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M A G A Z I N E

DECEMBER 2019

Honey and Papa Bear's Christmas

At Home With Mitch
and Terri Haskett

In the Kitchen With
Elizabeth Guillen

2019 Holiday
Shopping Guide

Walking the Path

Mayor Stephen Mason
sees a good road
for Cedar Hill

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt

Featured Business:
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CALENDAR

- Dec. 9: Regular Board Meeting
- Dec 10-13: STAAR Testing
- Dec. 23-Jan.3: Winter Break
- Jan 6: Staff Development Day
- Jan 7: Staff Work Day
- Jan 8: Students Return to Classes

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ON THE COVER

Giant nutcrackers stand guard over the Haskett's Christmas.

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Shane Kirkpatrick.

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Adam

Adam Walker
SouthwestNOW Editor
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EDITOR'S NOTE

Certain Christmases stand out ...

I was 5, in kindergarten. We went to a tree farm, brought home a cedar tree, decorated it — and then I had an asthma attack. That wasn't unusual for December, but this one was bad. My parents took me to the doctor, who confirmed it was asthma, and gave me some prescriptions.

The next day, I was losing feeling in my extremities. Mom and Dad quickly decided I needed to go to the emergency room. Mom stayed with my younger siblings. Dad drove me to the hospital — like a maniac. I remember begging him to slow down as I watched the needle hit 100 on the speedometer, and warning him the police would stop us. He assured me they'd escort us to the hospital.

At the hospital, they diagnosed me with pneumonia, and the nurse started scolding my parents for not bringing me in sooner, until they realized my doctor was on staff there. I spent several days in a room with an inflated surgical glove floating above my bed with its marker-drawn face. The one night Dad stayed with me, I decorated *my* face using a marker set from the gift shop. The night nurse was not amused, and I scared the staff to death when my antics jumping on the bed resulted in the IV tearing from my vein and swelling my whole arm. They were glad to see me go!

But I was even more glad to be home with my family by Christmas. I *think* that was the year I got my Shogun Warrior. But I *know* I learned to value time with my family.

Here's wishing you Christmas memories, but good ones!

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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HONEY AND PAPA BEAR'S CHRISTMAS

— By Adam Walker

Mitch and Terri Haskett are longtime residents of the area. Mitch works in financial services and Terri in the mental health field. "I have such fond memories growing up in Duncanville, which has always had that small, hometown feeling. It will always be my home base," Terri said. Mitch has lived in the area since he moved here from Corpus Christi in 1987. They met at church in Cedar Hill and decided to stay in the area to be close to their families.

When they bought their house, it was a bit of a fixer-upper. "A race car driver used to live here," Mitch explained. "This house had three large garages. The previous homeowner built a suite out back for his crews to live in while they worked on his cars. When we looked at the house, it had a hole in the den's ceiling that looked like a meteor had come through! This house is on an acre-and-a-half with at least 20 pecan trees, and a multitude of squirrels had moved in and torn everything up. We had to repair all of that, and we added a new fireplace, a pergola and converted the crew quarters into a mother-in-law house." Now, the house counts four bedrooms, two offices, a living room, dining room, two game rooms and two dens among its rooms. "We've enjoyed our vacations to places in Europe and especially Italy," Mitch offered. "So, we did the house in a Mediterranean style."

One of the garages started out as a workout area, but has been transformed into the grandkids' game room where Piper, Autumn and Cade have their trampoline, dollhouses, train table, slide, balance beam and playhouse, along with displays of some superheroes on their art wall. "Somehow, my grandparent name ended up becoming 'Honey,' and that makes sense because I am constantly doing 'Honey-do's' for them!" Terri explained. Mitch laughed. "I thought if she got to be Honey, I'd be Papa Bear."

Three of Mitch and Terri's four kids live near, so it is nice that the grandkids can be dropped off for frequent visits. This year, Terri's parents moved into the mother-in-law house and are a great help in keeping up with everyone running in and out.

Family time at the holidays is a given. "I love all holidays," Terri explained. "At Easter, we have an egg hunt for our little ones but also for our grown kids. We have the 25-year-old tripping the 27-year-old to try to get the eggs first! We have had unicorn, princess, monster and carnival themed birthday parties. But nothing outshines Christmas. We always want it to be extra special for our family and friends."





AT HOME WITH MITCH AND TERRI HASKETT





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Mitch and Terri love to travel, but Christmas is one time they're sure to be at home. "It's the time for focusing on and enjoying the real reason of Christmas, the birth of Christ. So, we make it a point to spend time at home with family doing our holiday traditions," Terri explained.

This couple could have written a Johnny Cash song. They've been everywhere. They got engaged on the canals of Venice, and married, 16 years ago, in the beautiful gardens at the Dallas Arboretum.

A collage of travel photos covers one wall of Mitch's man cave, documenting their trips to Ecuador, Singapore, Ireland, Australia, Vietnam, Peru, Russia and numerous other places at home and abroad, 56 countries on six continents in all. A lot of collectibles have traveled back with them. So, of course, the *Christkindlmärkte* of German towns have contributed to the Haskett's Christmas decor. "My favorite Christmas ornaments would be the nativity candle-powered windmills I purchased at a town market somewhere along the Rhine River in Germany, and I display them each year and tell the little ones about the birth of Jesus." They join the 60 containers of other decorations stored in the attic above one of the garages during the rest of the year, but come out after Thanksgiving to transform the house.

"From Thanksgiving to Christmas, it's Grand Central Station around here. We start decorating the weekend after Thanksgiving. It takes at least three days to put everything up, but we enjoy the time it takes to make our home festive and ready for family and friend gatherings. I start my Christmas

shopping in August and always try to be finished by early November, so I can enjoy the feeling of the holidays instead of feeling stressed,” Terri informed.

Mitch’s holiday experience is special in that each year he transforms into the family Santa. “Every year, I pretend to ‘go to the store,’ but instead I go change into my Santa suit for a surprise visit to the grandkids. I stand outside our house ringing jingle bells and shouting, ‘Ho, ho, ho!’ until the little ones come out, nervous to see if they are on the naughty or nice list.” The good news is that everyone in the family seems to make the nice list each year.

“On Christmas day, when it’s time to open and share gifts, it’s like a nuclear explosion in here with the wrapping paper flying! After a day of eating and visiting, and eating some more, the real events take place — playing games for prizes. (We are all competitive.) At the end of the day, our hearts are full and thankful for all that we have been blessed with.”



The inside decor is pretty settled, with the life-size sleigh and Santa in the living room and the tree tucked into the curve of the staircase to the second floor, while a pair of giant nutcrackers guard the front door. And, of course, there are stockings for the whole crew on the mantel in the den. But outside, the park-like front yard is up for grabs. “The outside is different every year,” Mitch revealed. “One year, it was lasers and LEDs, another it was all blow-ups with giant Christmas ornaments on the front steps. We keep changing it to make it interesting.”

With “plenty of room to spread out,” as Mitch put it, Honey and Papa Bear’s house sounds like the perfect place for celebrating the holidays. Piper, Autumn and Cade seem to agree. **NOW**

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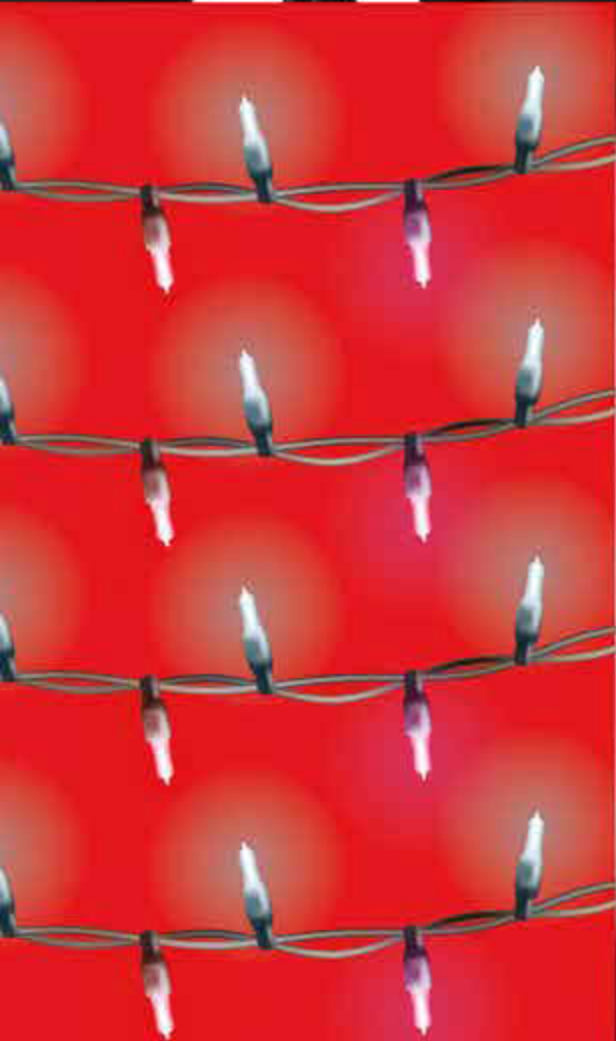


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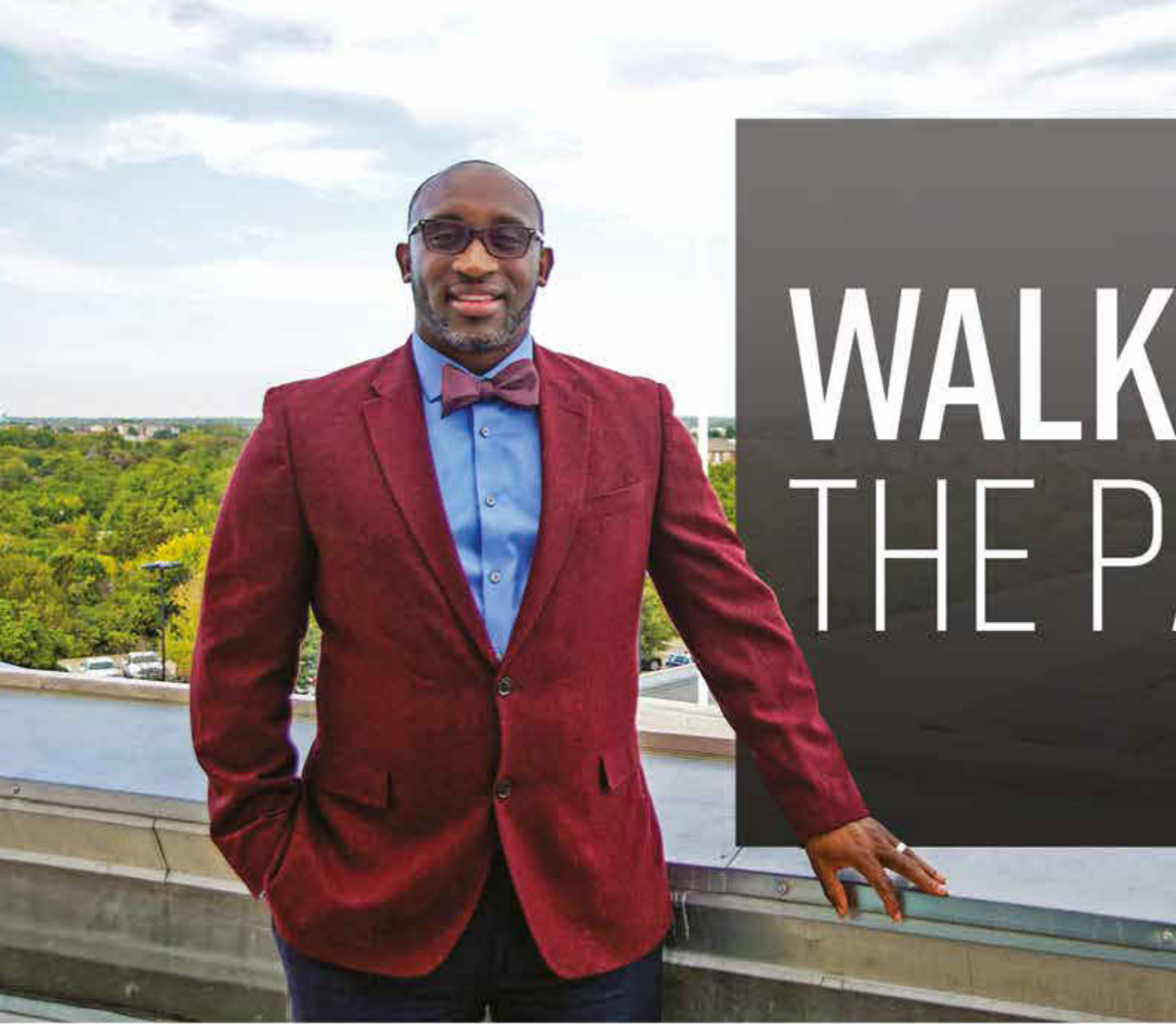
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THAT GROWTH.”

Stephen Mason has lived in Cedar Hill since he was 12. “I went to Permenter Middle School and graduated from Cedar Hill High School in 2000.” After graduating, he stayed connected and involved. He worked as a volunteer and then as a board member with the Cedar Hill Chamber of Commerce and the Cedar Hill Education Foundation. In

ING ATH

— By Adam Walker

2006, he joined the planning and zoning commission, which he chaired in 2009. He became a city councilman in 2010. In 2019, he was voted in as the new mayor of Cedar Hill. And he did all that while running his own local engineering firm. “Mas-Tek has been in business for 25 years. I’m blessed to still be a working man.”

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Along the way, Stephen married and had four kids. “My youngest was born in June. My wife is of Honduran descent. We met in Orlando, 10 years ago, but she’s from New Orleans. Our oldest boy is a Cedar Hill High School grad, who’s now at UNT. The second is a freshman at Collegiate High School, and the third boy is just starting at Preparatory Academy. The youngest is our first girl. She’s our princess.”

Stephen had been on the city council for three terms and was already mayor pro tem when longtime mayor, Rob Franke, announced that he was not running again. “I didn’t decide to run right away. I asked my family how they felt. My wife gave me the thumbs-up and said she supported me completely. I had to check my workload at my business, and I prayed about it. I asked the Man Above, ‘Is this the right path to walk?’ It felt right. It still feels right.”

Mayor Mason is continuing the tradition of holding a Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast every other month. “I want to provide more information to the community about ways to pray for us. In October, we prayed for our first responders. We focused on mental health awareness for these heroes. After they go into these traumatic situations, they need to know it’s OK to seek help getting over what they’ve seen.”

Family is important to Stephen, especially around the holidays. “My wife is Catholic, so she grew up really focusing on Christmas Eve. I grew up with Christmas Day as the main focus. Now, we often go to New Orleans or to

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my mom's house to celebrate. We blend meals a bit, but there will always be rice and beans. And we always take family pictures, because my wife loves to use them on our Christmas cards. The only time there's any division is when the Saints play the Cowboys once every 2 or 3 years. Then, we're on opposite sides!"

Football is not the only sport that interests the mayor. An autographed Dirk Nowitzki jersey adorns his office wall. "I try to follow the top 15 teams. I'm a big NBA fan. I enjoy working out. I ran three half-marathons in four months back in 2014, but when I started my MBA program, I had to stop a lot of the physical activity. I'm trying to get back to that now. I also enjoy golf, but family time is the best. I love to vacation with my family."



Mayor Mason has his eyes focused on the future of Cedar Hill. "My goal is to see us continue growing, but to build and strengthen more partnerships during that growth. I want to see all of the 2017 bond projects completed by the end of my first term. We want to maintain about 20 percent green space in the city, since one of the unique things about Cedar Hill is our rolling, tree-covered hills. But we're only about 60 percent built out, so we still have room to grow. The new library is coming. I hope to see more community involvement in the planning committee. We want to maintain and embrace our hometown feel. That's part of stewardship. Embracing our differences and adapting our similarities is key. I love our city council, and I love serving the community. I'm looking forward to a bright future for Cedar Hill." **NOW**

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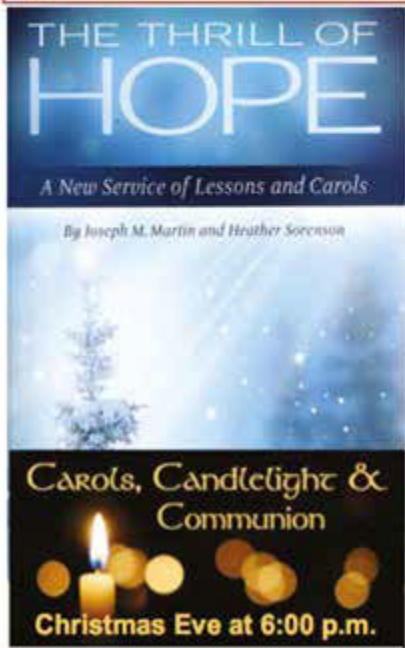
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— By Adam Walker

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conditions and for patients taking high-risk medications, all of which can affect your vision,” Dr. Peterson explained. “I deal with low-vision and sports vision issues and provide co-management services for LASIK and cataract patients. I treat ocular emergencies, like trauma due to injury, even if you get a piece of metal in your eye. I also prescribe medications for eye infections, which are very common.”

Dr. Peterson is a people person, who enjoys caring for a wide range of patients in the community. “My oldest patient is 105 years old, and I have a handful of other patients who are over 100. I provide pediatric services, as well. Most vision is still developing up to age 7, so I emphasize the importance of children getting yearly eye examinations. A lot of people are unaware that uncorrected vision can be linked to behavior problems in the classroom. If a child is having trouble seeing, he or she will try to avoid reading or being called on when they can’t see what’s written on the board. When adult patients

come in for routine or vision-related problems, I encourage them to have their children checked, too, because many eye conditions can be genetic.”

English is his first language, but Dr. Peterson is comfortable communicating with patients in Spanish, and many of his staff are fluent in Spanish. He can also communicate with patients in American Sign Language (ASL) and by fingerspelling.

This is home base for Dr. Peterson. He doesn't have multiple offices scattered around the Metroplex, so you'll always get to see him at the same convenient location. “I was born and raised here, so I'm connected to the community. I live here, so when I go to the gym or church or the grocery store, I run into my patients. I believe in investing in the community I live in, and in my practice. I want to have the best technology, and I keep all of my equipment current and up to date. It's important for delivering superior care.” He likes to maintain a “family feel and comfort” in his office. “I love doing what I do. I focus on providing great customer service. All of my office staff have at least a medical assistant degree.” Precision Eye Care has several qualified opticians with anywhere from five to 25 years of experience working in the field.

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Zoomed In: Aliyah Dauenhauer

By Adam Walker

DeSoto's Aliyah Dauenhauer showed that she's a cool cat in her dance costume. "I like learning all the different dances my teacher teaches, because it's fun! I'm taking ballet, jazz and tap, but my favorite is ballet."

Aliyah's dance class at RAQAD School of Dance is gearing up for Christmas. "We're dancing *The Nutcracker*, and I'm one of the people in the party scene."

Last year, she helped teach the other kids motions and dance steps during praise and worship in children's church at her congregation. "When I was younger, I liked to watch dancing. Now, I'm so happy that I get to do it!" Aliyah's proud mother, Dorothy Anne, mentioned that her daughter has even danced in Cedar Hill's Country Day on the Hill parade.



Valeria Soto and Sandra Fonesca of Daryan Display help Hillside Village deck the halls.



DeSoto Small Business of the Year award winner, Alwyn Dowell, and Man of the Year, Chief Maurice Jones, pose for the camera.



Cedar Hill HS Red Army Band celebrates earning 1s and sweepstakes at the Region 20 UIL marching contest.



Bank of DeSoto employees gather for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



Cedar Hill's senior ladies deck out in their finest for the Diamonds and Pearls Gala.



Frank and Kathy Baker and Diana Suderman vote in Duncanville.



Brandy and Imani Nordgren stock up for story time at the Duncanville Library.



The Tooth Monster visits Cedar Hill's Boo Bash.

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In the Kitchen With

ELIZABETH GUILLEN

— By Sally Fuller



Cooking is about fun and creativity for Elizabeth Guillen. “Cooking is so much fun for me because I can be as out-of-the-box as I want!” she said.

Not one to follow recipes exactly, she laughingly admitted, “I love traditional dishes with my own spin! I joke that if you liked it, you must savor it, because I threw things together. It tasted good, and I may not be able to make it again.”

The client relations and marketing associate at one time helped support herself selling her homemade tamales. Eager to help others, Elizabeth sometimes hosts meals for single parents and their children. “I feel everyone should be treated to something nice once in a while, especially those who work so hard or are overcoming adversity,” she shared. **NOW**

Chicken Tamales

1 8-oz pkg. cornhusks

Filling:

4 medium to large chicken breasts

1 medium onion (divided use)

3 cups tomatillos, chopped

2-6 serrano peppers, deseeded or not, to taste

1 1/2 cups cilantro

2 small garlic cloves

Salt, to taste

Masa:

8 cups Maseca corn masa flour

1 Tbsp. baking powder

2 Tbsp. salt, or to taste

2 Tbsp. chicken or chicken and tomato flavored Knorr soup mix

1 pkg. Sazón GOYA

7-8 cups chicken broth, reserved from cooking chicken

2 1/2 cups vegetable oil

1. Soak cornhusks in a large pan of warm water for 15-20 minutes. If necessary, place a clean, heavy object on top of cornhusks to submerge them completely. Drain; remove any remaining corn silk. Pat dry; set aside.

2. *For filling:* Cook chicken and 1/2 onion in slow-boiling water. When cooked, drain; reserve broth. Shred chicken; set aside.

3. In a separate pot, boil tomatillos and serrano peppers until tender.

4. Blend tomatillos, serrano peppers, remaining 1/2 onion, cilantro, garlic and salt into a green salsa. Set aside in refrigerator.

5. *For masa:* In a large bowl, mix Maseca, baking powder, salt, Knorr soup mix and Sazón GOYA.

6. Slowly stir in chicken broth and vegetable oil. (Masa should spread in your hand without being too brittle or too porous.)

7. Allow masa to rest for about 15 minutes,

as you stir together chicken and green salsa to complete filling.

8. Place cornhusks (as many as you want to fill at once) on a flat surface. Spread approximately 1/4 cup masa on each husk. Do not spread to edges of the cornhusk, as they will be folded.

9. Add 1-2 Tbsp. of filling down the center of the masa.

10. Fold the cornhusk in half vertically, and then fold it in half again so the filling is wrapped completely. Fold the top (skinny end) down to enclose the tamale. The end product will be cylinder shaped.

11. Cook in a steamer pot basket approximately 1 1/2 hours, or until masa is firm.

Arroz con Leche

2-3 cups long grain rice

2 sticks cinnamon

4 cups milk

1 can evaporated milk

1 can condensed milk

Sugar, to taste

Cinnamon powder, to taste

1. Boil rice and cinnamon sticks in milk until rice is tender.

2. Add evaporated milk and condensed milk.

3. Add sugar and cinnamon powder, to taste. Reduce heat to low; continue cooking and stirring until the drink thickens.

Conchas (Mexican Sweet Bread)

Bread:

1/3 cup whole milk

1 Tbsp., plus 1 tsp. sugar (divided use)

1/4 oz. active dry yeast

3 large eggs, room temperature, beaten

2 tsp. vanilla extract

2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour, plus more for dusting

1 1/2 tsp. kosher salt

2 sticks unsalted butter, softened, cut into Tbsp.-size portions (reserve wrappers)

Shell Topping:

6 Tbsp. unsalted butter

6 Tbsp. powdered sugar

1/2 cup all-purpose flour

1/8 tsp. baking powder

1/8 tsp. kosher salt

2 drops pink gel food coloring

1. For bread: Preheat oven to 350 F. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper.

2. Microwave milk in 10-second intervals until 110-115 F.

3. Add 1 tsp. sugar and yeast to milk;

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whisk to incorporate. Set aside for about 10 minutes, until very foamy.

4. Pour milk mixture into a large bowl; add eggs and vanilla. Whisk until well combined.

5. Add flour, remaining 1 Tbsp. of sugar and salt; stir with a rubber spatula until a sticky dough forms.

6. Add butter, 1 Tbsp. at a time, working into dough with your hands. Be sure each piece of butter is completely worked in before adding the next. (Dough should be shiny, smooth and elastic).

7. Grease the inside of a large glass bowl with empty butter wrappers.

8. Transfer dough to the greased bowl with a rubber spatula. Cover; let rise in a warm, draft-free area for 1-2 hours, or until doubled in size.

9. Uncover dough; cover with plastic wrap placed directly on the surface of the dough. Refrigerate for approximately 1 hour. (Chilled dough is easier to shape).

10. For shell topping: In a medium bowl, cream butter and powdered sugar with a hand mixer on medium until light and fluffy, about 5 minutes.

11. Add flour, baking powder and salt; continue beating on low until mixture is smooth, about 3-5 minutes.

12. Add food coloring; stir until color is consistent.



Chicken Tamales

13. Turn chilled dough out onto a lightly floured surface. With a knife, gently divide dough into 10 equal pieces.

14. Shape pieces into balls by gently pulling the edges of the dough out and underneath, pinching at the bottom, forming a taut surface.

15. Place 5 dough balls on each baking sheet. Cover; let rise in a warm, draft-free area 1-2 hours, or until doubled in size.

16. Scoop 1 Tbsp. of shell topping onto a piece of waxed paper; roll into a ball. Place another piece of waxed paper on top. Roll into a 4-inch circle (slightly larger than the risen dough balls). Repeat with remaining topping, creating 10 circles.

17. Gently place a circle of shell topping over each dough ball, pressing lightly onto the

surface. Gently tuck edges of shell topping underneath the dough.

18. With a paring knife, slice lines through topping to create a shell pattern, being careful not to cut into dough.

19. Bake 25 minutes, rotating halfway through. Cool 5-10 minutes before serving.

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Happy Holidays

From the NOW Magazines family to yours!





TravelNOW Historic Delight

— 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.

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. **NOW**

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RAVE

Bessie

— 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.



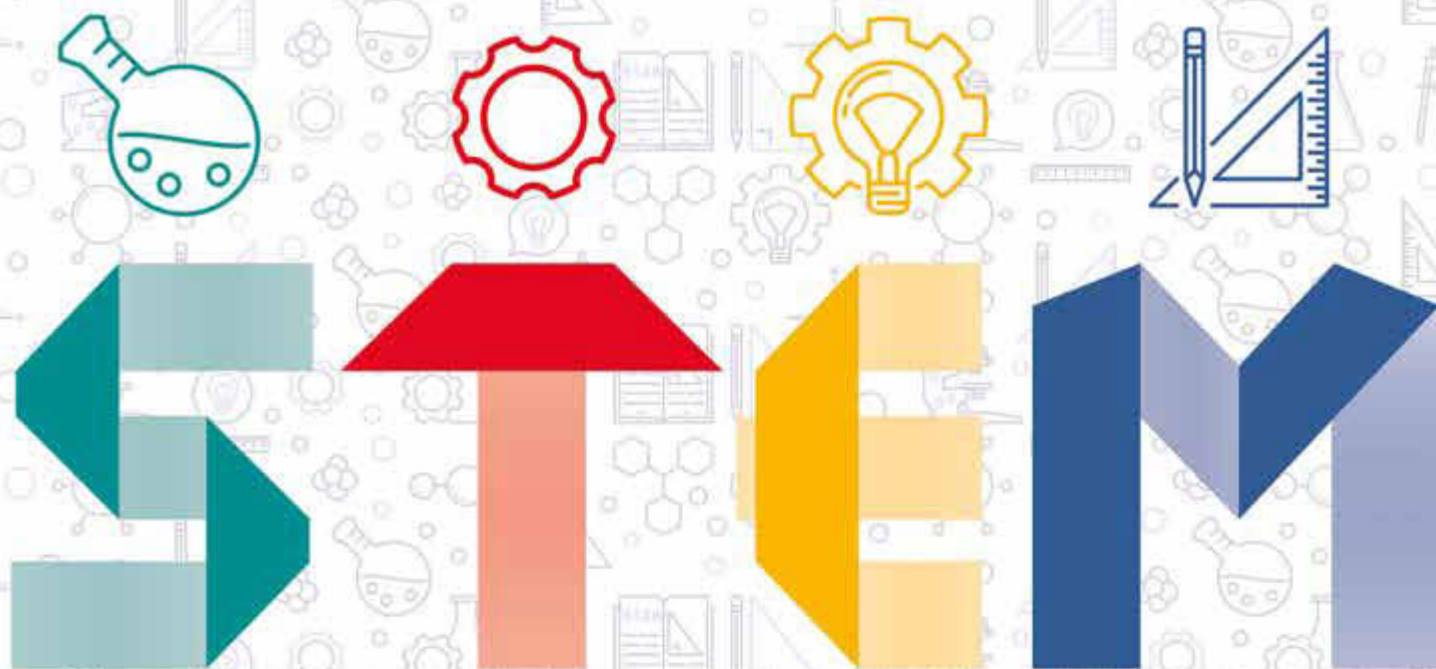
On June 15, 1921, Bessie earned her international pilot's license — Fédération Aéronautique Internationale. She studied at Caudron Brother's School of Aviation, considered the best aviation school in France, and it only took her seven months.

In 1922, Bessie was the first African- and 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 high-flying 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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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 dirt-floored, 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. **NOW**

Photos courtesy of Ellis County Museum.

Sources:

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

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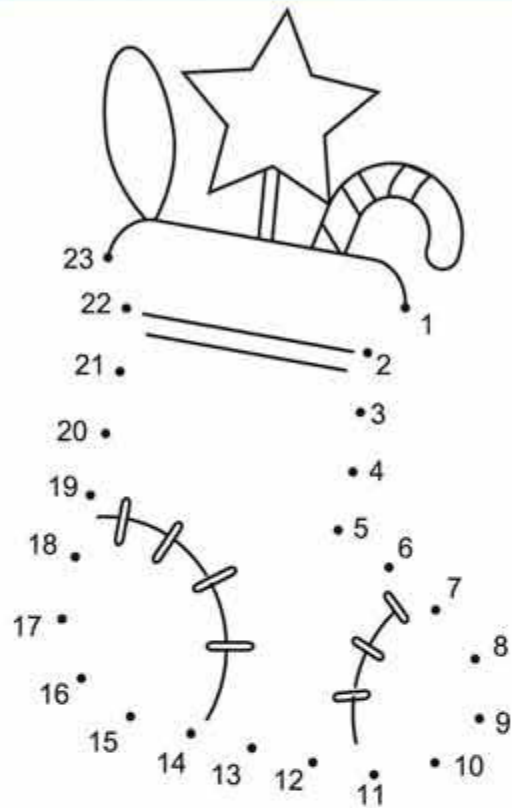


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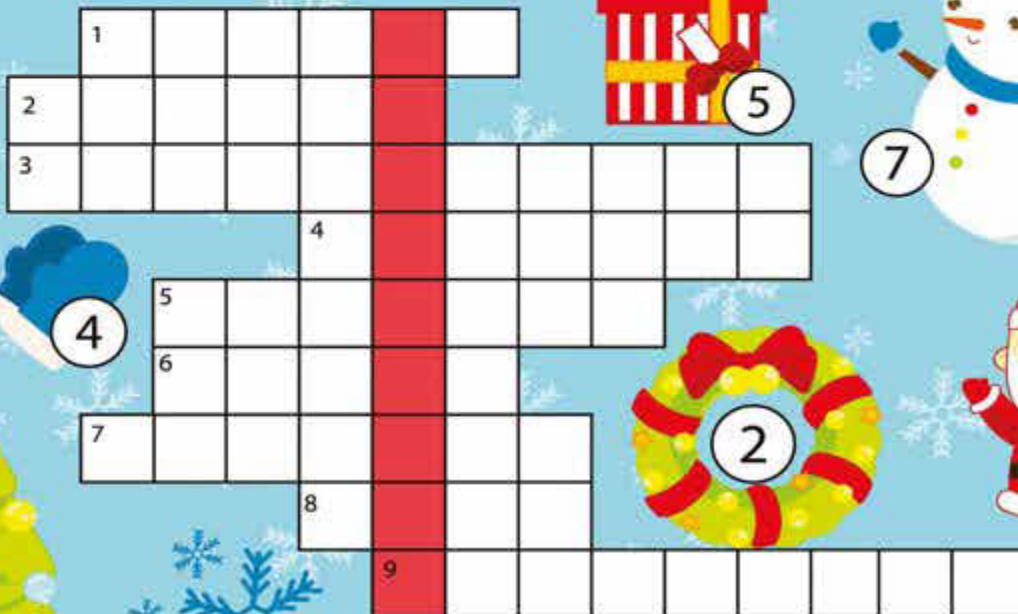
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- Ask Family for Help
- Let Family & Friends Know What to Expect

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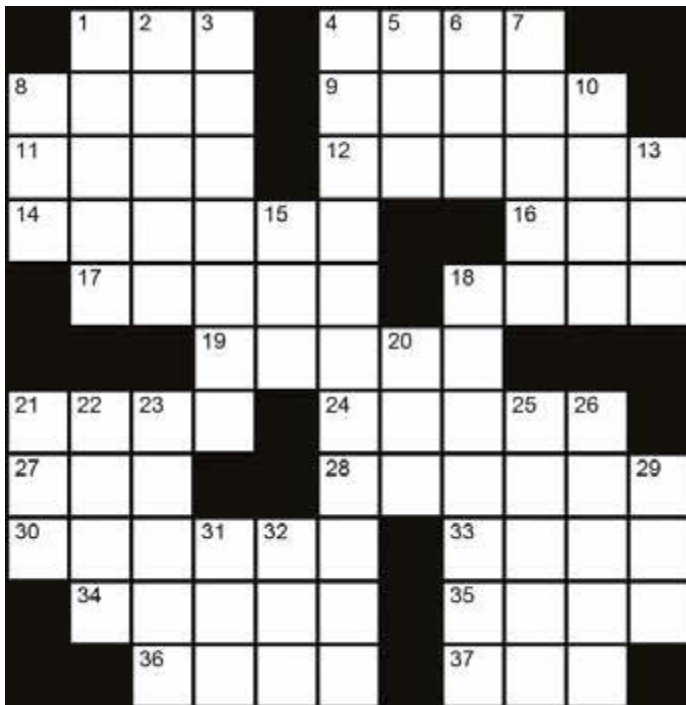
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Crossword Puzzle



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Across

- 1 Fortify
- 4 Turnpike fee
- 8 Entreaty
- 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 moo-lah
- 27 Org. with a flowery seal
- 28 IKEA's homeland
- 30 Eerie sense of recurrence
- 33 Short letter
- 34 Dynamite inventor
- 35 Yucky buildup
- 36 Charge per unit
- 37 Psychic "gift"

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

Solutions on page 60

For online versions, visit nowmagazines.com

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Sudoku Puzzle

Easy

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

Medium

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

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Solutions on page 60

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MERRY Christmas

DECEMBER

12/4-12/9

Planapalooza:

Help plan the future of your city. See the city website for times and topics which vary daily. Hillside Village, 305 W. FM 1382, Cedar Hill.

12/5

Mayor's Prayer Breakfast:

Join the mayor in prayer for the city. Free. 7:30-8:30 a.m., Alan E. Sims Recreation Center, 310 E. Parkerville Rd., Cedar Hill.

Holiday on the Hill:

Enjoy the ice rink, live performances, kids' games, tree lighting and more. Free. 6:00-8:00 p.m. Historic Downtown Cedar Hill, 600 Cedar St.

12/5-12/7

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe:

Love Your City Theater presents the classic tale on stage. Find out why it's always winter, but never Christmas in Narnia.

Adults: \$10; children \$5.

Thursday and Friday: 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. **Saturday:** 11:00 a.m. & 4:00 p.m., Trinity Church, 1231 E. Pleasant Run Rd., Cedar Hill.

12/6

Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting:

Parade runs from Wheatland and Freeman to Main St. The Tree Lighting Ceremony is at Memorial Park, 101 N. Main. Free. 7:00-10:00 p.m., Duncanville.

12/7

47th Annual Hometown

Holiday Celebration:

Enjoy the parade from Hampton and Wintergreen to Town Center. Free. 10:00-11:30 a.m., DeSoto.

Holiday Palooza 2019:

Meet Santa and enjoy some music and DIY gifts. 11:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m., DeSoto Library, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd.

Back to Bethlehem:

Hear the Christmas story at a live nativity with real animals. Free. 5:00-7:00 p.m., First Baptist Church, 602 W. Belt Line Rd., Cedar Hill.

12/13

Kwanzaa Celebration:

Come learn the meanings of the candles. 6:30 p.m., Zula B. Wylie Library, 225 Cedar St., Cedar Hill.

12/14

Holiday Hike:

Join a park ranger for a guided hike to learn about St. Nick and prairie lands. Meet at the Duck Pond Trailhead with good shoes and a bottle of water. Regular park fees apply. 11:00 a.m.-noon., Cedar Hill State Park, 1570 W. FM 1382, Cedar Hill.

Caroling at Penn Farm:

Take a lantern-light tour of Penn Farm ending with a carol sing-a-long at the campfire with hot chocolate, cider and cookies. Regular park fees apply. 6:00-8:00 p.m., Cedar Hill State Park, 1570 W. FM 1382, Cedar Hill.

International Potluck Dinner-Cameroon:

Expect joy and excitement. Bring drums and join the dance. Free. 7:00 p.m., Museum of International Cultures, 411 Hwy. 67, Duncanville.

12/14-12/15

Live Nativity:

Take a selfie with camels, a donkey and sheep. Free hot chocolate and cider. 5:30, 6:30 & 7:30 p.m., Dallas First Church of the Nazarene, 825 N. Cockrell Hill Rd., DeSoto.

12/17

Christmas Luncheon:

Bring a side dish or desert to share. 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Alan E. Sims Recreation Center, 310 E. Parkerville Rd., Cedar Hill.

12/19

Christmas Movie Night:

Cinematic fun, just for teens. 5:00-6:00 p.m., Zula B. Wylie Library, 225 Cedar St., Cedar Hill.

12/24

Christmas Eve Candle Light Service:

Come for a casual, family-friendly service. Free. 6:00-7:00 p.m., Dallas First Church of the Nazarene, 825 N. Cockrell Hill Rd., DeSoto.

12/30-1/6

CHAT Holiday Camp:

Camp isn't just for summer! Ages 5-13 welcome. \$85. Alan E. Sims Recreation Center, 310 E. Parkerville Rd., Cedar Hill.

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

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Philecia Robinson won a \$50 gift basket from
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John 3:16



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Crossword - Sudoku Solutions



Easy

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

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JOHN 3:16