challenges.

The second in the series will be *August: Osage County* March 21-24. This Pulitzer Prize winner was written by Tracy Letts and is about a dysfunctional family that reunites following the disappearance of their father.

Wrapping up the series is the Broadway musical *Rent*. It will be performed on the main auditorium stage with seating for about 131 people. In this musical, set at the dawn of the 1990s, a group of New Yorkers struggles with careers, love lives and the effects of the AIDS epidemic on their community. "Most people are familiar with the show, but it's edgy," Jamey said. "However, I think it's going to draw well. Theater shouldn't just be entertaining. It should make you think, and these shows all do that.

"I wanted something fun with heart, which is why I chose



the David Ives' shows. *August: Osage County* is a heavy show, but there is comedy. And we chose *Rent* because it's a fun show that deals with issues you won't normally see talked about around Corsicana but which need to be talked about in Corsicana."

As for the regular run of shows, they will include the classic musical *Little Shop of Horrors*, the comedies *Becky's New Car* and *The Sugar Bean Sisters*, the drama *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, and youth productions *Willie Wonka* and *the Chocolate Factory* and *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*. The big musical in November, presented at the Palace, will be *The Wizard of Oz*.

● ● ● ●

**"Theater shouldn't just be entertaining. It should make you think, and these shows all do that."**

● ● ● ●

Jamey is considering taking a condensed version of *Willie Wonka* to the Texas Nonprofit Theater Festival in Irving in June. "It's really a neat thing. During the day, they have workshops for the kids, and in the evening, they have different performances," he said.

Jamey is supported by an enthusiastic board with new ideas. "We have several young board members this year," he said. "We also want to utilize the studio space. We've only had a few shows there, along with theater classes and rehearsals, mainly."

Ashton Kantor is one of those young board members. She said she is excited about the upcoming season and the new Studio Series. "I think it's going to be a refreshing take on live theater in Corsicana." **NOW**

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# CookingNOW

## In the Kitchen With TONYA HARTLINE-KING

— By Virginia Riddle



Taught by her mom and granny, both great cooks, Tonya Hartline-King's cuisine took on an international taste journey when she married Alan King, a British native. "Alan introduced me to Indian food," Tonya said. "I love curries now." Fans of Pinterest recipes, Tonya and Alan treasure the recipes they've received from their mothers and are keen on sharing traditional British Christmas recipes. Alan has even mastered some great American traditional holiday choices. In addition to her Corsicana Public Library position, Tonya makes custom signs, and she and Alan are owners of Dallas Area Paranormal Society, helping to host the Corsicana Ghost Walk. "Alan and I love being in the kitchen together as a team," Tonya shared. "We're a team in everything we do." **NOW**

### Garlic Roasted Brussels Sprouts

**2 lbs. Brussels sprouts, cut in half lengthwise, top to bottom**  
**1 medium red onion, roughly chopped**  
**6 cloves garlic, roughly chopped**  
**1 tsp. kosher salt**  
**1 tsp. freshly ground black pepper**  
**Pinch of red pepper flakes**  
**2 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil**  
**8 slices uncooked thick-cut bacon, cut into 1/2-inch strips**

**1.** Preheat oven to 425 F; line a sheet pan with aluminum foil.  
**2.** Spread the Brussels sprouts, onions and garlic onto the pan; sprinkle sprouts with salt, pepper and red pepper flakes.

**3.** Drizzle with the olive oil; with clean hands, toss the sprouts until mixture is well-coated.  
**4.** Wiggle the pan until the Brussels sprouts are in a single layer; sprinkle the bacon pieces over the pan evenly.  
**5.** Bake 20-25 minutes until the sprouts are fork-tender. Taste test; season with additional salt, if desired.

### Rosemary Roast Chicken With Vegetables

Serves 4.

**1 whole chicken, about 3 lbs.**  
**Salt and freshly ground pepper, to taste**  
**1 tsp. rosemary, crushed (divided use)**  
**2 Tbsp. butter or margarine, softened**

**4 medium-size potatoes, peeled, cut into 2-inch cubes**  
**4 carrots, peeled, cut into 1-inch pieces**  
**4 small onions, peeled, quartered**  
**1 cup dry white wine**

**1.** Preheat oven to 375 F; season chicken inside and outside with salt and pepper.  
**2.** Place 1/2 tsp. rosemary in chicken's cavity; tie legs together.  
**3.** Rub butter or margarine over the chicken skin; place it in a large gratin dish or roasting pan.  
**4.** Roast the chicken for 15 minutes. Arrange the potatoes, carrots and onions around the chicken.  
**5.** Sprinkle the remaining rosemary over the chicken and vegetables; pour the wine over all.  
**6.** Bake 1 hour and 15 minutes in the pan drippings; add water if needed if the wine evaporates.

### Leek and Potato Soup

Serves 8.

**2 Tbsp. olive oil**  
**2 onions, finely chopped**  
**Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste**  
**3 garlic cloves, finely chopped**  
**6 sage leaves, finely chopped**  
**2 lbs. leeks, cleaned, finely sliced**



**5 cups hot vegetable stock**  
**2 lbs. potatoes, roughly chopped**  
**2/3 cup heavy cream**

1. In a large pan, heat the oil; add the onions. Cook over low heat for 6-8 minutes, or until the onions are softened.
2. Season with sea salt and pepper. Add the garlic, sage and leeks; stir well.
3. Continue to cook over low heat for 10 minutes, or until the leeks are beginning to soften.
4. Add the stock; bring mixture to a boil. Add the potatoes; simmer for 20 minutes until potatoes are softened.
5. Transfer mixture to a food processor or blender; process until mixture is smooth. Taste test; add more seasoning if desired.
6. Let cool completely. Transfer mixture to a freezer-proof container; seal. Freeze for up to 3 months.
7. To serve, defrost soup in refrigerator overnight; transfer to a pan. Stir in the cream; heat until soup is piping hot.

### Scotch Shortbread Rolled Cookies

*Yields 2-3 dozen.*

**2 cups (1 lb.) unsalted butter, room temperature**  
**1 cup powdered sugar**  
**4 cups all-purpose flour**

1. In a large bowl, cream the butter and powdered sugar. Gradually blend the flour in to make a smooth dough.
2. Divide the dough into quarters. Wrap in waxed paper; chill for 2 hours.
3. Preheat oven to 350 F; work with one dough piece at a time, keeping the remaining dough refrigerated.
4. On a floured surface, roll out dough piece to a 6-inch round; place the rounds 1 inch apart on an ungreased baking sheet.
5. Prick all over each round with a fork; score each round into wedges.
6. Bake for 12-15 minutes until very dry and lightly colored. Transfer to wire racks to cool; cut cookies into wedges.
7. *Note:* This dough can also be rolled out to a thickness of 1/2 inch and cut into small rounds. Or, it can be pressed into a 13x9-inch baking pan, pricked all over with a fork and scored into bite-size pieces.

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# BusinessNOW I.O.O.F. Event Center

— By Virginia Riddle

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With more than 20,000 square feet, the I.O.O.F. Event Center is a perfect venue for training meetings, seminars, exhibits, holiday parties, banquets, galas, wedding ceremonies and receptions, birthday parties, showers, quinceañeras and other special occasions. The main hall's full kitchen, grand piano, stage and audio-visual equipment works well for corporate events and concerts. Its outdoor veranda overlooks the adjoining I.O.O.F. Park. "However, we aren't just the main

hall," Deanna Hayes, the center's director, stated. "We have meeting rooms perfect for 20-30 attendees."

"Your event is *our* business" is the guiding principal of service given to all by Deanna and the other two staff members, a father-son team. "We are a family, too, so we make everything work well for your family's special occasions," Deanna said. "We're here nearly every single weekend and throughout each week, and we strive to make each person feel their event is very important and special. Many people, organizations and businesses return, so we've become family with those folks, too."

That family and community spirit is fostered by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, a benevolent organization, that owns and operates the event center, which was constructed on land that used to be part of the 200-acre site of the organization's children's home founded in 1885. Its peak population reached more than 400 children in the Great Depression of the 1930s. "The Odd Fellows do a lot for their



communities and youth through their charities,” Deanna said.

Adjacent to the event center, the I.O.O.F Park sits on land donated by the Odd Fellows to the city of Corsicana. The children’s home administration building, located on the opposite side of the event center, was remodeled in 2011 into the beautiful state headquarters of the Odd Fellows. The Miller Room in that building can accommodate 50-100 people and is available for rent. “It’s a beautiful room with hardwood floors and a partial kitchen,” Deanna said.

**“Your event  
is our  
business.”**

With its small lake and professional landscaping, the event center and administration building provide a visually appealing setting. If outside vendors are needed, such as decorators or caterers, Deanna has an approved list. Tables and chairs are available, along with WiFi connectivity, on-site RV spaces, electrical and data services and a business center. Alcohol is permitted.

The I.O.O.F Event Center has earned Best of the Best Venue in Navarro County for all consecutive years between 2013-2018. Bookings are accepted online or in person during office hours. The I.O.O.F Event Center accepts major credit and debit cards, check, cash and money orders as payment.

Trends come and go with the times, but Deanna and the I.O.O.F staff stay up with the latest changes. “We like to make sure we’re ‘right on’ and want our 200th event of the year to be as exciting as the first,” she explained.

A Grand Prairie, Texas, native, Deanna has lived in Corsicana since 1999. “My two sons call Corsicana home, and I do, too,” she remarked. She learned her job while working for the Corsicana & Navarro County Chamber of Commerce and Navarro Regional Hospital. “I love this community and its people,” she added. “We get to see the community coming together for the beautiful occasions they envisioned!” **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**

*Photo credit: Poole Photography.*



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*- Virginia Woolf*



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# Kids' Fun Pages

## CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD



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

Can you spot the two identical pictures?



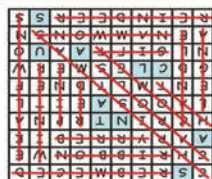
ANSWER: 1 & 3



## MYSTERIOUS WORD:

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

ANGEL  
BERRY  
CANDLE  
CAROLS  
CHRISTMAS  
COMET  
DECEMBER  
GIFT  
HAT  
PINE  
RED  
REINDEER  
RIBBON  
SNOWFLAKE  
SNOWMAN  
WINTER



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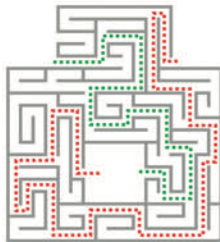


# Kids' Fun Pages

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:





Crazy ways to lose  
stubborn belly fat?

NOT  
COOL



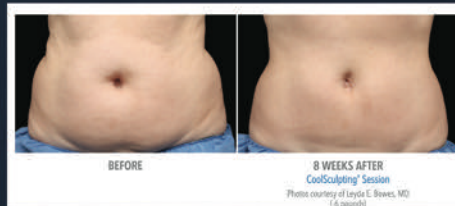
DO NOT ATTEMPT



An FDA-cleared  
approach that works?

THAT'S  
COOL

Tired of stubborn belly fat? Don't sweat it.  
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Model. Not an  
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During the procedure you may experience sensations of pulling, tugging, mild pinching, intense cold, tingling, stinging, aching, and cramping at the treatment site. These sensations subside as the area becomes numb. Following the procedure, typical side effects include temporary redness, swelling, blanching, bruising, firmness, tingling, stinging, tenderness, cramping, aching, itching, or skin sensitivity, and sensation of fullness in the back of the throat after a submental area treatment. Rare side effects may also occur.

The CoolSculpting® procedure is not for everyone. You should not have the CoolSculpting® procedure if you suffer from cryoglobulinemia, cold agglutinin disease, or paroxysmal cold hemoglobinuria. The CoolSculpting® procedure is not a treatment for obesity. Ask your doctor if CoolSculpting® is right for you. To learn more about what to expect, visit [www.coolsculpting.com](http://www.coolsculpting.com).

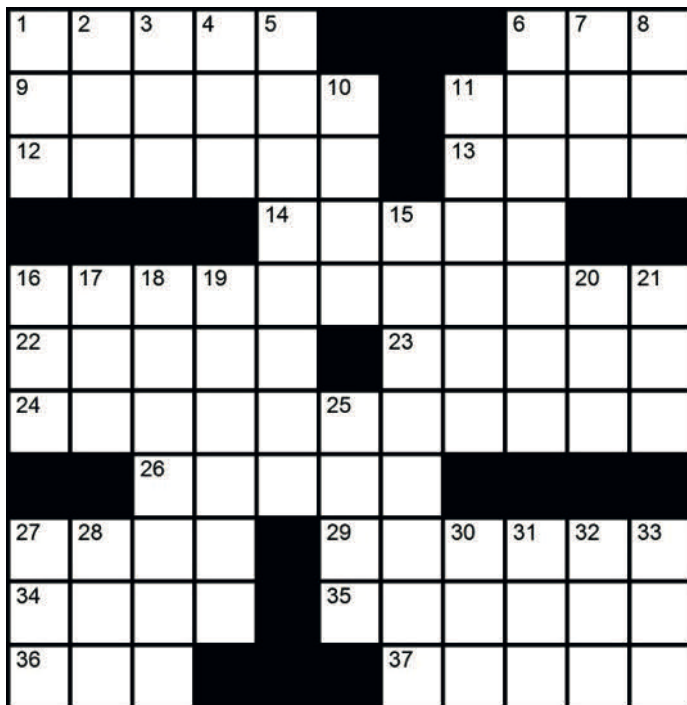
\*CoolSculpting® is the treatment doctors use most for nonsurgical fat reduction. ©2018 Allergan. All rights reserved.  
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# Crossword Puzzle



Crosswordsite.com Ltd

## 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 43



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# Sudoku Puzzle

Easy

Medium

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

							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 43

## CorsicanaNOW Magazine

# Scavenger Hunt



**EVERY MONTH, CorsicanaNOW MAGAZINE HOSTS THIS SCAVENGER HUNT! FIND 5 CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS IN OUR ADS, AND ENTER FOR THE CHANCE TO WIN ONE OF THE 3 PRIZES BELOW:**

Each month we hide five items in ADS ONLY throughout the magazine. This month there are 5 Christmas ornaments, just like the one above. Find all 5 (do not count the one above) in the Ads and email us the page number and specific ad where each ornament is found, plus your contact information. Three winners will be randomly drawn and announced in our January edition. Have fun and good luck! Email: [scavenger.cor@nowmagazines.com](mailto:scavenger.cor@nowmagazines.com). All entries must be received no later than December 15th.

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**November 2018 Results:** The pumpkin pie slices from last month were located on pages 4, 13, 19, 27 and the back cover. The winners from November were Tabitha Huston - MILES PRIZE; Susan Moore - NAVARRO PECAN PRIZE; Hector Vazquez - NOWMAG PRIZE.

Thank you to Miles Furniture and Navarro Pecan Company for donations.





## Zoomed In: Jennifer Steely

By Virginia Riddle

The smiling, welcoming Jennifer Steely is the first person to greet students, families and visitors to Navarro Elementary School as the school's secretary. A graduate of Navarro College and Ashford University, she attended Corsicana ISD schools. "Navarro's a great school and place to be," Mrs. Steely said.

Married to Tim Steely, they are parents of Aniston and Star Blades and Timbo Steely. "I left for Waco briefly, but God sent me back to find my husband," she said. "We're very family-oriented. We love spending time together hunting, fishing, watching college football and hosting family cookouts." The family attends First UMC Corsicana, and Mrs. Steely volunteers as a First United Wesley board member. She concluded, "Corsicana's a wonderful place for our children."



Kristy King and daughter, Hailey, host Mimosas at the Market at The Corner Shop.



Vernon Stebeck, Vietnam Veterans of American Chapter 1009 president, congratulates James Vargas, Kerens Cotton Festival's raffle winner.



These James L. Collins Catholic School students are Halloween's sweet spooks.



The sun shines brightly on Navarro County Relay for Life 2018.





Kim Jordan with the Chamber and Beverly Yangmera and Debra Wookcock with American RV host Business After Hours.



Nancy Rebal, the sculptor and the art director of the Wolf Brand Chili statue, unveiling her work on the corner of Fifth Avenue and Beaton Street.



Twilight Home Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation is well represented at the Chamber's 100th Anniversary Gala.



Corsicana teens, McKenna, Cissy, Lanie, Amber, Brianna and Lisa swoon as young Elvis (Moses Snow) drops to his knees and sings "Love Me Tender" at Corsicana Opry.



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12/3

Piecemakers' Quilt Guild meeting: Visitors are welcome. 9:30 a.m., Westhill Church of Christ, [corsicanaquiltguild.com](http://corsicanaquiltguild.com).

12/4

Manhattan Transfer Christmas Show: Grammy Award winning group presents their pop and jazz selections. 3:00 p.m. matinee. 7:30 p.m. evening show, The Palace Theatre, (903) 874-7792 or visit [www.corsicanapalace.com](http://www.corsicanapalace.com).

12/5

The Eureka, Mildred, Navarro and Richland Chambers Lake Crime Watch potluck luncheon: Tyler Tekell and Butch Bower from New Encounters will speak. 1:00 p.m., Eureka United Methodist Church, Patty Knauth, [pk2@airmail.net](mailto:pk2@airmail.net).

12/7

Senior Circle Pot Luck Luncheon: Bring a salad, vegetable, casserole or dessert. 11:30 a.m., Navarro Regional Hospital, Connie Beal, (903) 654-6800.

Polar Express Night: Free family movie, popcorn and drinks night. Wear your favorite Christmas PJs. 5:00 p.m., The Palace Theatre, (903) 874-7792 or visit [www.corsicanapalace.com](http://www.corsicanapalace.com).

12/8

4th Annual Lane Brown Toy Run & Food Drive: Pictures with Santa, BB, poker run and more awaits folks. Noon-5:00 p.m., American Legion Post 22 Johnson-Wiggins, visit the post's Facebook page.



Double Feature Christmas Movies: *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* and *Polar Express*. Free movie, popcorn and drinks night. Wear your favorite Christmas PJs. 3:00 p.m., The Palace Theatre, For more details, call (903) 874-7792 or visit [www.corsicanapalace.com](http://www.corsicanapalace.com).

12/10

Eclectic Readers Book Club: *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr will be discussed. 6:30 p.m., Corsicana Public Library, (903) 654-4810.

12/11

Stitch Together Needlecraft Club: Bring a project and work with friends. 6:00 p.m., Corsicana Public Library, (903) 654-4810.



12/12

Dailey and Vincent Christmas Show: This band presents a level of synergy that comes only from their bluegrass roots and constant live touring. 7:30 p.m., The Palace Theatre, (903) 874-7792 or visit [www.corsicanapalace.com](http://www.corsicanapalace.com).

12/14

Navarro County Retired Teachers meeting: Christmas carols, traditions remembered and treats. All retired school personnel are invited. 9:45 a.m., Northwest Apartments Community Room, Email Patty Knauth at [pk2@airmail.net](mailto:pk2@airmail.net).

Corsicana Newcomers' Club Christmas Social: "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," lunch and an ornament exchange. 11:00 a.m., Kinsloe House. For confirmed reservations, contact Annie Avery, For details, call (714) 345-6707.

THE VERY MERRY LIBRARY: Join the library elves for an after-hours holiday bash featuring Puppeteer Sandy ShROUT, a puppet making workshop, refreshments, and a visit from Santa. 7:00 p.m., Corsicana Public Library, (903) 654-4810.

12/18

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1009 meeting: 7:00 p.m., La Pradera, Roy Messick, [roy.messick@gmail.com](mailto:roy.messick@gmail.com).

12/19

Senior Circle Lunch Bunch: The Christmas fun will include a group photo by the downtown Christmas tree. 11:30 a.m., Across the Street Diner, Connie Beal, (903) 654-6892.

12/27

Movie Time: G Rated newly released family film featuring a Yeti and his newly found small-footed friend. 1:00 p.m. Corsicana Public Library, (903) 654-4810.



12/28

Movie Time: PG Rated newly released film about a nephew and uncle searching for a magical clock. 1:00 p.m. Corsicana Public Library, (903) 654-4810.

12/31

Happy Noon Year: Join us for a preschool dance party with refreshments and a countdown until noon, complete with a balloon drop. 10:00 a.m., Corsicana Public Library, (903) 654-4810.

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



# Crossword - Sudoku Solutions

1	2	3	4	5					6	7	8		
I	D	A	H	O					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		20	A
22	A	R	I	A	S			23	V	I	T	A	L
24	P	R	O	L	I	F	E	R	A	T	E		
			26	T	U	T	O	R					
27	F	R	E	E			29	E	I	S	N	E	R
34	B	A	R	S			35	S	N	U	G	L	Y
36	I	N	S					37	G	N	O	M	E

Easy

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

Medium

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



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# Civil War Christmas

— By Virginia Riddle

During wartimes, separated families and those on the battle fronts anticipated letters between each other. Examples of such Civil War letters are available to the public through the Pearce Civil War Archives of the Pearce Museum at Navarro College.

Among the writings are messages to J.R. Loughridge, a Corsicana lawyer, newspaper editor and chief justice of Navarro County, who joined the Navarro Rifles which became the 4th Texas Volunteer Infantry, Company I, Hood's Texas Brigade, Confederate Army. The newly commissioned first lieutenant left his wife, Felicia, and two daughters, Mary and Ella, at home while he saw action at major Virginia engagements, Gettysburg and Chickamauga from 1861-1863 except for a furlough from June 1862-May 1863 while he recovered from an arm wound.

Felicia reported to J.R. in her letter dated Christmas Day, 1861, "My Dear Husband, ... This is the dullest Christmas that I have ever witnessed no firing of guns nor any thing of the kind. ... Mary was up this morning early examining her stocking but did not seem dissatisfied I told her last night that she would get nothing in it that Santaclause had gone to war she said that she was willing to do with out his candy and raisons. ... I made her and Ella a very nice doll I could buy them none."

J.R. frequently circled the words "kiss" or "kisses" in his letters home. One such letter was dated March 29, 1862. He

resigned his captain's commission and returned to Texas in November 1863. Following the war, J.R. and Felicia added two sons, Samuel and Jackson, to their family. J.R. owned a cotton mill at Loughridge Bluff on the Trinity River near Rural Shade (south of Kerens). He helped to bring the Houston & Texas Central Railroad to Corsicana. J.R. died in 1886 and is buried in Rural Shade. Felicia died in 1893 and is buried in Corsicana's Oakwood Cemetery.

In another exhibited letter, a soldier spoke of serving with the Navarro County cow boys [sic]. Other letters reported parades, wheel barrow races, greased pig wrestling and dinners of ham, turkey and biscuits had brightened their Christmas celebrations. Military bands played for balls, and trees were cut and brought to homes and encampments.

"Prince Albert, Queen Elizabeth I's German-born husband, had made the German tradition of Christmas trees popular, so decorated trees had been featured in *Godey's Lady's Book* in the 1850s," Ann Zembala, Pearce Museum director, stated. Ladies cut out pictures from ladies' magazines and made them into cards to hang, along with ivy, bowers, strung cranberries and/or popcorn, acorns or anything else they could find. They became clever trying to keep Christmas festive even during the bleakest of times." **NOW**

*Editor's Note: The quoted transcription was copied from the original document and is representative of all spelling, punctuation and grammar as written by Felicia Loughridge. Learn more at [www.pearcemuseum.com](http://www.pearcemuseum.com) or by calling (903) 875-7438.*





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&  
Happy  
Holidays**

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