Magazine

DECEMBER 2019

It's All About Tradition

At Home With Lance and Mendi Melton

In the Kitchen With Raymond and Dotti Holman



Postal Customer

Exploring Rocket Science

Jared Boisvert plans to study aerospace engineering at MIT

2019 Holiday Shopping Guide

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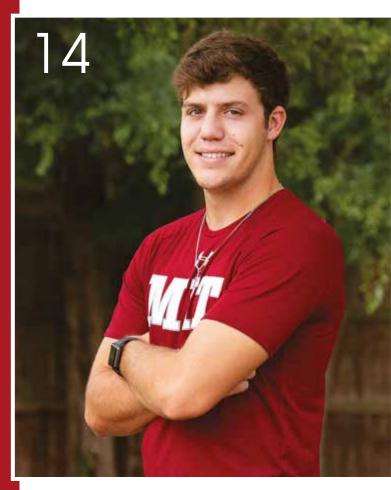
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ON THE COVER

The Melton family reflects on the gift of coming back to Midlothian.

Photo by Kobbi R. Blair.

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Angel Morris *MidlothianNOW* Editor angel.morris@nowmagazines.com (972) 533-7216

EDITOR'S NOTE

Goodbye, 2019!

When pondering how to express what I wish for you as the year ends, I came across this quote from 20th-century poet T.S. Eliot: "For last year's words belong to last year's language, and next year's words await another voice. And to make an end is to make a beginning."

To me, Eliot's words exemplify December perfectly — that pocket in time between the months past and those ahead. The moment we begin to let go of this year, while not quite stepping into the next. These are the days we start closing one chapter in order to begin a new one.

Like most of us, I become reflective in December. I search for gifts I think will be meaningful to the recipient. I try to create experiences my family will treasure, and I focus on the blessings the year has given me. It can be bittersweet, however, remembering special things from our past that may never be again. And the opportunity to begin again in a new year can be both exciting and stressful.

So, how do we embrace this unique in-between time, ending one year and beginning a new one? I challenge you to sit peacefully in December, letting this month be a gift to yourself. A time you worry about neither last year nor next, but instead appreciate each day as much as you can. After all, Eliot also said, "The end is where we start from."

End the year well!

P.S. The publisher and staff of NOW Magazines would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and the happiest of holiday seasons!





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The first thing one notices when meeting Lance and Mendi Melton is their mutual love for Midlothian. They lived in Midlothian for 11 years, and then five years ago, Lance, an architect, was transferred to Austin. Even though they do not have any extended family in Midlothian, they yearned for their Midlothian "adopted family" after they moved away.

After four years, when Lance was offered a great job in Dallas, the couple jumped at the chance to move home. Mendi is a school counselor at Walnut Grove Middle School in Midlothian and was ecstatic to be able to go back to work for her favorite school district. "Even though we don't have extended family in Midlothian, our friends have truly become our family," she shared sincerely.



The Meltons have three children. The two youngest, Mikah and Abbi, go to Midlothian Heritage High School, and the oldest, Austin, is a Midlothian High School graduate.

When Lance and Mendi were looking for a new house in Midlothian, it was important to find one that would be good for gathering friends and family. They enjoy having their children's friends over and have given wedding showers to several of their son's friends just in the past year since moving back.

They also have a large church family and enjoy having them over for all sorts of gatherings. Between their children and their adopted family of friends from school and church, Lance and Mendi spend many evenings entertaining.

With all the entertaining comes decorating, and decorating their home is a major part of the Meltons' family traditions. "Tradition in our house is to max out Christmas decorations," Mendi said, "My mom was all about decorating for Christmas, and I carry on her tradition."

Mendi explained that the whole family gets together to decorate the main tree. They all enjoy reminiscing where each ornament came from. "The main tree is not a fancy or fad tree. I like to mix elements of current decorating trends with our traditional decorations," Mendi said.

"She always has the vision, and we are there to help create that vision," Lance added, looking admiringly at Mendi.

"Lance is in charge of the outside of the house," Mendi offered in response. "He puts Christmas lights on our house every year. Even though he is super busy and often travels out of town for work, he insists on doing it for us himself and refuses to pay someone to do it.

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CALL TODAY! (469) 656-8474 www.WaxahachieDentures.com "He gets Austin and his friends to help him and has almost fallen off the house getting it done, but he always pulls it off!" Mendi said proudly. "He says that I am the one who really loves to decorate for Christmas, but I think that he would go crazy with all kinds of decorations on the outside of the house if I would let him."

Mendi explained that her favorite ornaments are "the old sappy ones. All three of my kids made a reindeer from Popsicle sticks in preschool, and I have all three still on my tree. My son has a Pokémon bookmark that he got in the second grade. He loved that bookmark so much he made it into an ornament, and he still puts it on the tree every year.

"Both of our girls made ornaments with their Aunt Kathy every year of elementary school, and we still put those ornaments on the tree. It's the sentimental ornaments which carry memories that mean the most to us."

In addition to the family tree, the Meltons have a special tree commemorating their West Texas roots. "We are both from West Texas and went to college there, so we always have a separate tree we call the West Texas Christmas Tree. We decorate it with all things West Texas, like Texas Tech ornaments and cotton bolls," Lance explained.

"Don't forget the Taco Villa and windmill ornaments. Anyone familiar with Lubbock will know about Taco Villa," Mendi joked.

"For us, Christmas is all about tradition," Mendi continued. "A new





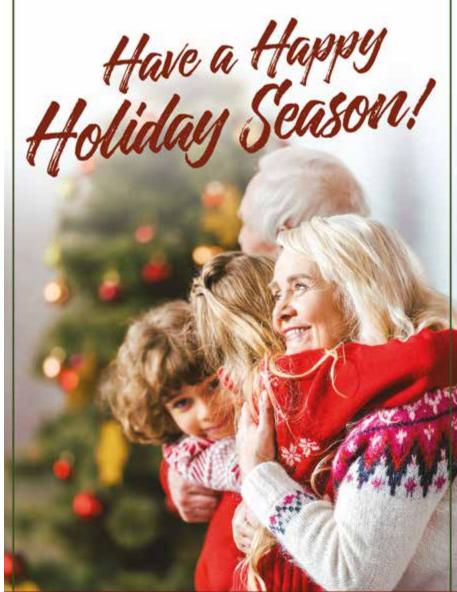
tradition our family has created is that we get the kids three presents: One is something they need. One is something they want, and one is something that will help them grow closer to Christ."

Another Melton tradition is allowing each member of the family to have a sneak preview and open one present Christmas Eve. And on Christmas morning, Santa Claus still visits the Melton home. "No matter how old you are, Santa Claus still brings a few surprise presents," Mendi said happily. "Our traditional way of opening presents is for each person to open one present at a time while we all watch." It may take a little longer, but it gives the family more time to relish each precious moment of Christmas.

The family also relishes time back in Lubbock each Christmas. "Tradition is the rule there, also," Mendi expressed. "Before we opened our gifts, my mother always read an inspirational story related to being a good human and helping those less fortunate than us.

"All eight of her grandkids (even up to age 26) couldn't wait to find out what story it would be," Mendi reflected. "She passed away last year, and as hard as it was, we carried on the tradition and read a book in her honor."

The Meltons agree there is no place like home for the holidays and no place like Midlothian for home. "We are so thankful!" Mendi admitted. "Thankful that we get to celebrate Christmas, thankful for this home where we get to celebrate life events with our family and friends, thankful to be able to move back to this wonderful community and mostly thankful for the life that we have built together."



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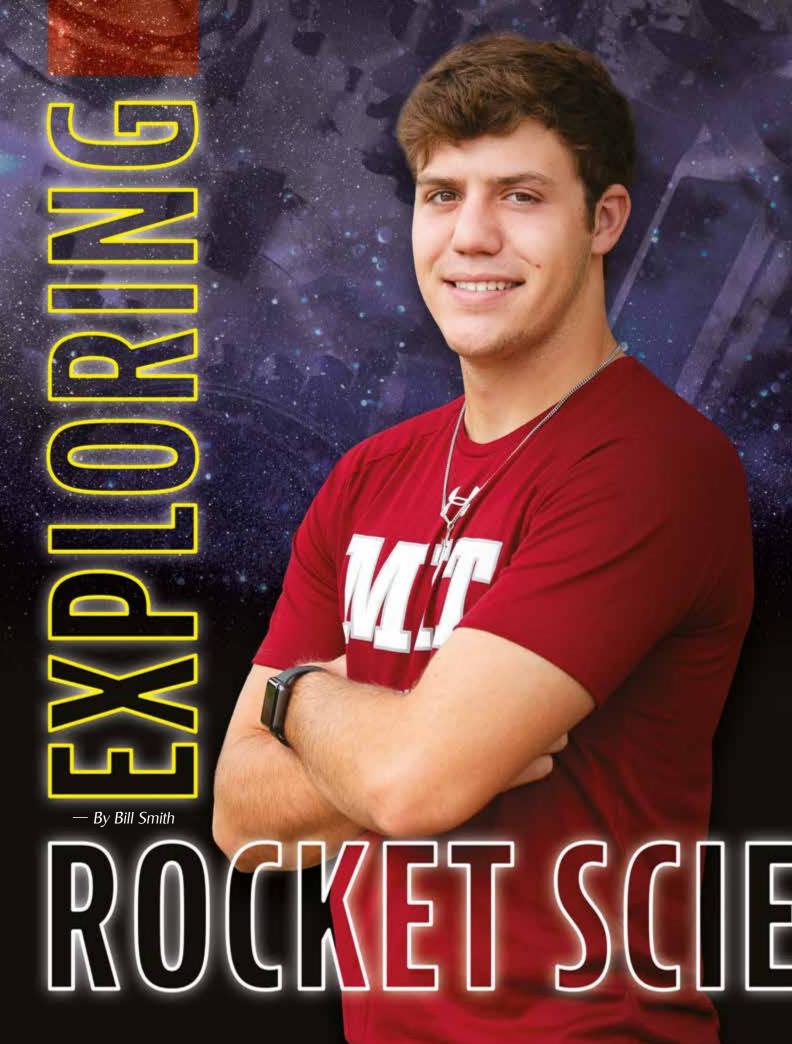
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Jared Boisvert confesses that he always has been driven by curiosity about how things work, and if there is a problem, he wants to work on the solution.

The idea of attending the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, Massachusetts, began four years ago. "I went with my parents and my sister to visit the campus when I was a freshman in high school. She was considering attending MIT on a soccer scholarship," Jared recalled. "After we toured the campus, I jokingly told my mom that I was going to go there."

While his sister wound up at Texas Christian University, where both parents went, Jared's joke about attending MIT became a reality. "I received my acceptance notification in December

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[2018], and we made another visit to the campus in January and again for what they call 'Preview Weekend' in April," Jared explained. "I considered some other schools, but, really, this was an opportunity that I couldn't pass up."

Far from a stereotypical academician, Jared was a well-rounded high school student and athlete who was involved in extracurricular activities both on campus and off. "I played baseball in high school and would like to walk on at MIT. MIT is not widely known for its athletic programs, but the baseball team recently won the conference championship, and the swimming team is really good," Jared noted.

In addition to baseball, Jared was active in high school as National Honor Society president, as well as the Student Council, President's Council and Art Club. Jared's mother added, "Tell about the project you designed and built for Paws for Reflection."

Paws for Reflection Ranch is a local equestrian facility that provides equine therapy for veterans and children. "They needed a device to hold animals in place while they were treated by veterinarians. I was able to come up with an idea and built the device for them," Jared said.

Jared recognizes the many people who encouraged his curiosity. "I had a lot of great teachers in high school who helped me and challenged me. My chemistry teacher, Mariane Taylor, and my physics teacher, Patrick McConegly, would recognize where I was when I was working ahead and continue to challenge me," Jared attributed. "They were both very knowledgeable about their subjects. They could answer questions about things we were not covering in class. They would push me to do additional things."

Jared embraces being pushed even more in college. "I think my biggest challenge is time management and that much of my work will be done in a collaborative environment. There will be a lot of team projects. I expect it to be hard and a struggle at times, but we will struggle together. It will be good working with other students to solve problems," Jared continued.

In addition to teachers and immediate family, Jared was quick to mention his maternal grandfather as a source of encouragement. "He considered going to MIT years ago but was not able to. He has been inspirational to me, though," Jared explained. "He got me into coin collecting as a kid. For my high school graduation, he gave me a copy of the NASA papers relating to the Columbia space shuttle disaster. He obtained them from my mom's brother who worked at NASA."



While Jared felt prepared, he expected college life to be different. "I think going to school at MIT will be a lot different from anything I have experienced so far. It's like starting a whole new life. I am excited about recreating myself, hopefully to do some great things in the future."

At MIT, Jared plans to study aerospace engineering. "Literally rocket science," Jared's mom noted.

But Jared has no intention of limiting himself. "I wanted to go to MIT to find out what I like, to try everything in this field, experience everything, then find out what I am passionate about," he admitted. "I cannot see staying in New England, and my plan is to come back to Texas. I will miss Texas. I love it here. I like boots and jeans." NOW



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As the saying goes, "Glowing skin is always in." Millions of people have only dreamed of finding the answer to maintaining youthfully vibrant skin, especially in life's later years.

Today, Jennifer Grimes, AGACNP-BC, owner of Envy Aesthetics in Midlothian, is fulfilling that dream for her clients. Opening her own practice in April 2019, she now improves her patients' skin through anti-wrinkle injections like BOTOX and Xeomin, as well as dermal fillers, including the Juvederm product line. But that's not all she offers her clients through her practice. She also carries medical-grade skincare products, such as SkinMedica and Neocutis.

Envy Aesthetics has a new location due to recent growth and the need to add more services. Jennifer said the historical 9th Street home is the perfect space for her to perform treatments, providing a professional, yet intimate, atmosphere.

Jennifer's clients not only enjoy the quaint atmosphere of the new location, but also appreciate her accessibility. "Clients can reach me at all times," she stated. "I specialize in the conservative use of anti-aging injectables that are not only individualized for each client but also are attainable and affordable for most budgets."

Her favorite part of the skincare services she offers involves the people. "I get the opportunity to make clients feel great about themselves," she explained. "I like making them look great for their age without overdoing it. One day, I'd like to incorporate chemical peels and micro-needling to my list of services to better serve the community with healthier and more vibrant skin."

Though her business location is new, her history with Midlothian is not. "I have lived in Midlothian for more than 20 years, and even graduated from Midlothian High School," she said.

Before opening her own practice, Jennifer was a nurse practitioner for a bustling cardiology practice in Mansfield for four years and has been a registered nurse for a total of 15 years. "I grew up in this town and wanted to stay local," she explained. "There is no other business in Midlothian offering medical aesthetic services. Most of the population here had to drive to Dallas to get what I offer."

> "I get the opportunity to make clients feel great about themselves."

Her services and clients are not the only obsessions in Jennifer's life. Josh Grimes, her husband, continues to push and motivate her. "He encourages me to be my best and listens to my crazy ideas," she laughed. "And Lillie, my 3-year-old daughter, keeps me on my toes.

"Aging is a fact of life," Jennifer mentioned, "but looking your age is not." This philosophy best describes her mission at Envy Aesthetics. She aims to get you looking your best with minimal downtime, and she accomplishes these goals with the best products.

"I inject myself with my own products," she said. "People think I'm nuts for doing it, but I want to know how well the product works and the possible side effects and pain scale."

As a result, clients get firsthand, honest feedback from Jennifer about the products and services she offers. If you are ready for healthier, wrinkle-free skin, Jennifer is only a phone call away. She is here to help you look your best — and gain the skin you may have envied for years.







Zoomed In: Kurt Sanborn

By Angel Morris

A 25-year Midlothian resident, Kurt Sanborn has become a hometown favorite after serving as a Walmart greeter for eight years. "The best part is putting a smile on people's faces as they walk in, and I like how happy children are to see me," Kurt admitted.

Outside Walmart, Kurt enjoyed tending to his yard, until a recent fall on his property. After several weeks in rehab, his goal is to be using a walker soon. "I miss the interaction with everyone at Walmart. At 82, it's something that gets me going. I'm not one to sit still!"

An Air Force veteran and 40-year roofing company owner, Kurt has been married for 60 years. He has three children, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.





Zane Tamplen performs during the Panther Regiment Band's state-qualifying performance at DeSoto Marching Classic.



Brent and Michell Butterworth and their children celebrate Heroes of Midlothian's annual Oktoberfest.



Baylor Scott & White representatives mark the new Midlothian location with a groundbreaking celebration.



The Forgotten Ones Animal Rescue hosts pictures with Santa for families and pets at Petco in Midlothian.

NOW



Hailey Hunt, Coach Sackett, Coach Porter and Aryn Walton, of Midlothian and Red Oak volleyball programs, with some of the 2,830 jars of peanut butter and jelly collected for locals in need.



As part of FBC Midlothian Men's Ministry, Lamar Pinkett and Patrick Johnson prepare food for distribution after tornadoes impacted the community.



The Lighthouse Church worships outside on the patio one week after a tornado destroyed their sanctuary.



Volunteers from Santander Bank try out the giant Connect Four game in preparation for the Bridges Training Foundation Band and BBQ Bash.



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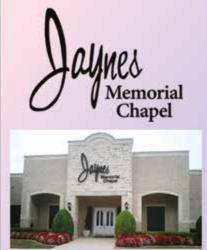


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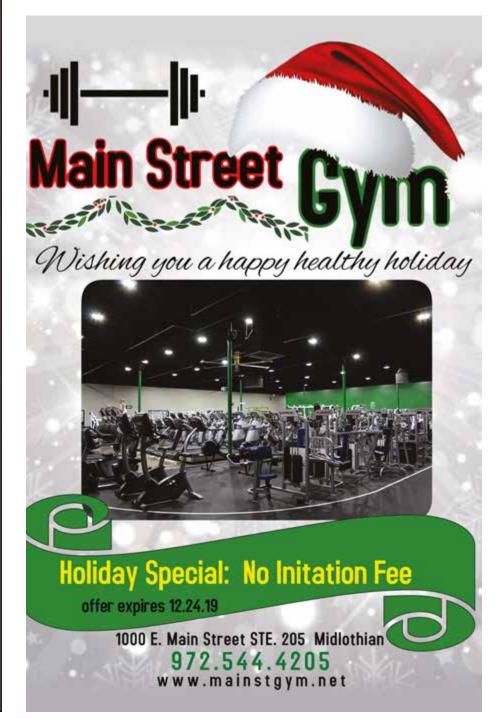






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For Raymond and Dotti Holman, cooking is an expression of love. "We have so many sweet memories of our moms, Iva and Patsy, in the kitchen. Using family recipes helps us keep those memories alive. It's almost like they're in the kitchen with us," Dottie expressed.

As owners of Redneck BarBQ and Always Good Catering, the Holmans may cook for 200-700 people a week. "Our heart is to serve others and please God. Food brings people together and reminds us of our blessings," Raymond admitted.

Raymond and Dottie find that during the holidays, food gifts are perfect for everyone. They have included a few of their favorite gift basket recipes here. "We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year," Dottie said. Now

Grandma Patsy's Yeast and Cinnamon Roll Dough

2 pkgs. yeast 1/4 cup warm water 1/2 cup, plus 1 Tbsp. sugar (divided use) 1/2 cup butter, softened 3 eggs, slightly beaten 1 cup warm milk 4-5 cups flour 2 tsp. salt

Plain Rolls: Melted butter, to taste

Cinnamon Rolls: Softened butter, to taste Cinnamon, to taste Sugar, to taste Powdered sugar, to taste Milk, to taste

Preheat oven to 200 F. In a small bowl, add yeast, water and 1 Tbsp. sugar, allowing yeast to bubble 10 minutes. If it doesn't bubble, get new yeast and start again.
 Use a stand mixer to cream the butter and 1/2 cup sugar; add eggs and milk. Mix at low speed for 2 minutes. Add the yeast mixture. Combine flour and salt. Add flour 1 cup at a time; mix until dough starts pulling from sides.
 Turn off the oven. Cover the dough with a towel; place in the oven until the dough doubles in size, about 1 hour.

4. For plain rolls: Roll dough into about 16 balls; place on a greased baking sheet with sides touching. Brush with melted butter. Cover with a towel; set aside to rise for 1 hour. Preheat oven to 350 F; bake for 12-15 minutes.

5. For cinnamon rolls: Place dough on a floured surface; gently roll into a long rectangular shape. Spread with softened butter; sprinkle with cinnamon and sugar. Roll into a long tube; cut into 2-inch slices. Place in a buttered baking dish. Cover with a towel; set aside for 1 hour. Bake at 350 F for 15 minutes, or until the center of the rolls are cooked through. Mix powdered sugar with a little milk; drizzle on top.

Bacon-wrapped Stuffed Turkey Breast

Turkey Breast: 2 lbs. thick-cut bacon 5-7 lbs. turkey breast, thawed and deboned 1 tsp. kosher salt 1/2 tsp. coarse black pepper

Combread Dressing: 4 cups dried cornbread, cubed 1 stick butter, softened 2 eggs, slightly beaten 1 onion, finely chopped 1/2 cup celery, finely chopped 1/2 cup carrots, finely chopped 1/4 cup dried cranberries 1-2 cups chicken or turkey stock 1 Tbsp. sage 1 tsp. poultry seasoning

For turkey breast: Preheat oven to 375
 F Arrange the bacon into a basket-weave design atop a parchment-lined baking sheet. Pound the turkey breast into 2-inch thickness, salting and peppering both sides. Lay turkey atop bacon; set aside.

 For dressing: Combine all ingredients with a wooden spoon, adding more stock, if needed. Spoon dressing into the center of the turkey breast. Use the parchment paper to help roll the bacon around the stuffed turkey breast.

3. Bake for 45-55 minutes, or until the turkey is at 165 F and bacon is crispy. Cool at least 30 minutes before slicing and serving.

Coconut Butter Balls

Great for gift baskets!

- 2 sticks unsalted butter, softened 1/4 cup confectioner's sugar, plus more for dusting
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 2 cups sweetened flaked coconut 1/2 cup pecans, chopped (optional)

1/2 cup pecans, cnopped (optional

I. Preheat oven to 350 F. Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Gradually add flour and salt; stir in coconut and pecans.

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2. Roll dough into balls. Place 2 inches apart on an ungreased baking sheet. Bake 15-18 minutes.

3. Roll warm cookies in confectioner's sugar. Cool completely on a wire rack.

Never Fail Fudge

Great for gift baskets!

- I 12-oz. bag Nestlé Semi-Sweet Chocolate Chips
- 1 14-oz. can sweetened condensed milk
- 2 cups miniature marshmallows
- I cup walnuts, chopped
- I pinch salt
- 1 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract

I. Prepare square baking pan with foil lining. In a microwave-safe bowl, melt chocolate chips, milk and marshmallows for 3 minutes, stirring halfway through.

2. Add walnuts, salt and vanilla extract. Pour into prepared baking dish, spreading evenly. Cool for 2 hours.

Norma's Easy Peanut Brittle Great for gift baskets!

1 cup sugar

- 1/2 cup light corn syrup
- I can unsalted roasted peanuts
- 1 Tbsp. butter

tsp. vanilla extract tsp. baking soda

 Spray cookie sheet and wooden spoon with nonstick cooking spray. In a microwavesafe bowl, heat sugar and corn syrup for 3 minutes (stirring halfway through) until light brown. Add peanuts; cook 2-3 minutes.
 Stir in butter and vanilla extract. Add baking soda. (Mixture will foam). Pour onto cookie sheet, slanting pan back and forth to spread.

3. Cool completely. Break brittle into bite-size pieces; store in air-tight containers.

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

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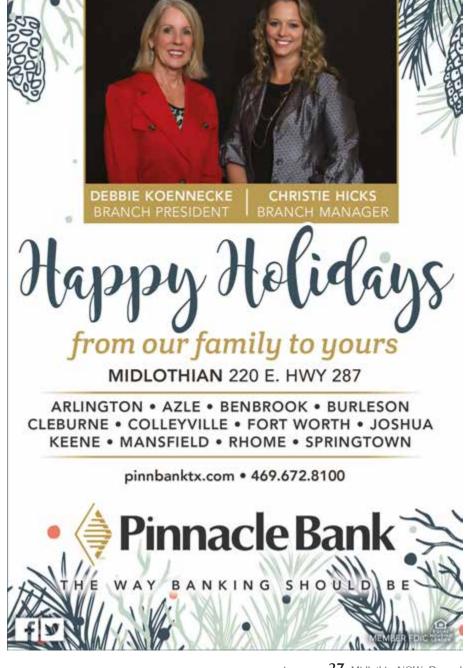
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One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well. - Virginia Woods

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ISTORIC

By Lisa Bell

Voted as USA Today's Best Historic Small Town in America, Granbury, Texas, lies a short distance southwest of Fort Worth. Although December brings one of the best times to visit this community, throughout the year, Granbury is a noteworthy destination. But historic doesn't mean boring.

Undoubtedly, the famous town square and Lake Granbury draw many visitors. The square features shops and restaurants, many of which reside in buildings recognized as historic landmarks. The square, itself, was the first courthouse square in Texas listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The bustling town square also contains the Granbury Opera House, recently restored to its 1886 grandeur. The venue provides award-winning live theater every weekend. Granbury Live also brings in remarkable entertainers for a variety of concerts and events weekly.

Several times each year, Granbury hosts festivals on the square. With General Granbury's Birthday Bash in March, April's Wine Walk, Fourth of July festivities, Harvest Moon and more, you can time your visit for one of these celebrated events.



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In December, Santa makes the converted gazebo his second home. From the night after Thanksgiving until December 23, lines form with young and old waiting to visit the benevolent character and his adorable wife. Check out the hand-painted walls on the exterior and interior of the house. Several photo-op backdrops are also available for families to capture memories. Santa and Mrs. Claus love posing for pictures and encourage visitors to snap all they want. Be sure and check times, so you don't miss what is quickly becoming a free annual tradition for thousands.

During the first week or two of December, catch a free display containing a private collection of more than 1,000 nativities. A space with touchable nativities entertains children during visits.

In Shanley Park, the city creates a wonderland of lights for the season. Drive down Bridge St. and Dove Hollow Rd. for dazzling displays timed to music. Year-round, Granbury's parks give families plenty of opportunities to get outside. With about 10 parks, including City Beach Park, kids have ample room to play. A bike-and-hike trail connects some parks, and a skate park provides hours of entertainment for all ages. Nearby, Acton Nature Center, Fossil Rim Wildlife and Dinosaur Valley State Park afford more opportunities for the truly adventurous.

Granbury embraces artists and continues focusing on public art displays. Museums abound in Granbury.





From the Doll House Museum, Bridge Street History Center and the Jail Museum to the Historic Railroad Depot and Granbury Light Plant, visitors can learn much. On the first weekend in December, many private and public buildings open for walk-through tours, allowing locals and out-of-town guests to see beautiful architecture and learn local history.

One pride of Granbury, Memorial Lane, embraces a unique setting that honors firefighters, all military branches and all first responders in the same location. Sculptures created by renowned local artists make this memorial park spectacular — a place you don't want to miss.

Another Granbury experience takes some back to childhood. Still in operation, the historic Brazos Drive-In stays open most of the year. Showing current movies, they charge by the carload. While the concession stand creates yummy treats, they allow families to bring in food and beverages. Be sure to pack your lawn chairs or sit in the old-fashioned metal variety under a covered area. In colder weather, you might want a blanket or two.

Every last Saturday night of the month, art galleries stay open late. The second Saturday, designated as Ladies Night Out, also keeps things hopping later in the evening. Every weekend, multiple places in town offer live music, including those on the square and all over town.

While you're in Granbury, be sure to visit the multiple wineries, breweries and distilleries. Most provide entertainment, and some offer tours. Whether you come for a week or a weekend, you'll find plenty to do. Chances are, you might want to return often.



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— By Angel Morris





Of all the activities available for families during the holidays, the traditional custom of building gingerbread houses has regained popularity in recent years. With the advent of gingerbread house kits, this fun-for-all-ages activity is as easy as choosing your favorite frostings and candies to add to pre-built structures.

Traditionalists can still build the houses from scratch themselves, of course, starting with structural gingerbread dough or even graham crackers. Today, however, packaged kits that provide the basic pre-built house allow all ages to join in the fun on a level playing field. While spending time together building a single house can be enough, some families take the tradition to new levels by making it a friendly holiday competition. Here are a few ways to implement your own family gingerbread house-building contest.

SUPPLIES

Boxed houses. If you're going the pre-built route, simply stop in your neighborhood grocery or chain store where you'll find a variety of boxed houses from small to large. These typically range in size and shape and include many tube icings, as well as a variety of decorative candy pieces.

Decorative items. Families may set a dollar amount in advance and let each participant shop for additional decorative items — these may be candies or craft items, such as pipe cleaners, stickers, popsicle sticks, small ornaments, etc.

Theme. To increase the opportunity for creativity, some families choose a unique theme in advance, around which participants design their houses. Themes may be Christmas related or more unique.

Some theme possibilities include: Texas Christmas, My Favorite Movie or House of the Future. Families can decide if everyone follows the same theme or if each individual comes up with his/her own theme and announces the

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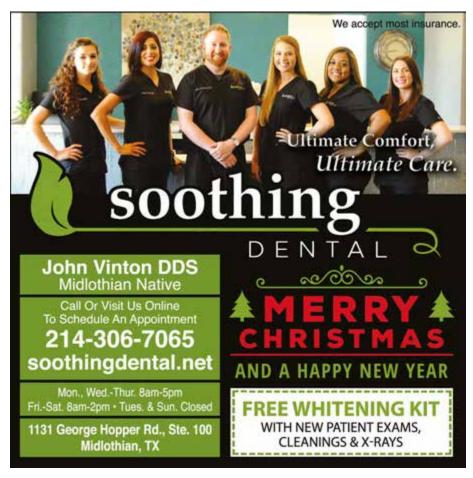
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theme upon the contest's end.

Timing device. Make sure you have an oven timer, cell phone alarm, clock or watch available.

SET UP

Building surface. Make sure your building surface is well-covered to allow for easy clean up. Towels, newspaper or poster board are inexpensive ways to cover tabletops.

Lay out supplies. Open one gingerbread house box for each participant or team. Family members can compete against each other individually or establish teams such as boys vs. girls, children vs. parents, etc. Place decorative icings and candies at each building station — either those that come in each gingerbread kit or the candy/craft items purchased in advance.

THE CONTEST

Criteria. Agree on the criteria by which each house will be judged. For example, best theme, most creative, most traditional, etc.

Pick judges. Agree on who will be the judges. Perhaps you want to invite neighbors over to vote, or you want to post images on social media for friends to rank their favorites. To be fair, you should not indicate which family member designed which house.

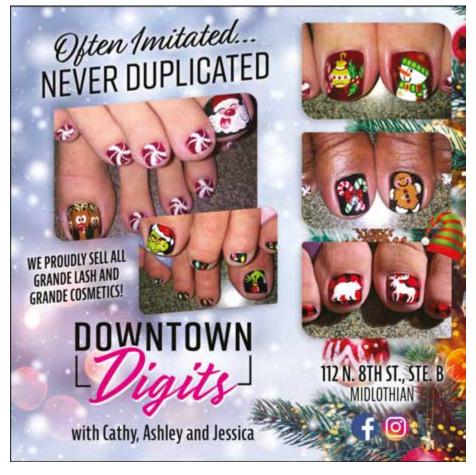
Prizes. Decide what prize the winner receives. Maybe it's bragging rights for the year, a homemade trophy to keep in



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one's room or the opportunity to open a Christmas gift earlier than anyone else. Perhaps the winner gets to choose which house he or she actually wants to eat. Prizes need not cost money. The more creative, the better!

Time. Choose the amount of time you want to allow for construction of the gingerbread houses, and make all participants aware of start/stop times. Set the timer, and start decorating! It will be fun to watch one another's houses come to life and see how creative individuals or teams can be.

Upon completion, let the agreed upon judging commence, followed by an awards ceremony. Eating the houses together can wrap up the contest, or the gingerbread houses can be displayed on a dining room table for the rest of the season — not only making a one-of-akind decorative holiday display, but also as a reminder of the fun time enjoyed by the family.

BUDGET-FRIENDLY TIP

If your family might enjoy this type of contest but is not interested in eating the completed product, you may consider buying the gingerbread kits after the holiday and saving them for next year. Post-Christmas clearance sales means you can purchase the houses for 50, 75 and even 90 percent off retail prices.

Decorative candies can also be bought after the holidays on deep discount. Making gingerbread houses is a great Christmas activity to do on a budget.





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By Angel Morris

When Bessie Coleman lived in Waxahachie, Texas, she probably never dreamed the street where her childhood home sat would someday be named in her honor. Today, however, Bessie Coleman Boulevard is a reminder of the young woman who would go on to be the first African- and Native-American female aviator in history.

Not far from her hometown, a middle school in the city of Cedar Hill also bears her name. The school's website notes that its namesake is an inspiration because of her determination during a time of discrimination — both gender and racial. Bessie paved the way for, and still inspires, those who might otherwise not believe they can achieve their dreams.

Born January 26, 1892, in Atlanta, Texas, Bessie was one of 13 siblings. Her sharecropper father moved the family to Waxahachie when Bessie was 2, where they built a three-room home on a quarter-acre of land. Bessie's father, who was part Native American, later moved to Oklahoma seeking better opportunity in an area known as "Indian Territory."

It is unclear why, but Bessie and the rest of her family stayed behind. Bessie's mother, a maid, supported the family as best she could, but the children had to help however they were able. Bessie took care of her younger siblings, while assisting her mother doing laundry and picking cotton. At the same time, she attended school.

Reports indicate Bessie attended eight grades in a one-room schoolhouse, with each year interrupted when its students were needed to help their families with harvests. Nevertheless, Bessie graduated and got a job saving for college.

In 1910, Bessie afforded herself one term of school at the Oklahoma Colored Agricultural and Normal University (now Langston University). With her funds depleted, however, she returned to her job as a laundress in Waxahachie until 1915.

At that point, Bessie set out on another adventure, moving in with one of her brothers in Chicago, Illinois. She quickly became a manicurist and saved enough to afford a place of her own.

Having met many leaders in the African-American community on the south side of Chicago, 23-year-old Bessie began hearing stories of and reading about World War I pilots, which she

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found intriguing. It is undoubtedly these tales that inspired her next goal — an aviation career.

Bessie found a friend in Robert Abbott, publisher of *The Chicago Defender*, the largest weekly African-American newspaper of its time. It was Abbott who suggested Bessie move to France when no local pilots or schools were willing to help in her aviation pursuit. First, however, she had to attend night classes to learn French, so she could complete her flight school applications.



On June 15, 1921, Bessie earned her international pilot's license — Fédération Aéronautique Internationale. She studied at Caudron Brother's School of Aviation, considered the best aviation school in France, and it only took her seven months.

In 1922, Bessie was the first Africanand Native-American woman to make a public flight. Traveling Europe, she made her living performing in the air, with barnstorming, parachuting and stunting. Her skill earned her the nicknames "Brave Bessie" and "Queen Bess," and she was dubbed "The Only Race Aviatrix in the World."

Bessie reportedly had hopes of returning to the states to start her own aviation school and encouraging women and minorities to follow their dreams. Her dream was to own a plane and to open her own flight school. To raise money toward those goals, she visited churches, schools and theaters, sharing films of and speaking about her highflying escapades.

In 1923, Bessie survived her first airplane accident in which her plane's engine stopped, causing her to crash. Cuts, cracked ribs and a broken leg did not deter her. She went back to flying after she recovered.

Ultimately, Bessie saved enough money to buy her own plane and

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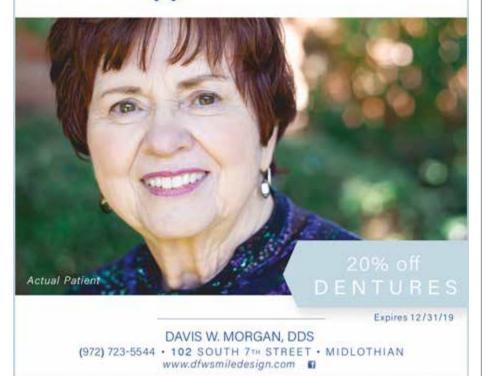
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come back home to Texas to perform. By this time, she was famous for not only her flying expertise, but also for refusing to speak or perform for any place that was segregated or discriminated against women.

She is credited with convincing stadium managers in Texas to allow all those who attended her return airshow to enter through the same gate. This was a milestone in the still-segregated state.

Further accomplishments for Bessie were cut short on April 30, 1926, however, as she co-piloted a plane in preparation for a show. Reports indicate a loose wrench became stuck in the engine, causing the plane to flip and crash. Both Bessie and the mechanic who was piloting the plane were killed. Bessie was just 34 years old at the time of her death.

Five years later, the Challenger Pilots' Association of Chicago began an annual flyover of Bessie's grave. The Bessie Coleman Aviators Club was formed by female African-American pilots in 1977, and in 1995, the U.S. Postal Service unveiled an official Bessie Coleman Stamp.

Despite humble roots from the dirtfloored, one-room cabin where she was born, Bessie Coleman defied the odds of a time when her gender and race offered limited opportunities. Today, she remains an undeniable pioneer for women in aviation.

Photos courtesy of Ellis County Museum.

Sources:

I. www.biography.com/explorer/bessiecoleman 2. https://www.chisd.net/domain/243 3. https://www.womenshistory.org/ education-resources/biographies/ bessie-coleman



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- 9 Creative flashes
- 11 Claim on a property
- 12 Where Muhammad went after Mecca
- 14 Legally bind 16 Floor covering
- 17 Son of Abraham
- 18 Verge
- 19 Shows approval
- 21 Apple pie makers
- 24 Mexican moolah
- 27 Org. with a flowery seal
- 28 IKEA's homeland
- 30 Eerie sense of recurrence
- 33 Short letter
- 34 Dynamite inventor
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Down

- 1 Proof of being elsewhere
- 2 Staggers
- 3 Nuts
- 4 Item exhumed years after burial
- 5 Lyric poem
- 6 Took control
- 7 Scottish landowner
- 8 Org. once led by Arafat
- 10 Cozy
- 13 Period of human life
- 15 Hoedown female
- 18 Spirit
- 20 Cathedral fixture
- 21 School leader's degree
- 22 Golf tourney
- 23 Kind of suit
- 25 They're known to noses
- 26 Organization
- 29 "Game of Thrones" patriarch --- Stark
- 31 Lawyers' gp.
- 32 Old soldier

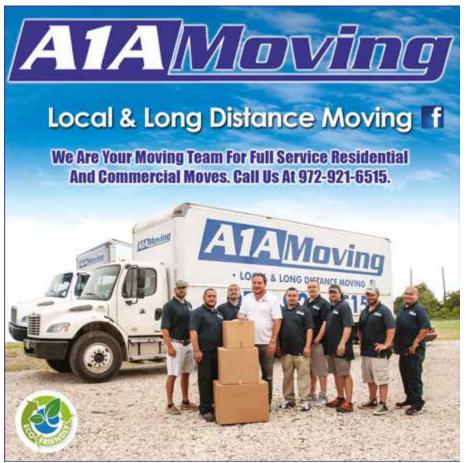
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Sudoku Puzzle

Easy									1	Mediu	m							
	5			7		1	4				8		5		3			
7					3						3							
	1				8		5					5		4	7		2	
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	7			6						6						5		1
4			3	1	5		7					1	6					3
			6					4		4								5
											5		8	7			6	
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Tiffany Bostic, Dr. Davis Morgan & Kaitlin Wiley present a Sonic Diamond Electric Toothbrush to Noel Aguirre, October scavenger hunt winner.



Joyce Sebesta, *MidlothianNOW* representative, presents a \$100 Visa Gift Card from NOW Magazines to Rhonda Hobbs, another winner of the October scavenger hunt game.



Patchara Cucci, owner of Bellucci's Italian Restaurant, presented Nichole White with a bottle of wine.



12/2

Christmas Tree Lighting: Usher in the season with musical accompaniment to the reading of The Christmas Story. 6:00-7:00 p.m., Heritage Park, 234 N. 8th St. Rainout date: December 3.

12/5-12/8 & 12/12-12/15

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever:

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever follows the outrageous shenanigans of the Herdman siblings, or "the worst kids in the history of the world." The siblings take over the annual Christmas pageant in a hilarious, yet heartwarming, tale. 7:30 p.m.; matinee performances on 12/8and 12/15: 2:30 p.m., Ennis Public Theatre, 113 N. Dallas St. www.ennispublictheatre.com.

12/6

PTO Christmas Carnival:

Games, food, auction, pictures with Santa and more. Pre-order wristbands for \$10 at www.lbecommunitychristmascarnival.com. \$15 at the door. 5:00-9:00 p.m., Longbranch Elementary, 6631 FM 1387.

12/6-12/8

A Christmas Carol: Friday and Saturday: 7:30 p.m.; Sunday: 3:00 p.m., SAGU Hagee Communication Center

Performance Hall. Tickets at sagu.brushfire.com.

12/6-12/8 & 12/13-12/15

Bethlehem Revisited: Walk the streets of ancient Bethlehem to a stable where a young mother cradles a newborn. Visit Herod's Court. Witness the arrival of the three kings. Stand next to awestruck shepherds! Free. 6:00-9:00 p.m. each day, 402 N. College St., Waxahachie (behind Central Presbyterian Church). (972) 937-2390.

12/7

Running of the Elves 5K Run/Walk:

Benefits Class of 2020 and Project Graduation. Prizes also awarded to best-dressed elf. 8:30-11:00 a.m., Don Floyd Memorial Stadium, 1800 S. 14th St. Register: https://runsignup. com/Race/TX/Midlothian/ MHSRunningoftheElves5K.

Southern Star **Christmas Celebration:** Festivities: 1:00-5:00 p.m.; Lightup Parade, 6:00 p.m., Historic Downtown Midlothian. For more details, visit www.midlothian.tx.us/sscc.

12/8

35th Annual Ellis County Toy Run:

Motorcycle parade between Midlothian and Ennis. Line up on 8th Street between Main and Avenue E. Leave for Ennis at 11:00 a.m. sharp. For more information, call (817) 223-8333.

12/13

Merry Movie Night: The movie Elf, holiday treats and giveaways. Bring your lawn chairs and blanket. Family fun begins at 5:30 p.m.; movie at 6:00 p.m., Downtown Midlothian across from Heritage Park, 234 N. 8th St.

12/13-12/15

Miracle on 34th Street: Tickets: \$10; preschool children are free. Friday and Saturday: 7:30 p.m.; Sunday: 2:00 p.m., University Church, 221 Solon Road, Waxahachie. For more information, visit www.waxahachiecommunitytheatre.com.

12/14

Holiday **Cookie Decorating:**

Children ages 5-10 accompanied by an adult. 1:00-3:00 p.m., A.H. Meadows Public Library, 923 S. 9th St. Registration required by calling (469) 856-5211.

Santa at the Ranch:

For families with special needs. Meet ranch animals, visit with Santa, enjoy games, crafts and

December

refreshments. Free but donations welcome. 2:00-4:00 p.m., Paws for Reflection Ranch, 5431 Montgomery Rd. For more details, call (972) 775-8966 or email PawsForReflection@att.net.

12/14 & 12/15

TICA All Breed Cat Show: Presented by the Turkish Van Cat Connection Club. Kitten and cat adoptions. Any friendly and clean cat may compete. Purebred not required. Saturday: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; Sunday: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Ellis County Expo Center. info@turkishvanclub.com or www.turkishvanclub.com.

12/15

The Living Christmas Tree: Baylor Baptist Church's performance this year will be called, What a Beautiful Name. There will be puppets and drama and a beautiful choir in a fantastic tree that reaches from the floor to the ceiling. Free to the public. 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., 210 N. Preston Street, Ennis. (972) 875-2521.

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







Crossword -Sudoku Solutions

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27 E	Ρ	A			28 S	W	Е	D	Е	29 N
30 D	Е	J	³¹ A	2 ² V	U		33 N	0	Т	E
	³⁴ N	0	В	Е	L		³⁵ C	R	U	D
		³⁶ R	A	Т	E		³⁷ E	S	Ρ	

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

Medium

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

ALL^{IS} WELL

Every Christmas, something in us hungers for peace. "Peace on Earth" was the message of the Angels, but how do we realize the truth that "All Is Well" when so much is in turmoil and chaos?

Join us, starting December 8th as we seek out that truth.

CHRISTMAS EVE*

Service Times

2:30, 4:00, & 5:30 pm

Childcare provided for birth - 2 years old.

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