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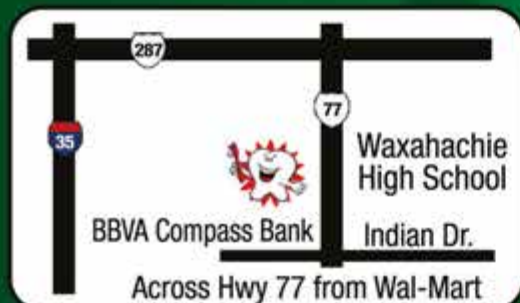
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ON THE COVER

*David and Dena Burch
choose a flocked tree
for their bedroom.*

Photo by
Kobbi R. Blair.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Hello, Christmas Season!

Christmas is in the air, so I thought I'd get into the festive spirit and pop on my sparkling Christmas socks. I remember in the '80s when Christmas-themed clothes became all the rage. Back then, we thought the bright and glittery garments were beautiful and fun. Dressing my little daughter up in red, green, silver and gold was one of my most cherished Christmas activities.

That lasted for about 10 years, and then things changed. Our beautiful Christmas sweaters began to be referred to as *ugly Christmas sweaters*! I couldn't believe it. I purchased a gorgeous, loose-knit cotton sweater with a big Christmas tree and adorable decorations on it for my 12-year-old daughter, and she refused to wear it. She explained to me that only old ladies wore Christmas sweaters. I thought it was just a phase she was going through, so I put the sweater safely inside my cedar chest for the next year.

It was 10 years before my daughter wanted to wear that sweater. Then, sad to say, she wore it to an *ugly Christmas sweater party*. She came to my house and finally retrieved the still brand-new sweater out of the cedar chest. It fit her perfectly, which only verifies how large we wore them in the '80s. Honestly, I think in her secret way, she really thinks the sweater is pretty. It has been in our family for so long, it has its own story — kind of like an old, familiar friend. Old, familiar friends make me happy, and seeing my daughter in that sweater, even if she thought it was ugly, made me happy.

Merry Christmas!

PS. 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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A Tree in EVERY WINDOW

— By Susan Simmons

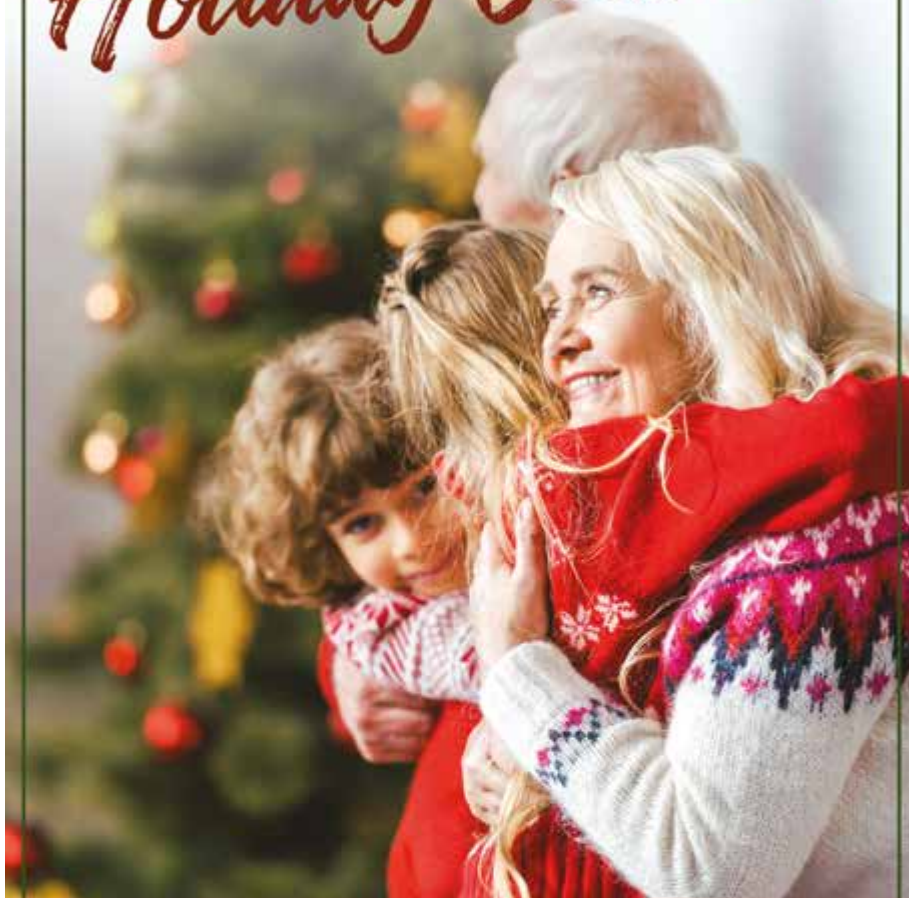
The year 2015 was a rough one for David and Dena Burch. David was battling an aggressive form of prostate cancer and was diagnosed with a second kind of cancer, lymphoma. The couple had been looking for a house to purchase, but reluctantly put it on the back burner while “walking through” David’s cancer treatment. They had made a list of everything they wanted in a house that would be the perfect fit for them and their family. The Burchs own their own business and work out of their home, so their house would require space for an office. It also needed space for their grandchildren and plenty of room to entertain. They wanted a pool and a big backyard. Everything was placed on the list, and as David battled through radiation treatments, he and Dena dreamed about their new home. Eventually, the list was put in a drawer and forgotten, while the cancer treatments continued.

In early 2018, things began to look up. The cancers had responded well to the treatments, and it was beginning to look like David was going to be OK. A friend mentioned that he wanted to sell his home. He asked if they would like to look at it, and the minute they saw it, David and Dena fell in love with it.

Just two months later, in July 2018, David and Dena moved into their new home. David’s lymphoma had recently flared up, and they were struggling to keep an optimistic outlook and were constantly looking for positive experiences. A few weeks after they moved in, Dena was straightening out a nightstand drawer that the movers had turned upside down during the move, and she found the original list of all their needs and

DAVID AND DENA BURCH

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wants for a new home. She immediately showed David the list. They had not looked at it for almost two years. As they sat down and read the list, they noticed that everything they had listed was in the home they now live in — *everything!* They sat there in amazement, realizing they were in the right place. In one of the hardest times of their 35-year marriage, finding that list gave the couple a much-needed feeling of encouragement, and they celebrated that God had looked after their best interests during a time when they had been too preoccupied with critical health issues to concentrate on other important matters.

Today, David is officially in remission and now the couple, again, has the time and the house to celebrate Christmas as they always have. With 18 trees, every single room in the house is decorated. “We celebrate the birth of Christ at Christmas, and we celebrate it big in this house,” Dena said. The 12-foot, rotating Christmas tree sparkles brightly as it rises tall over a living area filled wall-to-wall with beautiful Christmas treasures. “Each window, upstairs and downstairs, has a lighted Christmas tree,” Dena said with a grin. Each room has its own theme and is decorated accordingly. She loves to make wreaths, and she created one to correlate with each room’s theme.



The spectacular kitchen is filled with Mrs. Claus and all things peppermint. “I wanted the kitchen to showcase a Mrs. Claus wreath that I created in 2018, and peppermint just seemed to go with her really well. David gave me some fun ornaments to use in the kitchen, and I love reading them each year. The Decorator’s Warehouse in Arlington had wonderful peppermint decor to help make my ‘peppermint fantasy’ come to life. I also used peppermint-scented plug-ins from Bed, Bath & Beyond,

so when you were in the room, you got the visual and sensory feel for it. I used peppermint-striped ribbon for the cabinets and some really fun tea towels to round it all out!"



The house is decorated with a mixture of old and new ornaments. Some have been in the family for generations. "We have lots of ornaments that bring back great memories to us and our children, but we also enjoy getting new ornaments each year. For David and me, it's so much fun to go, a few days after Christmas, and score great deals on super expensive glass, porcelain or hand-blown ornaments!" Dena said happily. She continued, "We have original ornaments from both of our childhoods and ones we got when we were first married. We have special ornaments from both of our parents and grandparents, as well." The most precious ornaments are reserved for the Christmas tree in the living room. "The family ornaments go on that tree. The glass, porcelain and hand-blown ones, my bell collection, the family heirlooms and the snowman ornaments. We've been collecting snowman ornaments for about 15 years. I'll see one I like along the way somewhere, and I'll pick it up to add to the collection. My favorite is an ornament of three snowmen in a group, which represent our three sons, Danny, Darren and Derek."

The nativity scene in the living room has been in the family since the children were little. It was given to them by David's mother. It is made of porcelain and has a wooden creche under which the porcelain figurines sit. "The nativity scene, as well as several stuffed Santas from both of our grandmothers, go out every year," Dena said. "I hope our grandkids all feel that way about things they will inherit from us. It's all about continuity." **NOW**

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COMPASSION WINNIN

— By Rick Mauch

Anyone who plays knows sports are about more than winning. The folks in the Waxahachie Youth Athletic Association Tomahawks organization enjoy winning as much as anyone, but they believe victory is more than numbers on a scoreboard. For example, there's the importance of camaraderie among all ages. In the WYAA Tomahawks, all ages work out together. There's no 12-year-old tackling a 4-year-old, but Vice President Mike Langford admitted they do warm up and do the same exercises and drills.

"We do everything at one site, no matter the kid's age. They stretch together, for example. And we're teaching the same things top to bottom," Mike said. "Every kid who is a lineman will do the same drills, for example, paired with their age group, of course."

The WYAA Tomahawks, in its fourth year, offers a variety of sports. There's basketball, track and cheerleading for ages 4 to 12, and a mixture of flag and tackle football, depending on the age. There's also flex football, which is nine-on-nine and offered for all ages.

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HAVE A ROCKIN' CHRISTMAS

Today in America, nearly everyone celebrates Christmas, but the real reason for the season is sometimes overlooked. So what's Christmas really all about? Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus over 2,000 years ago. He is the Son of God, the promised Savior, sent to save people from their sin and restore relationship with God (*Matthew 1:21*). The truth is that everyone has sinned and is in need of a Savior. We've all told lies and a number of other wrong "sins" (*Romans 3:23*). We all need a Savior (and should be thankful for Christmas) because the consequence for sin (like lying) is separation from God for eternity (*Romans 6:23*). Jesus died to save us from the consequence we deserve (*1 Peter 2:24*). The Bible teaches that in order to be "saved" a person has to believe in their hearts and confess with their mouths that Jesus is who He said He is; the Son of God, sent to save the World (*Romans 10:9*)! How simple! And it gets even better - once we say this prayer, we can lean on Jesus in anything we might face in life (*Isaiah 26:4*)! **JESUS IS THE ROCK, AND THE REAL KEY TO A ROCKIN' CHRISTMAS!!!**

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Nine-on-nine is two-handed touch football and will be offered in the spring for the first time. "It's for parents who aren't ready for tackle," Mike said. "The nine-on-nine will allow us to put linemen in to get some work."

Phelp Benjamin is president of the league. In 2015, he and Mike joined forces to start the organization with an emphasis on fun and fundamentals, playing safe and, of course, learning how to win and lose.

Good sportsmanship is strongly stressed. "It shows on game days. You see the teams cheering on each other, even teams that are in the same league," Phelp said.

"It's very family-oriented, and you can see it on the sidelines," said Phelp's wife, Nicole, the league's treasurer. "They hand out water when their team isn't playing. Also, as a board we're family-oriented. All of our boys and girls are really close. Even the kids who are in junior high come back and support the teams."

Those in the league play a good amount. Every player participates in at least 10 plays in a football game and at least two-and-a-half minutes each of basketball. That might explain why the league has grown to almost 500 youths participating after having only 30 at the start.

"Everything we do is based on what's best for the kid," Mike said. "It's created a community inside a community."

The organization's greatest successes so far have been in track. Competing in the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation, they qualified 16 athletes for the Games of Texas this past summer at College Station, more than five times the amount they sent in 2018, their first year to have a track program.

R'Mani Benjamin captured the team's first gold medal in the long jump for ages 8 and under, leaping 12 feet, 8

inches this past summer. He cleared 13 feet in regional competition to qualify. He also brought home a silver medal in the 100-meter dash.

Mariah Villareal brought home a pair of silver medals in the 50-meter dash in 2018 and 2019 in the 6-under division. Mariah had a short-lived state record in the preliminaries in 2018 before the gold medal winner broke it in the finals.

Tiffany Nava is the league's fundraising director and has two children currently involved, with another who recently aged out. She said the family feeling is what brought her and her children into the program.



"As Tomahawks we're different because we do things as a family unit. We stand for integrity and being a family that's first before the sport itself. We hold a high bar on the kids, as well as the parents and coaches and board members," she said.

"WYAA is about the kids. Every decision we make we consider the kids first. We want to make the youth sports of Waxahachie known for having a great Class A organization that every parent wants their kids to be a part of."

There's also a scholarship program for those who need financial help. "We understand some kids can't afford it, but we don't ever want to turn a kid away for financial reasons," Phelps said.

Players are expected to keep their grades up and behave appropriately. Parents also are held to a high standard of behavior, which is rarely a problem.

Mike is one of many coaches who are parents who no longer have children playing in the league but still want to be involved. "I just love the kids. That's why I stuck around," he said. **NOW**



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BusinessNOW

Word Dermatology

— By Susan Simmons

Word Dermatology

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www.worddermatology.com
Facebook: Word Dermatology

Hours: Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
In-office or online booking is available.

The welcoming waiting room at Word Dermatology is the first clue that patient care and comfort are a top priority here. The tranquil room uses muted colors and natural light from a massive window overlooking the outside landscape to provide warmth and calmness. Office staff carry on their business with compassion and professionalism. Office Manager Melissa



Andrews enjoys working at Word Dermatology. “I had worked at another job for a very long time, and I was apprehensive about going somewhere new,” she shared. “But working here has been such a perfect fit.”

“It’s very important to me that we offer patients from Ellis County and surrounding areas the best of service in a peaceful, pleasant and friendly atmosphere,” Dr. Andrew Word expressed with a smile.

Growing up in Vernon, Texas, Dr. Word was the valedictorian of his high school class and went on to earn his bachelor’s degree in biology, with honors, at The University of Texas at Austin. He continued his education at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, where he earned a Doctor of Medicine. There he completed his internship in internal medicine and as a chief resident in dermatology. As he looked around the state for a place to open his office, he noticed that Ellis County needed a full-time dermatologist. “I am so glad I chose Ellis County to open my practice. We just love working with the great people of this county. Ellis County is growing

rapidly, and it shows in our office. We have grown substantially over the past three years," he reflected. Since the office opened, they have grown from a staff of three to a staff of nine, and last year, they added Amanda Warnekeur, a physician assistant, whom the patients love.

"It's very important to me that we offer patients from Ellis County and surrounding areas the best of service in a peaceful, pleasant and friendly atmosphere."

"The field of dermatology covers a broad diversity of medical issues," Dr. Word explained. Medical changes occur often, and staying current is a top priority to Dr. Word. He has written many professional articles that have been published, and several of these articles can be found on the Word Dermatology website.

Word Dermatology handles a range of skin concerns, including medical, surgical and cosmetic issues. Medical issues range from problems with acne to warts. Skin cancer and cysts make up most of the surgical matters, and fillers, BOTOX and chemical peels are cosmetic services offered. They accept Medicaid, Medicare and most major medical insurance providers, along with credit cards and cash. Additionally, they have applications for CareCredit available for financing any services desired.

Many people wonder when they should visit a dermatologist. According to Dr. Word, "When something is growing, hurting or bleeding, that's when you need to see me. After a complete examination, we decide if we should investigate a little more by doing a biopsy or watchful waiting. That is also when we might put a person on a schedule for annual or semiannual checkups."

Dr. Word had advice for spending time in the sunshine. "Definitely use sunscreen. Anything over SPF 30 will protect efficiently, but a higher SPF will last longer. Wearing a hat, sunglasses and long sleeves are very beneficial when possible. Also, staying out of the noonday sun cuts down on the most damaging rays to our skin." **NOW**



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In the Kitchen With

KATHY FLORES

— By Susan Simmons



Throughout Kathy Flores' childhood, she enjoyed watching both her grandmothers cook. Some of her favorite memories are waking up to the smell of fresh tortillas cooking on the comal. When she was 14, Kathy began to take on large projects, like cooking for big family gatherings, and that is how she discovered her love of cooking for lots of people and making them happy. "I enjoy cooking authentic food from my Mexican culture, especially the Puerto Veracruz area, just as my grandmothers used to prepare. Every time I cook, I can hear them giving me instructions. I thank God for my grandmothers' wisdom because it has helped me so much since I opened my restaurant, A Taste of Mexico," Kathy said with a smile. **NOW**

Mexican Christmas Pork Leg

Approximately 16 servings.

Red Chile Sauce:

12 dry, whole red Mexican chile pods
2 cups chicken broth
2 Tbsp. olive oil
1 medium onion, chopped
5 cloves fresh garlic, chopped
1 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
1 tsp. dried or 2 tsp. fresh oregano
1/2 tsp. cumin
2 tsp. salt

Pork Leg:

1 12-lb. boneless pork leg
1/2 cup blanched almonds
1 lb. diced ham
15 cloves garlic, peeled

1. For red chile sauce: Wash chile pods; let dry.
2. In a cast-iron skillet, toast the pods for 1 to 2 minutes per side; do not burn.
3. When the pods are cool, put on gloves. Remove and discard the seeds and stems.
4. Combine the chiles and chicken broth. Simmer on medium heat for about 10

minutes, or until the chiles look cooked.

5. Heat oil in a cast-iron skillet on medium heat. Sauté onion and garlic for 4 minutes. Add flour and spices. Cook until flour is golden brown.

6. Combine the chili and chicken broth mixture with the onion mixture; blend until smooth.

7. After all sauce is blended, simmer on medium-low heat for 30 minutes.

8. Taste sauce and adjust seasonings as desired.

9. For pork leg: Preheat oven to 350 F. Place pork leg in a roasting pan.

10. Make slits with a sharp knife all over the pork leg, concentrating on the top and sides of the leg.

11. Fill the slits with almonds, ham and garlic. Pour Red Chile Sauce over the pork leg. Let the leg marinate in the sauce for at least 6 hours, if possible.

12. Cover the leg with a lid or aluminum foil. Roast for about 4 hours, until you get a center temperature reading of 145 F.

13. Uncover; bake until browned, about 30 more minutes. Remove from oven; recover. Let rest for at least 15 minutes before serving.

Green Tomatillo Sauce

3 fresh jalapeños, less or more to taste
10 tomatillos
1/2 onion, chopped
1/2 cup fresh cilantro, chopped
1 tsp. salt, to taste

1. Boil jalapeños, tomatillos and onions in just enough water to cover the vegetables.
2. When vegetables are tender, blend in a blender or with a stick blender.
3. Add cilantro and salt.

Charro Beans

2 lbs. pinto beans
1 Tbsp. salt
1 lb. bacon, chopped
1 cup chorizo
3 fresh tomatoes, diced
1 large onion, diced small
7 cloves fresh garlic
1 cup cilantro, finely chopped
1/2 cup jalapeño, or more to taste

1. Soak pinto beans in water overnight.
2. Strain soaking water; rinse beans. Boil pinto beans with salt until tender.
3. Fry bacon and chorizo until they are about halfway cooked; add tomatoes, onion, garlic, cilantro and jalapeño.
4. Once the mixture is cooked, add it to the boiled beans; let simmer for about 20 minutes.

Tres Leches Cake

1 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 tsp. salt
1 1/2 tsp. baking powder
5 whole eggs, separated
1 cup sugar (divided use)
1/3 cup milk
1 tsp. vanilla
1 can sweetened condensed milk
1 can evaporated milk
1/4 cup heavy cream

Whipped Cream:

1 pt. heavy cream
3 Tbsp. sugar
Maraschino cherries, to taste

1. Preheat oven to 350 F.
2. Whisk flour, salt and baking powder in a large mixing bowl.
3. Beat the egg yolks and 3/4 cup sugar with a hand mixer on high for 2 minutes. Stir in milk and vanilla.
4. Gently stir the egg yolk mixture into the flour mixture.

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5. Beat egg whites on high speed until soft peaks form. With the mixer on, pour in the remaining 1/4 cup sugar; beat until the egg whites are stiff but not dry.
6. Fold egg white mixture into the batter very gently until just combined.
7. Pour batter into a 9x13-inch prepared pan; spread to even out the surface.
8. Bake 35 to 45 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the middle comes out clean.
9. Place the cake on a large platter; let cool.
10. Mix together condensed milk, evaporated milk and heavy cream.
11. Punch holes all over the surface of the cool cake with a fork.
12. Slowly pour the cream mixture over the cake, allowing it to soak into the holes and absorb into the cake as you go. Make sure you get the sides good and soaked.
13. For whipped cream: Whip together the heavy cream and sugar until peaks form.
14. Let the soaked cake rest for 30 minutes; frost with whipped cream. Decorate with maraschino cherries.

Mexican-style Shrimp

30 shrimp

1 Tbsp. olive oil

1 clove fresh garlic, diced

3 whole tomatoes, diced



Mexican-style Shrimp


1 fresh jalapeño, diced
1/2 medium onion, diced
1 tsp. black pepper
1/2 tsp. onion powder
Salt, to taste

1. Wash, peel and devein shrimp.
2. Heat a cast-iron skillet on medium-high; add oil, garlic and shrimp.
3. Cook for about 3 minutes, or until shrimp are about halfway cooked.
4. Add tomatoes, jalapeños, onions, black pepper, onion powder and salt to taste. Cook until shrimp are done.


5. Add more jalapeño, depending on how spicy you want your shrimp.
6. This easy dish can be paired perfectly with Mexican rice, beans or any side of your choice.

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Calendar of Events



7th Annual Festival of Trees

A Home for the Holidays

Friday, Nov. 22 | 5 - 9 pm

Saturday, Nov. 23 | 9 am - 3 pm

Waxahachie Bible Church

621 N. Grand Avenue

Silent auction and lots of fun family activities including Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Benefitting Habitat for Humanity of Ellis County

Shop Small Business Saturday

Saturday, Nov. 30

Downtown Waxahachie

Christmas Parade & Community Tree Lighting

Tuesday, Dec. 3 | 6 pm

Downtown Waxahachie

Enjoy a lighted Christmas parade culminating with the community tree lighting on the courthouse lawn! Other activities include - CNB of Texas Train Rides, EwePet Petting Zoo & Pony Rides and other children's activities followed by photos with Santa.

Beauville

December 5 | 4 - 7 pm

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Christmas Market 2019

Friday, Dec. 6 | Preview Party | 6 - 9 pm

Saturday, Dec. 7 | 9 am - 5 pm

Waxahachie Civic Center | 2000 Civic Center Lane

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For tickets and information: www.waxahachiejsl.org

SAGU Theatre: A Christmas Carol

Friday & Saturday, Dec. 6, 7 | 7:30 pm

Sunday, Dec. 8 | 3 pm

Hagee Communications Center

For tickets and information: www.sagu.edu/christmascarol

Bethlehem Revisited

Friday, Saturday & Sunday

Dec. 6 - 8 and Dec. 13 - 15 | 6 - 9 pm

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"The Nutcracker" LakeCities Ballet Theatre

Saturday & Sunday Dec. 7, 8 | 2 pm

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Offering two incredible performances, the LakeCitiesBallet is the perfect way to add to your holiday magic this year.

Sponsored by Waxahachie High School Drama Booster Club, Waxahachie Chamber of Commerce, City of Waxahachie Convention & Visitors Bureau, and WISD. For tickets and more information: whsdramadept.org/the-nutcracker-1

Miracle on 34th Street

Friday-Sunday, December 13-15

University Church | 221 Salon Rd.

Presented by Waxahachie Community Theatre

Ticket Available online at waxahachiecommunitytheatre.com

Christmas Tour of Homes 2019

Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 14, 15 | 2 - 8 pm

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Chocolate & Wine Stroll

Saturday, Dec. 14 | 2 - 8 pm

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Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 14 - 15

Ellis County Expo Center

YMCA Santa Run

Saturday, Dec. 14 | 8 am

Railyard Park in Downtown Waxahachie



2019 Holiday Shopping Guide

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

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Zoomed In: Barbara Fudge

By Susan Simmons

Barbara Fudge plays Bridge on Mondays at the Waxahachie Senior Center. She has been playing Bridge for 55 years. "I learned by playing with my co-workers at lunch every day at my first job, which was with LTV in Arlington," Barbara said. Some members of the club have been playing bridge for as long as 75 years, but others have more recently learned how to play at the Senior Citizens Center." Tuesday afternoon is Instructive Bridge — short tutorials followed by an afternoon of playing, but with an experienced adviser available," Barbara explained. "Then, on Thursdays we have Party Bridge, and that's a great place to go to practice. Monday is for more experienced players who want to play Duplicate Bridge."



Brynden Kelly and his mom, Melissa, adopt a dog at the Railport Brewery Bark and Brew fundraiser for SPCA.



NOW Magazines' Lisa Bell and Becky Walker visit with 94.9 KLTY radio personality, John Hudson, at White Rhino Coffee.



Dorothy Quaite arrives for Sunday services.



The Waxahachie Partners in Education Advisory Board members meet over lunch.



Jennifer and Jack Teixeira work out at the gym.



Terry Connor, Jenny Wilhoite and Cindy Smith get ready to ride in the Homecoming Parade for the Ex-Students Association.



Kirsten Chapman and Arjun Pai take their dog, Koi, to the Texas Country Reporter Festival.



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HISTORIC D E L I G H T

— 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. **NOW**



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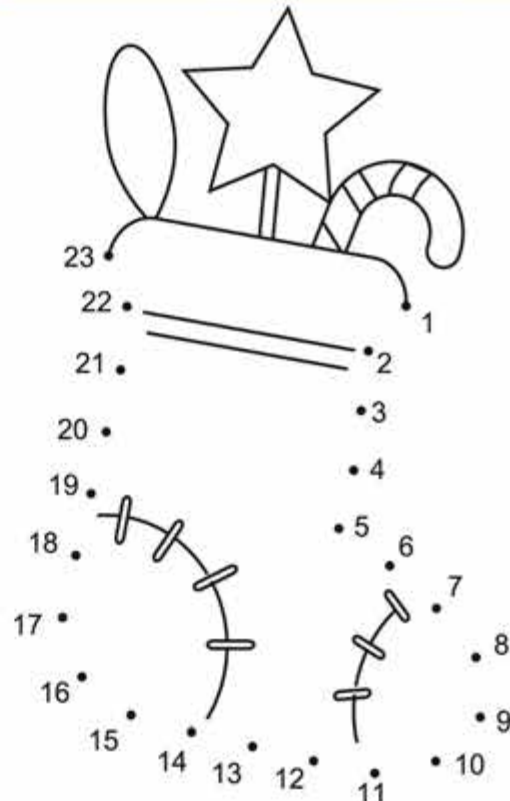
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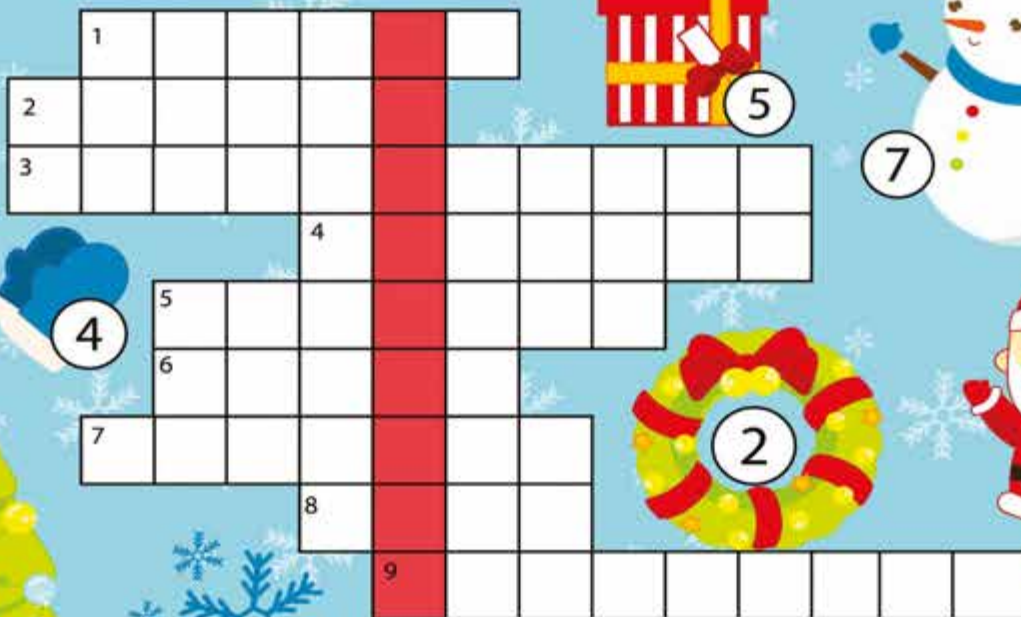
MYSTERIOUS WORD: _____

Connect the dots

CANDLE
CANDY
CHRISTMAS
COMET
DECEMBER
DECORATION
GIFT
LIGHT
MERRY
PRESENTS
RIBBON
STAR
TOY
TREE
WINTER
XMAS



Crossword



Answer: 1- spruce; 2-wreath; 3-gingerbread; 4-mittens; 5-present; 6-santa; 7-snowman; 8-cane; 9-snowflake

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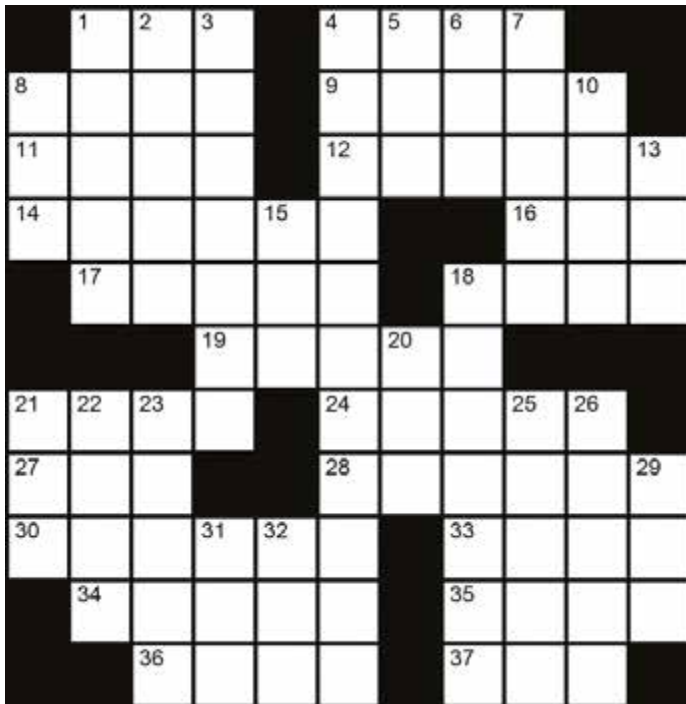
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Across

- 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 moolah
- 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 52

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	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 52



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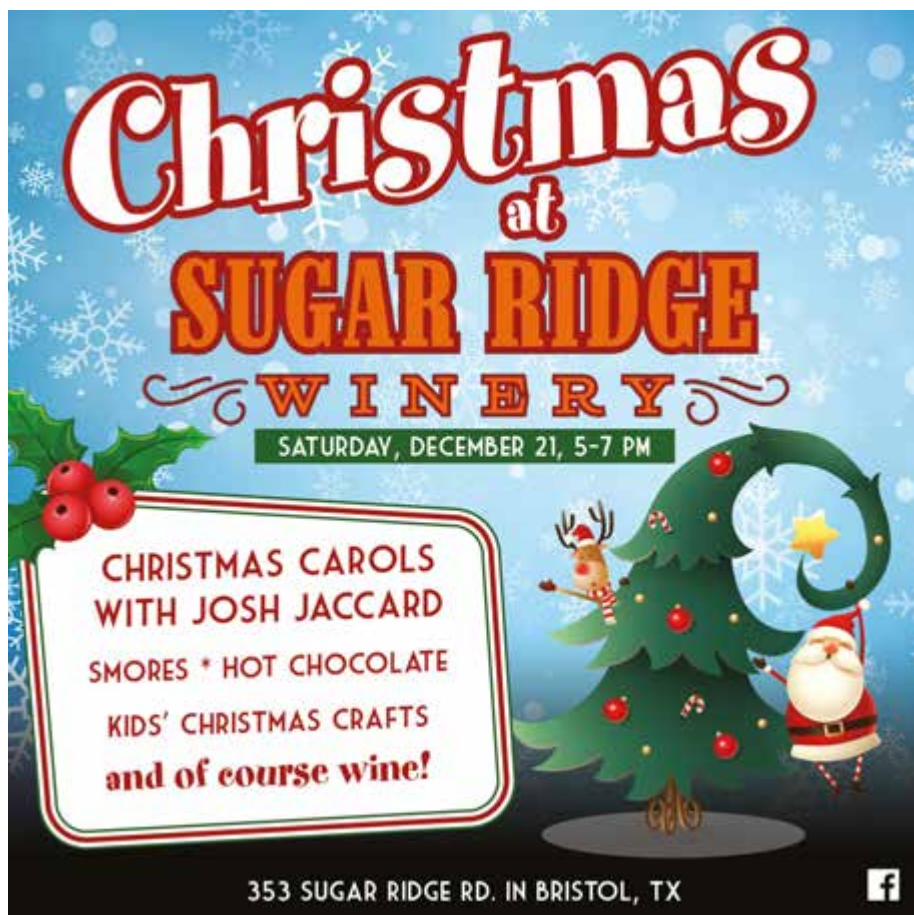
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12/3

Christmas Parade & Community Tree Lighting:

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12/5

Beauville:

Navarro College presents their twist on Whoville from Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* featuring the Navarro Bulldog Mascot Beauregard.

Will have games and craft stations for kids, cookie decorating, Santa pictures, etc. Free. 4:00-7:00 p.m., Navarro College Waxahachie Campus. (972) 923-6406.

12/6

Pre-School Story Time at The Salvation Army:

Storytime will feature stories, social interaction, crafts, dance, learning and so much more. Free. 11:00-11:40 a.m., 620 Farley St.

12/6-12/8

A Christmas Carol:

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

Bethlehem Revisited:

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12/7

Christmas Market & Gift Show:

Featuring more than 100 unique vendors, pictures with Santa and amazing raffles and food. All proceeds are distributed to local charities. Admission: \$10; children under 10 are free. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center. <https://www.waxahachiejsl.org/christmas-market>.

12/7 & 12/8

The Nutcracker:

The WHS Drama Booster Club helps bring two performances by the professional Lake Cities Ballet to Waxahachie. Tickets: \$28-\$48. 2:00 p.m.,

Waxahachie High School. <https://whsdramadept.org/the-nutcracker-1>.

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 in Waxahachie. For more information, visit www.waxahachiecommunitytheatre.com.

12/14

7th Annual YMCA 5K Santa Run & 1 Mile Fun Run:

Hosted by the Waxahachie Family YMCA. A tradition for the whole family. Every runner will receive a 5-piece Santa suit to wear during either of the two runs. \$15-\$28. 8:00 a.m., brand-new Railyard Amphitheater in Downtown Waxahachie. For more information, visit <https://www.ymcadallas.org/locations/waxahachie/SantaRun>.

Santa at the Ranch:

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12/14 & 12/15

TICA All Breed Cat Show:

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Historic Waxahachie Christmas Tour of Homes:

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12/15

The Living Christmas Tree:

Free to the public. 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., Baylor Baptist Church, 210 N. Preston Street, Ennis. (972) 875-2521.

12/20

Book signing:

Sadie Tellez, author of the children's book *Sammy Comes Home*. 9:00 a.m., Waxahachie Senior Center, 122 Park Hills Drive.

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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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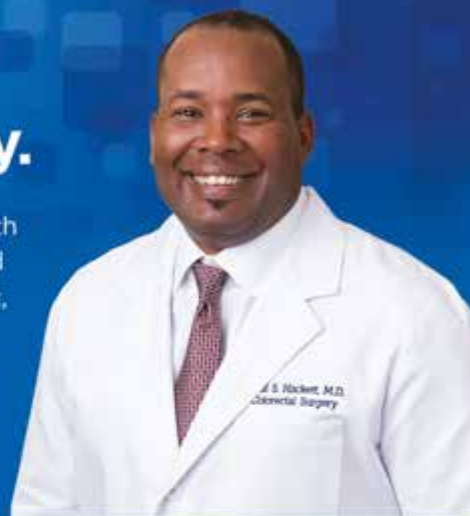
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