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DECEMBER 2018

Urban Style, Country Setting

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Kids' Fun Pages



pp. 42 & 44

Crossword/Sudoku

p. 46

2018 Holiday
Shopping Guide

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learns the business of breeding

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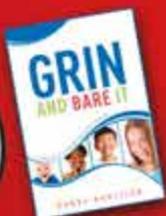
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Editorial Assistant, Rachel Smith | Writers, Rick Mauch . Corey C. Poole
Virginia Riddle . Jeff Trentham
Editor/Proofreader, Angel Morris*

GRAPHICS AND DESIGN

Creative Director, Chris McCalla | Artists, Kristin Bato . Morgan Christensen . Martha Macias . Brande Morgan . Anthony Sarmienta

PHOTOGRAPHY

*Photography Directors, Chris McCalla and Sandra Strong
Photographers, Lori Baur . Joy Elmore*

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ON THE COVER

Michael and Sarah Ervin Padgett celebrate the holidays with a traditional Christmas tree.

Photo by
Joy Elmore.

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Melissa

Melissa Rawlins
MansfieldNOW Editor
melissa.rawlins@nowmagazines.com
(817) 629-3888

Keep the lights on!

There's a song I used to sing, with a chorus that said, "Turn out the lights ... the party's over." No, I don't sing it anymore. Now, I make up my own words and adjust the tune: "The party's only begun ... let's keep the lights on!"

As I mature and head into my second half-century with eyes wide open, I recognize that every precious moment invites me to celebrate. Life is so wonderful. I keep meeting others who feel the same. There are people all over Mansfield, my age, younger or older, who are living to the max.

These people don't look through the eyes of a cynic, spying problems and then complaining about them. These people I'm surrounded by are folks who — even if their life requires them to work two jobs while raising their grandchildren, or some such seeming difficulties — continue to smile big and stay alert for what else needs to be done. And when they've done all they can, they are grateful for the opportunities that will come their way next. Life and everything it holds is like a banquet — every neighbor a guest and every moment to be savored.

What's the theme of your party this month?

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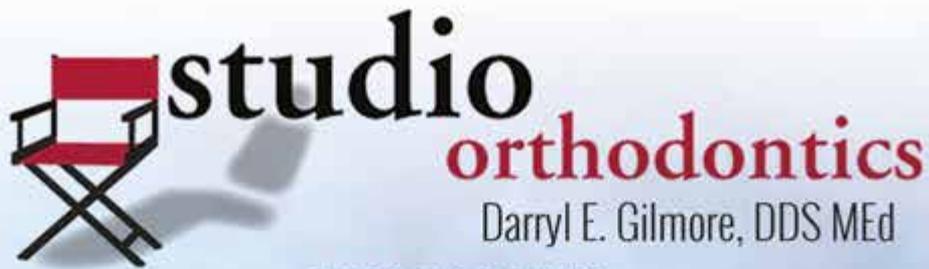


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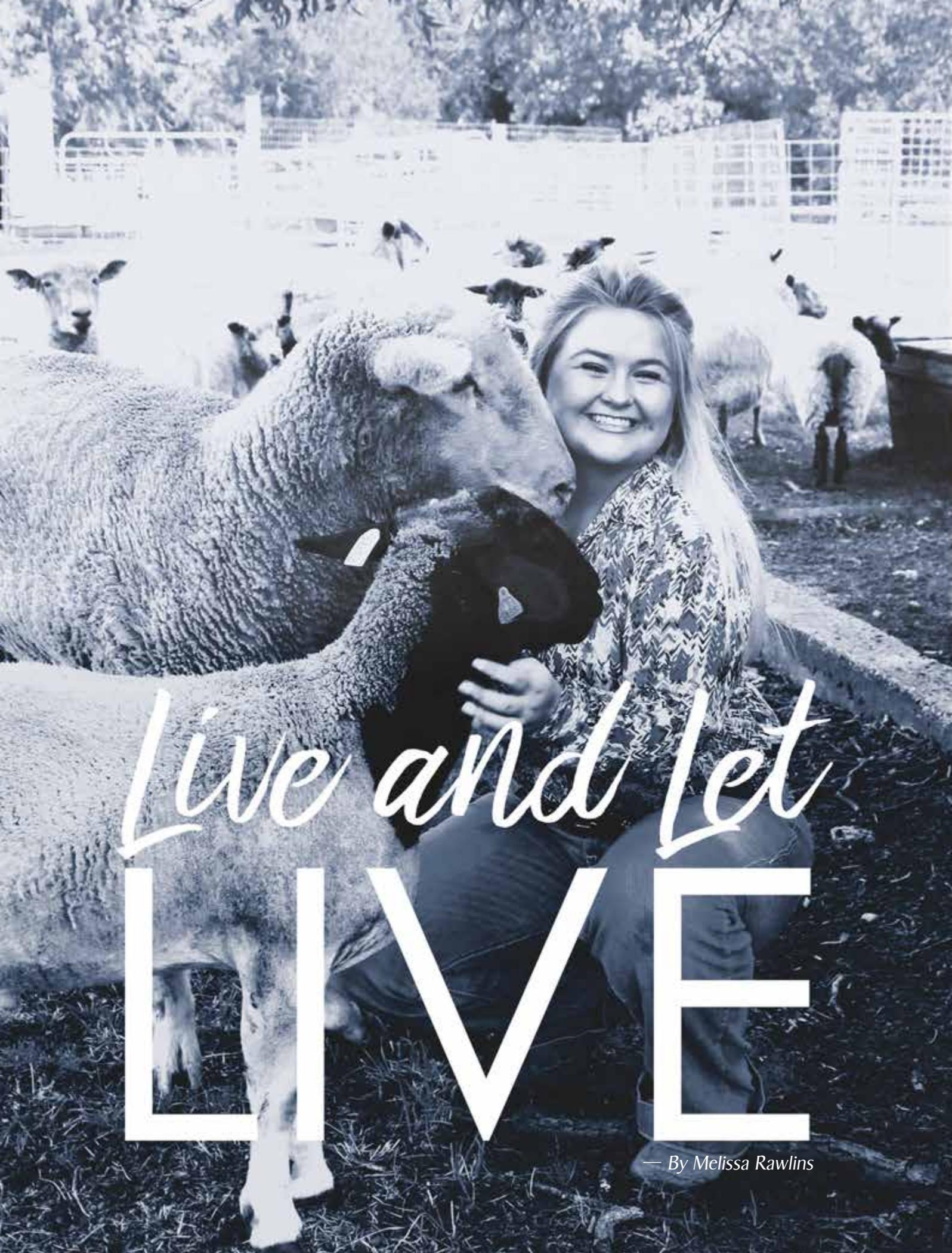
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Live and Let
LIVE

— By Melissa Rawlins



Kyndle Cain is certainly not one who sleeps until noon. Neither does she turn in early. Her animals' lives depend upon her. This 17-year-old homeschooled high school junior started a sheep-breeding program a couple months ago, and this month she's busy preparing the barn for the birthings she expects in February. "We make a really big pen, filled with feed, alfalfa, water bucket and a heat lamp," Kyndle said. "I have all the shots the babies need. The last three days before the babies come, everyone will be out here waiting for the moment. You're helping with another life. It's so cool."

The "we" helping Kyndle are her father and mother, Charlie and Robin Cain. "Her work with animals is an everyday thing, and those everyday things are starting to pay off," Robin said. "Kyndle raises sheep for breeders around Texas, and then shows them at all the major Texas livestock shows. Breeders want her to show their ewes, so they can get their name out there to promote their program."

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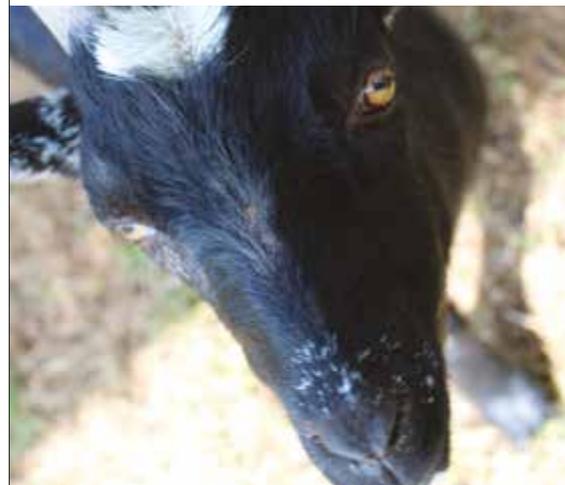
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Kyndle recently won a \$10,000 award on one sheep at the Tarrant County Junior Livestock show. Homeschooled on the Abeka program, because she is out of school at shows so frequently, Kyndle participates mostly in 4-H. But when she was at Legacy High School, she was in FFA. "I don't know how I passed all my tests and got straight A's," Kyndle said of her last few years at Legacy when she was traveling to more and more shows. "But I made time for everything."



Kyndle has stopped working at Tractor Supply, where she earned the money for supplies like feed, supplements, shampoo, conditioner, brushes — and even new sheep. By spending more time breeding show animals, she can put more ewes into her program and produce more sheep to breed next year. "That creates a financial stability for myself to support my love and passion for breeding animals," Kyndle said of the business she's learning to run.

"This year, schoolwork and working at this barn will be my priority. I want to go out with a bang my junior year. I'm going to try my hardest to get the best animals, feed program and working program. If junior year is my year to win, I'll win," she said, referring to the multitude of college scholarships offered as prizes at stock shows in Kansas City, Missouri; Louisville, Kentucky; San Antonio, Kingsville, Houston, San Angelo, Austin and Fort Worth, Texas; as well as Denver, Colorado. "I'll definitely try my hardest my senior year. I'll be crying when I'm done. This is my life."





Kyndle won't really be done, though. With plans that extend far beyond Texas A&M University in College Station, Kyndle sees herself becoming a veterinarian. "I heard the small animals bring in the money, and the large animals I'll do because I love it. In 2024 I'll have my bachelor's degree, and in 2028 my DVM. If I put my mind to it, I can do it," she stated. "I intend to operate a breeding program on my own land with my own lambs. I'll go to shows and help other people, even if what they need is money."

Her parents' objective is for Kyndle to develop responsibility, learn to help others and earn scholarships for college. "Running the show circuit, you come in contact with a lot of people. We may not see them for two months or a year, but at stock shows it's reunion time. We're in it for the kids," Charlie said. "A lot of her friends show, also. So, when we're really showing hard, she's seeing her friends every weekend."

When Kyndle was just a little kid, she was involved in FFA because her brother and sister were raising pigs, heifers and steers. She made a lot of friends but seemed only interested in sheep. Charlie got her a little lamb. "It clicked with me. They're sweet, tame, and have a big personality," Kyndle said. "When my sister got out of high school, I kept on and now I have 14 sheep. This year I'll also do goats. And my last year, I want to do a steer."

The winning, the buckles, the responsibility and the friends got her hooked when she was little. Now, she likes being outside, bonding with the animals. "You have to have a relationship. And I do with all of them," Kyndle said. "They need to trust you,

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to know you're not going to hurt them, so they'll do what you ask. I have a few who will run away, but more who will run up to me like, *Hey, what's up?*"

Kyndle trains her animals to be athletes. "You can't run them like a long-distance runner. You're supposed to train them like a short-distance runner, short and fast on a treadmill," she said. "As babies, I halter break them so when I take them to a show they won't flip out. We start them on a walker to warm their muscles up. Then they'll get on a treadmill to get their adrenaline pumping and build their muscle through short sprints. Then we put them back on the walker to cool them down."

A few years ago, Kyndle had a life-changing moment with a new sheep that did not yet trust her. On the way to a stock show, the latch on their trailer came up and the sheep fell out on Hwy 820. "I picked up this 110-pound sheep and took her back to the trailer. She did not move and had her head on my breast. She made it as easy as possible for me to carry her," Kyndle recalled. "I comforted her until she calmed down."

Through this traumatic event, the two bonded. Once the bleeding stopped and she was eating again, the sheep allowed Kyndle into her pen at any time. "She would run up to me, wanting to play with me with the soccer ball. I'm breeding her now. And she's loving her days." **NOW**

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AT HOME WITH MICHAEL AND SARAH ERVIN PADGETT

Over the bridge, through the woods... that's the way to Michael and Sarah Ervin Padgett's quiet retreat from their busy professional schedules. A rock garden flows with flowers as guests walk the path to the ranch-style home with hints of Tudor. Rylie Michelle Padgett, the couple's Wal-Mart parking lot canine find, greets everyone. Sarah noted, "This is our park with a vacation home feel."

The couple's third home to own, they have found it fits them just like a good shoe. "It's neat owning a piece of land," Sarah added. "It's our dirt and our trees." Sarah's family roots run deep in the area. "I'm either fifth- or sixth-generation Texan, and I'm fourth-generation Mansfield," she said proudly. "My great-great-grandfather came through here on a cattle drive and came back to settle here."

A photo book titled *The Hill* is displayed on the living room's hearth. It commemorates Sarah's family's dairy in the Mansfield area. "I have lots of memories of old-time Mansfield," she added, proud of the fact that both her parents graduated from Mansfield High School, and later her dad retired from the city of Mansfield and is the namesake of the Bud Ervin Water Treatment Plant. "We lived on that family farm."

Michael moved with his family from Garland to Mansfield as a toddler. His mom worked at a Mansfield ISD elementary school. "I knew his mom before I knew him," Sarah said. The couple met through mutual friends. "Since Mansfield was very small then, I knew of Michael and had watched him play music, but he was older," she explained.

They've been married for 11 years, but Michael, from a small family with no extended family in Texas, found Sarah's large, extended local family daunting at first. "It was a lot to take in," he remembered. "Family reunions were pretty overwhelming."





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— By Virginia Riddle



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Michael played college baseball for one year while attending Grayson Community College and Tarrant County College-Southeast Campus. Creative, he draws, composes music and sings professionally. Michael obtained his real estate license and helps Sarah as a buyer's agent. "I've played Texas/

Americana music and acoustical guitar for the past 18 years, averaging about two gigs a month," he said.

Sarah attended Tarrant County College-Southeast Campus, also. She obtained her real estate license 15 years ago and for 10 years has been with Judge Fite Century 21 Real Estate

Company in Mansfield. During these years, she has donated time and monies in the community.

Together, they enjoy bow hunting, fishing, golfing, fowling; playing washers, pool and ping pong; and watching movies. Sarah enjoys trimming trees and mowing the extensive yard. "I love being outside," she explained. "I'm a member and volunteer of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Becoming an Outdoor-Woman program. I like to hike and kayak."

The couple also enjoys travels. "We've traveled to state and national





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parks, Ireland, the Caribbean and Brazil,” Michael revealed. “We’re trying to make it to all 50 states.”

Taking possession of their home in September 2016, the couple didn’t move in until March 2017 after extensive remodeling had been accomplished. “The roof line is the same, but all the interior walls were ripped out,” Sarah explained. “We opened five of the former rooms up to create the open kitchen/dining/living area. Michael and Grossman Design Build created the design.”

The result is a light, bright, open area with windows on their backyard world, complete with bird feeders and baths. “I love the natural life,” Sarah remarked. “We brightened everything.” Kitchen counter space is extended with a large island, and Michael designed the brick circle ceiling treatment above the dining table. The same brick was used for the kitchen’s backsplash. “Michael’s the main cook in the kitchen,” Sarah admitted.

An outdoor patio kitchen and fire pit offers space, along with Michael’s large mancave barn for entertaining friends and family. “Our best memories are of bonfires, parties and family get-togethers,” Sarah said. She also has her getaway backyard she-shed.

“We build stuff, play pool and ping-pong in my man cave,” Michael added.

But it was in Michael’s father’s shop that Michael and his dad built the home’s dining table, which is the focus for Christmas decorating and entertaining. The table is set with Christmas china, and the Christmas tree



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is nearby. Stockings are hung on the mantel. "My mother's Nativity scene is part of the decorations," Michael said.

"I wasn't going to put anything out one Christmas," Sarah remembered. "I came home, and Michael had surprised me by doing it all."

"I was brown nosing," he quipped. The couple hosts family members at Christmas after celebrating with Michael's parents in Bluffdale, Texas, on Christmas Eve and Sarah's parents in nearby Burseson for Christmas breakfast.

"There are 18 grandkids in my family," Sarah said. "It's a big Christmas with all the cousins."

While many of the furnishings throughout the home are family pieces, others are garage sale and antiquing finds. The couple's antique doorknob and cross collections are artfully displayed. An antique door and table combines into a stylish coffee bar made by Michael's dad.

The home's entry sports a plank from the couple's previous home. "We try to incorporate something from our former home into the next home's design," Sarah explained. A support pillar functions as a coat rack.

A vaulted ceiling soars in the master bedroom suite. "We changed a window to a door and added shiplap, redid the bathroom cabinets and put in rock tile," Sarah said.

A hall bath, which serves the two guest bedrooms, was gutted and redone. In restful grays, one bedroom features a gate from their first home. The other bedroom features a guitar decorated as a Texas flag by Sarah's mom as a gift for Michael.

"Canopy," Michael's composition about the beauty of the ever-changing life under the trees that surround their home proves the magic of this place. Sarah concluded, "This is home." **NOW**

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Aiding Them Softly

— By Rick Mauch

From her own experience, Charlene Hurst knows what it feels like to be a working parent, at times struggling between paychecks. Now as director of programs at Mansfield Mission Center, she and her community partners are working to provide access to financial resources for others. “My experience helps me to relate to and understand their mindsets and what they’re going through,” Charlene said. “I didn’t always have a strong financial support system. A lot of our clients are in that same place. I wasn’t poor enough to qualify for benefits, but I wasn’t making enough money to be more than one paycheck away from a financial disaster.”

Charlene came to MMC two years ago. Under her guidance, programs at the 501(c)(3) organization have continued to advance in a variety of ways, including the addition of soft skills classes. They are part of a collaboration with Tarrant County College.

Soft skills classes are designed to make someone a better employee, or to make them more employable. Participants, for example, learn things such as how to dress for a job interview, how to exude more confidence in their job and more. “We have some people today who don’t even know how to say, ‘How are you doing this morning?’” Class Instructor Katrina Brown said. “You have to let them know they are worth something — that they have to believe in themselves. Some people don’t realize that even though you are going for a warehouse job, you have to dress nice when you are interviewing for that job.”

Charlene is a prime example of someone who can accomplish much in life with the proper mindset and opportunity. She finished her associate degree from TCC-Southeast in 2010, while she was still working. After wrapping up a long-spanning career in the telecommunications industry, she decided to focus hard on school. She received her bachelor’s degree in business administration from Texas Wesleyan University in 2012, her master’s degree in public administration from Tarleton State University in 2015 and

plans to wrap up her doctorate degree in education and organization leadership from Abilene Christian University by early 2019.

Mansfield Mission Center, in partnership with Tarrant County College, also offers GED classes. In fact, MMC will be paying for books, testing, offering free child care and even providing a free meal before each class. "Our goal is not just to assist them with obtaining their GED, but to help them continue moving forward, whether that is earning a certification, gaining employment or maybe getting their associate degree," Charlene said. "It was getting a certification from TCC that helped to improve my own financial situation."

Dr. Vickie Moss, Ed.D., director of community and industry education services at TCC, called the union with MMC "an excellent partnership," and said that not only will the training benefit individuals, it will also benefit the ever-growing Mansfield area. "It's going to provide job training and increase skill sets for companies coming into the area."

It's all part of what Charlene calls a pathway to employment. "Whatever they are trying to accomplish, the Mansfield Mission Center's goal is to stick with them throughout that journey."

Along with partnering with TCC-Southeast, Mansfield Mission Center partners with other agencies to help area residents in need. These include such agencies as The Caring Place, the Texas Workforce Commission and Community Action Partners. "It's all about working together," Charlene said.

MMC also offers group financial coaching sessions on topics like credit and budgeting. Again, it is something Charlene can relate to. "I was a budgeting queen," she said. "I knew down to the penny what was going out and coming in. That is probably the main thing that helped me to make ends meet. I encourage everyone to do that. You also have to know what your true needs are versus your wants. The idea is to get to a point where you are financially self-sufficient. But everyone needs some help sometimes, and that's why we're here." **NOW**

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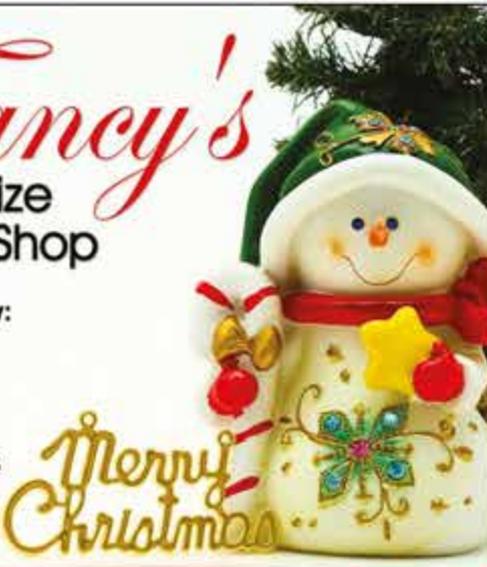
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CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With

ROBIN ROWE

— By Melissa Rawlins



Learning to cook for two is quite a challenge for Robin Rowe. She and her husband, David, often host their sons, Thomas, with his wife, Colbi, and Robert, with his girlfriend, Emily. The whole family really likes Italian dishes. At the holidays, however, their typical fare is British and involves simple side dishes, because “the roast is the star of dinner.”

Robin started cooking as a child, often preparing fancier varieties of food. She was very little when she first helped in the kitchen. At Christmas, she and her sister, Janie Smith, rolled dough into balls and then, after they baked, rolled them in powdered sugar. They also stuffed pitted dates with peanut butter, rolled them in sugar and arranged them on a tiered candy dish. To this day, Janie and Robin cook holiday dinners together. **NOW**

Green Beans With Herb Butter

Serves 6.

- 5 cups water
- 1 Tbsp. kosher salt
- 1 lb. French string beans, stem ends removed
- 1 Tbsp. scallion, white and green parts, minced
- 1 Tbsp. fresh dill, minced
- 1 Tbsp. fresh flat-leaf parsley, minced
- 4 Tbsp. unsalted butter, room temperature
- 1 tsp. each salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tsp. sea salt, for serving

1. Bring a large pot of water to a boil; add salt and string beans. Cook for 2 minutes; drain. Place the string beans in a serving dish.
2. Place the scallion, dill, parsley, butter, pepper and salt in a small bowl and combine. Scoop a generous Tbsp. of the

herb butter and place it on top of the string beans. Sprinkle with sea salt and serve.

Standing Rib Roast

Be sure to serve the juices!

- 2 heads garlic, peeled and minced
- 1 tsp. sea salt
- 1 6.5-lb. standing rib roast of beef, fat trimmed in one strip and reserved
- 12 bay leaves
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 2 cups red wine

1. Preheat oven to 450 F.
2. Process the garlic in a blender or a food processor fitted with a steel blade to a purée. Add salt to the garlic; process to a paste. Pat the garlic paste in an even layer over the top and sides of the roast. Place the bay leaves

evenly over the garlic.

3. Place the trimmed strip of fat over the garlic and bay leaves. Tie in place with a kitchen string. Sprinkle the roast all over with salt and pepper. Place in a roasting pan; pour the red wine in the bottom of the pan.

4. Roast for 20 minutes. Reduce the heat to 350 F. Roast about 18 minutes per pound for rare, or 22 minutes per pound for medium doneness. Let stand 5 minutes before carving.

Parsnip and Pear Purée

Serves 6.

- 4 large parsnips, coarsely chopped
- 4 cups water
- 4 Tbsp. unsalted butter
- 2 Anjou pears, peeled and coarsely chopped
- 1 Tbsp. Cognac
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1/4 tsp. allspice, ground
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

1. Place parsnips in a medium-size saucepan; add water to cover. Heat to boiling. Reduce heat and simmer, covered, until tender, about 20 minutes. Drain.
2. Meanwhile, melt the butter in a small skillet over medium heat. Add the pears; sauté for 5 minutes. Add the Cognac; cook, stirring frequently, for 15 minutes.
3. Process the parsnips and pears in a food processor fitted with a steel blade until smooth. Add the sour cream, allspice, salt

and pepper; process just to blend. Serve immediately or reheat gently over a low temperature just before serving.

Olde English Trifle

Easily prepared in advance of your festivities.

- 1 10.75-oz. Sara Lee pound cake, thawed
- 1/2 cup seedless raspberry jam
- 1 cup amaretti, coarsely broken
- 1 cup Marsala
- 3 Tbsp. granulated sugar
- 1 Tbsp. cornstarch
- 3 egg yolks
- 2 1/2 cups milk
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 2 cups heavy whipping cream, cold
- 3 Tbsp. confectioners' sugar
- 1 tsp. almond extract
- 1 cup almonds, sliced and toasted
- 1 cup candied red cherries or fresh strawberries

1. Cut the cake into 1/4-inch slices and spread out flat on a surface to dry for several hours. Spread a thin layer of the jam on half the cake slices. Top with the remaining cake slices. Cut the cake sandwiches into 1-inch cubes and scatter in a large glass bowl.
2. Add the amaretti crumbs and toss together. Sprinkle with the Marsala; toss to coat.
3. Whisk the granulated sugar, cornstarch and egg yolks together in a saucepan. Whisk in the milk in a thin, steady stream. Cook, stirring constantly, over medium heat until thickened to the consistency of custard. Remove from heat and whisk in the vanilla. Let cool completely.
4. Pour the cooled custard over the cake mixture.
5. Whip the cream in a chilled bowl until soft peaks form. Beat in the confectioners' sugar and almond extract; continue beating until stiff. Pipe the flavored cream over the top of the trifle using a pastry bag, or spoon it over decoratively. Scatter the almonds over the top. Refrigerate, covered with plastic wrap, until ready to serve, up to 3 days.
6. Spoon the trifle into glass bowls; garnish with candied cherries or fresh strawberries.

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ories

— By Rick Mauch

David took care of things on the technical end, with the help of their son, Matt, now 21. Promoting was Matt's specialty. Also, sons Michael, 27, and Nathan, 29, participated. Even grandson, Wyatt (Michael's 8-year-old son), was there. Rhonda has another grandchild, Nathan's 1-year-old daughter, Lilly.

The Farr Best hosted events such as the renowned Elvis tribute artist David Allen and Patsy Cline impersonator extraordinaire Lisa Layne. Several local artists went on to national and international fame, such as Grammy Award-winning (and five-time nominee) country singer Maren Morris. And one very special guest fell in love with the theater. "We were sitting at dinner and my husband said, 'Is that Michael Martin Murphy?'" Rhonda said. "Matt went out

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to our car and got a brochure and asked him if he'd come perform at our theater. Matt came back to the table and said, "He said yes, he'll call."

And call he did. Murphey, from Dallas, loved performing at the Farr Best. He did two shows there in 2013, and two more in 2014. "Everybody wanted to come see him. We had fancy sets. We planned this whole meet-and-greet," Rhonda said. "He loved Matt. They hit it off."

Sadly, David did not get to see Murphey perform the second time around. David passed away, but Rhonda continued to manage the theater with the help of Matt. "We still had six months of shows on the books. A lot of volunteers helped us carry on with a lot of love," she said. "As they say, the show must go on."

After that, Rhonda stepped back, and her father leased the building. Discover

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Historic Mansfield, which had begun working with them in 2012, continued to put on live musical performances, with a concert series that included Paula Nelson, Willie Nelson's daughter.

Now the city uses the theater as a community arts venue for such things as a summer movie series, live music, theater, comedy, magic, senior programs, conferences and more.

The Mansfield Commission for the Arts was formed in mid-2016, with Rhonda as an original board member. Soon after, Rosie Gilbert joined the city as cultural arts supervisor. "Having Rhonda on the art commission was an essential connection for me. Whenever I need someone as a resource, I call Rhonda," Rosie said.

Rhonda has since left the board, but she's always just a phone call away. "If I had more time I'd love to be more involved, but right now I'm enjoying my grandkids," she admitted.

And while Rhonda has yet to experience a ghost in the theater, Rosie has her own stories, such as lights coming on by themselves and machinery working despite power strips being unplugged. In fact, the theater is the last stop of the city's ghost tour each Halloween season. "That's one of my goals this year, to figure out who the ghost is," Rosie said with a laugh.

Rhonda, meanwhile, hopes that whatever the spirit is, it has a home for a long time to come. "This place has been around for 100 years," she said, misty-eyed. "I'd love to see it stick around for another 100." **NOW**

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- Virginia Wolff

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Legend Senior Living

— By Melissa Rawlins

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rebecca.witte@legendseniorliving.com
freda.johnson@legendseniorliving.com
www.LegendMansfield.com

Hours: 24/7

Legend Senior Living is purposefully designed to offer a variety of experiences centered around community and supporting each person's independence. Residents have been pre-leasing since May for the opportunity to live in their new home at Walnut Creek and Debbie Lane. In their spacious residence, professionals consider it a privilege to help residents with any needs.

Amenities at Legend Senior Living range from a theater surrounded by a bistro for residents and their families to a gardening room for repotting houseplants or growing fresh herbs. "Residents also furnish their apartments with their own personal items, from furniture to pictures," Sales Director Rebecca Witte said. "The environment that we have created is intended to give them an at-home feeling."

The Memory Care neighborhood is an enclosed environment enriching the lives of the residents. Soothing colors and lifestyle vignettes allow residents to engage in a familiar task or interest from their life history. Individual suites offer private space to enjoy time with family and friends. Some of the programs offered are Parallel Programming, innovative robotic bio-feedback therapy — which has been proven to help reduce the needs for certain medications — as well as life skill therapy, brain fitness exercises, music experiences, pet therapies and other calming therapies.

Staff engages with each individual resident at Legend Senior Living so that family can return to their lifestyles. "Let us do the care giving," Residential Director Freda Johnson tells her families, "while you continue to make special memories with your family."

"We encourage residents to do as many activities of daily living as possible, and we're always here to help," she said. For people with animals, pets are allowed. Couples have the ability to spend time together even if one may be in assisted living and one in memory care. Legend also offers access to the courtyards from the majority of rooms, most of which have patios and great views.

"The environment that we have created is intended to give them an at-home feeling."

Nationwide, Legend is family-operated and 40 communities strong. "This single-story, homelike community is the first prototype of Legend Senior Living in Texas," said Freda, who has served families in assisted living communities for more than 10 years.

Freda and Rebecca find great reward helping people find solutions to their unique living situations, working as a team to advise families and their loved ones about next steps and options. "With Freda's experience and history in the area, and the relationships we develop, we have resources that assist our families in helping them find that right solution," Rebecca said.

During what is an emotional journey for families and their loved ones, Legend Senior Living provides a healthy atmosphere for people using assisted living to increase longevity through social opportunities, active lifestyle and engaged associates. A tour of the apartments and the community is one step toward determining your compatibility.

Call today to schedule one-on-one time with Rebecca or Freda. They are ready to discover your wants and provide the solutions you need. **NOW**



TravelNOW

The City of Lights

— By Corey C. Poole

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

From its roots as the oldest settlement in the Louisiana Purchase, Natchitoches was established in 1714 by French explorer Louis Juchereau de St. Denis as a French Outpost along the Red River. After the river changed its course in the late 1800s, Cane River Lake was created, a 33-mile long section of the Red River that is now landlocked. The downtown Historic District is nestled along the banks of this picturesque body of water.

“The City” is known as the filming location for *Steel Magnolias*, as the Bed and Breakfast Capital of Louisiana and as a popular tourism destination. Nicknamed “The City of Lights,” Natchitoches is best known for its six-week Christmas Festival of Lights, featuring more than 300,000 lights that make the town twinkle with magic. Starting the weekend before Thanksgiving with a “Turn on the Holidays” celebration, the festival continues through January 6. The official Natchitoches Christmas Festival Day is the first Saturday in December. A Christmas parade winds its way through downtown. Vendors sell fresh meat pies, and bands perform through the night. 2018 marks the 92nd annual celebration.

While this is the most popular festival, there’s a plethora of events to enjoy year-round. Enjoy a day of competition, and cheer on rowers at the Dragon Boat Races, held annually at the beginning of March. In April is the Melrose Arts and Crafts Festival, where more than 100 vendors sell

their wares beneath the canopy of oak trees at Melrose Plantation, just 17 miles south of Natchitoches. And the Natchitoches Jazz R&B Festival is held annually in May with four stages playing a variety of music from jazz to rock.

For 39 years, the Natchitoches/NSU Folk Festival has been held annually in July in the air-conditioned Prather Coliseum on the Northwestern State University Campus. Browse through vendors and demonstrations, and listen to an eclectic variety of musicians.

Both the Fall and Christmas Tour of Homes offer sneak peeks inside some of the town’s historic buildings, presented by the Natchitoches Historic Foundation and the Association for the Preservation of Historic Natchitoches. Also in the fall, stroll the streets and look under the hoods of antique autos at the annual Natchitoches Classic Car Show.

Each October, prominent figures from Natchitoches’ history come to life at History Among the Tombstones: Stories from the American Cemetery. And the Grand Ecore Visitors Center, Los Adaes State Historic Site and Fort St. Jean Baptiste each offer unique programming throughout the year from lectures to demonstrations and re-enactments.

Stroll through downtown shops like Kaffie Frederick — Louisiana’s oldest general store. Bring a boat and cruise Cane River and Sibley Lake for some of the best fishing spots around, or grab a kayak and take it slow. Whatever adventure you have in mind, Natchitoches will welcome you with its true Southern charm and hospitality. **NOW**

Photo credit: Poole Photography.

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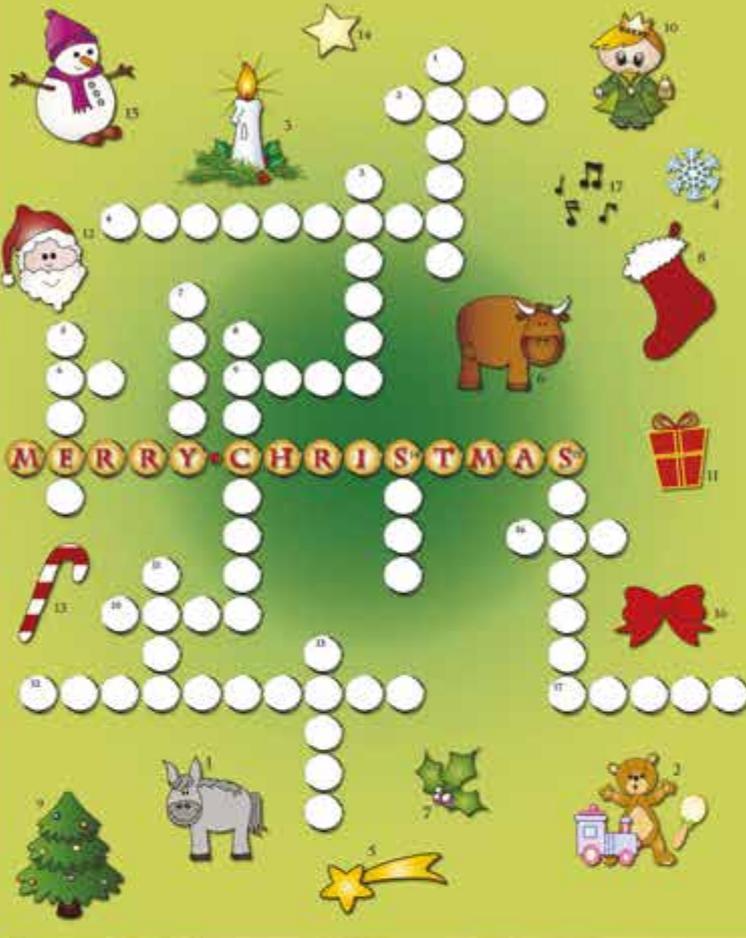
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Kids' Fun Pages

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD



..... Time for Presents

Can you spot the two identical pictures?



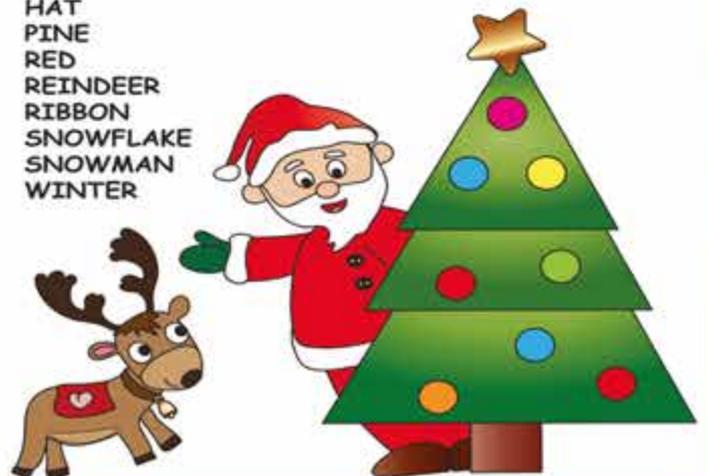
ANSWER: 9 2



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
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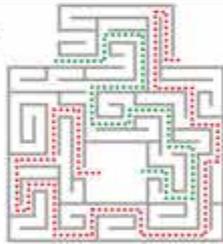


Kids' Fun Pages

Help the little elves to find the way to Santa's sack.



ANSWER:



Draw a line from dot number 1 to dot number 2, then from dot number 2 to dot number 3, 3 to 4, and so on. Continue to join the dots until you have connected all the numbered dots. Then color the picture!



ANSWER:

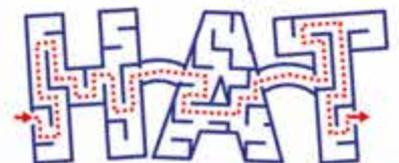


ANSWER:



Help Santa get through the HAT maze to catch up to his hat. It was blown away by the wind.

ANSWER:



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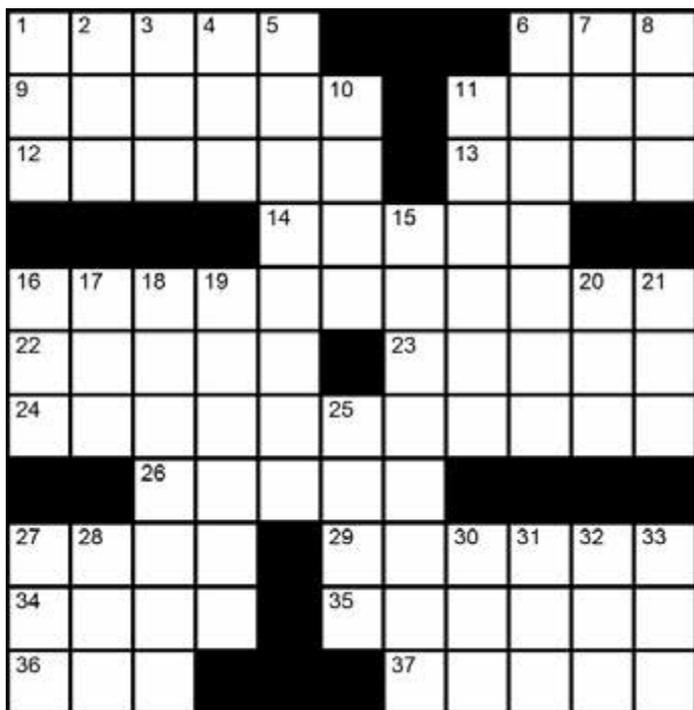
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Crossword Puzzle



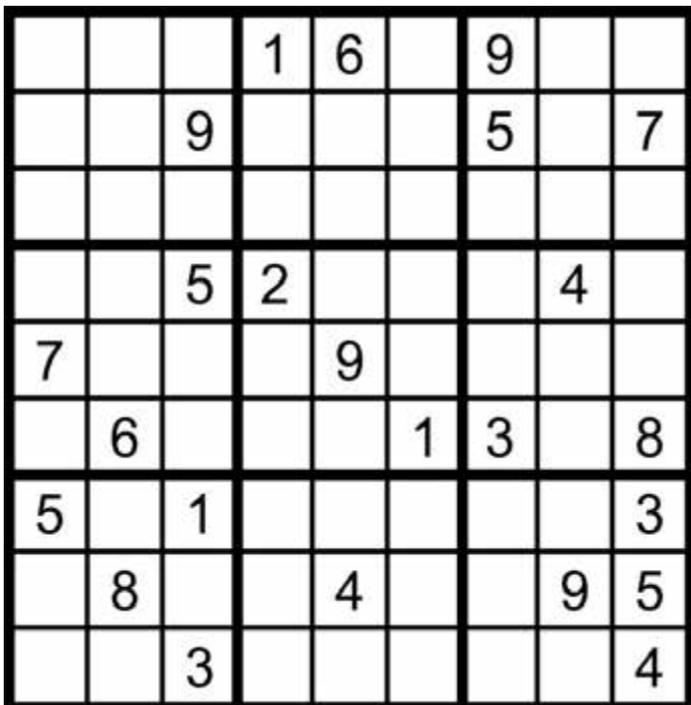
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- | Across | Down |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Spud source | 1 Doctrine |
| 6 Short boxing punch | 2 Agnus or Opus follower |
| 9 Roomy autos | 3 Sales aids, for short |
| 11 Saintry symbol | 4 "Baloney!" |
| 12 Accident | 5 Stopping by |
| 13 "I suppose" | 6 Capital of Indonesia |
| 14 Match | 7 Cotton state |
| 16 Turnpike convenience | 8 Early man? |
| 22 Solo numbers | 10 Building detail, briefly |
| 23 Like certain organs | 11 Type of balloon |
| 24 Multiply rapidly | 15 Breaking off |
| 26 Teacher | 16 Plant juice |
| 27 Gratis | 17 Sin |
| 29 Onetime Disney chief | 18 Unruly mob |
| 34 Obstructs | 19 Appraises |
| 35 How bodysuits fit | 20 Consume |
| 36 They go with outs | 21 Malt beverage |
| 37 Pixie | 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 49

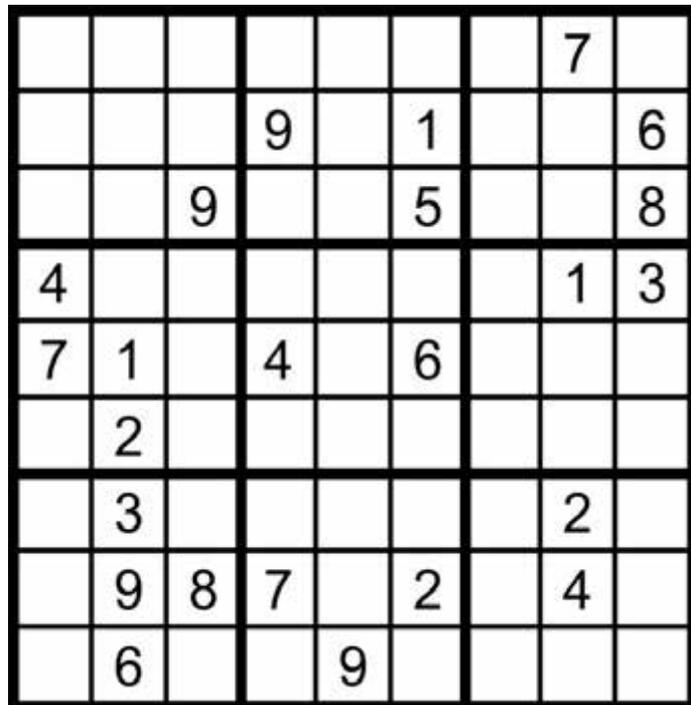
Sudoku Puzzle

Easy



Crosswordsite.com Ltd

Medium



Solutions on page 49

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Zoomed In: Vicki Long and Trey Kerr

By Melissa Rawlins

This is the season for generosity, a gift in the human spirit that pleases Vicki Long and Trey Kerr greatly. The duo accepting canned goods from people walking through the Kroger's parking lot represent the Mansfield Police Department. Officer Kerr, with the Community Resource Division, and Vicki, with the Volunteers in Police Service through the Citizen Police Academy, helped last month and will again the first three weeks of this month at venues all over town.

"In December, our drives are very much about the kids," Kerr said. "We collect toys, as well as food."

Vicki, who said she was impressed with people's willingness to help her when she went through some personal circumstances, now gives of her time whenever she can get off work. "I love seeing the compassion from others."



At The Children's Academy Montessori on Country Club Drive, Kindergarten Teacher Aleese Jarvis takes a moment for fun with her daughter, Addie Grace Jarvis, and their friend, Silas Johnson.



Ham Asanarong freshens the flowers for tables at Siam Corner.



PetsMart Apprentice Groomer Annie Resmini cuddles Mitzi before the dog experiences her cold weather beauty treatment.



Tina Korleski and Kelli Summers get ready for the holidays at Kirkland's, where they find lots of gifts for Tina's mother.



Bill Cook, better known as Bulldog with AutoDuco, is loading up a 1976 Chevy to restore.

Calendar

12/1

Fa La La La 5K: All ages are welcome to enter this fun run/walk hosted by the Kiwanis Club of Mansfield. \$30 entrance fee promotes their community service work, dedicated to improving the lives of children in Mansfield and around the world. 9:00 a.m., Katherine Rose Memorial Park 303 N. Walnut Creek Dr. www.falalala5k.com.

Hometown Holidays Parade: Sponsored by Mansfield Methodist Medical Center, community groups show out in this celebration. 2:00 p.m., Main Street and Broad. (817) 728-3680.

Crowder concert: Texas native David Crowder performs, and will be joined in this portion of his national "American Prodigal" tour by MISD choir students. Proceeds benefit the MISD Center Arts Program. 8:00-10:00 p.m., MISD Center for the Performing Arts, 1110 W. Debbie Ln. (817) 299-1230.

12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22, 12/29

Widowed Persons Service meeting: Enjoy breakfast, fellowship and sharing your helpful heart. 8:30-10:00 a.m., Joe's Family Restaurant, 310 N. Mitchell Rd. Contact Arlyne Clements at (817) 366-0430.

12/1-12/13

Emerging Artists Exhibit: Adult Learning participants in the fine arts programs at Green Oaks Education and Support are featured in Botanical Research Institute of Texas' revelation on nature awakening creativity. Free to the public. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Madeline R. Samples Exhibit Hall, 1700 University Dr., Ft. Worth. jeanjewell@greenoaksschool.org.

12/1-12/22

Santa's House 2018: Visit Santa in his Granbury home. Free to the public. Make memories starting immediately following the Parade of Lights. Various days and times, Granbury Historic Town

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

12/2

Holiday Home Tour: View stunning homes, while donating to benefit local scholarships provided by the Mansfield Women's Club. Purchase \$25 tickets at Tom Thumb, Poured or Merle Norman Cosmetics in Mansfield. 1:00-5:00 p.m., all over town. www.MansfieldWomensClub.com.

12/3

Mansfield Area Marines: Active duty, retired, honorably discharged Marines and FMF Corpsman are welcome. 7:00 p.m., Fat Daddy's Sports and Spirits Café, 781 W. Debbie Ln. Contact George Miller, (817) 705-7984.

12/3, 12/10, 12/17

Sunrise Toastmasters Club: Become the speaker and leader you want to be. 7:00-8:00 a.m., Methodist Mansfield Hospital, Canedy Community Room, 2700 E. Broad St. kevinorsak@mhd.com.

Divorce Care: Men and women who are going through a divorce, recently divorced or separated and in need of Christian support are welcome. 6:30 p.m., First Methodist Church Mansfield, 777 N. Walnut Creek. Katie Bonner (817) 477-2287 or Katieb@fnmcm.org.

WPT Poker Tournament: Come out and enjoy happy hour specials and a few rounds of poker during one of two sessions. 6:30 and 9:00 p.m., Fat Daddy's Sports and Spirits Café, 781 W. Debbie Ln. Follow Fat Daddy's on Twitter at @fatdaddyslve or visit www.fatdaddyslve.com.

12/3-12/31

Mission Market: To meet dietary needs, families may choose their own grocery and toiletry items. By appointment **Mondays-Fridays**, 777 N. Walnut Creek Dr. (817) 473-6650.

12/4

Card Making Class: Adults will learn from an expert to make handmade and professional looking cards. Free. Registration required. 6:30-7:30 p.m., Mansfield Public Library, 104 S. Wisteria. Faria Marin, Adult Services Librarian, at faria.marin@mansfield-tx.gov or (817) 728-3690.

12/5

MISD Toys for Tots Community Event: Guests are asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy. Free sledding, arctic slide, pony rides, petting zoo, train rides photos with Santa plus food trucks selling delicious goodies. Entertainment by MISD School children and Art Ballet Academy. 5:00-10:30 p.m., The Center for the Performing Arts, 1110 W. Debbie Ln. Jeanne Cassidy, (817) 299-1252, jeannecassidy@misdmail.org.

12/5, 12/19

Mansfield Lions Club meeting: Service minded citizens wishing to learn more about the Mansfield Lions Club mission are welcome. Noon-1:00 p.m., Mansfield Methodist Hospital, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 2700 E. Broad St. Nicole Simmons (817) 453-1170.

12/5, 12/12,

12/19, 12/26

mindForge: This free mindfulness session teaches evidence-based insight meditation. 7:00 a.m. AND 7:00 p.m.; Calibration Chiropractic, 408 S. Main St., Ste. B. Dr. Jordan Adams (817) 779-3435.

12/6

Braden Daniels Magic and Mystery Show: Storytelling and improvisational comedy are mixed with parlor magic and sleight of hand. Free. 6:00-7:00 p.m., Farr Best Theater, 109 N. Main St. (817) 728-3690.

12/6, 12/13,
12/20, 12/27

Rotary Club of Mansfield Sunrise: Meet with others living by the motto Service Above Self. 7:00-8:00 a.m., Methodist Mansfield Medical Center, 2700 E. Broad St. www.mansfieldrotarysunrise.org.

12/6-12/9

Household Hazardous Waste Collection: Bring your paint, aerosol cans, electronics and recyclables along with proof of Mansfield residency. A list of accepted items is at www.mansfieldtexas.gov/ecc. **Thursday and Friday**, 3:00-7:00 p.m.; **Saturday**, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Mansfield Environmental Collection Center, 616 S. Wisteria. David Macias (817) 276-4239.

12/7, 12/14,
12/21, 12/28

Kiwanis Club of Mansfield meeting:

Kiwanis is an International Service Club. The local group has been performing service projects benefiting local children for more than 35 years, and sponsors Key Clubs at every local high school. 6:45-8:00 a.m., Mansfield Methodist Hospital Conference Rooms A&B, First Floor. Sharon Baker (817) 994-2497.

12/9

Worldwide Memorial Candlelight Service: Compassionate Friends of Southwest Dallas invite anyone who has lost a child of any age to its candlelight remembrance including readings, music, slideshow and photo display. 6:45 p.m., First United Methodist Church Aldersgate Fellowship Hall, 427 W. Ave. C, Duncanville. (469) 554-9474 or info@tcfswdallas.org.

12/4

Walk This Way: Kick off Mansfield's campaign to promote quality of life by walking with community partners from

Broad Street to Stephen's Grill on the Pond Branch Linear Park Trail. 4:00-5:00 pm, 199 E. Broad St. www.healthythisway.com.

12/6, 12/13,
12/20, 12/27

Celebrate Recovery: find support, hope and freedom from struggles and realities that we all face through transitions, hurt, pain, loss or addiction. 6:30 p.m., First Methodist Church Mansfield, 777 N. Walnut Creek. Katie Bonner (817) 477-2287 or Katieb@fmcm.org.

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



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As an investor, you will have access to accounts that are taxed differently from one another. And it's possible you could benefit from tax diversification by owning accounts in these three categories:

Tax-deferred — Tax-deferred accounts include the traditional IRA and a 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan. When you invest in tax-deferred vehicles, your money can grow faster than if it were placed in an account on which you paid taxes every year. You also may get a tax deduction for contributions you make today. When you start taking withdrawals from these tax-deferred accounts, typically during retirement, the money is usually taxed at your ordinary income tax rate.

Taxable — Taxable investments are those held in a standard brokerage account, outside your IRA or 401(k). While you can put virtually all types of investments into a taxable account, you may want to focus on those considered to be most tax-efficient. So, you could include individual stocks that you plan to hold, rather than actively trade, because you will not get taxed on the capital gains until you sell. You also might consider mutual funds that do little trading and generate fewer capital gain distributions. This is important not only in terms of controlling taxes, but also because the taxes on these distributions can reduce your investments' real rate of return.

Tax-free — When you invest in a Roth IRA/Roth 401(k), you don't get an

immediate tax deduction, but your earnings, as well as your withdrawals, are tax-free, provided you do not start taking withdrawals until you're 59 1/2 and you have had your account at least five years. (However, income restrictions do apply to Roth IRAs.)

So, given the difference in how taxes are treated in these accounts, how can you choose where to put your money? For example, when would you contribute to a Roth IRA or Roth 401(k), rather than a traditional, tax-deferred IRA or 401(k)? If you are in a high tax rate now and expect it to be lower in retirement, a traditional IRA may make more sense, as you potentially get a sizable benefit from the tax deduction. But if you are in a lower tax rate now, you have most of your retirement investments in tax-deferred accounts, and/or you can afford to forego the immediate tax deduction, you might find that the Roth IRA/Roth 401(k), with its tax-free withdrawals and earnings, ultimately will make more sense for you. But since no one can predict where tax rates will go in the future, having money in different types of accounts — i.e., tax diversification — can be beneficial.

If you only focus on traditional, tax-deferred accounts, you could end up with larger tax bills than you anticipated when you retire and start tapping into these accounts, particularly when you must start taking withdrawals — called "required minimum distributions" — when you reach 70 1/2. By having money in accounts with different tax treatments, you may have more flexibility in structuring your withdrawals during retirement, based on your year-to-year tax situation.

There's no formula for achieving an ideal tax diversification. You'll want to consider your own needs and circumstances in choosing the right mix of taxable, tax-deferred and tax-free accounts. Ultimately, taxes should not drive all your investment decisions — but they should not be ignored, either. **NOW**

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Jeff Trentham is an Edward Jones representative based in Arlington.

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- Breast Augmentation • Robotic Hair Transplantation • Eyelid Lift Surgery • Tummy Tuck • Liposuction
- Mini Facelift • Body Contouring after Massive Weight Loss • Vaginal Rejuvenation • Laser 360/Paragon Liquid Laser Lift
- Ultherapy • Photofacials • Skin Resurfacing • Microdermabrasion • Botox/Fillers • Laser Hair/Tattoo Removal

Wrinkle-Free Tuesday

10am-5pm • Botox \$12/unit

Wrinkle-Free Wednesday

9am-7pm • Botox \$12/unit

- Above Offers Available at -
1101 Matlock Rd,
Mansfield, TX 76063

Wrinkle-Free Monday

10am-5pm • Botox \$12/unit

Wrinkle-Free Thursday

10am-5pm • Botox \$12/unit

- Above Offers Available at -
1203 S. White Chapel Blvd., Ste. 150
Southlake, TX 76092



Mark A. Bishara, M.D.
Harvard Fellowship trained
in Aesthetic & Reconstructive
Plastic Surgery
Diplomate of ABHRS



The **Paragon**
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