

# BurlesonNOW

M A G A Z I N E

DECEMBER 2020

## Secret Surprises

At Home With Aaron and  
Alex Quisenberry

Merry  
CHRISTMAS

In the Kitchen With  
Angeline Bickel

2020 Holiday  
Shopping Guide

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt

Crossword/Sudoku

Featured Business:  
Star Pawn Joshua

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## ON THE COVER

*The Quisenberry family enjoys  
a nostalgic Christmas in their  
historic home.*

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# EDITOR'S NOTE



*Lisa*

Lisa Bell  
BurlesonNOW Editor  
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*Christmas hangs in the air ...*

And I love it! I put up my ancient, artificial tree when Thanksgiving ends — sometimes starting that night, at least in my head. Don't judge — you do, too. I know because I catch you looking at decorations in October right alongside me. And why not? Perhaps we need the hope and love of this season even more as 2020 draws to an end.

The sights, smells, tastes, sounds and feel of Christmas transport me to a simpler time, retrieving memories from deep inside. In this year, when circumstances forced us to slow down, I want to keep that feeling through December and into the new year. No, not the isolation, fears or illness, but the time spent at home with loved ones, interacting and sharing special moments. If we learn anything from this year's challenges, may it be to focus on the things that mean the most. As the holiday season continues, may we spend less time doing and more time being.

While reflecting during the holidays, I remember that many times in the past the world felt like a mess. But as I focus on the hope found in a tiny baby in a manger, I let the season renew my expectations for a fresh year, unique opportunities and another year to make dreams come true. Join me in remembering all the past seasons that brought joy to your world. It will this year, too, if you allow it.

*Merry Christmas, y'all!*

*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!*

**Merry  
Christmas**

During this  
holiday season,  
we wish you all  
the best.

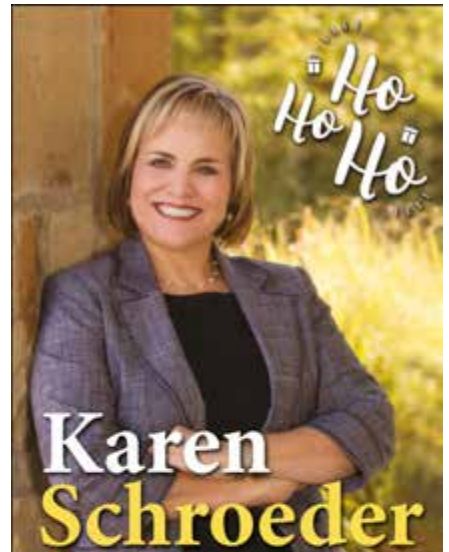


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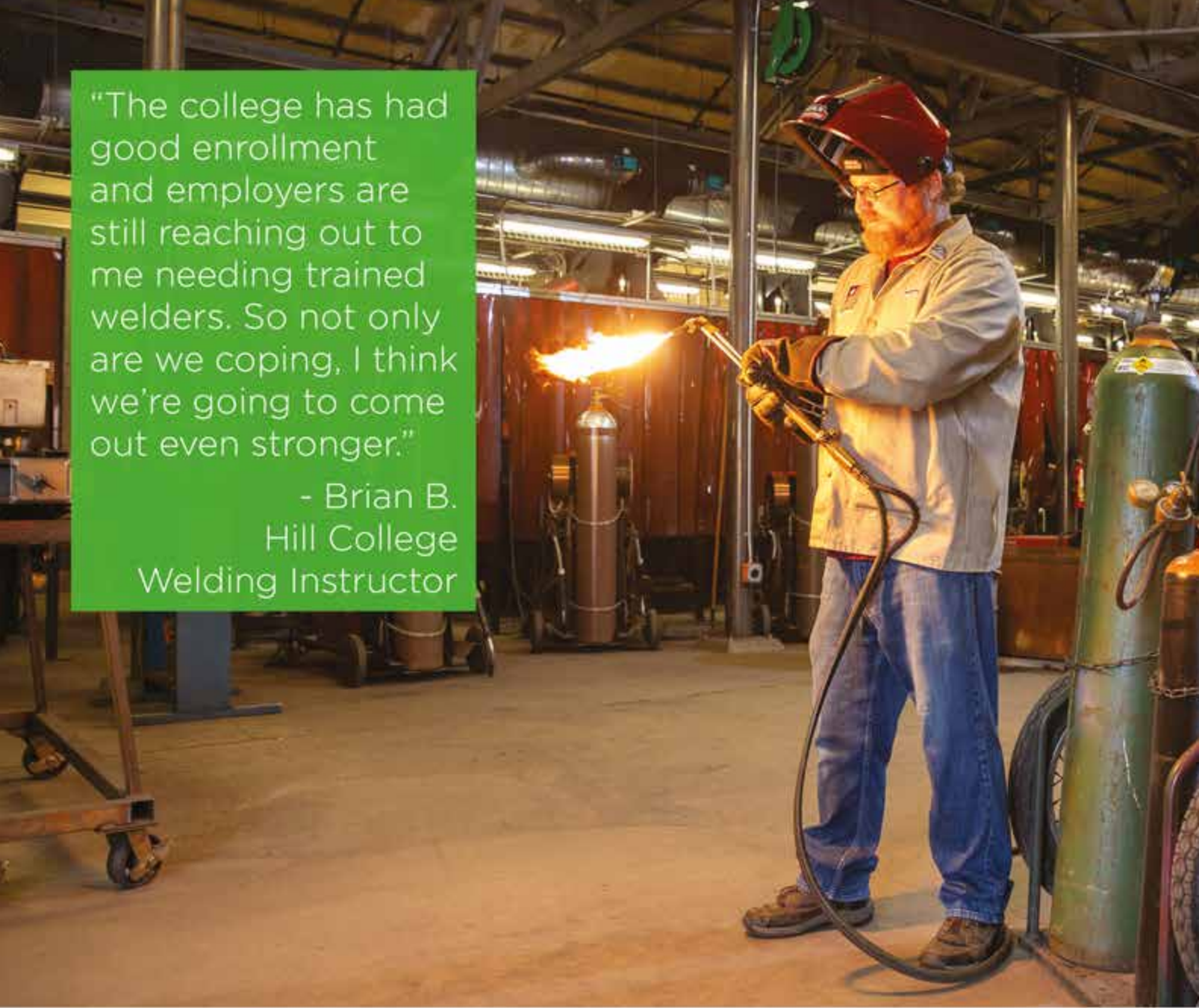


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# *Secret* **SURPRISES**

AT HOME WITH AARON AND ALEX QUISENBERY

— By Lisa Bell

*Because Aaron and Alex Quisenberry own one of the oldest homes in Burleson, they often hear stories from people who spent time in their house over the years. One woman in her 90s shared memories of sitting on the porch at 6 years of age, while a man in his 70s talked about being hired by the original owner to work on the roof as a teen. The Spencer McNair house, which the couple purchased in 2017, offers over a century of tales, along with a never-ending commitment to maintain it.*

According to others' opinions, the home was built circa 1900. Aaron disagrees. "At one point, a fire destroyed all the records, so no one is certain," he said. "But based on dating materials, such as trims and balusters, I think circa 1895 would be more accurate."

Regardless of the age, the house stands with its Queen Anne Victorian style, guarding history as a timeless beauty. Although the house is not yet registered, the Quisenberry family hopes to accomplish that as the third owners.

Shortly before their purchase, the previous owners tore down the original carriage house and outhouse. While Aaron has no intention of building another outhouse, he built a garage that represents the old carriage house and keeps with the lines of the home. He used historically registered paint colors true to the original period.

Aaron grew up around the construction industry and owns his own business, Quisenberry Construction, which works to make life easier for disabled veterans through government grants that pay for home improvements. With his background, he does much of the work in and around their home.





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Alex, originally from Germany, supports both passions — their home and helping others. "I can't say many spouses would support this endeavor," Aaron admitted.

The home has original siding, windows, transoms, doorways, glass, hardware and skeleton keys. New homes are sealed tight, but the ancient technology in historic houses allowed the home to breathe, protecting it from problems that are common today. People painted their porches blue, believing it kept spirits away. Southern folklore refers to the blue paint as "haint blue."

While the previous owners maintained the home, Aaron and Alex work to restore it to its previous grandeur. A favorite spot, the dining room, draws Aaron with its many unique features, including a built-in china hutch.

In one room, they discovered a name written beneath the wallpaper. They also found an underground cellar covered by flooring. Many artifacts have been uncovered from within the cellar, almost as if it were a time capsule. Tucked away, a 1920-dated reproduction of the Declaration of Independence hinted at





the patriotism of former owners — a valuable find for the young family now residing in the antique home.

Of course, they now have modern conveniences, plus additional bathrooms inside. Aaron, Alex and their boys, Caleb and Ewan, enjoy hosting extended family gatherings as frequently as possible. “We’ve become the gathering place,” Aaron said. Having grown up with a strong family environment, Aaron desires spending lots of quality time with his sons. With plenty of space for an office, he often has the ability to work at home and find extra moments with his family.

Holiday traditions mean everything to this family. They decorate with nostalgic items for the most part, but placement may change each year. Whimsical elves hanging from or sitting on the banister bring a smile. Many trees, large nutcrackers and an almost life-size Santa and Mrs. Claus offer a welcoming touch.

The home has two fireplaces, perfect for hanging stockings and holiday decor. Small touches throughout the house point to faith, family and a love of history.

As the couple adds decorations to the fence made of historic brick from local sources and original cemetery iron, pride fills their hearts. “The work is never finished,” they admitted. But they chose to restore and preserve the historic home for the community, a valuable landmark many take for granted. They may never recover their investment, but Alex and Aaron both understand the intrinsic value of protecting homes of the past. They look forward to discoveries within the home and from people who knew the first owners. And finding those secret surprises never ceases to amaze them. **NOW**

# 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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# Mini MASTERPIE

— By Angel Morris

*Salt dough ornaments are one of the things some adults remember making with their grandmothers as children. Even though these ornaments only required three ingredients and little skill, they thought they were creating masterpieces. Since the activity can still be recalled decades later, perhaps they really were!*

If you're looking for a relatively easy DIY to enjoy with your children or grandchildren this holiday, salt dough ornaments may be the solution. Here are 10 steps to making mini masterpieces, and lifelong memories, from flour, salt and water.



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#### Ingredients:

2 cups flour

1 cup salt

1 cup water (divided use)

#### STEP 1:

Preheat the oven to 150-170 F. (If your oven runs hot, go for the lower temperature, as higher temperatures decrease the chances of your dough remaining flat.)

#### STEP 2:

Combine the flour, salt and 1/2 cup of water in a bowl. Blend the ingredients by hand. Blend in the remaining water, kneading until well combined. More water may be added, little by little, to eliminate any stickiness and achieve a smooth dough.

#### STEP 3:

Cover a cutting board with flour. Knead the dough ball atop it.

#### STEP 4:

Roll out the dough with a rolling pin to about 1/4-inch thickness.

#### STEP 5:

Firmly cut shapes out of the dough with cookie cutters. Once you've cut out as many shapes as you can from the flattened dough, carefully remove all of the excess dough. You can reform another ball with the remaining dough, roll it out again and cut more shapes, repeating until all dough has been used.

#### STEP 6:

Use the drinking straw to poke a hole through the top of every shape, so you can tie a ribbon through it for hanging on the tree.

#### STEP 7:

Gently transfer cut-out shapes from the cutting board to the cookie sheet. Bake for about 3 hours.



### STEP 8:

Remove the ornaments from the oven when they feel solid to the touch, but before they begin to turn brown. Allow them to cool for at least 1 hour.

### STEP 9:

Paint the cooled ornaments however you like! You may want to choose a color palette in advance, so they all match — whether that's pastels, rainbow brights or traditional Christmas colors. You can also add texture to the ornaments with craft supplies, such as glitter, sequins, beads or even buttons.

### STEP 10:

Loop a ribbon through the pre-cut hole atop each ornament, tying a knot so the ornament may be securely hung on tree branches. These cut-outs can also be used as gift tags or even serve as gifts themselves.

Shapes like candy canes, pine trees and stars are holiday classics, while snowflakes, hearts and alphabet initials can hang around the house throughout winter. Maybe you let the kids select themes, like animals or nature, choosing your cookie cutters accordingly in advance.

However simple or involved you want to make the experience, salt dough ornaments are a fun family activity for any age or skill level. If you'd like, you can have each little artist sign and date them on the back with a paint pen or permanent marker, so your family masterpieces commemorate this moment and memory for all time. **NOW**

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## BusinessNOW

# Star Pawn Joshua

— By Lisa Bell

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Saturday: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

While some people have a negative connotation of pawn shops, Star Pawn Joshua Owner Esther Dagley aims to change the stereotypical view of her store. Opening in 2003, she acquired it in 2011. The bright, clean, organized space welcomes customers, many of whom the staff know by name.

Esther's journey into a world seldom traveled by women in the past commenced years before she came to Joshua. From a family of six, her father taught her about cars, so she fostered a love for tools. In Florida, she worked at a boarding stable and



knew nothing about pawn shops. Her husband, Todd, had been around the industry. When she moved to Texas, he introduced her to Robert, her former boss. "He built up people — always wanted to help them learn," Esther said. While working at pawn stores in the Metroplex, she learned even more about tools and the business.

Todd visited Joshua to see a different store, but it had already sold. Instead, he found Star Pawn Joshua. With a team of ladies, Esther heads up a unique experience in the industry. Manager Mari Ramirez came from Woolard's Custom Jewelers when the owners retired. An excellent appraiser, Mari also enjoys making new jewelry for the store, including custom pieces. Tonya York excels in online sales, and Pam Hudson, along with the others, helps customers find what they want. If they don't have an item at Star Pawn, they do their best to locate it. Lucy, a beautiful fur baby, provides security.

Esther explained the way a pawn store works. While banks usually don't want to provide short-term, small loans, Star Pawn does exactly that. "For teachers, moms, anyone who

needs cash until payday, we can loan \$5-\$5,000, backed by collateral based on an item's value," she said. "We have a vault with safe-deposit boxes to keep items safe." Some people simply sell something they no longer want, while others come back on payday, make the payment and take their item home.

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But the store is also a great place to find bargains on anything from tools to home goods. "You can't beat the prices on our home decor," Mari offered. Although the inventory changes frequently, they have tools, houseware, decor and small appliances. Some of the jewelry they carry is new, some antique. Often the ladies purchase new clothes and sporting goods equipment. By purchasing truckloads of freight, they get amazing deals and pass savings to their customers.

Star Pawn Joshua has almost everything imaginable, including a mounted turkey, mounted blue marlin, an antique railroad light and a certified Civil War sword. All new guns in the store carry a lifetime warranty. Star Pawn also sells ammunition. Governed and licensed by five entities, they are bonded and insured. They refurbish many items before placing them on shelves and make sure everything they sell works correctly.

The store offers discounts to police and firefighters, and their credit card processor gives a portion to local schools. The ladies also donate to local organizations when possible. Star Pawn provides interest-free layaway. With Christmas decor and a variety of items, the team invites women in to stretch their holiday dollars. Esther said, "Keep an open mind until you visit." You might become a regular, too. **NOW**

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# 2020 Holiday Shopping Guide

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



Christopher C. Cooke Patricia L. Cooke

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

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## Zoomed In: Tyler Kennedy and Esme

By Lisa Bell

Almost married, Tyler Kennedy visits Old Town with his fiancée, Esme. "I grew up in Mansfield. She's from Idaho," he shared. "We met at college in Iowa." Preparing for their wedding in March 2021, Tyler gets to share Burleson with his future bride. While Texas differs from both her home state and college experience, Esme feels very much at home here and looks forward to seeing more of the community and learning about her future husband's home state.



*The Cooper family prepares for Christmas.*



Michael Ervin, general manager at Redline Athletics, shares about their new business in Crowley.



*The small trolley scores big with a group of homeschool students.*



*Lucinda Argujo and her grandson, Hayden, enjoy lunch on the green before playtime.*



The Colon family welcomes their third son with family photos.



Katlyn and Brooklyn enjoy a beautiful day at Mayor Vera Calvin Plaza.



Authors, Wanda Strange and Pat Haley, share the art of writing.



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CookingNOW

## In the Kitchen With ANGELINE BICKEL

— By Lisa Bell

With a mom who didn't cook very well, Angeline Bickel taught herself cooking skills. Although she started around age 7 she became serious at 15 or 16. "I like to cook down-home style," she said. "But my profession is a baker. It's my true passion." Angeline attends culinary school online, working toward a pastry degree.

Cooking with whole foods, Angeline loves using smoked paprika for added flavor. She enjoys creating new recipes or recreating meals from restaurants or cooking shows, but she seldom uses a recipe. Along with her husband and four children, she sits down for dinner most days, but Angeline likes cooking for friends, too. She said, "Food brings people together, because it's one thing we all have in common. We have to eat!" **NOW**

### Coq Au Vin With Mashed Potatoes (Chicken Stew)

Stew:

4 slices thick-cut bacon, diced  
8 bone-in, skin-on chicken thighs  
Salt, to taste  
Pepper, to taste  
4 carrots, peeled and cut into 1-inch pieces  
1 yellow onion, quartered and sliced  
3 cloves garlic, minced  
1 1/4 cups Pacific Foods Low Sodium

Chicken Broth (divided use)  
1/2 375-ml. bottle Angeline Brand Pinot Noir, or any dry red wine  
10 fresh thyme sprigs  
1 Tbsp. butter  
8 oz. baby bella mushrooms, sliced  
1 14.4-oz. pkg. frozen pearl onions

Mashed Potatoes:

5 lbs. russet potatoes, peeled and diced  
32 oz. Pacific Foods Low Sodium Chicken Broth  
Water, to cover  
4 oz. cream cheese

1 stick salted butter  
1/4 cup heavy cream  
Salt, to taste  
Pepper, to taste  
Garlic powder, to taste

**1. For stew:** Preheat the oven to 250 F. Heat a large Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Cook the bacon until crisp; remove from the pan with a slotted spoon.

**2.** While the bacon cooks, make sure the chicken is dry; sprinkle with salt and pepper. Once the bacon is done and removed from the pan, turn pan to high heat.

**3.** Brown the chicken in batches, skin side down first, and in a single layer for about 5 minutes, making sure to turn to brown evenly. Remove chicken to the plate with the bacon; continue to brown until all the chicken is done. Set aside.

**4.** Add carrots, onions, salt and pepper to the pan; cook over medium heat until the onions are slightly brown.

**5.** Add the garlic; cook 1 minute more. Add 1/4 cup chicken broth; return the bacon and chicken to the pot. Add the wine, remaining chicken broth and thyme.

**6.** Cover the pot; place in the oven for about 40 minutes, or until the chicken is cooked



a toothpick for doneness. *Note: Do not overbake. The key to delicious chocolate cake is a cake that is just done!*

**6.** Remove from the oven; let sit for about 15 minutes. Remove from the pan; let cool completely.

**7. For buttercream:** In a large mixer with the paddle attachment, beat vegetable shortening and butter until creamy.

**8.** Slowly add about half of the powdered sugar. Beat until mostly incorporated. Add vanilla extract.

**9.** Slowly add the remaining powdered sugar and heavy cream. Beat until smooth.

**10. To assemble cake:** Level one layer of cake; place on a cake plate. Top with buttercream and smooth.

**11.** Level second layer of cake; place upside down on top of the first layer. Top with buttercream and smooth over top and sides.

## Cabbage and Sausage

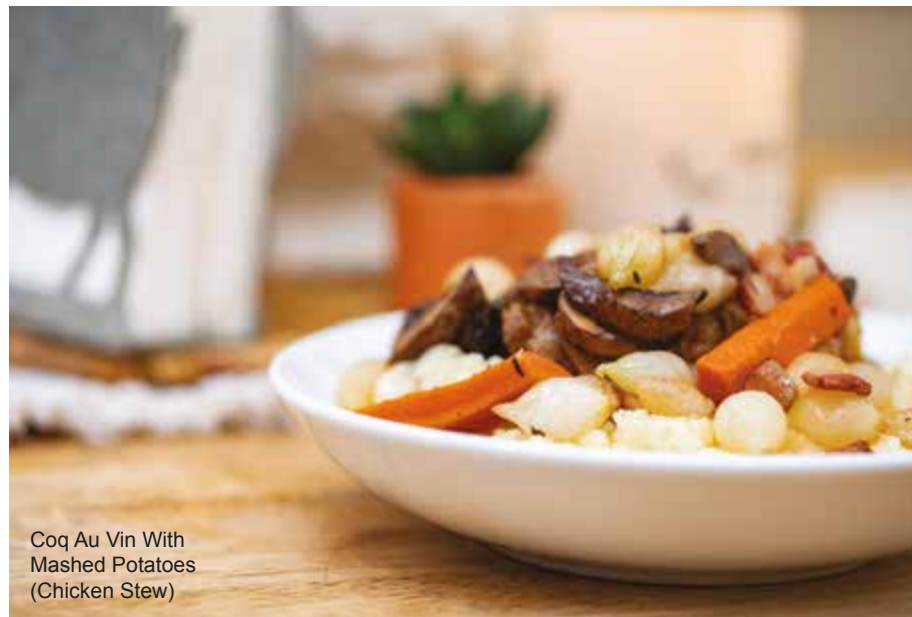
**1 Tbsp. ghee or butter**

**1 4-ct. pkg. Aidells Chicken and Apple Sausage, sliced**

**1 yellow onion, quartered and sliced**

**1 medium head green cabbage, quartered and sliced**

**1/4 cup Pacific Foods Low Sodium Chicken Broth**



Coq Au Vin With  
Mashed Potatoes  
(Chicken Stew)

**1 Tbsp. mustard**

**2 cloves garlic, minced**

**Salt, to taste**

**Pepper, to taste**

**1.** In a large skillet over medium-high heat, melt ghee or butter. Add sausage; cook until browned. Remove meat from skillet; reserve on a plate.

**2.** Add onions; cook until translucent, about 5 minutes. Add cabbage; cook until soft and shrunk in size.

**3.** In a small bowl, mix chicken broth, mustard and garlic. Pour into pan with cabbage; cook about 3 more minutes.

**4.** Add sausage back to the pan; salt and pepper to taste. Cook to reheat sausage, about 2 minutes. Enjoy!

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Corn cobs were found on pages 12, 20, 21, 30, 34

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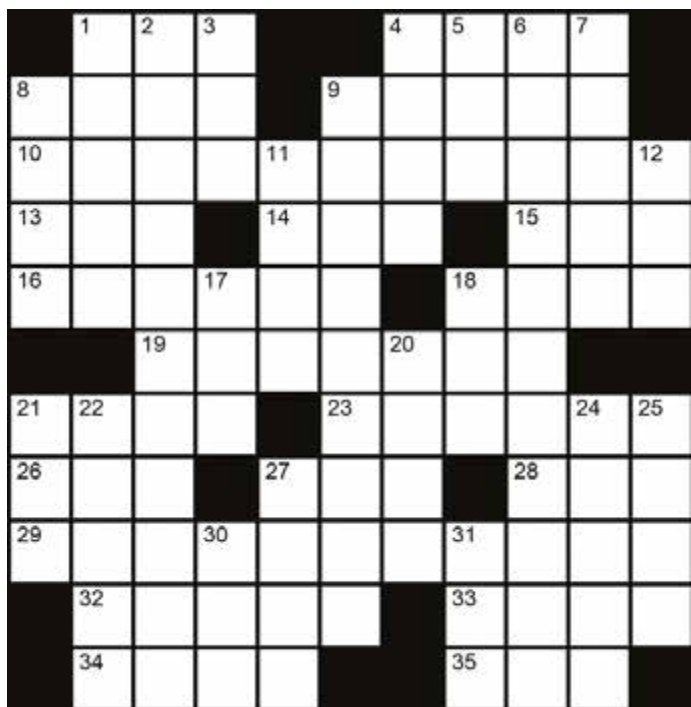
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## Across

- 1 National economic yardstick
- 4 Islamic sect
- 8 E.g. King Cole's fiddlers
- 9 Greet the judge
- 10 County whose most populous city is Yonkers
- 13 Nose bag grain
- 14 CD- ---
- 15 Mischievous person
- 16 Intoxicated state
- 18 Long hard walk
- 19 Palindromic competition vehicle
- 21 First Pauline and now Jeanne Phillips
- 23 Discharge
- 26 Fur scarf
- 27 Ill. neighbor
- 28 Go right, to a horse
- 29 Focus
- 32 Rifle accessory
- 33 Working tirelessly
- 34 Campsite accommodation
- 35 "— rather go naked than wear fur" (slogan)

## Down

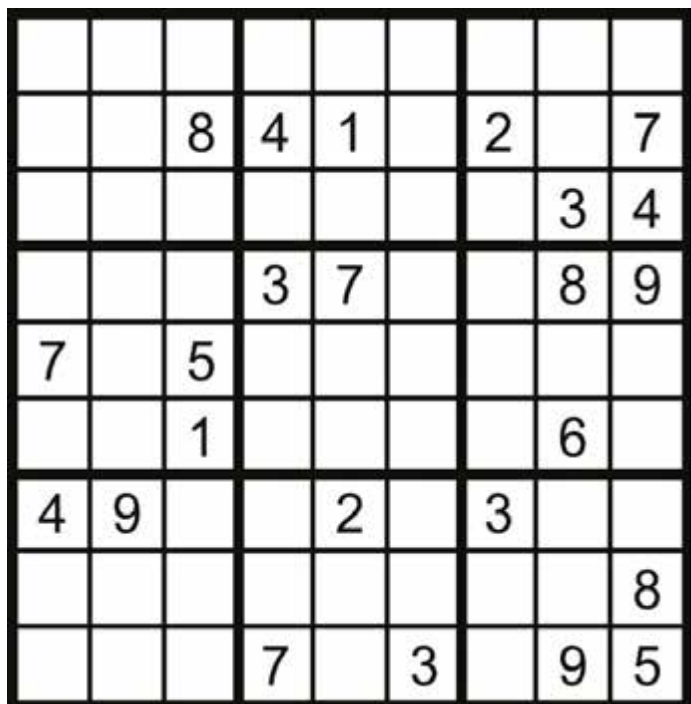
- 1 Dandy!
- 2 Hullabaloo
- 3 Poker chips
- 4 Part of a wineglass
- 5 Owns
- 6 Pump
- 7 "25" album singer
- 8 "Terrible" time for tots
- 9 Water's edge
- 11 Foam clog
- 12 Murder victim of 6/6/68
- 17 Fork over
- 18 "I Tawt I Taw a Puddy ---"
- 20 "— bon!"
- 21 "General Hospital" network
- 22 Encouragement
- 24 Stinking to high heaven
- 25 Stocking fillers?
- 27 Exuded
- 30 Swindle
- 31 Untrained

Solutions on page 36

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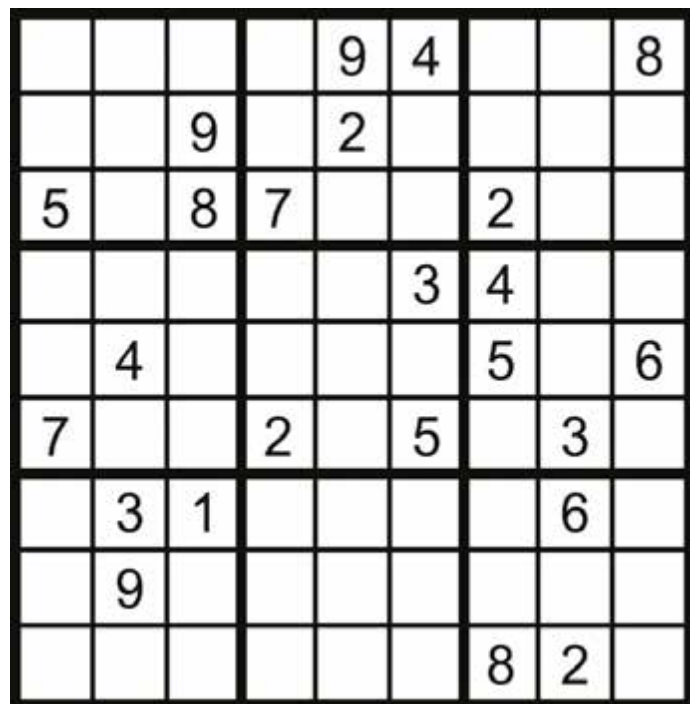
# Sudoku Puzzle

Easy



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Solutions on page 36

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## DECEMBER

Due to COVID-19, some events may have been cancelled or rescheduled while we were at press. Check with individual organizations or your city or Chamber websites to verify dates and times.

For information on the annual tree lighting, parade and fireworks, visit [www.burlesontx.com](http://www.burlesontx.com).

12/2

### Lessons Learned from A Christmas Carol:

Burleson Library hosts a special online event with Dustin Pari as he shares a motivational twist on a true classic. Free presentation through Zoom; registration required. 7:00-8:30 p.m., online. [www.burlesontx.com/72/Library](http://www.burlesontx.com/72/Library).

12/5

### Donuts With Santa:

Families can enjoy fun Christmas activities, snacks and an opportunity to take a photo with Santa. Registration for time slot required. \$4/person. 7:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Russell Farm, 405 W. CR 704.

12/5 and 12/19

### Carriage Rides in Old Town:

Catch a ride in a horse-drawn carriage. Official route is to be determined. 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Old Town area.

12/12

### Burleson Farmers Market:

Don't miss the final market of the season. Fresh, high-quality fruits, vegetables, meat, bread and crafts.

8:00 a.m.-noon,

The Mayor Vera Calvin Plaza, 141 W. Renfro St.

For more information, visit [www.burlesonfarmersmarket.com](http://www.burlesonfarmersmarket.com).

12/12 or 12/19

### Shop-n-Drop:

This is a free opportunity for parents to drop children off and go Christmas shopping. Register through the BRiCK. Various times available. Burleson Recreation Center, 550 NW Summercrest.

## Fridays in December

### Nights of Lights and Christmas on the Farm:

Families can enjoy park Christmas lights, hot beverages, music, Christmas craft activities and photos with Joey the Rein-Donkey. Event dates are 12/4, 12/11 and 12/18. 6:00-8:00 p.m., Russell Farm, FM 405 W. CR 704.

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to [lisa.bell@nowmagazines.com](mailto:lisa.bell@nowmagazines.com).



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	1	2	3			4	5	6	7								
	G	D	P			S	H	I	A								
8	T	R	I	O		9											
10	W	E	S	T		11	C	H	E	S	T	E	R	12			
13	O	A	T			14	R	O	M		15	E	L	F			
16	S	T	U	P	O	R		18	T	R	E	K					
						19	R	A	C	E	C	A	R				
21	A	B	B	Y		23	L	E	T	O	F	24		25			
26	B	O	A			27	W	I	S		28	G	E	E			
29	C	O	N	C	E	N	T	R	A	T	E						
						30	S	C	O	P	E		33	A	T	I	T
						34	T	E	N	T			35	W	E	D	

Easy

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

Medium

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



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