

Midlothian NOW

M A G A Z I N E

NOVEMBER 2024

On a Mission

LTC George Bolton
builds local JROTC

Preserving Heritage

Four Native American
reservations are
recognized by the State
of Texas

2024 Holiday
Shopping Guide

In the Kitchen With
Jessica Baldwin

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Scavenger Hunt

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Angel

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No thanks?

It's been a rough year personally, but this month always reminds me to give thanks in all things. While I'm not a big fan of the false narrative behind Thanksgiving, I can get behind its message of gratitude. In fact, the reality of the holiday's history is a great reminder that acknowledging bad things can help us do better in the future — that positive can come from negative, if we're willing to evaluate our behavior and learn from it.

As writer and philosopher George Santayana wrote, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Remembering is just the beginning. Learning is key. So, how can we use the history of this month's biggest celebration to remember and learn ourselves? What lesson in gratitude is ours for the taking? That's different for everyone, of course, and changes from year to year.

If you want to better understand why Thanksgiving is not what many of us learned in school, a simple web search can school you on the holiday's myths and facts. Many sites offer ways to acknowledge how the "celebration" negatively impacted Native communities from that time forward. How or if you incorporate this information into your own celebration is up to you.

If you want to better understand how giving thanks impacts you personally, consider that acknowledging what you've been through and still seeing abundance in your life is a game changer. There will be bad days, bad months, bad years. Is there something from your past you're not acknowledging? How can you remember it, so you're not doomed to repeat it? Give thanks for the lesson and, hopefully, begin to move forward better.

Thanks ... a lot!

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Getting involved in the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program at DeSoto High School proved serendipitous for George Bolton, who would go on to serve in the U.S. Army for more than two decades before leading the JROTC program in Midlothian ISD. "Within 30 seconds of speaking with my high school JROTC leaders, I knew I wanted a job like theirs someday," LTC Bolton remembered.

Bolton joined the Army in 2002 and retired as a Battalion Commander in 2023. The stars aligned, and he discovered the JROTC leadership position was available just as he prepared to retire from military service. "It was fortuitous how my childhood dream and my retirement lined up with the needs of the district," Bolton said. "And starting a program from the ground up was exactly what I had in mind."

JROTC officially began in the 2022-2023 school year for MHS and MHHS students, with Bolton serving as Senior Army Instructor. "My high school program was in its second year when I joined, and I remember helping shape its culture and climate," Bolton recalled. "It was nostalgic for me, getting to be involved with MISD's program from day one — setting the direction for the program really excited me."

For those unfamiliar, the Army defines JROTC as "one of the largest character development and citizenship programs for youth in the world." "People may think it's a military screening ground, but that's simply not the case. We do present those opportunities, but 70 to 90 percent of our student participants wouldn't be able to serve simply because of limiting factors physically," Bolton explained. "Our primary goal is mentoring students to be the best version of themselves and allowing them to lead that development on their own."

JROTC is first an academic class with lessons around civics, history, social studies, language arts, leadership, health and wellness. Secondly, its participants choose among co-curricular activities to reinforce classroom studies — military drill competitions; air rifle competitions; Raider Challenge competitions; JROTC Leadership and Academic Bowl; STEM Camp; archery; and the JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge, an immersive multiday summer camp-like event that allows Cadets to meet peers from other JROTC programs and builds confidence through challenging experiences.

"Our instructors are facilitators, but the Cadets lead our program. What we do, how much we do is decided by our young people," Bolton emphasized. "Operating within guidelines we set, they choose our field trips, our uniform days, how the budget is allocated. We have 14 competitive and performing teams with different

ON A MISSION

— By Angel Morris

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governing bodies and their own rules ... and the students learn and oversee it all.”

With about 110 current participants — 76 young men and 34 young women — the program has seen exponential growth. “Our first year, we were able to secure grants for robots and drones. The next year, a mobile marksmanship range and an archery range. This year, we brought in an adjustable obstacle course,” Bolton listed. “When kids hear this, they get excited and realize this isn’t about joining the Army but developing themselves mind, body and soul.”

Bolton said student enthusiasm is only part of the reason for JROTC’s local success. “Our school board and administrators, the multiple mayors and their staffs, the community and especially the parents have been a tremendous support. We even have a booster club,” Bolton credited.

While waiting to earn official status from the Army, JROTC programs are funded by the school districts that implement them. “Because it is a very stringent process, the wait list for accreditation can be long. I was thinking it would be seven to 10 years before we were official,” Bolton estimated. “Miraculously, we became full-fledged this summer. All the local support, the drive of Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Shelle Blalock, and key school board members like Mr. Gary Vineyard and especially our amazing kids, have made it a perfect storm for the program in Midlothian.”

Bolton’s fondest memories in the young program are winning competitions their first year of participation. “We took two teams, and we earned first and second place. These are mentally and physically grueling events, from marksmanship to fitness challenges,” he said. “For a lot of the Cadets, this was their first club or athletic experience, but they trusted the process and worked their butts off. From that point on, we’ve swept every competition we’ve done.

“Last year, we sent five teams and won first through third place. We’ve coined the term, ‘Midlo Sweeps,’” Bolton joked. “And I still keep a picture on my desk of us holding those first two trophies.”

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After its inaugural year, 100 students and parents attended the Military Ball. Last year, more than 300 were in attendance. "It's my favorite thing to watch a room full of people celebrate our students, and hearing the parents wonder proudly of their sons and daughters, 'Who is that kid up on stage running this whole thing?'" Bolton admitted. "The parents have really gotten to see the growth in their children and learned that we are serious about our plans for them.

"We put a lot of energy into helping our students plan for who they want to become. Not just a particular job, but the actual steps they need to take to reach their goals," Bolton reiterated. "Interviewing the kids about what they want from the program and creating measurable goals for them is my favorite thing."

Bolton's other favorites include his wife, Jacquelyn, and children — daughter, Jayden, and sons, George III and Jeshua. They have supported him not only throughout his military career, but during the long days and late nights that go with building a JROTC program.

The leaders of his high school program — Col. Dennis Cross, Sgt. Major Roy McCormes and 1st Sgt. Frank Jackson — also remain inspirations to Bolton. "Just as these men were to me, I am 100 percent committed to each of our students and their individual success. Every year, I look forward to challenging us to be better at what we're doing and to give our best," Bolton promised. "Our motto is, 'Accept the challenge. I will lead!' and it is really cool to see the Cadets execute this every day." **NOW**

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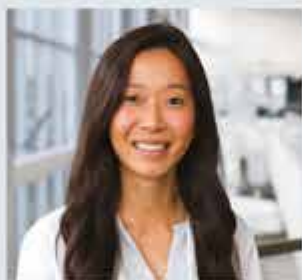
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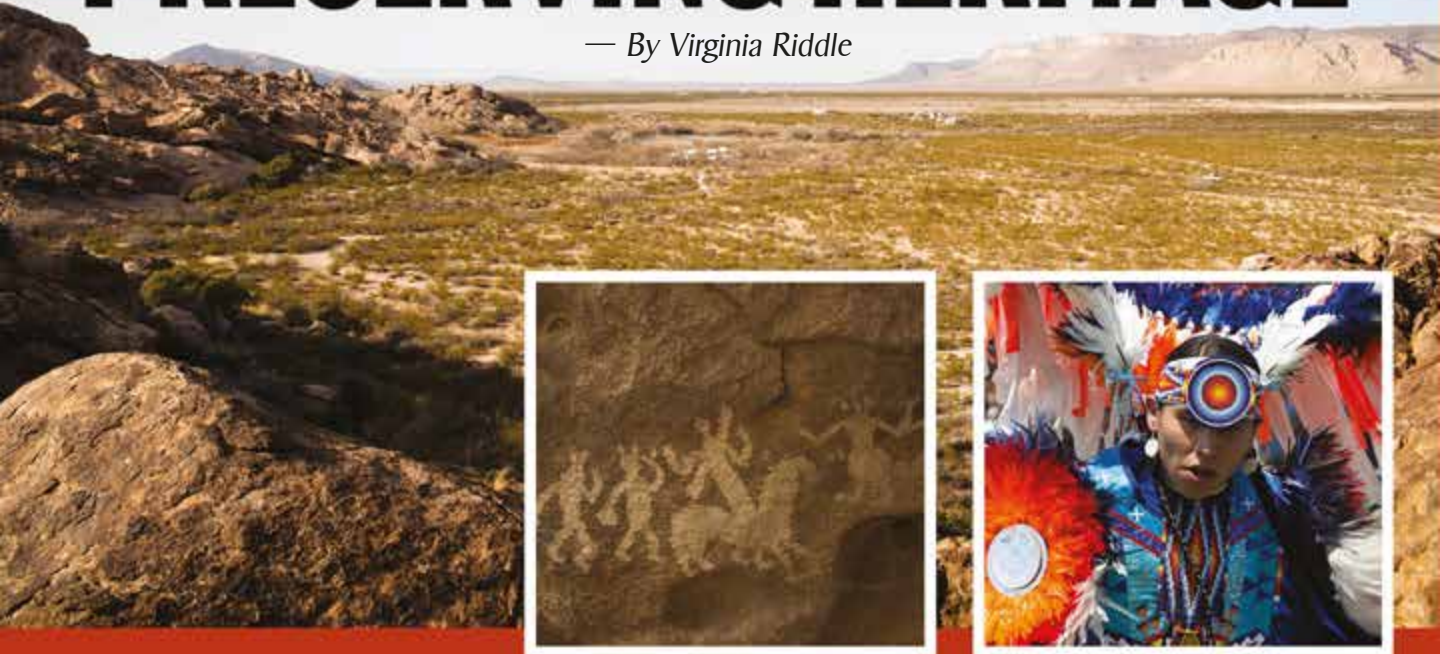
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— By Virginia Riddle



One of the best-kept secrets is that Texas is home to four recognized Native American reservations and/or tribes — the Alabama-Coushatta Reservation near Livingston, the Ysleta de Sur Pueblo (Tigua Tribe) near El Paso, the Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas in Eagle Pass and the Lipan Apache Tribe in McAllen. The latter is only recognized by the State of Texas, but the first three tribes are recognized by the federal government, allowing three casinos to operate in Texas: Naskila Gaming in Livingston, Speaking Rock Entertainment Center in El Paso and Kickapoo Lucky Eagle Casino in Eagle Pass. Visitors are welcome to help celebrate Native American culture annually at the Duwali Hoop, held at Chandler (site of the Battle of the Neches); the Coastal Bend Council of Native Americana in Corpus Christi; the Alabama-Coushatta Pow Wow held in Livingston, where visitors can stay at the tribe's Lake Tombigbee Campground on the reservation; and the Texas Kiowa Tia-Piah Pow Wow (site varies).

For more than 14,000 years, long before their first recorded contact with some shipwrecked Europeans/Anglos in 1528, Native American peoples have made what would become Texas home, from the coast to the plains, mountains and southern regions. Karankawas fed and sheltered Cabeza de Vaca near Galveston. Farmer/trader/gatherer tribes, such as the Caddos of East Texas, had trade networks established, and on the plains, Comanches and Apaches hunted bison and other game on horseback. However, following the arrival of Europeans during the 16th century, tribal life was disrupted, and with Anglo settlements encroaching, the tribes were pushed further westward, relocated to reservations in the Oklahoma Territory or were annihilated through wars with the Anglos and other tribes or through starvation.

Today the Alabama-Coushatta reservation is the oldest in Texas. A treaty between General Sam Houston and the tribe included title to the lands in 1836, and the reservation was recognized by the federal government in 1987. Tribal members are proud of their ancestors' service to General Sam Houston during the Texas Revolution. The tribe's membership numbers around 1,300, about half of whom live on the approximately 10,200-acre reservation. A tribal council oversees the government, and health and human services are provided. The tribe made headline news in October 2022 by electing Millie Thompson Williams as its first female second tribal chief. Prior to her death in August 2023, she promoted teaching the tribe's language and customs to the youth. The principal chief is Chief Donnis Battise.

After being captured by the Spanish in 1880, and then establishing Ysleta del Sur Pueblo in 1882, Tigua Tribe built the acequia (canal) system, bringing water from the Rio Grande River to their agricultural-based society. Tribal enrollment today numbers about 4,000 members. The Pueblo's main attractions for visitors to learn about the tribe's heritage, culture and its contributions to the El Paso area are comprised of the Tigua Indian Cultural Center, Ysleta Mission de San Antonio, Speaking Rock Entertainment Center, Hueco Tanks, Tigua Trails and Chilcote Ranch near Valentine, Texas.

The Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas became one of three formally recognized Kickapoo tribes by the federal government in 1985. It had been officially recognized by the Texas Indian Commission in 1977. The tribe has nearly 2,000 enrolled members. Monies from the tribe's casino provide housing along the Rio Grande and health and education services to its peoples on the 118 acres in Eagle Pass that was granted to the tribe by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

In the 1600s, the Lipan Apache migrated to what would become Texas, and after a century of warring with the Comanches, the Lipan Apache became many "bands" or *rancherías* on the plains, coast and forests of Texas and across the Rio Grande River into Mexico. However, when needed, they would come together as one. Recognized by Texas only, at this time, the Lipan Apache Tribal Council is located in McAllen, and the city of Presidio and Presidio County have turned over rights to the *Cementerio del Barrio de los Lipanes* to the tribe. **NOW**

Sources:

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— By Angel Morris



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Have you ever heard the song "Count your blessings, name them one by one. And it will surprise you what the Lord has done?"

Thanksgiving, in the sense of practicing gratitude, has a profound impact on emotional well-being. When we express thanks, it shifts our focus from what is lacking to what is already present and meaningful in our lives. This mindset helps reduce stress, anxiety, and depression by rewiring our brains to recognize the positive aspects of our experiences. Engaging in gratitude encourages the release of neurotransmitters associated with happiness and contentment. Additionally, thanksgiving enhances interpersonal relationships. When we show appreciation to others, it strengthens social bonds, creating a sense of connection and support.

Incorporating thanksgiving into daily life—whether through journaling, verbal affirmations, or acts of kindness—promotes a greater sense of emotional balance and well-being.

Therefore, as we gather around the Thanksgiving table in a few weeks, instead of arguing about politics, the economy, or all the other things that did not go well during the year, let's be intentional about creating a new tradition of counting our blessings, naming them one and by one, and you will be surprised at all the good there is around you.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP FOR MY BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER.



Clark Wickliffe, Tracey Williams and Brandon Reichenau set up their RE/MAX representative for the Midlothian Downtown Business Association's Annual Scarecrow Festival.

Zoomed In: Kristi Griffith

By Angel Morris

As a survivorship navigator with the LUNGEVITY Foundation, Kristi Griffith reminds people that November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month. "Lung cancer takes more lives than the next three cancers — breast, prostate and colon — combined! Most commonly, lung cancer is diagnosed at an advanced stage of 3 or 4; we need to get the word out about screening," she said.

Previously an oncology nurse navigator for Baylor Scott & White Health, Kristi reminded, "If you have lungs, you can get lung cancer. Smoking is not necessary. But so many resources are available — like LUNGEVITY.org. No one has to walk a lung-cancer path alone."

Kristi is a board member of Midlothian's Paws for Reflection Ranch. She enjoys spending her free time with her husband, Brian, also a Paws volunteer.



Alison Gravley, Angela Hayes and Gloria Anderson display information about American Legion Chris Kyle Post 388 at the Midlothian Civic Center Fall Market.



Past inductees of the Midlothian ISD Hall of Honor participate in the organization's fundraiser 5K + Fun Run.



Kelly Martinez welcomes Alisha Pinney as the new chief executive officer of FirstLook Sexual Health and Pregnancy Center which serves Ellis County.



NARFE Program Coordinator Janice Carey welcomes Kimberly Fuller, with Ellis County Homeless Coalition, who discussed the group's efforts in Midlothian.



Penn to Paper employees receive a surprise visit from B.J. Novak of TV's The Office, who stopped to eat at the local restaurant.



Carson Golden demonstrates one of many activities of Christ Trail Outdoors group for youth aged 9-19, hosted by Midlothian's Outdoorsman Church.

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2024 HOLIDAY
SHOPPING GUIDE



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A quick look at the gift items and discounts available locally.

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CookingNOW
In the Kitchen With
JESSICA BALDWIN

— By Angel Morris

Thanksgiving brings back Jessica Baldwin’s favorite cooking memories. “As a child, we woke up at my Nana’s for the big day, and now we wake up at my mom and dad’s, where all of the traditions continue,” she said. “We meet in the kitchen to crumble corn bread and biscuits in the dressing pan. It’s a requirement that every child participates, and the same pan is being used 50 years later!”

The Baldwins have been involved with Boy Scouts for a decade, and Jessica is a Mentors Care volunteer. “I love serving in the children’s ministry at church, when possible, and supporting MISD any way I can,” Jessica, who is on the Football Booster Board and Community Advisory Council, noted.

“I pride myself on serving my clients as their Realtor,” Jessica continued. “And, as a family, we love all things outdoors: fishing, hunting, camping, sports and just spending time together!” **NOW**

Extra Cheesy Mac N Cheese

Wednesday-night-before-church staple.

- 1 1-lb. pkg. noodles (Our favorite is rotini.)**
- 1/2 cup half-and-half**
- 8 oz. Velveeta, cubed**
- 4 oz. cream cheese, cubed**

- 1/4 cup butter**
- 1 cup cheddar cheese, shredded**
- Salt, to taste**
- Pepper, to taste**

1. Boil the noodles 8-10 minutes, depending on your preference. Drain the

noodles; return them to the pan.

2. Add the half-and-half, Velveeta, cream cheese and butter. Turn the burner to low to allow the ingredients to melt together.

3. Once melted, mix in the cheddar cheese, salt and pepper.

**Sensational Double Layer
 Pumpkin Pie**

A Thanksgiving favorite!

- 1 13-oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened**
- 1 cup, plus 1 Tbsp., cold half-and-half or milk (divided use)**
- 1 Tbsp. sugar**
- 1 1/2 cups whipped topping, thawed**
- 1 deep graham cracker crust pie shell**
- 2 3.4-oz. pkgs. vanilla pudding**
- 1 15-oz. can pumpkin**
- 1 tsp. cinnamon**
- 1/2 tsp. ground ginger**
- 1/4 tsp. ground cloves**

1. Combine the cream cheese, 1 Tbsp. half-and-half or milk, sugar and whipped topping until smooth. Place the mixture in

the bottom of the pie shell.

2. Mix the remaining ingredients until well blended. Place on top of the crust. This can be garnished with additional whipped topping. Keep chilled until ready to serve.

Roasted Chicken Legs

This is a staple at our house for growing teenage boys and their friends. I can put it in the oven, pick them up from school, and the chicken legs are ready to eat when we return!

Chicken legs, as many pieces as desired
Olive oil
Seasonings of your choice, to taste

1. Preheat the oven to 400 F. Brush each leg with olive oil; apply a generous sprinkling of your choice of seasoning. (Ours is always something a little spicy!)
2. Bake 1 hour.

Jessica's Favorite Squash Casserole

3-4 medium squash
1 medium sweet yellow onion
1/4 cup butter
1/4 cup half-and-half
1 cup cheese of your choice, shredded
1/2 cup Panko breadcrumbs, plus 2 Tbsp. for topping
1 egg, whisked
Salt, to taste
Pepper, to taste
Garlic powder, to taste

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F. Chop the squash into bite-size pieces. Chop the onion into rough chunks. Place both in a pot of boiling water. Boil 6-7 minutes until the squash is fork tender. Drain the onions and squash; return to the pan.
2. Mix in the butter, half-and-half, shredded cheese and 1/2 cup Panko breadcrumbs.
3. Once the ingredients have been combined, add the egg. Add salt, pepper and garlic powder to your liking. Thoroughly combine; place in a 9x9-inch glass baking dish. Top with the remaining Panko breadcrumbs; place in the oven for 25 minutes.

Slow Cooker Chicken Enchilada Soup

2 1/2 lbs. skinless, boneless chicken breast
2 14-oz. cans chicken broth
1 10-oz. can red enchilada sauce
1 14-oz. can fire roasted diced tomatoes with juice
1 4-oz. can green chiles
1 garlic clove, diced
1 cup green onion
1 tsp. cumin
1/2 tsp. salt
Shredded cheese, for garnish

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The Best Banana Pudding

- Chili powder, to taste**
- 1 14.5-oz. can Mexican Style stewed tomatoes**
- 2 8-oz. cans tomato sauce**
- 1 15.5-oz. can pinto beans, drained**
- 6 Tbsp. chili powder**
- Cayenne pepper, to taste**

- 1.** While the meat is browning in a pan, sprinkle in some of the chili powder to enhance the flavor. Once the meat is completely cooked, drain off the extra grease; combine all other ingredients.
- 2.** Set the stove to low temperature; let the chili simmer for at least 1 hour, but the longer the better. *Note: I typically make it in the morning and leave it on low all day.*

The Best Banana Pudding

- 2 cups cold milk**
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract**
- 2 3.4-oz. pkgs. instant vanilla pudding**
- 1 14-oz. can sweetened condensed milk, or add to taste**
- 2 cups heavy whipping cream**
- 1 Tbsp. powdered sugar**
- 1 11-oz. box vanilla wafers**
- 5 fresh bananas**

- 1.** In a large bowl, beat the cold milk with the vanilla extract and vanilla pudding until

it thickens. Pour in the condensed milk; beat to combine.

- 2.** In a separate bowl, beat the heavy whipping cream until stiff peaks form. Add about 2/3 of the whipped cream into the pudding; gently fold in with a spatula.
- 3.** Add the powdered sugar into the remaining one-third of the whipped cream; fold with a spatula to combine. Refrigerate until needed.
- 4.** Layer about 1/4 of the vanilla wafers into the bottom of your trifle bowl; Add about 1/4 of the bananas. Spread 1/4 of the pudding over the bananas/wafers. Repeat with the remaining layers until you have four layers.
- 5.** Add the reserved whipped cream over the top of the pudding; decorate as desired. Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours before serving.

- 1.** Combine all the ingredients, except the cheese, in a Crock-Pot. Cook on low for 6-8 hours or on high for 3-4 hours.
- 2.** Sprinkle the shredded cheese on top; serve hot!

Papa's Chili

Ingredients are per lb. of meat.

- 1 lb. ground beef or chili meat (For our family of five, I typically prepare 3 lbs. to have some leftovers.)**

To search for more great recipes from any of the 9 NOW Magazines publications, visit www.nowmagazines.com.



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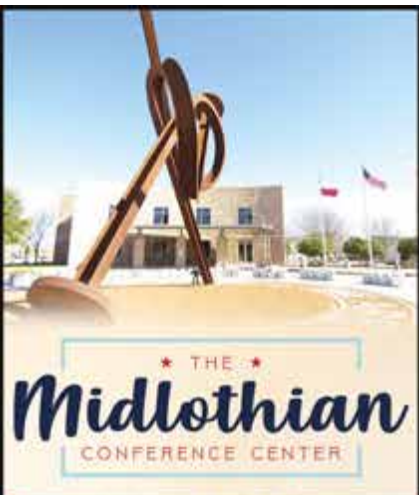


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A WEST COAST Treat

— By Amber D. Browne

From enjoying fresh seafood at Fisherman’s Wharf and ferrying across the bay to Alcatraz to walking the iconic Golden Gate Bridge and capturing a few photos along Lombard Street, San Francisco definitely has a multitude of must-sees for visitors. With high temperatures in the upper 50s during the winter months and in the 60s to low 70s the remainder of the year, any season is a good time to visit this California treat.

If you plan to fly, San Francisco International Airport offers easy access to rental vehicles via a short airport shuttle ride, or visitors can take a cab, rideshare service or the subway system to their destination. If driving, enjoy the diverse landscapes visible during the trip through California such as ocean views, mountains, hills and orchards.

Hotels and rental properties are abundant, so San Francisco visitors should research which areas they plan to spend the most time in, always keeping budget in mind. Parking is typically an extra fee at hotels and resorts.

Visitors might prefer to stay and play near Pier 39 and Fisherman’s Wharf. Catch a glimpse of dozens of sea lions basking in the sun at Pier 39. These lazy creatures bark as they sunbathe, often pushing one another off the floating docks for roomier space. Pier 39 offers eating options of fresh seafood, burgers, crepes, mini donuts and much more. Shopping, entertainment and gaming options are abundant, including a mirror maze and carousel. From the pier, you can embark on a wine tasting or whale tour.

A couple of blocks west, Fisherman’s Wharf offers restaurants galore, plus activities for the entire family, including Madame Tussauds and Ripley’s Believe It or Not! Take a bike, Segway or cable car to tour the area for dining, shopping and other entertainment options.

Nearby, ferry rides depart for the infamous Alcatraz Island. Several tour options of the former maximum-security federal prison that once housed Al Capone are offered. If you cannot take the ferry trip, don’t fret. You can catch a glimpse of “The



Rock” from land while looking out across the bay.

If it is souvenirs that suit your fancy, you can purchase a few Alcatraz-related items and more at the Golden Gate Bridge Welcome Center. Twice a week, the local nonprofit, San Francisco City Guides, provides free walking tours of the iconic bridge. Make sure to register beforehand. If guests want to take a leisurely hike in the area, they can enjoy the scenery and vistas at Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

A trip to San Francisco would be incomplete without a visit to Lombard Street. It carries the distinction of the “crookedest street in the world,” and drivers can slowly maneuver around each of the eight curves down the steep grade. Tourists might prefer to walk along Lombard Street, stopping briefly to grab a few pictures in front of the flowerbeds, if in bloom, and other landscaping. Soak in the architecture of the homes as you join others experiencing the fun of this iconic tourist spot. Parking is available along the street at the entrance of that section of Lombard Street, but try to avoid rush hour.

Before heading home, visitors should make time to feel the spray of the Pacific Ocean. There are public access points along the coast, so check out the area on an online map to find the perfect spot to visit.

Travelers should do their research and select as many popular sites and attractions as possible to visit during their trip. San Francisco is a treat, so plan a trip to this West Coast city today. **NOW**

Sources:

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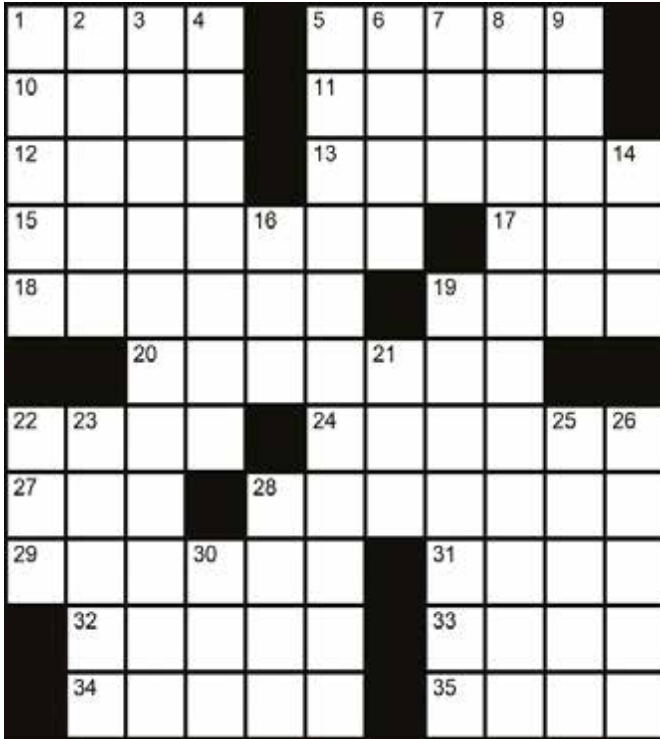


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Crossword Puzzle



CrosswordSite.com Ltd

Across

- 1 Gray-haired
- 5 WWII female fliers
- 10 Free from doubt
- 11 Scrub
- 12 Filly's father
- 13 Domingo and Bocelli
- 15 Made suitable
- 17 By way of
- 18 Empyrean streaker
- 19 Immerses
- 20 Neck of land
- 22 Diplomacy
- 24 Alleviating
- 27 Rather like
- 28 Design for a painting
- 29 Cambodian mass murderer

- 31 Upon
- 32 Oddball
- 33 Food source
- 34 First unelected president
- 35 Split

Down

- 1 Indian tea state
- 2 Museum employee
- 3 All over the place, clearly Rita is all over the place
- 4 Most profound
- 5 Boiler
- 6 "And gentlemen in England now -- - ..." (Shakespeare, "Henry V")
- 7 That's my boy
- 8 Temporary
- 9 Divest
- 14 The United Kingdom's Delta Force equivalent
- 16 Trike rider
- 19 Bring back into use
- 21 Impair
- 22 Ask for a loan
- 23 High up
- 25 Orléans "our"
- 26 Pixie
- 28 Distilled coal
- 30 Comrade

Online versions and solutions available at www.nowmagazines.com. From our Homepage, click on the Crossword-Sudoku tab. Click on a puzzle. Click on the See All button to view solutions.

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Happy THANKSGIVING

NOVEMBER

Some events may have been cancelled or rescheduled while we were at press. Check with individual organizations or your city or Chamber websites to verify dates and times.

11/2

Citywide CleanUp Day:

City of Midlothian residents only with proof of residency, free solid waste drop-off. 8:00 a.m.-noon. Public Works Service Yard, 1050 N. Hwy. 67. Search Cleanup Day at www.midlothian.tx.us for more details.

Emergency Preparedness Workshop:

Learn crucial tips on food and water safety, preparing your home for weather disasters, packing a go-bag and creating an emergency kit for your pets. 10:00 a.m.-noon, Waxahachie Police Department, 630 Farley St, Waxahachie. To register, contact Danae Hicks at (972) 825-5175 or danae.hicks@ag.tamu.edu.

Mistletoe Market:

Presented by the Midlothian High School Cheerleaders, a variety of artisan booths and specialty boutique items for sale, plus food trucks and sweepstakes. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., MHS, 923 S. 9th St.

Texas Arbor Day:

Free tree giveaway, crafts, food truck and information. 5:00-7:00 p.m., Midlothian Community Park, 3601 S. 14th St.

Autumn Beats Concert:

Featuring country singer-songwriter Bradley Banning, followed by fireworks finale.

Bring chairs and blankets for lawn seating. Food for purchase. Outside food, beverages and coolers are allowed. 7:30-9:30 p.m., Midlothian Community Park, 3601 S. 14th St.

11/11

Veterans Tribute Dinner:

Meal and ceremony in honor of local veterans. 6:30 p.m., Midlothian Conference Center, 1 Community Circle. Call (972) 775-7777 for more information.

11/13

State of the City Luncheon:

Hear from city leaders about the latest developments and future plans for the community. 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Midlothian Conference Center, 1 Community Circle. Purchase tickets at www.MidlothianChamber.org.

11/14

Ellis Christian Women's Job Corps' Graduation:

Fall Class of 2024 celebrates completing the free 12-week training program that includes résumé writing, interviewing, computers, money management and Bible study. Come to graduation and find out how the program impacts women in the community and their families. 7:00 p.m., One

Church, 6060 FM 1387. The next session begins 1/27/2025. Learn more at elliscwjc.life.

11/16

Bingo and Bags Night for MISD:

Midlothian Education Foundation hosts a night of bingo, raffles and fun benefiting local students. 6:30-9:30 p.m., Midlothian Conference Center, 1 Community Circle. Email misedfound@gmail.com for more details.

12/2

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony:

Usher in the holiday season with an evening of community fellowship, Christmas spirit and the lighting of the city tree. 6:00-7:00 p.m., Heritage Park, 234 N. 8th Street. Rainout date is 12/3.

Fourth Mondays Through November

Creative Quilters of Ellis County:

Social time, business meeting, show and tell program. Sign-in/social time begins: 6:00 p.m., meeting: 6:30 p.m., Waxahachie Bible Church, 621 N. Grand Avenue, Waxahachie. Learn more at elliscountyquilters.com. Email

klbright53@gmail.com for more details.

Wednesdays

DivorceCare:

Group sharing for those who have gone through or are going through divorce. DivorceCare for Kids ages 5-12 meets at the same time. Care for younger children available. 6:30-8:00 p.m., First Methodist Church Family Life Center, 800 S. 9th St. Call (972) 775-3993 for more details.

Second and Fourth Wednesdays

Jesus Feeds Us:

Free grocery distribution. 2:00 p.m. until supplies run out, Midlothian Church of Christ, 1627 N. Hwy. 67.

Thursdays

Celebrate Recovery Meeting:

A Christ-centered recovery program designed to help those struggling with hurts, habits and hang-ups. 7:00 p.m., The Lighthouse Church, 1400 N. 9th St. For more details, email CR@dfwlighthouse.org.

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

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