

GranburyNOW

DECEMBER 2018

M A G A Z I N E

Kids' Fun Pages



pp. 26 & 28

Crossword/Sudoku

p. 30

Texas Dream

At Home With Stan
and Kay Wasielewski

2018 Holiday
Shopping Guide

An Elaborate Display

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ON THE COVER

Christmas is a favorite time of year in the Wasielewskis' home.

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Lisa

Lisa Bell
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It's the best time of the year ...

I admit it. I'm one of those crazy ladies who sneaks into the seasonal area as soon as decorations appear. I amble over to Christmas trees, not because I plan to buy a new one, but because I like them. And I'll go back many times before Christmas. So, if you see me in the store, I might be standing and staring with a twinkle in my eyes. And, hopefully, the lights around town capture my attention and slow me down for a moment.

I've always loved Christmas. I still like turning on seasonal music while enjoying careful placement of each decoration, some faded and worn with years, and most with a memory connected. When my girls left home, they each took a box of ornaments I made for them over the years. Most of the time, I made an extra one for myself. A simple tradition, but one I loved — and still do.

I best love watching children — the way it all mesmerizes them. I covet that same wonder and awe of the season. We easily get caught up in the busy stuff of the holidays, but through the eyes of a child and with love in our hearts, perhaps we might recapture the amazement of this season.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

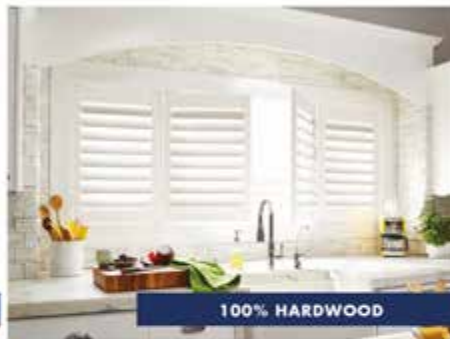
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An Elaborate Display

Sometimes, all it takes is a friendly challenge — like the one Jon Back accepted 13 years ago — to create something unforgettable. It started in 2005, when Jon heard of a house in Ohio that had countless Christmas lights on display. It was featured on YouTube. “People kept sending me that video saying, ‘Jon, you can do this,’” he recalled. “Then, I was watching with some friends at work, and they said it was fake and in a studio. I said, ‘I can do that.’ Two months later, I had it out there for everyone to see.”

And they’ve been seeing it ever since. Each Halloween and Christmas, folks come to Dove Hollow Road in Granbury to see the elaborate display presented by Jon and his wife, Suzanne. “Some people say it’s almost hypnotic,” Jon said.

“And I guess maybe it is in a way. I actually see kids put down their phones and tablets to watch.”

Christmas is the more elaborate of the couple’s two holiday light displays, featuring around 80,000 lights, with limitless combinations. “It’s really only limited by my imagination,” Jon said.

And Jon has an enormous imagination. He’s constantly thinking of ways to make it more interesting. “I would say out of 365 days in a year, I spend about 300 doing something with this,” he said.

Jon often attends Christmas light conventions, held in Chicago twice, along with Nashville, Mobile, Fort Worth and Mesquite. He also belongs to a group called the North Texas Light-a-Holics, with folks from as far away as Louisiana and Oklahoma meeting monthly.

Jon would like to host a convention in his hometown someday. “Our convention center here in Granbury is the perfect size,” he said.

Jon’s displays are coordinated with computer software. “I like to compare it to a player piano, except instead of 88 keys, I have 88,000,” he noted.

Visitors can tune into 95.5 on their FM car radios and hear Christmas music coordinated to Jon’s displays. The frequency is not licensed to any station currently, and there is a sign posted



— By Rick Mauch

play



Photo by Jodi Albert

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to inform visitors to tune in. "We'll spend hours listening to Christmas music and asking, 'What works here?'" Suzanne said, referencing the synchronization of the music with the flashing lights and animations.

"If they don't tune into the station, they'll stay about five minutes, but if they realize there's a song playing, they'll stay for several songs," Jon said. "One young neighbor asked for (her own) radio, so she could listen in her room every year."

Two of the more popular songs are the classic "Grandma Got Run Over by A Reindeer" and an Elvis holiday legend. "We've had people drive in a nursing home van from Hico just to hear 'Blue Christmas,'" Jon said.

Oftentimes, anyone who stops by gets a candy cane, delivered by Jon himself. "We had a neighbor who would get his daughters ready for bed, get in the car, drive around the block, stop and wait for 'Mr. Jon' to come out," Suzanne said.

The Christmas display includes a large tree that flashes different designs and stands about 21 feet tall with the star on top. It has around 1,200 lights, each individually controlled. Most of the display uses pixels, so they can change to about 16 million colors.

Large matrix grids feature a variety of designs. Sometimes they are angels, or Mary looking down on baby Jesus. Sometimes they are candy canes, text or even pictures of their granddaughters, 3-year-old Vivian and 1-year-old Noor.

Jon retired three years ago from his job at Comanche Peak, which brought them to Granbury in 1986, after he spent eight years in the Navy as a nuclear reactor operator. Suzanne teaches second grade





at Bacchus Elementary School. They have two children, Vivian's father, Joel, and Noor's mother, Jessie.

Jon and Suzanne make the most of their 90-feet wide by 35-feet deep yard. "Luckily I don't have a huge yard," Jon said, laughing. "This one keeps me busy enough."

A few years ago, Joel came up with the idea of Santa Night as part of the event. He dresses up as Santa and invites his friends and their children over for fun and treats, including hot chocolate, cookies and brownies. And, of course, visitors to the display that night are in for a special surprise, as Santa is there to say hi. "The kids see Santa, and they just jump out of the car," Jon said.

Suzanne quickly added, "Joel is so good. He lets them all sit in his lap."

Suzanne said this year they are adding another Santa and extending Santa Night to multiple dates. "That'll really trick those who have figured out it's Joel," she said, chuckling.

The Halloween decor, while not as popular and displayed for a shorter time, still draws its own crowds. "We'll get 1,000 trick-or-treaters. We learned many years ago not to do scary because so many kids are coming by," Jon said.

The displays have become such a tradition that folks want to help Jon keep it a reality each year. "People want to give me money to help pay my electric bill," he said. "I tell them I switched to LED, so it's not that much — anymore." **NOW**

Editor's Note: For details, visit www.granburychristmaslights.com.



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TEXAS *Dream*

— By Lisa Bell

AT HOME WITH STAN AND KAY WASIELEWSKI

Before moving to Granbury, Stan and Kay Wasielewski co-managed an independent retirement community. They decided they didn't want to stay there until they retired or had to move in and, after only a six-month stint, they were ready for a change. Besides, Kay had a dream to pursue.

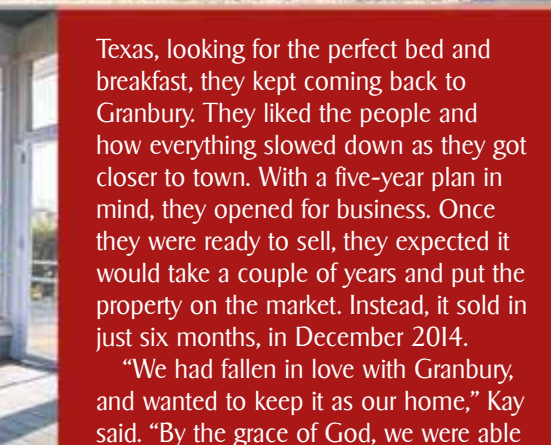
When Stan and Kay moved to Granbury in 2009, they captured her 30-year dream of owning a bed and breakfast. Now, they simply have a cute cottage-style house surrounded by a parklike atmosphere. And they still love Granbury. They sometimes help and fill in for friends who own local bed and breakfasts, even though they gave theirs up several years ago.

This month, they celebrate their 51st wedding anniversary. They knew each other in high school. "I didn't like him," Kay admitted. "I wouldn't date him or have anything to do with him."

As freshmen in college, however, they ran across each other in the library. "She was dating a super athlete," Stan said. "I was the exact opposite." He asked her boyfriend at the time if she could type a term paper for him, and paid her a whopping dollar per page. After spending an entire Sunday afternoon working on it, Stan invited Kay to take a ride in his '56 four-door Chevy. She accepted, not quite ready to date anyone exclusively. A short time later, he took her for dinner and dancing and sent roses. "He schmoozed me," she said, grinning. "He was really kinda cute and a good kisser."

During their years together, they lived in 20 different places, coming to Texas in 1983. "Texas became our home," Kay said. After a 1,200-mile odyssey throughout





Texas, looking for the perfect bed and breakfast, they kept coming back to Granbury. They liked the people and how everything slowed down as they got closer to town. With a five-year plan in mind, they opened for business. Once they were ready to sell, they expected it would take a couple of years and put the property on the market. Instead, it sold in just six months, in December 2014.

"We had fallen in love with Granbury, and wanted to keep it as our home," Kay said. "By the grace of God, we were able

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to buy a small lot near Lambert Park.”

Kay designed their home, incorporating all the things she wanted, while accepting the challenges of a small lot and staying within their budget. The porches are one of the best features, with a flag flying from the front as a testament to the couple’s patriotism. Rocking chairs provide an invitation to sit and visit. The enclosed back porch looks out over a lake inlet and the park.

Stan is an outdoors person, so these two spaces are his favorite rooms in the

house. He often sits on one porch or the other enjoying the abundance of critters, including people, who may be passing on the walking/bike trail.

Kay’s favorite room is the kitchen, which opens to the dining area and living room. She loves the open feel and ability to cook without being separated from guests. With arches throughout the home, her simple elegance shines. The kitchen has covered beams, an island and corner pantry.

An inset above the stove features

mother-of-pearl tile. Two chairs sit beside the island where the couple usually enjoys breakfast together. In designing the kitchen, Kay made sure she had plenty of room and a great set up. She loves cooking, and makes many wonderful dishes.

Although the house isn’t very large, they have enough room to entertain and live comfortably. They love the coziness of a fire in the corner fireplace, with amazing views of the outdoors. Large windows line the rooms, and French doors leading to the back porch bring the sunshine in on cold winter days. A nearby park adds warmth to their



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peaceful home, which feels more like it sits in the middle of the park.

They incorporated a love of art throughout their home. Paintings come from different places, such as New Orleans or Grapevine, reminiscent of places they lived. Many of them are original works created by relatives and friends, and Kay even has one of her own paintings hanging above a desk. They also display pictures they won during a cruise.

In the master bathroom, they hung a commissioned painting of their lake cottage in Indiana. One of their favorite pieces of art hangs in the living room, a memory of Olin (Kay's father) painted by Jim Bennett. Her sister knew the artist, so it has sentimental value.

Stan serves on the Granbury Preservation Commission, but he is also a supporter of the Granbury Chamber of Commerce. A picture hangs in the hallway commemorating his proudest moment — being named ambassador of the year. "I'm very proud to be a Granbury Chamber ambassador," he said. "It is the No. 1 Chamber of all I've ever been part of."



Both Stan and Kay enjoy Christmas. She loves decorating their home, adding a touch of the season throughout the house. The simplicity and calmness of the home reflect their personalities, while the joy of the season comes through in their love for each other and the community they call home. Transformed for the season, the decorations are just one more touch of Kay's artistic, creative eye and Stan's easygoing nature.

In the past, Stan and Kay served as docents for the Granbury Candlelight Tour of Homes. This year, their house will be one of the featured homes. Be sure to stop by and enjoy the peaceful feeling of one couple's Texas dream turned into an unexpected forever home. **NOW**

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Uniquely You

— By Lisa Bell

Holidays bring out memorable customs. Some are relatively common, like annual ornaments, Chinese or White Elephant gift exchanges and celebrating the birth of Jesus. Yet, even in these traditions shared by many, each family adds their own touches, transforming ordinary into something special.

Many people share the tradition of collecting ornaments, but each family differs in this custom. Some make a new one each year. Others find a pickle ornament or spider web (both supporting folk tales).

Jane Gilbreath's family started a white elephant gift exchange more than 30 years ago. While the "game" itself wasn't rare, someone brought an urn filled with ashes. They nicknamed the gift Uncle Joe. "If you get Uncle Joe, you have

to write a poem and bring it to the Christmas party next year," she shared. The family now has a folder containing more than 30 ridiculous poems.

Carmen Mininger added, "Proud to say I've never had Uncle Joe. And the one time I tried to get him, someone stole him from me. I've got a crazy family!"

Lydia Notgrass allows one grandchild to pass around a basket of hearts. Each person picks one. Another grandchild then collects the hearts in a pre-wrapped box and places it beneath the tree, symbolic of giving their hearts to Jesus on His day. Then they play "Happy Birthday, Jesus" recorded by the group, Alabama.

Among unique traditions, Eric Max and his wife found a way to cope with the loss of their son early in 2016. For the past two years, they've taken Christmas dinner to Cook Children's Hospital Hematology/Oncology floor. "We figure if the families can't be home for Christmas dinner, we can take it to them," he said.

Smiey Curry and her husband don't have children. So, he dresses as Santa, and they go to a tent city with toys, candy, blankets and more, plus Christmas dinner, which they share with homeless people. After a wonderful day, they start celebrating with extended family, which can take as much as two months to complete.

Crystal Forney started a tradition with her kids of using natural old-school, handmade decorations, like salt-dough ornaments, popcorn and cranberry garlands, cinnamon-stick crosses, and such. "It takes a long time," she admitted. "But the boys love it, and honestly, so do I."

Nativities are fairly common. As a way to change up the traditional scene, Carrie Young sets hers up differently. Three wise men start the season across the room until the star appears, and Jesus arrives in the manger. Then she moves the wise men a little closer each day. They reach the manger scene on Epiphany.

Some traditions originate from other countries. With a mother-in-law who is Polish, Doris Bernier readily accepted a new tradition. "We pass Oplatki (a wafer that's usually blessed by a priest). We then go around to each person and wish something specific to them (good health, good job, maybe a baby will come your way this year, etc.) as that person breaks off a piece of the wafer."

Growing up in Germany, Nadia Lambert passed on a tradition to her children she enjoyed as a child. On December 6, the kids put a Christmas list in their shoes. Sometime that evening, St. Nicholas takes the list, leaving candy for good children and sticks for naughty ones. He rings a bell when finished. "Tradition says St. Nicholas would take the Christmas list to the Christ child, because He is the giver of all good things," Nadia said.

So many wonderful customs — so little space to record them all. The best part comes from sharing traditions with new generations and friends. Whether you have those you carried forward from childhood and now share with your children, or perhaps you're creating new ones, the holidays are a great time for unique moments that last for generations. **NOW**

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CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With

LISA WRIGHT

— By Lisa Bell

In her early 40s, Lisa Wright graduated from Fort Worth Culinary School. Although her father and grandmother influenced early cooking, she and her husband, Grady, lived in New Orleans for a couple of years. “That’s where I really fell in love with cooking,” she shared. “New Orleans has some of the best food in the world.”

Lisa worked as a chef in several restaurants, a winery and as a personal chef before they moved to Granbury in November 2017. For the past year they’ve worked on their home. “Eventually, we would like to have a bed and breakfast.” She loves teaching others to cook. “Cooking classes, as well as plated dinners, will happen,” she said. The chef loves to take recipes and spin them in a different direction. **NOW**

S’mores Muffins

- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- Milk, enough to fill cups (about 1 1/3-1 1/2 cup)
- 3/4 cup chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup small marshmallows
- 6 graham crackers (break into small pieces)

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Grease muffin cups or line with muffin liners.

- 2. Combine flour, sugar, salt and baking powder.
- 3. Place vegetable oil into a 1-cup measuring cup; add egg, vanilla and milk.
- 4. Mix this with flour mixture (do NOT overmix).
- 5. Fold chocolate chips, marshmallows and graham cracker pieces into mixture. Fill muffin cups to the top.
- 6. Bake for 25 minutes in preheated oven.

Turkey and Stuffing Meatballs

Makes 60 meatballs

- 2 Tbsp. butter
- 1 large onion, diced small
- 2 celery sticks, diced
- 2 carrots, peeled and diced small
- 1 pear, diced small

- 2 lbs. ground turkey
- 1 lb. ground sausage
- 1 14-oz. bag cornbread stuffing
- 2 eggs
- 1 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 2 Tbsp. poultry seasoning
- 1 Tbsp. ground sage
- 1 Tbsp. each garlic powder, kosher salt and pepper
- 1 14.5-oz. can chicken or turkey broth

- 1. Preheat oven to 350 F.
- 2. Melt butter in a sauté pan and add onion, celery, carrot and pear. Sauté until soft; set aside to cool.
- 3. In a large mixing bowl, add turkey, sausage and all other ingredients, except the broth. Mix well.
- 4. If mixture is too dry, add a Tbsp. of chicken broth at a time.
- 5. Roll into quarter-size balls and place on a greased baking sheet. Bake in the oven for approximately 45 minutes, or until the internal temperature hits 165 F.

Cranberry-Orange Compote

- 1 cup dried cranberries
- Zest of 1 navel orange
- 5 navel oranges, peeled and sectioned

1 cup sugar
1 Tbsp. brandy
3 Tbsp. water

1. Place all ingredients into a non-reactive sauce pan; mix and simmer over medium heat until all the fruit is soft, about 40 minutes.
2. Remove from heat. Serve at room temperature.

Lobster Tots

1/2 lb. lobster, finely chopped
1 1/2 cups shredded potatoes (thawed hash browns)
1/4 cup bread crumbs
1 Tbsp. cilantro
1 large egg
Zest of half a lemon
1 tsp. salt
1 Tbsp. Old Bay seasoning
1/2 tsp. cracked black pepper
1/2 tsp. garlic powder
Canola oil, for frying

1. In a bowl, combine lobster, potatoes, bread crumbs, cilantro, egg and lemon zest. Mix well to combine.
2. Add seasonings, mix again and roll mixture into balls.
3. In a heavy bottom saucepan, add enough canola oil to completely submerge lobster tots.
4. Heat the oil to 350 F. Fry balls until golden brown. Drain on a paper towel.

No-bake Fudge Cookies

1 stick butter
4 Tbsp. cocoa powder
1/2 cup milk
2 cups sugar
1/2 cup chopped Spanish peanuts
1/2 cup crunchy peanut butter
3 cups quick oats
1 tsp. vanilla
1/2 tsp. salt

1. In a saucepan, combine butter, cocoa powder, milk and sugar.
2. Cook on medium heat until all sugar dissolves.
3. Remove from heat and add nuts, peanut butter, quick oats, vanilla and salt. Mix well.
4. Drop by spoonful on wax paper or parchment paper. Let cool and enjoy.

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Did You Know ... Everything Really Is Bigger in Texas?

— By Derek Jones

Anyone who has lived in Texas for any length of time has heard the old saying, “Everything is bigger in Texas.” This famous adage can be found on bumper stickers and billboards, and is often cited in various ad campaigns. While there is no consensus on when the phrase was originally coined, it is commonly accepted that the saying refers to the geographical size of Texas. This stands to reason as Texas is the largest of the lower 48 states, with only Alaska being bigger. The state is roughly the size of France and takes more than 14 hours to drive across.

When driving through The Lone Star State, one will encounter many attractions, which serve to illustrate that everything is bigger in Texas. A traveler might encounter the world’s largest pecan in Seguin, large whimsical sculptures like that of Cadillac Ranch in Amarillo or the statue of Sam Houston outside of Huntsville, billed as the largest statue of an American hero. There is no limit to the imagination of

Texans when it comes to creating images that represent the size of their beloved state.

Texas is home to many larger-than-life icons, which serve as a source of pride and identification for Texas residents. For example, who can forget the image of Big Tex himself standing watch over the State Fair of Texas each year giving his customary cowboy greeting to guests? No one but Big Tex could fill his 95-gallon hat. The size of the famous cowboy is appropriate as the event draws some of the largest crowds of any state fair in the U.S., and what better place for the State Fair of Texas than the sprawling metropolis of Dallas, which is also referred to as Big D.

If size matters, then one only needs to look to the city of Austin — the home of the Texas State Capitol. From its entertainment industry to politics, Austin exhibits the big Texas spirit. The city bills itself as “The Live Music Capital of the World,” and this is demonstrated by Austin’s many music



festivals and venues. Even the State Capitol reveals the spirit of largeness by standing as one of the tallest state capitol buildings and one of the few which stands higher than the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

During the summer months, hundreds of people can be spotted in the evening by Congress Avenue Bridge (also known as Bat Bridge) waiting to see the world's largest urban bat colony emerge from under the bridge in a frenzy of flight in search of food. The robust atmosphere of Austin makes it the perfect location to serve as the capital of such a grand state.

When it comes to everything being bigger in Texas, perhaps the state's most prolific mark is in that of wide-open spaces that lend themselves to romantic thoughts of Texas cowboys roaming the range on horseback. Two national parks are located within the borders of Texas — Big Bend National Park and Guadalupe Peak National Park. Guadalupe Peak is home to the tallest mountain in the state, which rises 8,751 feet, and stands taller than famous El Capitan in Yosemite National Park. From its summit, a hiker can see the floor of Texas spread out beneath them.

Big Bend National Park serves up seemingly infinite miles of wilderness with the Rio Grande flowing along its border.

If in the mood for a different landscape other than desert, Padre Island will offer a needed change in scenery. Padre Island is the world's longest barrier island and presents white sand dunes, endless ocean vistas and beautiful Texas sunsets. These open and wild spaces conjure up images deserving of a state that prides itself on size.

Sometimes, however, bigger is not always better. In 2017, Hurricane Harvey, one of the largest and most costly hurricanes to hit the United States, made landfall on the gulf shores of Texas. Although government aid was essential during this crisis, it quickly became clear it would not be enough. As the extent of the destruction of the hurricane began to surface, so did incredible stories and images of regular people helping one another. Neighbor helping neighbor became a prominent theme emerging from news sources and demonstrated the true depths of human compassion and the size of Texans' hearts. Hurricane Harvey was no match for the size of the spirit of Texas.

Whether you were born here, moved here as quickly as possible or are just passing through, the uniqueness and grandeur of The Lone Star State is enchanting. The slogan, "Everything is bigger in Texas," is part of the state's tradition, and it holds true that many things really are bigger here. **NOW**



BusinessNOW

Heartis Cleburne

— By Lisa Bell

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www.heartis.com/communities/cleburne

Hours: Sunday-Saturday: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Facility open 24/7 (required security access after 5:00 p.m.)

Owner and CEO Jason Signor asked, “Have you ever heard ‘Your home is where your heart is?’” At the senior community in Cleburne, Texas, hanging up your heart comes easy.

Although Heartis has 11 locations in Texas and continues expanding even beyond state lines, the Cleburne community was the first built. Four years old, the complex houses seniors needing assisted living at three levels or memory care. Some

Heartis locations include independent living and integrated health care.

Jason chose the location so the community felt like a home in the country, complete with the farm next door. In the wide open field, donkeys and goats wait for residents to bring treats and spoil them with petting and love. “They are a great opportunity for memory care,” said Priscilla Leonard, the marketing director at Heartis Cleburne. “We use baby goats as therapy goats.”

Of course, residents may also bring along their pets, which can make a transition less stressful. Heartis Cleburne strives to maintain the feel of an apartment complex with the convenience of a restaurant-style dining hall, beauty salon, church services, daily devotions, movies and more activities than imaginable. And the best part — residents provide input in the activities they want.

Mimosa Monday, Tippy Tuesday and Wal-Mart Wednesday

are only the beginning. Residents also have the opportunity to do Zumba, woodcrafting, painting, jewelry making and other arts and crafts without paying an extra fee. They can have wine on the patio and listen to live entertainment or interact with children for trunk or treat.

The Cleburne Drama Club decorates for Winter Wonderland, an annual senior prom where a king and queen, chosen from among the residents, receive their crowns.

For memory care residents, Heartis uses Montessori programs for stimulation and physical activity, although therapy dogs, Phoebe and Pax, are favorites. "Residents adore them," Priscilla shared.

They work hard to allow all residents to keep their dignity, even knocking at doors and waiting for an answer. Priscilla tells caregivers, "Put yourself in their shoes. It helps to know about their previous life, as well as personal likes and dislikes."

For 14 years, Priscilla provided in-home caregiving before coming to Heartis as a med-tech. A little over a year ago, she took the marketing job. "I love marketing," she admitted. "But it isn't sales here. It's about bringing in the residents, so they have the quality of life they deserve. We want every resident to be safe and happy."

As the first person most people meet and always available to provide tours, Priscilla has a passion for the people living at Heartis. "I love to see the expressions on their faces, hear their stories," she said.

At Heartis Cleburne, the residents enjoy giving back to the community through hosting pet adoptions, contributing to school supply drives, raising money for Ronald McDonald houses or other organizations. Some go every Monday and volunteer with Meals on Wheels.

According to Priscilla, meals and activities are important when searching for the right place to live. At Heartis Cleburne, she does her part to keep the family atmosphere alive. "I come into their home to work, and they care about me as much as I love them." And her heart is truly in their home. **NOW**



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TravelNOW

The City of Lights

— By Corey C. Poole

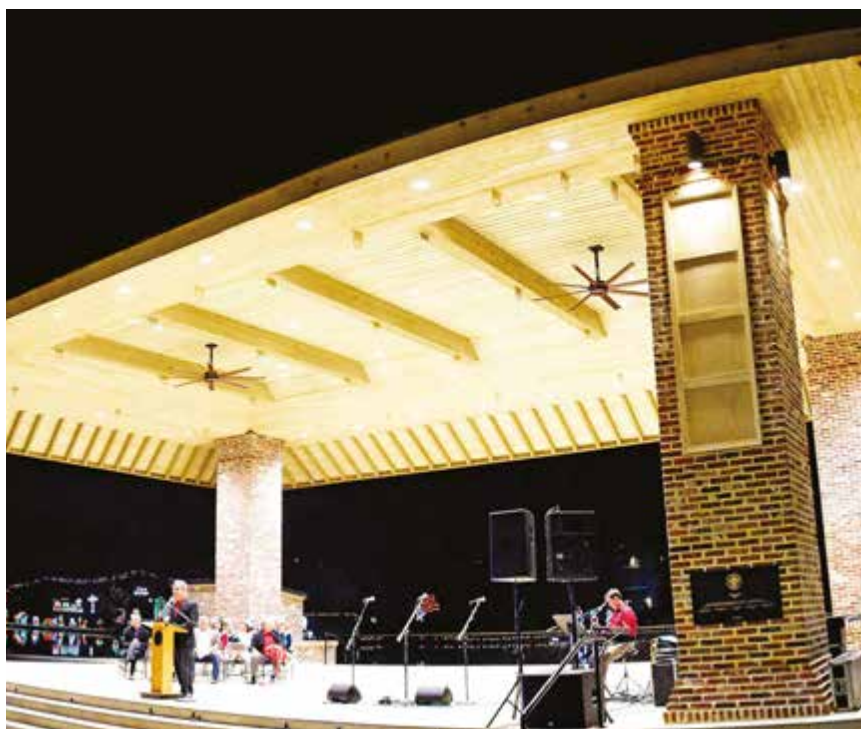
Natchitoches is known for many things — its culture, cuisine and hard to pronounce name (Nack-a-tish). Named after a Native American Indian tribe, Natchitoches translates to “pawpaw eaters,” a fruit tree once plentiful in the region.

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.

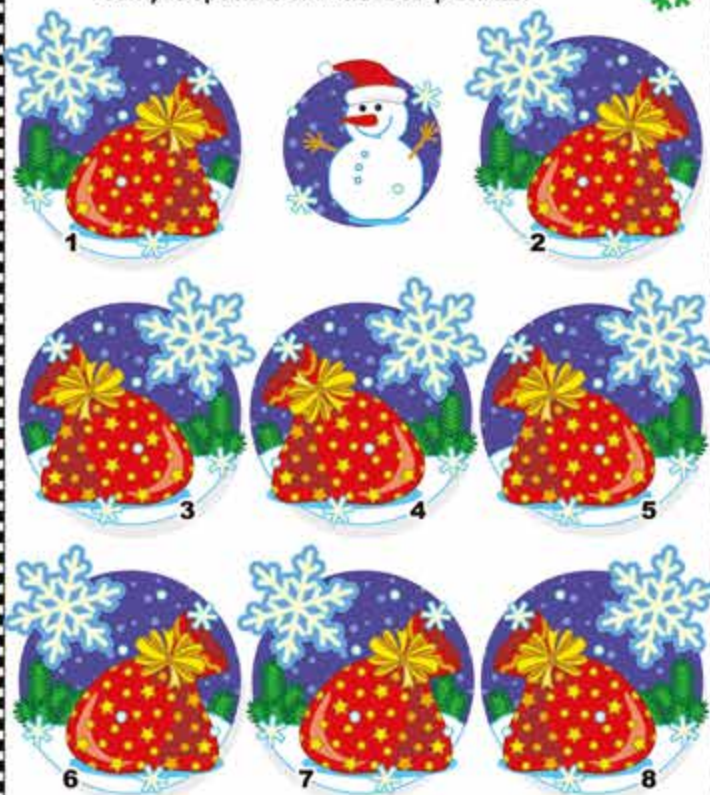
Kids' Fun Pages

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD



..... Time for Presents

Can you spot the two identical pictures?



ANSWER: 1 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
PINE
RED
REINDEER
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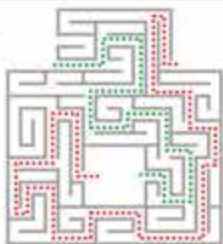
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Kids' Fun Pages

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:



FINALLY a way to fix the PAIN of a BULGING DISC



Are you suffering from back pain, arm or leg pain, numbness, tingling, or weakness in your arms or legs? Then it's likely you're suffering from a Bulging DISC. That's when one of your spinal discs are bulging and causing these, sometimes severe, symptoms because of the effect it's having on your nerve system.

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.

FACT: Not true. Dr. Carl McAfee in Weatherford is currently offering an initial consultation with one of their specialists for just \$29.

Dr. Carl McAfee, DC is a Bulging DISC Expert in Weatherford.

This procedure does not require a hospital stay and in most cases you'll be able to continue with your normal daily activities with little

interruption. The focus is on finding - and correcting - the original cause of the Bulged DISC.

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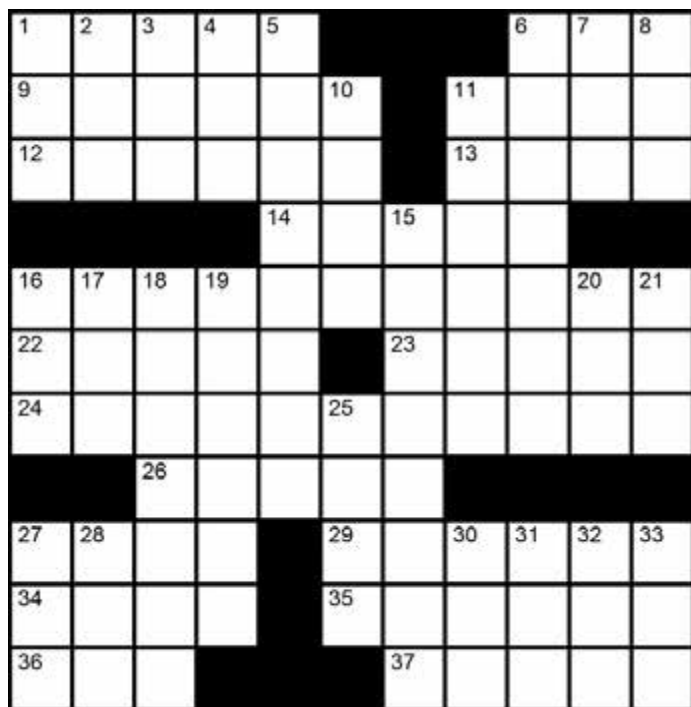
The first step is to secure a thorough examination with Dr. Carl McAfee, DC.

Call 817-594-0281 to schedule your appointment. Mention this article (CODE: BOS43BDSM4h) and they will happily reduce their usual consultation fee of \$275 to just \$29! Only 100 reader consultations are available at this exclusively discounted rate.

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Crossword Puzzle



Crosswordsite.com Ltd

Across

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

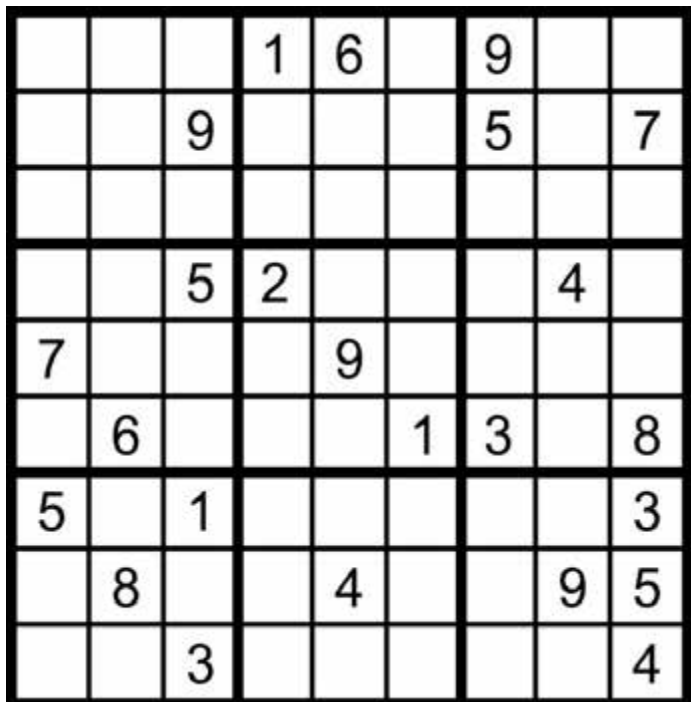
Down

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

Solutions on page 33

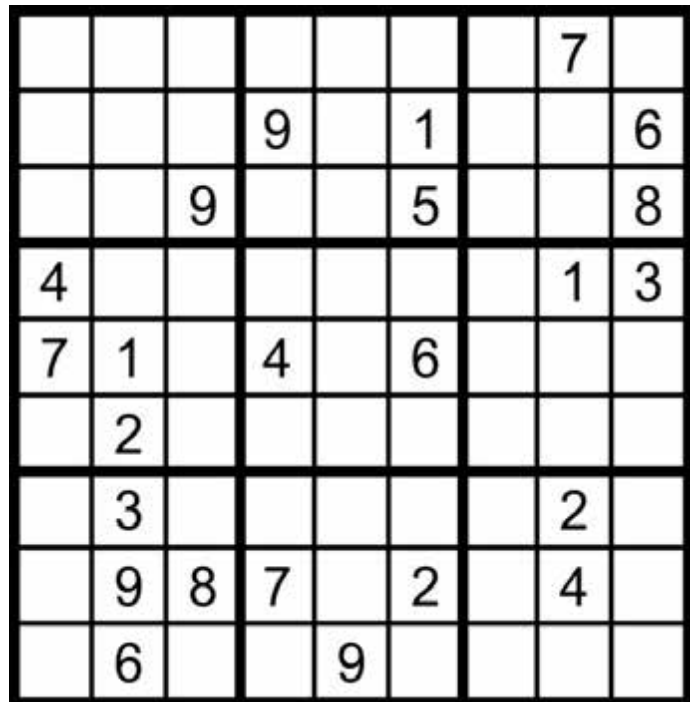
Sudoku Puzzle

Easy



Crosswordsite.com Ltd

Medium



Solutions on page 33



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Zoomed In: Crystal Forney

By Lisa Bell

She may be a hair stylist by day, but on Thursday evenings, Crystal Forney puts all of her energy and fun personality into Zumba classes. One of two instructors who leads the group on Mondays and Thursdays at the First Christian Church of Granbury, she shows up ready to gently nudge class members. "With healthy eating and Zumba, I lost 80 pounds," she shared.

Although Crystal loves challenging each person to dig deeper, she never leaves someone feeling bad about not keeping up or staying with lower impact. "You just do what you can, and it's OK if you mess up." She admits missing steps when she attends a class as a participant on Mondays, when Carly Thresher normally leads the group. Their energy is contagious.



Peanut Butter and Jelly at Home Sweet Home have entirely too much fun on Halloween.



Marilyn Satterwhite loves Granbury.



Marcene West (back right) enjoys a four-generation lunch in Granbury.



GHS Health Science Clinical classes receive hands-on experience with a surgical robot.



Women in Business always have fun at gatherings.



Julie Kipler shares her book with the ladies of the Newcomers Club.



Max and Amy Martinez visit Granbury during the Harvest Moon Festival.



Good friends Belinda Hamilton and Sandy Bigge enjoy a mild fall day with lunch outdoors.

Crossword - Sudoku Solutions

1	I	D	A	H	O					6	J	A	B
9	S	E	D	A	N	S				11	H	A	L
12	M	I	S	H	A	P				13	O	K	A
							14	V	E	S	T	A	
16	S	E	R	V	I	C	E	A	R	E			
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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Calendar

12/1-12/9

2018 Nativity Display: Free display of more than 1,300 nativities from 87 countries. Includes a children's area, music boxes and vintage sets. **1, 7 & 8:** 10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.; **2-5 & 9:** 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Langdon Center.

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. www.visitgranbury.com or www.facebook.com/granburysanta.house.



12/3-12/4

The Nutcracker: A one of a kind event presented by Ballet Frontier of Texas. 7:30 p.m., Granbury Opera House. visit www.granburytheatrecompany.org.

12/4

Opera Guild meeting: Melody Bells will present the program. Optional lunch at noon, \$15. Reservations required. 10:30 a.m., DeCordova Bend Country Club. Contact (682) 936-9572 or granburyog@gmail.com.

12/6

Granbury Newcomers Luncheon: Program presented by Joyful Sounds, Southern Gospel group. \$15 includes full lunch. Reservation required. 9:15-10:05 registration, 10:15

program begins, Pecan Plantation Country Club. (817) 243-9831 or granburynewcomers@gmail.com.

12/7

Melody Belles Holiday Concert "Sing We Now of Christmas." Free to the public, donations welcome. 6:00 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 303 W. Bridge St. (817) 326-2687.

12/7-12/8

35th Annual, Granbury – A Candlelight Tour: Tour historic homes and sites, plus enjoy other community events going on at the same time. **Friday**, 5:00-9:00 p.m.; **Saturday**, Noon-9:00 p.m. On and near the Historic Town Square. www.granburycandlelighttour.com.

12/9, 12/16

The Great Christmas Cookie Caper: Puppet show plus more fun events leading to Santa. Cookies and milk served along with a free souvenir. Photos with Santa. A portion of the proceeds benefit Hood County Christmas for Children. 2:30-3:30 p.m., Warren's Backyard, 2901 Weatherford Hwy. www.warrensbackyard.com.

12/10

Salvation Army Women's Service League WEARhouse sale: Upscale resale fashion and accessories benefits the Women's Service League. 1:00-5:00 p.m., Celebration Hall. Details on Facebook/Salvation Army Women's Service League of Hood County.

North Texas Civil War Roundtable: Author and historian, Col. Ralph Peters presents "Civil War in an Age of Revolutions: Leadership Challenges in a Changing World." Visitors welcome. 5:30-8:00 p.m., Spring Creek BBQ, 317 E. Hwy. 377 www.ncentexcwrw.com.

12/11

Salvation Army Women's Service League: Annual Christmas luncheon,

the Melody Bells performing. 10:00 a.m., DeCordova Bend Country Club.

12/14

Melody Belles "Sing We Now of Christmas" Concert and Luncheon: \$15 includes full lunch. Public invited. 11:00 a.m., DeCordova Bend Country Club. Call DCBE Club for reservations, (817) 326-2381.

Harbor Lakes Holiday Market: 15+ vendors with holiday gifts. Happy-hour priced drinks and special menu. 4:30-7:30 p.m., Harbor Lakes Golf Club, Club House Dr. For dinner reservations, (817) 578-8600.

12/14-12/15

The Granbury Living Christmas Cards: An interactive outdoor event featuring hand-painted giant Christmas cards. Viewable all day long, the cards come to life in the evening for a unique experience. 6:30-8:15 p.m., Historic Town Square. www.granburychristmas.com.

12/18

Granbury Civic Chorus Christmas Concert: Concert celebrating the season. 7:00 p.m., Granbury First United Church, 301 Loop 567. www.GranburyCivicChorus.org.



12/20

Granbury Civic Chorus Christmas Concert: Concert celebrating the season. 7:00 p.m., Acton United Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Hwy. www.GranburyCivicChorus.org.

1/2

Opera Guild meeting: Vocalist Dean Porter will present the program. Optional lunch at noon, \$15. Reservations required. 10:30 a.m., DeCordova Bend Country Club. (682) 936-9572 or granburyog@gmail.com.

Mondays

Writing Critique Group: All writers welcome, but no profanity, vulgarity or sexually explicit scenes. 3:30-4:30 p.m., Taste and See Community Room, 105 W. Pearl St. Connie Leonard at rycon70@att.net.

Granbury Civic Chorus Fall Rehearsal: Interested in singing with the chorus? 7:00-9:00 p.m., Granbury First United Church, 301 Loop 567 Ken McDonald (817) 326-4242, visit www.GranburyCivicChorus.org or email granburycivicchorus2001@gmail.com.

Second Mondays

Granbury Writers' Bloc read & critique

session: All welcome, free to attend and participate. 6:00 p.m., Waterview Apts, 2nd floor activity room. Brian at bjcondike@icloud.com.

Lake Granbury Art Association meeting: Program followed by Q&A time. Refreshments served. Free for citizens supporting art and artists. 7:00 p.m., Shanley House. Jeanette Alexander (817) 578-3090.

Second Tuesdays

Granbury Knitting Guild: Group open to all knitters. Coffee at 9:30; meeting starts at 10:00. 9:30 a.m.-noon, Presbyterian Church fellowship hall, 303 W. Bridge St. Cosette Falter at humhound@yahoo.com.

Fourth Tuesdays

Granbury Christian Women's Connection: \$13 includes full lunch. 10:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m., DeCordova Clubhouse. For reservations, call Karen Stahlman, (409) 457-7569 or e-mail granburywc@yahoo.com. For questions about GCWC, call

Darla Morris, (817) 579-5751 or Jan Waites, (817) 243-9886.

Wednesdays

Fresh Starts, Divorce Recovery Group: Covers all stages of separation or divorce. All ages, faiths, denominations, beliefs and ages welcome. No cost or pre-registration required. Childcare provided. 6:30 p.m., Granbury FUMC Room # 119, 301 Loop 567 (817) 573-5573.

First Thursdays

Granbury Extension Education Club luncheon: Monthly programs cover family and consumer science topics, and community service projects are planned. 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Hood County Annex 1 Meeting Room, 1410 W. Pearl St. Brianne Langdon, (817) 408-0746.

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



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