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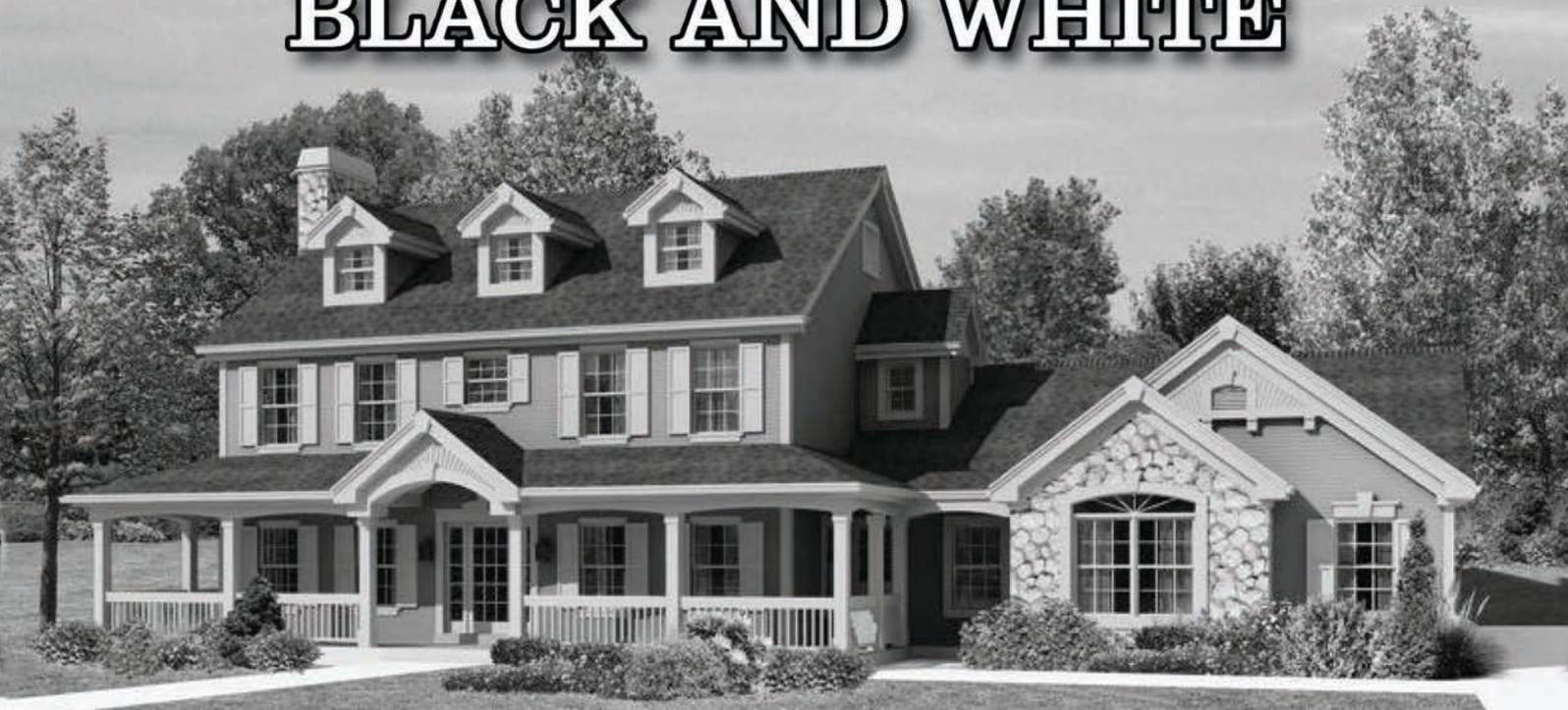
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ON THE COVER



Each Christmas, Greg and Kay Huse enjoy decorating for the festivities.

Photo by Sarah McVean.

CONTENTS

December 2014 • Volume 4, Issue 12



8

Joyful Hands

Toby and Bailly Mize travel abroad to help those less fortunate.

14

Season of Celebration

At Home With Greg and Kay Huse.

20

Intricate Creations

Learning and sharing ways of the past bring something special to Doris Sanders' retirement.

30

Let the Fun Begin

Brighten your holidays with whimsical craft ideas for all ages.

20



42 BusinessNOW

44 AroundTownNOW

46 FinanceNOW

52 CookingNOW

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Editor's Note

Season's greetings, WeatherfordNOW readers!

Christmas is my favorite time of the year. As a family, we enjoy baking sweet treats and then delivering them to our neighbors. This year, I'll help our children customize handmade greeting cards for our family and friends. Stores may be full of crowds, but we'll enjoy shopping for holiday gifts to share with loved ones.

Although there never seems to be enough time to fit everything in, spending just a few days with my family over the holidays seems to bring everything into perspective. The year will come to a close, but life can take on a new beginning. The holiday season is a time to reflect on what we are grateful for and remember what is important in our lives, as we make everlasting memories.

Enjoy yourselves!

Amber

Amber D. Browne
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P.S. The publisher and staff at NOW Magazines wish you and your family a very merry Christmas and a happy holiday season.



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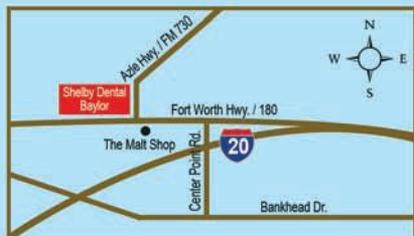
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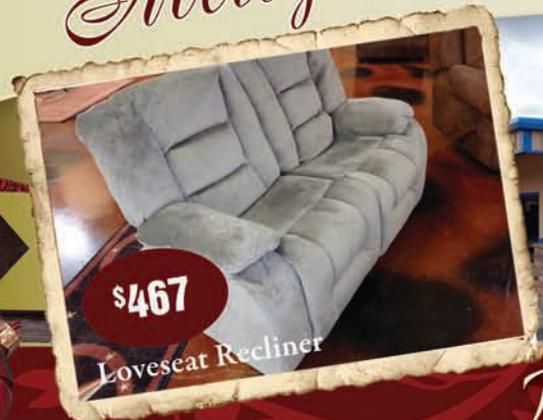
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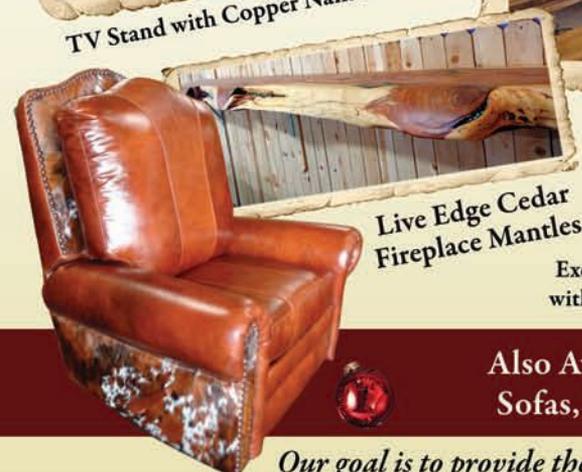
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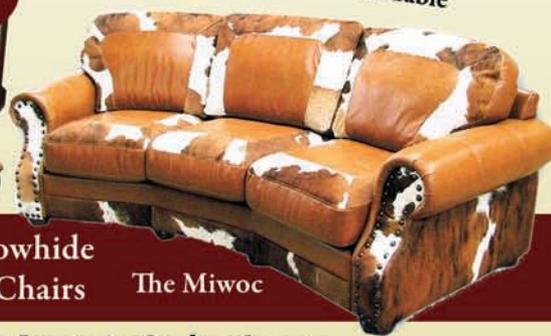


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JOYFUL HANDS

— By Amber D. Browne

Less than two years ago, Toby and Baily Mize hopped on a plane for Haiti to help children living in poverty. The couple had been supporting the cause financially through Back to Life Ministries for about six months when the opportunity arose for them to make the trip in March 2013. “We have a joke between us that neither one of us really thought about or prepared too much for that trip. All of the sudden we woke up, and we were on the streets of Port Au Prince. We were like, ‘We’re in Haiti. How did we get here?’ More or less, I feel like it was the Lord’s leading,” Baily shared. Now, Toby and Baily are leading others to Haiti to support a rural mountain community, full of life and joy.



Since their first trip to Haiti, the Mizes have returned about half a dozen times. “We have built relationships with these people,” Toby shared. “They don’t have anything. They’re very loving. They love each other and anyone who comes in.”

In 2011, the McKinleys of Weatherford founded the stateside, nonprofit organization, Back to Life Ministries, after adopting two children from Haiti. The ministry partnered with an effort established in the village by Haitian pastor, Bledney “Nahum” Joseph. Toby and Baily met Pastor Nahum during their first trip to the country. “Hearing that man talk, and learning what was in his heart drew us in. It solidified the deal that we were supposed to be a part of this,”



**"I'VE LEARNED WE CAN GO AND AID
THE POOR, BUT WE ARE LEARNING
SO MUCH MORE FROM THEM."**



Baily stated. Pastor Nahum established a church and school before American support was involved. Pastor Nahum and his wife, Vena, have six children of their own and opened their 1,500-square-foot home to 17 orphans.

In March 2014, Pastor Nahum traveled to the U.S. with the Mizes to speak on behalf of the children in the village. The mood was positive, but things would soon take a turn for the worse. The pastor had a stroke in Weatherford just two days after his arrival. He was hospitalized in the Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Fort Worth Intensive Care Unit for two months. He was left paralyzed and unable to speak. Pastor Nahum has made progress since March, but he's still unable to walk by himself and struggles to communicate. "He came here to speak for the orphans, but then he was unable to speak," Baily shared. Because of Pastor Nahum's unfortunate incident,

many more people heard about the cause. "Over the last year, people's interest for the nonprofit has exploded. You can see how God used it for good."

"We got involved at such a weird time," Toby said. "I couldn't just walk away knowing there was this huge village of people relying on this man and this ministry. They are like family." Toby now serves as president of Back to Life Ministries and of the new board. Baily is not on the board, but she organizes the finances, sponsorships and trips abroad. Many others play significant roles in keeping the nonprofit functioning via volunteering, sponsoring and praying. "The Haitians trusted us to keep it going," Toby shared.

And, the Mizes have kept their word. "It's not just us. We wouldn't be able to do everything on our own," he said. Many local community members periodically travel to Haiti with



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ministry representatives or support the organization through donations. “This area has a lot of ties to Haiti.”

Because there is no postal system in the Haitian village, each member of the team who travels to Haiti takes two 50-pound suitcases full of food and supplies. During one trip, a bag of baby formula fell out of a suitcase and was snatched up by three local children under the age of 4. They were found on the steps eating the dry formula with their hands. “It’s was like Fun Dip to them,” Toby shared. Although they bring necessities, the teams also bring sweet treats for the children. “A lot of times, they’ll pick the beef jerky over the candy. They still like the candy, though,” Toby grinned.

The children attend school in an open-air, pole barn during the week. Weatherford Christian School has partnered with their Haitian counterpart as a sister school. The WCS students hold drives for donations, and each class sponsors a child through the ministry’s Take a Hand program. Supporters can sponsor a child through the program or offer help in other areas.

An anonymous donation has allowed crews to begin construction on a new, 5,000-square-foot orphanage in the village. The orphanage, when completed,



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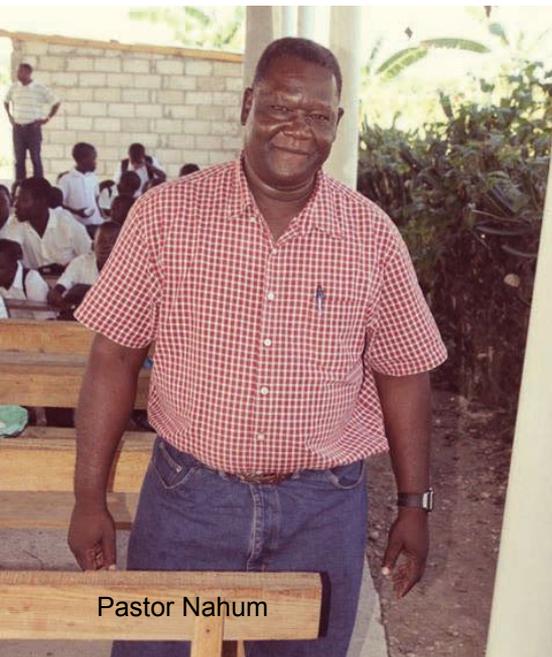
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will house children and include sleeping quarters for Pastor Nahum and his family, teachers, guests and volunteers. "In the past, we tried to take tents to sleep in when we visit, not to burden them more in their cramped living space, but they say no. They can give you something to eat, and they can give you somewhere to stay. They are very hospitable and very giving. You feel terrible about that, but they won't have it any other way," Toby recalled. "They are always full of joy, all the time, with what we would call absolutely nothing," he said.

"That just proves you don't have to have things to be joyful," Baily said. "I've learned we can go and aid the poor, but we are learning so much more from them."

Toby and Baily have been married for nine years, but they've known each other for 15. They became friends and began dating once Baily graduated from Weatherford High School. Toby then went off to college but returned to the



Pastor Nahum



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area and earned an associate degree from Weatherford College. For the past eight years, he's worked as senior groundskeeper at Chandor Gardens. Baily is a professional photographer and also paints portraits and murals.

Toby and Baily would one day like to travel to the Haitian village with their own children, Tennessee, 8, and Tzion, 5. Through their parents' volunteer efforts and their class' sponsorships at Weatherford Christian School, the boys already have an insight into helping those less fortunate.

Although much of their time is spent working and spreading the word about Back to Life Ministries, Toby and Baily try to find time to enjoy the simple things in life. They enjoy hiking outdoors and camping with their children. The couple is also involved with their church, Church in Peaster. Toby sings and plays guitar in the church band. The church also provides space for Back to Life Ministries to store donations.

The Mizess' families are lifelong Weatherford residents, and their ties to the community have helped get the word out about Back to Life Ministries. "People really care," Baily shared. "It doesn't matter where you're from, they are going to care about you." **NOW**

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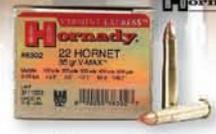
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Season of Celebration

— By Amber D. Browne

Festive is a choice word to describe Greg and Kay Huse's home at Christmastime. Around every corner, visitors find a reminder of holiday spirit. In each room, a tree is trimmed with unique ornaments begging to be viewed. Guests cannot escape the warm feeling of the holiday when visiting the Huses' home in Weatherford, but why would they want to?

"I'm a big decorator. I love it," Kay admitted. "I just love holidays." Every Christmas, Greg and Kay host a party for friends. When they first moved from Lakeside into their home nine years ago, one of the movers commented on the tubs stacked floor to ceiling in storage. He questioned if they were full of Christmas decor, and Kay's reply was a resounding "Yes." With the affirmative answer came a comment of disbelief and request to attend their annual Christmas party. He just had to see it on display. "Our first Christmas here, we entertained about 100 people, and he came," Kay recalled. "He was like, 'You used it all!'"

Kay has accumulated the decor over the years. It's not just Christmas decor stored in the tubs. "We entertain all year," Kay said. "I store all my stuff up in the attic. There's this big floor over the whole house. It's nothing but stacks of blue boxes filled

At Home With Greg and Kay Huse



with decor. You want some Easter? Got it. You want some Halloween? Got it.”

However, Christmas seems to be the Huses’ favorite time of year. From the vintage Santa collection to an array of nutcrackers, Kay seems to have every facet of holiday memorabilia covered. Every year, Kay displays her collection of antique toys. They sit in the guest room, surrounding a large, white tree decorated in brown and aqua tones. The colors match the brown and aqua bedspread perfectly. “I’ve been collecting the toys for about 20 years,” she said. “Some of them are my own, like the Howdy Doody doll.” A pair of old ice skates and an antique child’s sewing machine add to the vintage look apparent in the room.

Antiques, including her grandmother’s typewriter, spark memories of earlier times. A framed photograph of local celebrity, Mary Martin, hangs on one wall. Framed pictures of Shelties hang on another. Greg and Kay have owned Shelties over the years, and they proudly display Greg’s grandmother’s Sheltie photo from the 1930s. “I just love the vintage look. It’s so much more interesting and has so much more character than what we have today.” Kay’s sister, Susan Shaver, moved into the guest bedroom after their parents moved to Weatherford many years ago. Susan moved to Seattle after their parents passed, but Kay still calls the guest room Sis’ room.

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family members sit in the living room, which boasts large windows along the front of the house. They often watch football and movies on the flat screen in the media room, which houses a popcorn popper for treating guests to a quick snack. Theater recliners provide comfy seating. A vintage piece of luggage from 1947 is displayed under a colorful painting of guitars. An antique Coca Cola ice box sits nearby, offering a cold drink to visitors.

Kay's collection of tea sets is displayed in the dining area, which houses another Christmas tree decorated in tea cups. Chocolate pots with matching cups from the 1860s are her favorite. "They stirred hot chocolate in them. That's why they have these little bitty, tiny cups," she explained. She's added to her collection with findings from antique stores and during their travels throughout Europe. She displays Christmas tea sets during the holidays.

In the master bedroom, Kay keeps one of her favorite Christmas pieces near her bedside. The curly-haired doll wears a red dress and holds a tray of candy. "She was in a store. I actually had to beg the lady, because she was a display." After Christmas, Kay returned and purchased the decoration. The window seat in the master bedroom showcases a tree of Hallmark Barbie ornaments. "I adored Barbies. I had an extensive collection," she recalled from her childhood. Kay's

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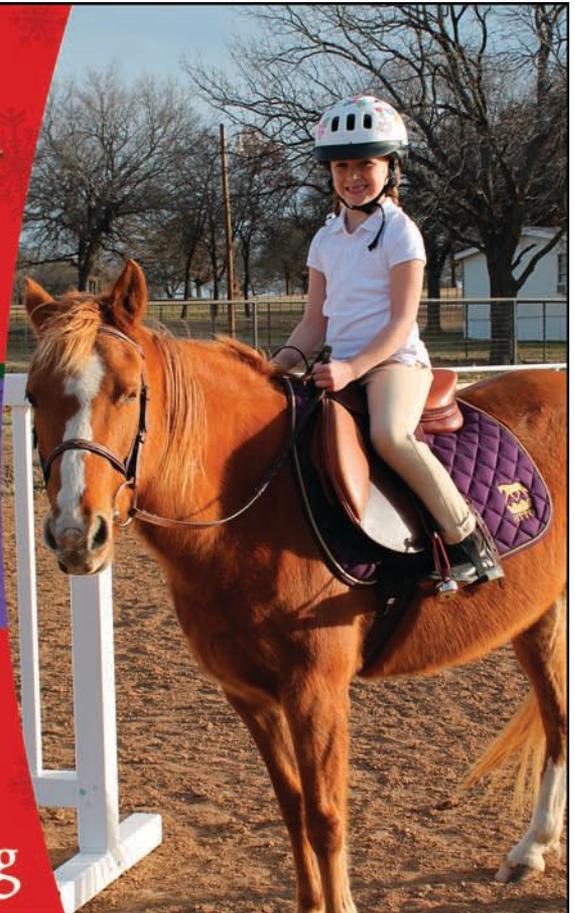
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mother began to purchase Barbie ornaments for her, and over the years, the collection grew.

A wooden armoire in the master suite displays a vintage hat Kay wears as she leads tours with members of her theater group during the Talking Tombstone event each October. A vintage wire dress form holds a coat and fox wrap from her great grandmother. An antique chandelier from her grandmother



brightens the master bathroom, which showcases an aluminum tree during the holidays. "We call this the girl's powder room, and the other side is the men's room," she grinned.

The men's bathroom is decorated with canoes and mountain-themed accessories. "My husband's really into hunting and fishing," Kay shared. "At Christmas, this bathroom turns into a moose-canoe room. We have a Christmas moose that's about 4 feet tall, and he stands in the corner." A guest bedroom houses yet another Christmas tree that continues the hunting and fishing theme.

Greg is active in Friends of the National Rifle Association and spends



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time traveling to competitions to shoot skeet and trap. He's originally from Azle. Kay's parents were in the Air Force, so she spent her childhood moving from place to place. She landed in Fort Worth after college and was introduced to Greg by a mutual friend. "She said, 'You'll like him. He's really tall,'" Kay grinned. They'll be married 39 years next May. For the past 25 years, Greg has owned a successful business, Supreme Alarm. Kay works with marketing and events at the East Parker County Chamber of Commerce.

Greg and Kay attend church at First Baptist Lakeside in Azle. Kay is involved in the women's ministry at the church and in other organizations in Parker County. She's a member of the Rotary Club of Weatherford. Each Christmas, Rotary members ring the Salvation Army Bell at Wal-Mart. It reminds Kay of another Christmas display favorite — her Salvation Army bell ringer. "He stands by the Christmas tree, and my husband always puts a dime in the bucket. It's very sweet." Kay is also a member of Zonta of Parker County and serves on the Habitat for Humanity of Parker County Steering Committee. She'll sit on the board of the Parker County Committee on Aging in 2015.

"I think we all have an obligation to give back to the community," Kay shared. "I think we can all make a difference, and we all have a gift we can give." Christmas is a time of giving to those in need and to loved ones. "I love Christmas, because it's a family time. It's a friend time. It's really a time we need to recognize the Lord." **NOW**

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Intricate Creations

— By Lisa Bell

In England, crafters create a special lace by hand known as Buckinghamshire Lace. Often referred to as Bucks Lace, Doris Sanders prefers the Bux spelling, because she makes it in Texas. Her version differs slightly from a similar French variety because the foot, used to attach the handmade lace to fabric, sits on the right instead of the left. The foot location doesn't make her creation any less beautiful.

The art of making lace by hand started in the 16th century. Boys and girls attended lace-making school, beginning around the age of 5. While the boys moved on to harder labor when they grew strong enough, the girls continued making lace. As they became proficient, the pennies earned from selling it contributed to their families. They often worked in cold rooms or basements with pots of ash to stay warm, never allowing a soot-producing fire to discolor their handiwork. In summer, they protected the white lace from dust by working behind closed doors and windows. Using nursery rhymes, the children memorized the steps for producing lace. Working from dawn to dusk, children and women created lace. They sold the biggest part of what they made, using little for their own clothing. TORCHON, commonly known as beggars or peasants lace, is the easiest and least expensive lace to make.

She wants to keep the almost-lost art alive, hoping her children or grandchildren will someday carry on the tradition.





As machine-made lace became competitive, lace makers learned to create complicated designs, selling their unique art to the wealthy. Eventually, technological advances took over the creation of even the most intricate lace. If not for Doris and others like her, the art of making lace by hand might have been lost.

Doris has a passion for all types of fiber arts — weaving, spinning, bobbin lace, tatting, sewing and quilting — everything but crochet. She admits she never mastered crocheting. Creating lace quickly became one of her favorite hobbies.

Her mom taught her to sew on an old treadle machine, but her love for fiber arts came from her genealogy, which she began studying in 1970. As she researched her family history, she discovered a strong Normandy French ancestry. An interview of a great-grandmother at 99 revealed she made all their clothes, beginning with a spinning wheel and loom. Doris thought, *I can do that*. She eventually learned.

She also found pictures of what appeared to be handmade lace, so she believed someone in her lineage was a lace maker. Her favorite aunt did tatting, which is a type of lacemaking that includes a series of knots. Doris planned to learn from her, but unfortunately, the aunt passed before it could happen. Relegated to learning from a book didn't deter Doris. Pointers from a couple of

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ladies helped her refine the process. She now uses tatting skills to create bookmarks and gifts.

In 1985, during a trip to Scotland, Doris spotted a girl spinning in front of a shop. They happened to sell the spinning wheels, so she purchased one and had it shipped home. She also owns a 4 harness loom used for weaving and still sews with a Singer machine purchased a few months after getting married in 1958. She married in Weatherford, living on property her husband's family owned. They stayed in order to rear their daughters on a farm.

Around 1987, the desire to learn lacemaking instigated her journey into not only mastering the art but also discovering a fascinating subculture. Most lace makers live in Europe. However, guilds in America are growing, as women like Doris pursue lacemaking.

Like most beginning students, Doris learned to make TORCHON lace first. Self-taught from books, she mastered the simplest variety and wanted to make finer lace. Attending international conferences, she met skilled lace makers and took classes with several. With their instruction and books, she learned to make other types of lace. She specializes in the Buckinghamshire lace and spends two to three hours a day working on different projects.

The former back porch of their house, now enclosed mostly with windows, provides an abundance of natural light. The room holds her sewing machine plus the tools of a lace maker. To accommodate multiple works, she has several pillows designed for making lace on their stands.

In the middle of a pillow, she places and pins the pattern (pricking) on a flat "cookie" or a rolling bolster, creating a workspace. Thread attached to bobbins serves as her medium for creating the

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special brand of art. She crosses and twists or twists and crosses, stopping to place a straight pin where the pattern requires an open space to complete the design. As she works, the thread weaves into beautifully designed lace. Although it takes a long time to create lace by hand, she enjoys the hobby.



“The collection of bobbins is just as important as the lace,” Doris said. She brings out hand-carved bobbin boxes, relatively plain or with amazing designs. As she pulls out the instruments, most made from bone, she talks about the various artisans. Each handmade bobbin features designs, some simple and others intricate. Different bobbin makers have unique trademarks. An Archer bobbin made in England has a point at the end, distinguishing his work from others. Beads on the bottom provide weight to hold down threads and to keep the bobbin from rolling. Even in the choice of beads, makers add a distinctive flare to their handiwork.

Some of her bobbins came as matched pairs — one set painted as clowns. She knows which country they came from and who made them, when she looks at each one. A bobbin or the special boxes often prompt a story. The husband of a fellow lace maker carved a set from wood for Doris. Although somewhat less ornate than others, she treasures the set. A friend found an antique set of bobbins in a local shop for her. One of those bobbins has a simple fishing weight at the bottom. This set means a lot to Doris, as well, because of its age.

For Doris, making lace by hand isn't

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just about the hobby. She wants to keep the almost-lost art alive, hoping her children or grandchildren will someday carry on the tradition. The history behind the art comes alive when Doris shares her knowledge. As she talks about the children making lace and their conditions, the retired schoolteacher becomes animated. For a time, she taught lacemaking but no longer does.

In addition to making lace and tatting, Doris still sews, making pincushions, doll clothes and gifts. Her lace appears on some of the items she makes. Instead of selling her lace, Doris prefers using it in crafting extraordinary gifts. She continues studying genealogy. Each woman in her family, skilled in some form of art, was special. By learning lacemaking and other fiber arts, Doris claims her own special place and continues reminding others of a rich heritage worth keeping alive. **NOW**

Editor's Note: For more information on lacemaking, visit www.internationalorganizationoflace.org.

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— By Sandra Strong

Are you finding it difficult to get in the holiday spirit? Fret no more. Getting in the spirit will be much easier as you work on crafts that will brighten your home with seasonal merriment, as well as bring smiles to the faces of family and friends, young and old alike.

Milk Jug Snowmen

Mark the beginning of the holiday season by creating a night light that decorates a room with visual warmth while helping children learn basic shapes.

Difficulty Level: Easy

- 1 gallon jug
- 1 1/2-gallon jug
- Scissors
- 2 sheets black foam, felt or construction paper (your choice)
- 1 sheet orange foam, felt or construction paper (your choice)
- 5 sheets tissue paper (divided use)
- 2 strands 20-count indoor/outdoor white lights with white cording

- Cool melt hot glue
- 3 black pipe cleaners (or color of your choice)
- 2 large black pompoms (or color of your choice)
- 1 medium-size Santa hat (design and color of your choice)

- ① Rinse jugs out thoroughly. Set aside, allowing them to dry completely inside and out.
- ② Cut 4 ovals from black material to serve as eyes. Cut 5 circles from black material to serve as the mouth for the gallon snowman. Cut five small squares from black material to serve as the mouth for the half-gallon snowman.
- ③ Cut 2 skinny triangles from orange material to serve as the noses for both snowmen.
- ④ Cut 3 small slits in each jug under the handle toward the bottom of the jug to



Step 4

create a hinged opening large enough to insert the tissue paper and lights. Carefully stuff the tissue paper (3 sheets for gallon and 2 sheets for half-gallon) and lights through these holes, making sure to mingle the lights with the tissue paper. Push the opening closed. Be sure the cord portion of the lights remains outside the jug openings.

- ⑤ Glue eyes, mouths and noses on jugs. Bend noses accordion-style to give them a 3-D effect. Braid and bend pipe cleaners in an arc. Glue to the sides of the half-gallon jug. Glue pompoms over the ends of the pipe cleaners to complete the ear muffs. Pull Santa hat over the top of the gallon jug. Dot with glue to hold the hat in place. (You can also use a cap your child has outgrown.)
- ⑥ Plug in and enjoy what you and your little ones have created.

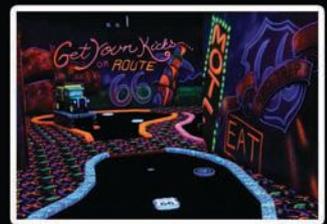


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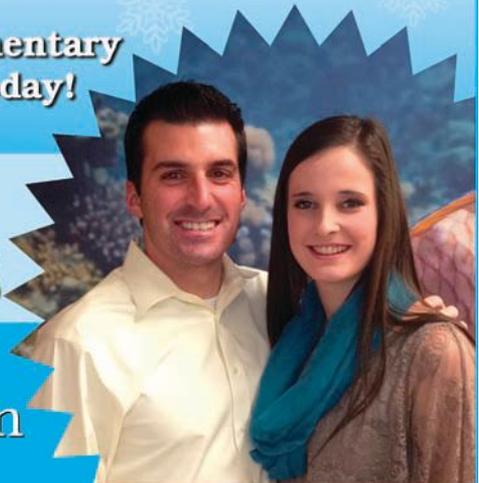
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Frosty the Snow Pot

Create a Frosty that doesn't melt as he warms your home and the hearts of all those who visit during the holiday season.

Difficulty Level: Easy to Medium
Three variations pictured.

- 1 large clay pot
- 1 medium clay pot
- Small paintbrush
- White acrylic paint
- Black acrylic paint
- Scissors
- 1 piece orange felt
- Needle
- Orange embroidery floss
- 1 cotton ball
- Cheek color (rouge)
- Kleenex
- Cool melt hot glue
- 2 large black buttons
- 7 small black buttons
- Holiday ribbon
- 1 sprig from holly berry artificial flower pick

- 1 Paint large pot white. Paint small pot black. Allow to dry completely.
- 2 Cut two carrot shapes from orange felt. Hand-stitch the two pieces together to make nose. Stuff nose with cotton ball to give the carrot a 3-D appearance.
- 3 For rosy cheeks, smudge cheek color on the cheek areas using a Kleenex or your index finger.
- 4 Glue large buttons in place for eyes. Glue small buttons in place for smile. Glue nose in place, allowing it to stick out.
- 5 Tie holiday ribbon around the base of



the small pot. Glue holly berry sprig to the ribbon to complete Frosty's holiday top hat.

6 Glue around the inside edge of the small pot. Stack the smaller pot on top of the larger pot. Allow glue to dry completely before moving.

7 You can also "top Frosty off" with ear muffs made from pompoms and pipe cleaners or a stocking cap of your choice. Eyes and mouths can be painted on or cut from black foam. Let your imagination be your guide.

Santa's Swag

Say, "Ho, Ho, Ho!" with a unique window treatment that will, no doubt, be the talk of all your holiday gatherings.

Difficulty Level: Medium to Hard

- 4 Santa hats
- Needle
- White embroidery floss
- 1/2 yd. white felt
- Spring or cafe curtain rod
- 1/2 yd. green felt
- Green embroidery floss
- 10 green sequins
- 25 gold or silver beads
- 15 red sequins



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- 1 To create the swag, hand stitch the Santa hats together along the white trim only, one hat at a time until you have the desired width. Hand stitch the tops closed to complete the front of the swag.
- 2 To create the rod pocket, cut the



Step 2

white felt in a strip the same width, from left to right, as the sewn hats. Make sure to cut it long enough, from top to bottom, to accommodate the rod being used. (If the rod is 1-inch, be sure to cut the rod pocket at least 1 1/2-inches in length.) Hand stitch rod pocket to the backside of hat curtain making sure not to sew all the way through to the front side.

- 3 Cut green felt in the shape of holly leaves, cutting 10 to duplicate the example shown.



Step 3

- 4 Attach each leaf by sewing one green sequin and one bead to the swag. Sew in place red sequins and remaining beads in clumps of 3 to represent holly berries.

- 5 You can complete the holiday swag by decorating the white portion with embellishments of your choice. This swag was personalized using embroidery floss, sequins and felt, but feel free to let your holiday imagination take over. **NOW**

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Breckenridge is a warm and friendly place, whether you are sitting in a bar, lunching in a coffee shop, riding the chairlifts or checking out the town — total strangers make friends it seems they've known for years. With gold at stake, the early residents and visitors of Breckenridge likely weren't quite that open. After all, this historic town was founded by a small group of gold-seekers, each in search of their own big strike.





The pioneers of the '60s came in the form of skiers with deep Norwegian roots. In 1961 Trygve Berge and Sigurd Rockne founded what is now Breckenridge Ski Resort. As in the days of Berge and Rockne, the outdoors beckons many who arrive in Breckenridge today. The town sits between the Continental Divide and the peaks of



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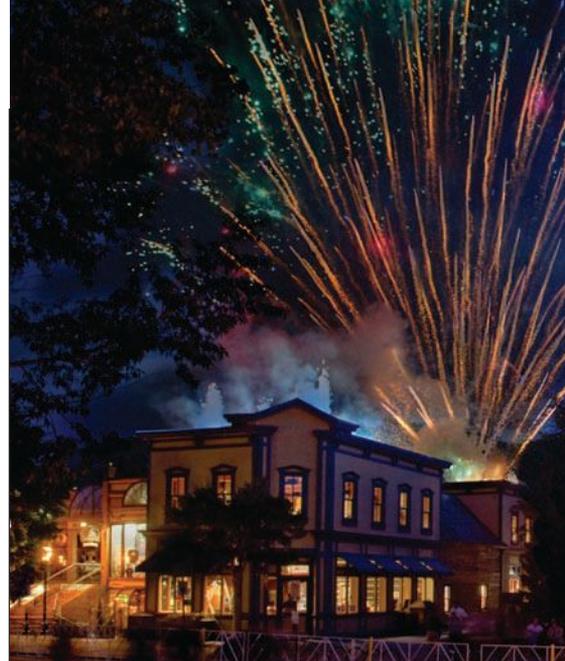
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Tenmile Range, offering seemingly endless places to play. Breckenridge Ski Resort spans four of those peaks, and the runs cover more than 2,300 acres that include five terrain parks, two half-pipes, eight bowls and the highest chairlift in North America.

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by beginners and those who seek out the most advanced terrain. Breckenridge's 300 annual inches of snow also hit the backcountry. While there's no preferred method of travel, there's also no shortage of options.

At Good Times Adventures, snowmobile guides walk guests through all the key parts of the machine before taking off through the Swan River backcountry to reach the Continental Divide. Over at the kennel, teams of huskies wait their turn to pull, and anxious guests wait their turn to mush.

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Dogsledding is a popular activity, especially here, where everyone (who chooses) takes turns at the helm.

For those who prefer activities under their own power, Breckenridge's two Nordic Centers offer snowshoe, plus groomed trails for classic and skate-style Nordic skiing. Those with the proper equipment (and a sense of adventure) head to Breckenridge's trail network

for afternoon outings, overnight hut trips and everything in between.

When the snow gives way to dry, 70-degree summer temperatures, wildflowers bloom. Purple lupine, wild roses, bluebells and a variety of Rocky Mountain wildflowers dot the mountainsides. Rivers and streams rush with cold, clear water that invites boating. Kayaks, whitewater rafts and fishing rigs top trailers and cars throughout town.



Jackson Streit, owner of Mountain Angler, explained that Breckenridge is central to some of the Centennial State's best fishing. Several rivers — each with sections of Gold Medal Waters — flow within an easy drive from downtown, and high alpine lakes sit nestled among surrounding peaks. Afternoons bring beginner anglers practicing casts in the Blue River. Cyclists speed by on the paved path that parallels the river and links Breckenridge with surrounding towns.

Open Space planner and the guiding hand behind Breckenridge's award-winning

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cycling network, Scott Reid explained the town's hiking and biking trails: "It's similar to a bicycle wheel, with the hub as downtown and miles of trails, the spokes, extending into the backcountry. Downtown access points lead to town, county and Forest Service trails. There's no need for a car."

Many of these popular hiking and biking routes were once used by miners in search of gold. Flumes have been converted into flowing singletrack (narrow biking trails), and along it are glimpses of the town's gold-seeking beginnings. Pioneer cabins can be seen on trails — Tom's Baby, Minnie Mine — whose names have roots in the characters of the past. Several restored dredge boats, remnants of a mining method uncommon in the Rocky Mountains, stand abandoned in the backcountry.

The Breckenridge Heritage Alliance, a nonprofit committed to protecting, sharing, and celebrating the unique stories of Breckenridge, has placed interpretive signage both at backcountry sites, such as the dredges and throughout town. Historic walking tours cover the highlights, and museums give an in-depth look at the gold seekers who established the town and created a community with pioneering spirit.

Around Main Street, visitors will meet Breckenridge's modern pioneers: bourbon distillers creating world-renowned craft spirits, a passionate community building an award-winning arts district, and retailers serving up a shopping experience that includes both local and global merchandise. More than 70 independently-owned restaurants and bars serve up all manner of cuisine, not to mention nightlife that consistently ranks highly in top ski and snowboard guides.

The storefronts, once housing mostly gear shops and burger stops, now boast a diverse lineup of funky boutiques and modern menus, all served up in the Victorian spaces that line the downtown streets. The diversity adds up to plenty of options in town, plus a backyard that brings adventurers out to play. Wondering where to head next? Just ask the locals in the coffee shop. **NOW**

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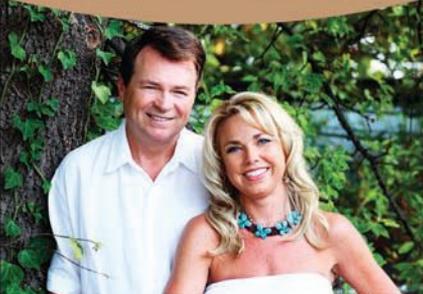


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At Nails Spa in Weatherford, clients can enjoy manicures, pedicures and more.



HEALTHFUL BEAUTY

Customers can sit back and relax at Nails Spa in Weatherford.

— By Amber D. Bronne

For nearly a decade, Henry and Judy Duong have graciously welcomed clients into Nails Spa on College Park Drive in Weatherford. Clientele, both women and men alike, are pampered with pedicures, manicures and facials. Waxing services are also offered. At Nails Spa, it's not just about beauty. It's about health, too.

As clients sit back and watch television or read their best-seller, they can enjoy a massage in one of the pedicure chairs. Fresh water is used for every client, and the spa pedicure whirlpools are sanitized after each service. State-licensed nail technicians use a sealed bag of steamed and sanitized tools for each client.

A basic pedicure costs \$25. "If you feel tired, you remember us. We try to make the customers more relaxed," stated Henry, marketing manager and nail technician. Additional pedicure treatments are available — from hot stone massage and lemon grass to the milk and honey pedicure. The organic materials used during the process soften and treat the skin. Clients can enjoy a glass of wine, soft drink or water as they are pampered.

Henry encourages men to try a pedicure. "We don't give the men polish," he said. "We treat more for the health than for beauty." The nail technician educates clients about possible nail health issues, such as fungus. "That's our job to help them look good and be healthy. Don't be afraid. Don't worry about it. Just

come,” Henry urged. The technicians not only treat the nails, they focus on the foot and heel, transforming the appearance. “Beauty and health — that’s the key.” If the client doesn’t need a full pedicure, the nail technician can cut or file the nails. “Some people cannot cut their nails anymore. Just come in, and we will cut your nails for you,” he added.

A variety of manicure options are available, including powder color, acrylic nails and gel polish. Gel polish lasts longer than traditional nail polish and dries faster. “You don’t have to sit under the drier. If the customer is wearing boots, you can put the boots back on,” Henry explained.

The color powder makes the nail stronger, can add length or fix a chip in the nail. “It makes your nail look real, but it’s strong,” explained Judy, who is the salon manager. Because the powder is colored, technicians don’t have to paint the nails. The color powder can be blended to create colors for nail art, which is a popular trend. Clients can bring a photograph of nail art found online, and the nail technician can paint it on the customer’s nails. Judy enjoys the artistic quality of nail art. She’s created nail designs for clients to enjoy during holidays, vacations, weddings and other special occasions.

Nails Spa offers salon-quality polish, which dries faster and has a shiny finish. Customers may also choose to bring in their own nail polish. “We will use our base coat and top coat to make the polish stick better,” Henry said.

Appointments and walk-ins are welcome, and discounts are available for students and for some holidays. Gift certificates are also available for purchase in-house or over the phone. The salon often hosts wedding parties after hours. The group will receive 10 percent off, and Nails Spa will cater food and beverages.

“We enjoy our customers. We laugh,” Judy said. “We try to make our customers feel better, feel comfortable and feel beautiful, before they walk out the door. We treat them like our friends and like our family.” **NOW**

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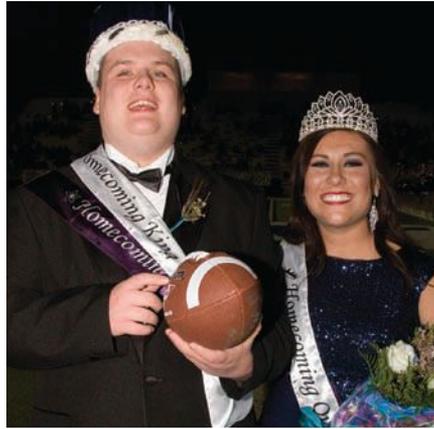
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Emma Patterson decorates a pumpkin at ParkFest 2014 in Willow Park.



Robbie Cocke is crowned Weatherford High School Homecoming King along with his twin sister, Paulie, who is crowned Homecoming Queen.



Keynote speaker and Dallas Cowboys Chaplain Jonathan Evans, Weatherford Christian School Director of Development Leslie Chalmers and former WCS Valedictorian Chloe Johnson celebrate at the WCS 11th Annual Faith Promise Dinner.



Flight paramedic David Kotula and flight nurse Tracy Carter with the Air-Evac Lifeteam show off their helicopter at an event in Willow Park.



Wade Julian, Justin Hitchcock, Lindsay McBride and Mike McBride take first place at the 14th Annual WC Foundation Golf Tournament, which raised more than \$25,000 to support Weatherford College and its students.



Volunteer Christy Peck and Weatherford Fire Department firefighters hand out candy at Jerry's Fall Festival.



The first Pastors Alliance Disaster Response and Emergency (PADRE) class graduates from a training course sponsored by the Weatherford Police Department.



The Weatherford High School Class of 1964 celebrates its 50th reunion.



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Check Out This Year-end Financial Checklist

As 2014 draws to a close, you may want to look back on the progress you've made this past year in various areas of your life — and that certainly includes progress toward your financial goals. At the same time, you may want to make some end-of-year moves that can close out 2014 on a positive note while paving the way for a productive 2015.

Here are a few such moves to consider:

- *Boost your retirement plan contributions.* This actually isn't an end-of-year move, because you have until April 15, 2015, to contribute to your Roth or Traditional IRA for the 2014 tax year. Nonetheless, the sooner you get extra dollars working for you in your IRA, the better. You can put in up to \$5,500 to your IRA (or \$6,500 if you're 50 or older) for 2014. If you are self-employed or run a small business, you also have until April 15 to contribute to a retirement account, such as a SEP IRA or a SIMPLE plan. In addition to helping you build resources for retirement, these types of plans can offer you some tax advantages — so if you haven't established a retirement plan yet, consult with your financial and tax professionals.

- *Sell your losers.* If you own investments that have lost value since you purchased them, you can sell them before 2014 ends and use the tax loss to offset some capital gains you may have earned in other investments. If you don't have any capital gains, you can use up to \$3,000 of your tax losses to offset other ordinary income. And for a loss greater than \$3,000, you can carry over the excess and deduct it from your taxes in future years. If you still liked the investment that you sold at a loss, and you want to keep it in your portfolio, you could repurchase it, but you'll have to wait 31 days to avoid violating the IRS' "wash sale" rules. Keep in

mind that these suggestions only apply to investments held outside your employer-sponsored retirement account. You can't take a tax deduction on capital losses in a 401(k) or similar plan.

- *Evaluate your 401(k) investment mix.* You may be able to adjust the investment mix in your 401(k) as often as you like. So when evaluating your 401(k), make sure your holdings aren't concentrated in just a few investments, and try to determine if your portfolio is still appropriate for your risk tolerance — not too aggressive or too conservative. Also, if your plan offers a Roth option, consider taking advantage of it — with a Roth, you won't be able to deduct your 401(k) contributions from your taxes, but once you retire, you won't be taxed on your withdrawals.

- *Review your insurance coverage.* If you've experienced any changes in your life in 2014 — new spouse, new child, divorce, new job, etc. — you may need to review your life insurance coverage to make sure that it's still sufficient for your needs and that you have the correct beneficiaries in place.

By making these and other moves, you can say a fond farewell to 2014, knowing that you've done what you could to help bolster your financial position — for 2015 and beyond. **NOW**

Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors are not estate planners and cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your estate-planning attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Gregg Davis is an Edward Jones representative based in Willow Park.



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December 1

Handel's Messiah Concert: 7:30 p.m., Alkek Fine Arts Center, Weatherford College, 225 College Park Dr. Kick off the holiday season with the free concert presented by the Parker County Community Choir. Visit www.wc.edu for more.

December 2

Tree of Angels Ceremony: 6:00-7:00 p.m., Parker County Annex, 1112 Santa Fe Dr. Victims of violent crime and their friends and families will hang angel ornaments in honor of lost or surviving victims. Call (817) 594-8409 for more.

December 5 — 12

A Tuna Christmas: **Fridays** and **Saturdays**, 8:00 p.m.; **Sundays**, 2:00 p.m.; Theatre Off The Square, 114 N. Denton St. Actors will entertain attendees in this comedy. Call (817) 341-8687 or visit www.theatreoffthesquare.org for more.

December 6

23rd Annual Christmas Parade: 10:00 a.m., Ninth Grade Center, 1007 S. Main St. The parade will travel along Main Street toward downtown Weatherford. Contact (817) 964-1747 or email martin3930@charter.net for more information.

Christmas on the Square: Noon-5:00 p.m., Historic Downtown Weatherford. The free event features live entertainment, children's activities, holiday music and tasty treats around every corner. For more information, call (817) 596-3801.

Garden a Glow Holiday Festival: 6:00-10:00 p.m., Clark Gardens, 567 Maddux Rd. Lights will adorn the gardens. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children ages 2-12. Visit www.clarkgardens.org for more.

37th Annual Arts and Craft Fair: 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m., Aledo Community Center, 104 Robinson Ct., Aledo. Visit www.aledo-texas.com or call (817) 441-7016 to find out more.

14th Annual Christmas Tyme in Aledo: 5:00-9:00 p.m., downtown Aledo. Local stores will stay open late. Activities include a petting zoo, a snow hill and a visit from Santa at 6:00 p.m. Visit www.aledo-texas.com to find out more.

December 6, 7

Hansel and Gretel: **Saturday**, 7:30 p.m.; **Sunday**, 2:00 p.m., Weatherford College, Alkek Fine Arts Center, 225 College Park Dr. The WC theatre department will present the children's classic. Admission is free. Visit www.wc.edu for more.

December 7

9th Annual Holiday Memorial Service: 3:00 p.m., Galbreath-Pickard Funeral Chapel, 913 N. Elm St. Families can place an ornament on a memorial tree in memory of their loved one. Please RSVP at (817) 594-2747.

December 12

Holiday in the Park: 6:00-10:00 p.m., Heritage Park, 200 Santa Fe Dr. The free inaugural event will feature snow tubing, and Santa, live reindeer and characters from *Frozen* will make appearances. Call (817) 598-4034 for more.

December 13

Parker Paws Pet Photos with Santa: 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., SouthWest Ford, 3000 Fort Worth Hwy. Treat your pet to a photo with Santa. A \$5 donation will be appreciated. Call (817) 694-5718 or visit www.parkerpaws.org to find out more.

33rd Annual Candlelight Tour of Homes: 2:00-8:00 p.m., various locations in Weatherford. Visit www.parkercountyheritagesociety.com for more.

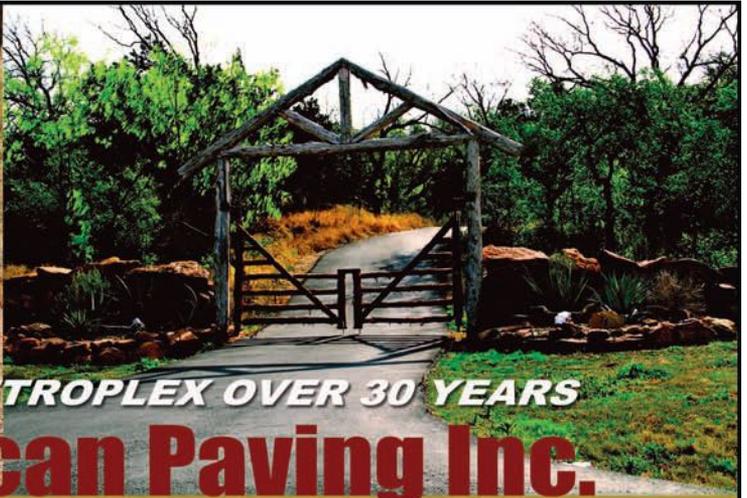
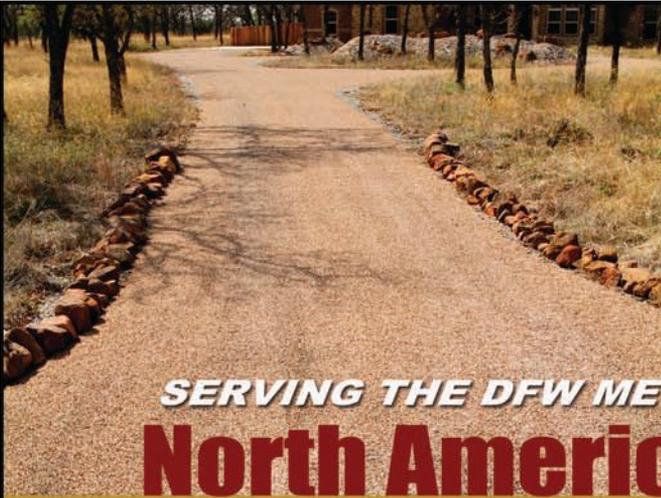
Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your event details to amber.browne@nowmagazines.com.

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In the Kitchen With Dedra Vick

— By Amber D. Browne

Cooking is both challenging and rewarding for Dedra Vick. She first stepped into the kitchen after marrying her husband, Charley, nearly 30 years ago. “When Charley and I got married, I didn’t even know how to boil water!” She can now boast a first-prize win for her peach cobbler at the Parker County Peach Festival.

Dedra enjoys sharing healthy meals with family and friends. She often adds spices to recipes to make them her own. “I hardly ever fry now, and I really try to cook low-carb, low-glycemic foods. Watching our health and eating clean seems to be priority now.” However, she hasn’t given up using real butter and bacon. “I figure eating small portions of great tasting food is better than giving up on taste.” **NOW**

Peach Cobbler

Pie crust:

- 6 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 cups Crisco, chilled
- 2 tsp. salt
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 Tbsp. cold water

Cobbler Filling:

- 8 cups fresh peaches, peeled and chopped
- 1 1/2 cups white sugar
- 1 cup dark brown sugar
- 1 Tbsp. vanilla
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 Tbsp. almond extract
- 2 Tbsp. Minute Tapioca
- 1/2 cup heavy whipping cream
- 1 stick butter
- Sugar, to taste
- Cinnamon, to taste

1. For pie crust. Preheat oven to 400 F. Mix together first 3 ingredients until crumbly. Add

next 2 ingredients; mix. Roll dough onto a floured surface and cut into 1-inch strips.

- 2. For cobbler filling: Mix together first 8 ingredients. Let peach mixture sit for 2-3 hours.
- 3. Spoon peach mixture into a 9x13-inch pan. Top with pats of butter. Lay strips of pie crust onto peach mixture and mash down into juice. Sprinkle with sugar and cinnamon. Bake for 35-40 minutes.

Pecan Pie

- 9-inch deep-dish pie shell
- 3/4 cup dark brown sugar
- 1/4 cup pure cane sugar
- 1 1/2 Tbsp. all-purpose flour, sifted
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 3 Tbsp. butter, softened
- 1 1/2 tsp. pure vanilla
- 1 cup light corn syrup
- 1/2 cup pecans, chopped
- 1/2 cup pecans, halved

- 1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Place pastry in a deep dish. Cover edges of pastry with foil.
- 2. In a large bowl, mix together all dry ingredients. Add remaining ingredients, ending with the pecans. Pour into deep dish pie shell. Bake for 1 hour or until knife comes out clean.

Buttermilk Biscuits

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 1 stick butter, frozen
- 1 1/4 cups buttermilk
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil or shortening

- 1. Preheat oven to 450 F. Sift together all dry ingredients.
- 2. Cut frozen butter into small pieces; mix into dry flour mixture with fork or pastry cutter until somewhat crumbly.
- 3. Slowly add buttermilk into mixture; lightly stir with wooden spoon until you are able to pick up dough with your hands without it falling to pieces. Put dough onto a lightly floured surface; pat and form mixture into a ball. Do not knead. With floured hands, press dough to 1-inch thickness. Use a floured biscuit cutter to cut biscuits.
- 4. Melt oil or shortening in an iron skillet, or 9-inch baking pan. Add biscuits to pan and flip to fully coat with melted oil or shortening. Bake 20 minutes.

Dedra’s Black Pepper Hot Sauce

- 2 28-oz. cans diced tomatoes, drained
- 1/2 bunch cilantro, chopped
- 1 tsp. vinegar or lemon juice
- 1 1/2 onions, chopped
- 3 Tbsp. cumin
- 3 Tbsp. minced garlic
- 1 1/2 tsp. salt
- 2-3 jalapeños, chopped
- 2 tsp. red pepper flakes
- 4 Tbsp. coarse black pepper

1. Mix all ingredients. Let sit at least 1 hour before serving.

To view recipes from current and previous issues, visit www.nowmagazines.com.

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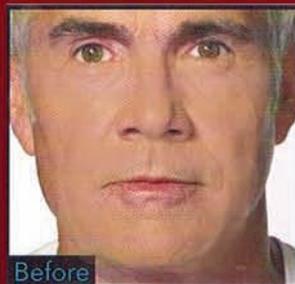
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