# WaxahachieNOW

DECEMBER 2020

# Christmas Traditions

At Home With Corey and Chris Bonnell

# God's House

A vision changed Dave Fortunato's life

In the Kitchen With Erin Lightsey

# 2020 Holiday Shopping Guide

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#### December 2020 | Volume 17, Issue 12



14 GOD'S HOUSE One local church was built to last many centuries.



22 BusinessNOW

- 32 CookingNOW
- 36 Around TownNOW

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8

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# ON THE COVER

The Bonnells go all out for Christmas in their historic home.

**Photo by** Kobbi R. Blair.

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When asked about opening an office in Waxahachie, Dr. Carlton said, "I grew up in Dallas. North Texas is my home and I feel privileged to raise my family here. I am proud to have an office in Waxahachie, and I love it's 'small town' feel. I am excited about connecting with the community and serving the great folks here and in Mansfield, Red Oak, Midlothian, Ennis, Corsicana, DeSoto, Duncanville, Cedar Hill and the surrounding areas".

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# EDITOR'S NOTE

#### A toast to new ways to celebrate!

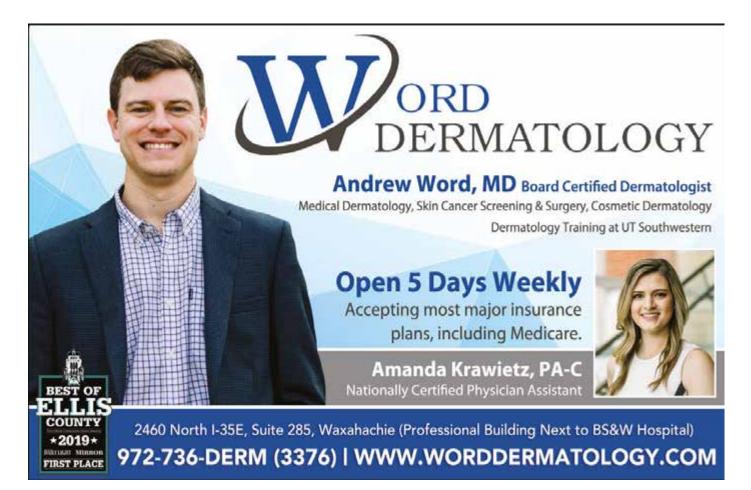
December is going to be a lot different this year, and I have been spending time thinking about how things are going to look. My husband and son have pre-existing conditions that make COVID-19 especially dangerous, so our family has to be particularly careful. We usually gather at my house each year on Christmas Eve for dinner and gifts, but, unfortunately, it won't be possible for us to gather indoors.

One bit of luck for us here in Texas, is that this is a La Niña year, and the National Weather Service is predicting a warmer winter than average. I'm praying that it won't be too drastically cold, and we can have a bonfire and Christmas dinner from the grill this year. Dessert can be s'mores or maybe a camping tradition — dump cake!

Honestly, I am really excited about it! I enjoy trying new things some years, and this will be a first for a bonfire. Luckily, we live on acreage, so we have a place for that, but for those who live in town, the campsites at Lake Bardwell would be a great place to have a campfire. When my kids were growing up, bonfires were one of our favorite go-to activities. By the time my son was 10 years old, he knew precisely how to make the perfect bonfire. I am looking forward to watching him do it again at Christmas 2020!

Enjoy your moments, my fellow Waxahachians!

*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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Corey and Chris Bonnell began their move to Waxahachie from Florida in 2016. Corey had spent 25 years in active duty with the United States Marine Corps, so the family had always moved around. When he retired, the family made the decision to retire in Texas. Due to a job move, Corey went to Texas first and stayed with friends to figure out where they wanted to live. When Chris joined him, they lived in a rental in Midlothian. "Every time we came to Waxahachie, we didn't want to leave, so we knew we would eventually buy our home here," Chris explained.

"We truly stumbled upon the perfect house," Chris said. "We had a habit of driving through the neighborhoods we favored, every time we came into town. One Friday, we came into town to check out the Sisters on the Fly camping setup in Getzendaner Park, and drove by our future house to see a *For Sale by Owner* sign out front. We circled the block and called to make an appointment for the next morning. When we walked in, we just knew this was our house."





# At Home With Corey and Chris Bonnell

# Traditions

The Bonnells had always dreamed of living in a historic house. "We absolutely love historic houses. Fortunately, Corey is extremely handy, and we work well together on projects," Chris said. "He has even built his own airplane! We were considering another house in town that was significantly more work, but we were quite happy to find a house that had the kitchen and downstairs bathroom remodeled in such a tasteful way. We hope to replicate the style used in the downstairs bath when we get around to renovating the master bath upstairs."

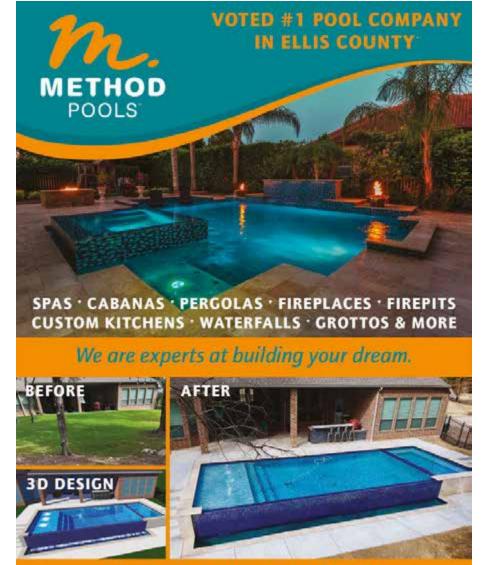
The Bonnells enjoy adorning their home with mementoes from their lives. "The sword above the mantel is Corey's ceremonial sword from the Marine Corps," Chris said. "When he retired, his Marines created a shadow box display. The folded flag is the one that draped across his uncle, Thomas Tabor, who was injured in World War II and spent the rest of his life in a veteran's home. The gorgeous blue kimono hanging in the front bedroom is a traditional wedding kimono we got while he was serving in Okinawa, Japan."

Christmas is a wonderful time to bring out precious family treasures. Chris has two nativity scenes that she displays every year. "Nativities are special to us because we are a Christian family, and that's the whole point of celebrating Christmas. We bought ourselves a rustic one when we were newlyweds, and we have a fancy, Lenox china set that was gifted to us a piece at a time from multiple family members over the years. Our son-in-law recently fashioned us the manger for that set out of reclaimed barn wood," Chris shared.

Christmas traditions often look a bit different for military families. "We love to do the same things for Christmas each year, although living as a nomadic military family, that wasn't







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always possible. We spent many years driving between family members in New Jersey and Rhode Island on Christmas morning, so we could see both sides of the family. Spending time together with family has always meant more to us than any *gifts,*" Corey offered.

Chris added, "Besides traveling to see our family, our Christmas traditions include worship, enjoying my mom's Swedish Christmas cookies, making a homemade gingerbread house, making Corey's mom's famous date nut bread and skiing with family in New Hampshire between Christmas and New Year's Day. And we love watching Christmas movies of all kinds. Christmas means hope and reconciliation to us. It is all about John 3:16-17. 'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.""

Corey and Chris Bonnell definitely made the right decision buying their historic house in Waxahachie, and they quickly became the kind of citizens who give back to their community. "We were on the Christmas Home Tour in 2019. It was a wonderful experience. even though it was kind of a crazy time," Chris laughed. "Why did we say, Yes,' when our fall plans included a combination 21 st birthday/bachelorette Roaring 20s-themed party in Tampa in September; our daughter's destination wedding, which was a weeklong trip for us in late October; traveling to Rhode Island for Thanksgiving, where I had





planned and pulled off a surprise 50th birthday *Little House on the Prairie*themed party; and porch repairs at our house?" she asked. "Well, because we absolutely love Waxahachie. We love the friendliness of the people. This is our forever home, which means a lot to a military family.

"Having the historic areas means so much to us." Chris continued. "We love having the historic downtown within walking distance of our home, with all the boutiques, restaurants, antiques shops and my two favorites: Waxahachie Architectural Salvage & Showroom and YaYa Foot Spa. We love the trails between Getzendaner and Lions parks. We use them regularly and appreciate how well they are maintained. We wanted to do something for our wonderful town. Thankfully, the gals at Waxahachie Architectural Salvage staged my entire backyard for me, so I only concentrated on the inside and the front porch. If someone says they are too busy to be on the tour, send them my way!" NOW





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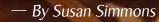
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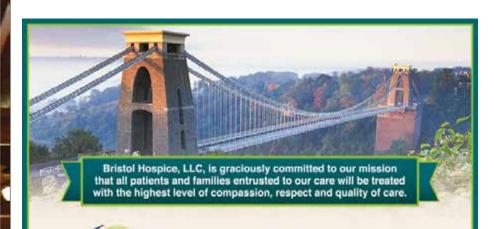
# SE

"Live large, pray big, love God and each other and show it," Pastor Dave Fortunato proclaimed enthusiastically. Dave's job as an engineer and program manager for the Superconducting Super Collider brought him and his wife, Annie Fortunato. to Waxahachie in the fall of 1989. After the SSC was canceled, the couple turned a part-time woodworking operation into a full-time building firm that specialized in high-craft houses.

"The woodworking passion had always been a part of my life. I started early working on wooden boats and learned the value and skills of highquality hand craftsmanship. My passion was held in abeyance when life's demands just would not allow time. An extended tour in the United States Marine Corps left little time for outside endeavors, and after discharge, I returned to the university.

"My wife and I had a great opportunity for a side job during these years, as we lived on and managed a large tree farm. It was a beautiful experience living in a forest and seeing woodcraft from the potential point of view," Dave explained. "Our business served both commercial and residential customers and created high-end custom furniture and cabinetry. We were living a busy, but enjoyable life. We

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were members of the Gryphon Motor Cycle Club for 17 years and had the opportunity to ride the four corners. This is a trip from Waxahachie to San Diego, California, to Vancouver, Canada, to Portland, Main, to Key West, Florida, and back to Waxahachie in 34 glorious days. Life was good."

In 2011, Dave and Annie's lives changed forever. "I had a vision from God that changed my life," Dave shared. "Prior to that, I was not a believer, nor was I an atheist. I was just ambivalent to the entire concept. The vision changed my world, and I have never looked back. In the vision, I was instructed to build God's House and was shown the building."

The next day, Dave began the design process. "I designed the timber frame construction, location and orientation of the structure. The building was to be made by the hands of men, and the frame was made in the time-honored tradition of mortise and tenon joinery made by hammer and chisel. It took three years from the drawing of the plans to raising the frame. The process included felling the trees and making each piece. The finish out took another year," Dave explained. "It was a work of love and the most rewarding experience of my life."

Timber frame building is one of the oldest forms of wood construction and is extremely durable. It was the method of building most often used in medieval Europe, and many of these buildings are still used today. "May God's House still be serving His people in 700 years," Dave said with an eager smile.

"In the vision, I was told that this is God's House and shall be open to all of mankind seeking Him. It is to be available 24-7. It is my ministry to



ensure that the vision is carried out," Dave explained. "This place is God's House and not just a *church*. Several church bodies meet and conduct services here. I am the pastor of the primary church body that meets here, and we are a nondenominational, community-based ministry. It is this body

that has the additional responsibilities of maintaining the facility and servicing the needs of the entire community."



A motorcycle ministry, BONE, and a prison ministry, Open Door Ministry, also meet at God's House. In service to the community, there have been many weddings, family reunions and funerals held there. God's House hosts two community picnics each year, one in May and one in October, aimed at fostering a sense of community and an opportunity to meet and visit with neighbors. The picnics offer free food, good music and activities for the children, all to foster a better fellowship and community spirit. "This too was part of the vision of God's House," Dave explained. "We teach the Word of God. love for each other and an obligation to be a disciple who seeks the fallen and lost. We believe a congregation with a mix of saints and sinners provides the best way to serve God. We believe in strong fellowship and active participation in all our ministries. All are welcome and urged to share in all that God's House has to offer." NOW





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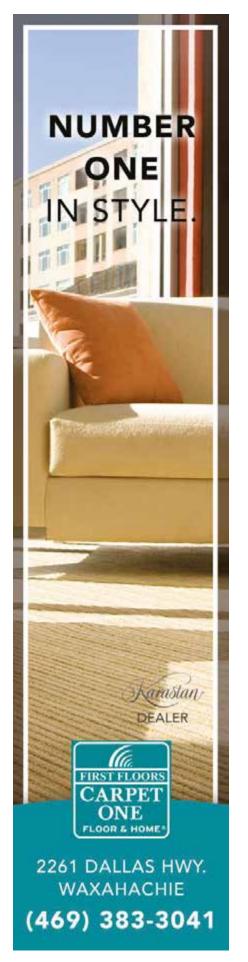
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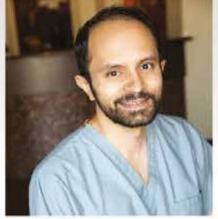
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Five years ago, when Lee Straley-Miller's mother was diagnosed with cancer, Lee wanted to have flexibility to spend time taking care of her mother, so she left her job of 27 years with Guaranty/BBVA Compass Bank in Waxahachie and opened an LPL Financial office. "When I moved away from the bank investment channels, I spent many hours researching brokerage companies to find the one that was the best fit for my clients," she said. "I chose LPL based on the variety of investment products and services they offer.

"I am the only LPL representative in Waxahachie and feel blessed to have been nominated Best of the Best in the Investment Firm and Financial Consultant categories for the past two years by the *Waxahachie Daily Light*," Lee said.



"When I left the bank, my assistant, Robyn Jones, transitioned with me and helped me set up the office. We have been in business for five years now, and we are growing. Originally, it was just the two of us, but we have now added a part-time assistant, Winie McPherson, to our group."

The financial investment business is a tough world and mostly a man's world. "I don't know of any other female advisors in Waxahachie. There may be one, but I don't know her," Lee said. "Many women need financial advice, and, sometimes, they are overlooked in the financial world. Women now have 40I (k)s and pension plans, and my goal is to give them a sense of empowerment to make decisions about their financial futures. When clients retire or change jobs, they often don't know the process for their 40I (k) or the opportunities that exist for them in the financial arena. It is so important to trust the person who is giving you the information."

Lee explained that often women who have never worked

outside their home also face major financial decisions. "These women need to feel confident that they are working with a person who listens and understands their situations. I believe that it is what makes me different from other financial consultants and why I get so many referrals. My clients know that I truly have their best interests at heart, and that I genuinely care about them and their families."

"Many women need financial advice. My goal is to give them a sense of empowerment to make decisions about their financial futures."

Lee focuses on developing relationships with her clients and their families based on years of service. "Often I have been there through the years for the family and have cultivated a strong bond with them." Lee explained. "For example, I have a client right now who is 87.1 began working with her 25 years ago when her husband unexpectedly passed away, and her world was changing so drastically. She had no time to adjust. Through our time, I have met and gotten to know her children and grandchildren. A couple of years ago, she moved into assisted living. It was a very difficult transition that has been very successful. Working with her and her family, we consolidated her assets to generate the income stream required to secure her future needs. What I truly treasure most are the invitations I receive to celebrate client's birthdays and anniversaries. Recently, I attended two 90th birthday celebrations. I am not just someone who manages their money, I make it on the friends and family list!" Lee said with a happy smile. NOW

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#### Christmas Jour of Lights

DECEMBER 4 - 19

Hosted by Historic Waxahachie, Inc. An exciting holiday lighting contest featuring area historic-style homes this year in place of the annual home tour. The voting period for the contest will run December 4-19, 2020. Historic Waxahachie, Inc. invites residents to participate in a holiday lighting contest and driving tour of Waxahachie's historic style homes by decorating their homes with festive décor and of course, lights! The contest is open to all residents whose homes are 50 years or older. Any homeowner who is interested in participating should make sure their address is visible. Onlookers will be the judges as they have the opportunity to vote. A special collector's program book and ballot boxes will be located in participating Waxahachie shops and restaurants. A list of these locations will be posted as opening weekend draws closer. You will also be able to vote through the website at historicwaxahachie.com.

#### Mistletoe & Holly Christmas Market

DECEMBER 5 | 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Sponsored by the Waxahachie Junior Service League Waxahachie Civic Center – 2000 Civic Center Lane For tickets and Information: www.waxahachiejsl.org

#### Love Lock Tence Celebration

#### DECEMBER 5

Downtown Waxahachie has been a place in the heart for families and couples to embrace the Christmas season. You can lock your love as a symbol to be seen throughout the year on the Love Lock Fence. Love locks can be purchased at the Ellis County Museum or the Velvet Angel for only \$10. OR, you can bring our own lock as a token of love. The Love Lock Fence will be illuminated for the Christmas season for added holiday enjoyment. Other light displays include the Ellis County Courthouse lawn, the Waxahachie Downtown Merchant Windows, AND a historic home driving light tour hosted by Historic Waxahachie, Inc. Ladies Day & Night Out Jingle & Mingle DECEMBER 10 | 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM Participating downtown merchants association

#### Holiday Pet Photos

DECEMBER 11 Downtown Waxahachie

#### Not a Creature was Stirring — Presented by Waxahachie Community Theatre

DECEMBER 11 - 12 December 11-12 University Church For tickets: www.waxahachiecommunitytheater.com

#### The Nutcracker Jea

DECEMBER 12 Danceworks For more information: danceworks@gmail.com

#### 12 Beers of Christmas Craft Beer Stroll

DECEMBER 12 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM Participating downtown merchants presented by Railport Brewery & WDMA | Ticket available at www.downtownwaxahachie.com

#### Community Christmas Caroling

DECEMBER 17 | 7:00 PM Railyard Park

#### Late Night Shopping Downtown

DECEMBER 17 Participating downtown merchants will stay open until 10pm. Sips, snacks, sales and Santa strolling around downtown.

#### Family Day Downtown

DECEMBER 18 Find Santa strolling for 3 hours with his grab bag.

#### Pajama Story Time

DECEMBER 18 2:00 PM Railyard Park

#### Poinsettia Stroll

#### DECEMBER 19 | 12:00 - 5:00 PM

Once shoppers visit ALL participating downtown stores, they will receive a FREE poinsettia (while supplies last).



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# HealthNOW Foot and Ankle Injuries in the Workplace

When we talk about injuries that can occur in the workplace, we're usually talking about a broad range of concerns. Some of these problems are acute, meaning they are unexpected and happen suddenly. This involves trauma typically caused by an accident, such as having something fall on your foot, or tripping and hurting your foot or ankle.

Other workplace injuries reflect chronic conditions, which means they typically develop over a period of time and may progress, or may wax and wane in their symptoms. Chronic foot and ankle problems are especially common among people whose jobs involve standing or walking for long periods of time. This puts a lot of weight on your feet, which can be stressful on your bones and soft tissues, such as your tendons. Some of the most common injuries include plantar fasciitis, stress fractures and PTTD (Posterior Tibial Tendon Dysfunction).

Plantar fasciitis is the most common cause of heel pain in adults. It is an inflammation of the long band of tissue — called the plantar fascia — that runs along the bottom of the foot from the heel to the toes. The inflammation typically arises from putting repetitive or excessive stress on the foot.

Stress fractures are also common in workers who spend a good amount of time on their feet, particularly if they're not used to it. A stress fracture is a hairline break in the bone often caused by overuse or by trying to do too much too soon and can eventually lead to a complete break.

Prolonged standing or walking in the workplace can also overstress the foot's posterior tibial tendon, and that can exacerbate a condition called posterior tibial tendon dysfunction. One of the roles of this tendon, which runs down the inner side of the foot and ankle, is to support the arch. PTTD causes changes to the tendon, thus impairing its ability to support the arch. As a result, the foot flattens. PTTD is often called "adult-acquired flatfoot" because it's the most common type of flatfoot developed during adulthood.

You may be wondering if there is anything you can do to help prevent getting foot injuries in the workplace. Yes, there is! There are three keys to keep in mind when choosing shoes. Your shoes must be stiff-soled shoes with high-quality inserts or custom orthotics. Next, your shoes should have slip-resistant soles to safeguard against skidding and falling. Finally, avoid open-type shoes. Sandals expose your feet and put them at greater risk of injury if something falls on your foot.

Christopher Schmitt, DPM

Associate of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons Southern Star Foot & Ankle



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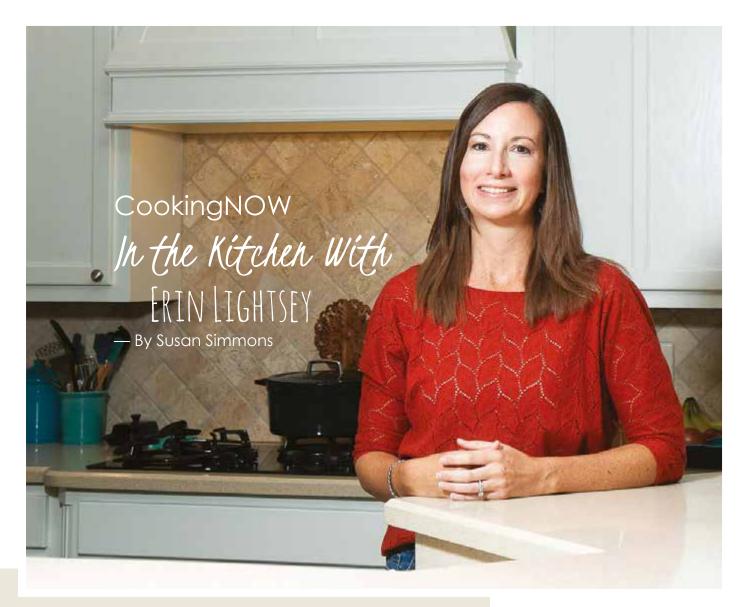
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Erin Lightsey's 4-year-old son, Colin, is her favorite partner in the kitchen. "The bigger the mess, the bigger the fun, right?" Erin said with a grin. "When he is involved in the creation of our meals, I find that he becomes more open to trying new flavors. He is becoming a pro at twirling his spaghetti. There is no spaghetti cutting in this house!"

Erin's strong Italian heritage plays a big part in her cooking. "I like to make lasagna, the ultimate Italian comfort food, for Christmas like my family did," Erin explained. Everyone loves Erin's authentic Italian lasagna. And it can be made ahead of time, so she can enjoy Christmas day with her family, instead of being cooped up in the kitchen!

#### Shrimp Cocktail

Shrimp:
Ice
6 cups water, plus extra for covering the ice
2 lemons (divided use)
2 Tbsp. salt
2 Tbsp. sugar

1/2 small onion, peeled and halved1 Tbsp. small bunch parsley (divided use)2 lbs. raw shrimp, peeled and deveined

Cocktail Sauce: 1/2 cup chili sauce 1/2 cup ketchup 1 tsp. lemon zest 2 Tbsp. fresh lemon juice

# I Tbsp. horseradish, or more to tasteI tsp. Worcestershire sauce2 dashes hot sauce1/4 tsp. celery salt

 For shrimp: Fill a large bowl halfway with ice. Add water to cover, set aside. Cut 1 lemon into wedges; set aside.
 In a large pot, combine the 6 cups of water, salt, sugar, onion and 5 sprigs of parsley. Halve and add the juice of the remaining lemon to the pot. Bring to a boil. Turn off the heat; add the shrimp to the pot.
 Let sit until the shrimp are pink and cooked through, about 3 minutes. Remove the shrimp from the pot with a slotted spoon. Place the shrimp into the ice bowl immediately to stop the cooking.

**4.** For cocktail sauce: Mix all ingredients in a small bowl until combined. Add more horseradish, if desired.

**5.** Serve the shrimp with the reserved lemon wedges and cocktail sauce.

## Lasagna

I pkg. dry lasagna noodles

- l egg, beaten
- 1 15-oz. container ricotta cheese
- 3/4 cup cream-style cottage cheese, drained
- 1/4 cup, plus some extra Parmesan cheese, grated
- 1 tsp. dried parsley

I tsp. dried basil

Salt, to taste

Freshly ground pepper, to taste Spaghetti Sauce Recipe 1 1/2 cups mozzarella cheese, shredded

3 hardboiled eggs, sliced

I. Preheat oven to 375 F.

**2.** Cook the lasagna noodles according to the package instructions in salted water. Drain the noodles; rinse with cold water. Drain again; set aside.

**3.** In a bowl, combine the egg, ricotta cheese, cottage cheese, Parmesan cheese, parsley, basil, salt and pepper.

4. Spread about 1/2 cup of the spaghetti sauce over the bottom of a 2-quart rectangular baking dish. Layer the cooked lasagna noodles lengthwise in the dish. Spread with a portion of the cheese filling.
5. Add a portion of the sliced eggs. Top the eggs with spaghetti sauce and mozzarella. Repeat layers, alternating the lasagna's direction until the dish is full. Top with spaghetti sauce and sprinkles of Parmesan cheese.

**6.** Bake in the oven for 30-35 minutes, or until the sauce starts to bubble. Let stand for 10 minutes before serving.

## Spaghetti Sauce

I Tbsp. olive oil
I medium yellow onion, diced
I medium green bell pepper, diced
Salt, to taste
Freshly ground pepper, to taste
2 cloves garlic
1/2 lb. ground beef
1/2 lb. spicy Italian sausage
1/4 cup dry red wine, such as Cabernet
2-3 14.5-oz. cans tomato sauce
I 14.5-oz. can diced tomatoes
2 Tbsp. Italian seasoning
I bay leaf

 In a large, heavy-bottomed pot, heat olive oil on medium-high. Add onions and peppers; sauté for about 3 minutes, stirring occasionally. Season with salt and pepper.
 Add garlic; cook for about 1 minute, watching to make sure it does not burn.

## **REMODELING, RENOVATIONS & ADDITIONS**



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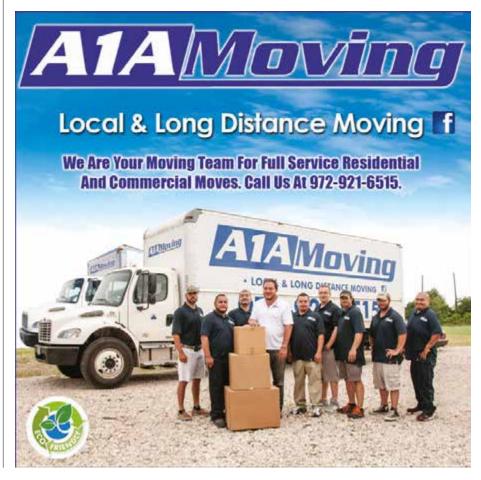


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Paul Penfold, owner





3. Add ground beef and Italian sausage, stirring to brown. Season with salt and pepper; drain off any excess grease.
4. Add red wine, scraping any bits from the basis.

bottom of the pan.
5. Stir in 2 cans tomato sauce, diced tomatoes, Italian seasoning, bay leaf and salt and pepper. Add more tomato sauce, if needed, to reach desired thickness.
6. Reduce heat; simmer, all day if possible, stirring occasionally. Remove bay leaf

before serving.

#### Warm Figs With Goat Cheese

#### 24 small fresh black figs, halved lengthwise 3/4 cup crumbled goat cheese 1 1/2 Tbsp. balsamic vinegar

**I.** Preheat the oven to 350 F.

**2.** Arrange the figs on a baking sheet, cut side up. Fill each fig with goat cheese; lightly brush the figs with balsamic vinegar. Bake for 8 minutes.

3. Transfer the figs to a platter; serve immediately.

#### Spiked Eggnog

6 eggs, separated 1/2 lb. powdered sugar, or less to taste 1/2 pt. peach brandy 1/4 pt. light rum 1 1/2 pts. milk 1/2 pt. heavy cream

**I.** Blend the yokes with powdered sugar to desired sweetness.

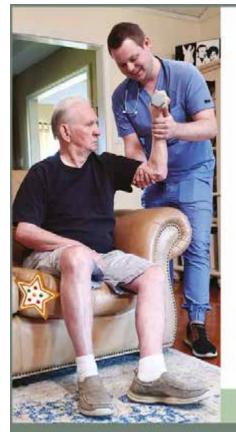
**2.** Slowly stir in the peach brandy, light rum, milk and heavy cream; chill.

- 3. Beat the egg whites until stiff.
- 4. Fold in the egg whites just before serving,

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#### Zoomed In: By Susan Simmons Craig and Debbie Smith

Craig and Debbie Smith have an extraordinarily stunning Christmas light display at their home on the corner of Cynisca and Ross streets. "It is a copy of the San Antonio River Walk," Debbie explained. The couple stays very busy with Dr. Smith's dental office, but decided to make time for something special for our city this year. "It has been over 10 years since we have had this display put up. This year, with so many things being canceled for Christmas, we felt it was the perfect year to resume our tradition," Debbie said. "It is a safe, magical experience for everyone to come and enjoy!"



Robert, Roman and Jennifer Rodriguez hold a fundraiser for Robert Rodriguez Jr., a science teacher at WHS who was in a motorcycle accident. #helprobertfight



Rose Landry and Jeff Malone enjoy taking their dog, Rexy, out for a stroll.

### Around Town



Dental assistant Megan Mizell enjoys a day at work doing a job she loves.



Alex and Amy Lane enjoy strolling on beautiful Saturday afternoons with their son, Silas.



Marc and Abel Trevino are ready for business at One Night Taco Stand!

# NOW



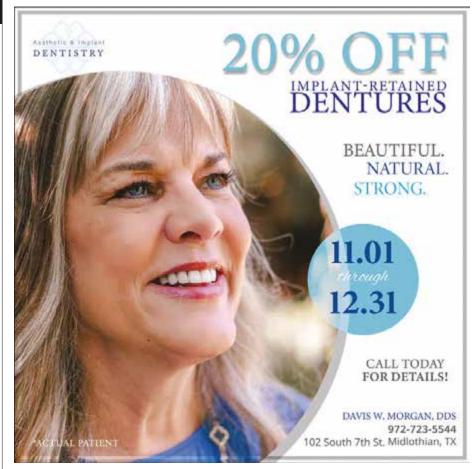
Ann Fortunato and Jay Thomas participate in the fall community celebration at God's House!

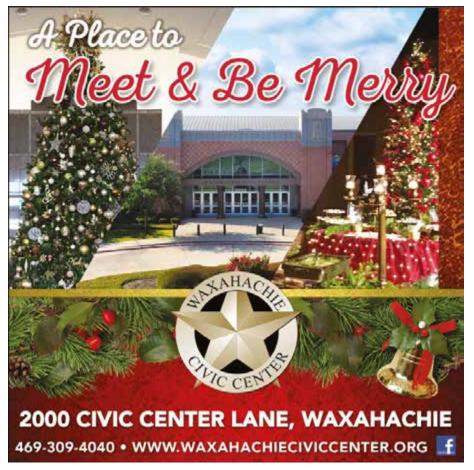


Leslie Mendez spends a day at the park with precious baby Noah.



Marc Coudriet and his wife are staying in Waxahachie's newest RV park while the finishing touches are being put on their new house.





# DON'T FORGET





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Generations of families treasure their Texas State Railroad travel traditions and can continue to build memories during this brand-new decade. Highlighting the classic service and scenic beauty of the Piney Woods excursion experience aboard the Official Railroad of Texas, seasonal special event trains round-out the calendar with opportunities for all ages and interests. Texas State Railroad rolls down the track, from Palestine to Rusk, Texas, generally departing the Palestine depot at 11:00 a.m. While Christmas might be a favorite holiday on the train, any time of the year leaves families and friends with unforgettable experiences.

Springtime is a sensational season at Texas State Railroad. Railroad passengers get a front-row seat to this springtime show from vantage points along these historic rails when the luminous white and pink dogwood blooms light up the East Texas forest. Passengers can savor the flavors of East Texas with a scrumptious three-course meal and enjoy prime views. The Easter Bunny Express offers departures to visit with the big bunny and hunt for Easter eggs. The educational Maydelle Turntable Runs offer a fun glimpse of historic railroad equipment in April and May.

The Celebration of Steam takes off at the Palestine depot. Vintage "iron horses" are on display to the public at the Palestine depot over Memorial Day Weekend. Take advantage of this rare opportunity to see notable steam and diesel engines, showcased for photo opportunities.

From June through August, let Saturday yardwork and laundry wait. Add adventure to your afternoon with a "family-affordable" train adventure.

Farther down the tracks, the train continues to combine great tastes with great trains during Pints in the Pines, Wines in the Pines and something every dad will adore, a Father's Day train ride. As the year end approaches, Texas State Railroad will again offer enchanting holiday-themed trains, such as the Pumpkin Patch and Polar Express®.

Texas State Railroad's classic train is the stuff memories are made of. The train's most historic style of seating is the open-air car with fresh breezes and historic wooden slat benches. For those seeking table service and more decadent



accommodations, the Railroad offers several options to make the adventure extra special. The private charter caboose seats up to eight, with rich, crushed-velvet seating and a private valet. Presidential #1511 features comfortable living-room style seats, intimate table service, large picture windows and access to a private outdoor-viewing platform. The artdeco inspired Presidential #42 features comfortable couches or two-top tables and chairs, intimate table service and large picture windows. The exclusive glass-top Sky-High Dome car seats up to 66 people and features soft leather seats with convenient tables and an unobstructed birds-eye view that rail fans treasure. Family-friendly First Class features comfortable upholstered benches with tabletops for four.

Become immersed in the romance of train travel, linking two charming towns, Palestine and Rusk, which both have history worth exploring while you're there. Texas State Railroad is a destination hotspot that will traverse you along the historic iron rails of Texas, surrounded by beautiful pine and mixed oak forests. No wonder it's called the Official State Railroad of Texas. Its horsepower won't give you saddle sores.

By Teresa Propeck, VP Passenger Services. Photo Credit: Aaron McCreight and Becky Whisenant.

Editor's Note: For more information, visit www.texasstaterailroad.net.

The rur quoise Armanilis Merry Christmas!

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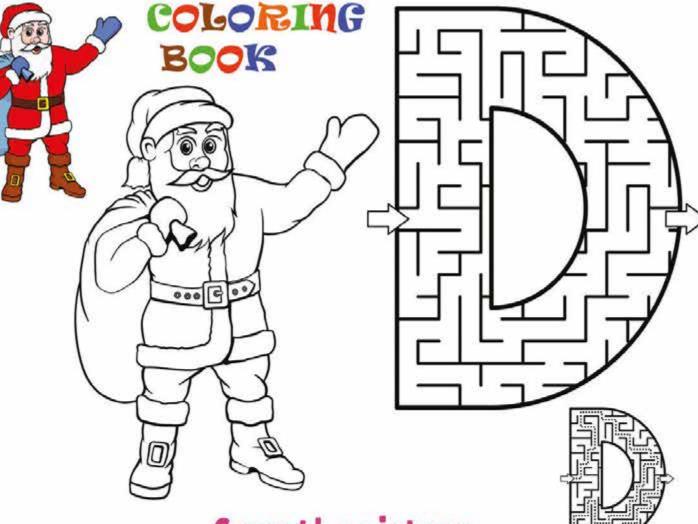
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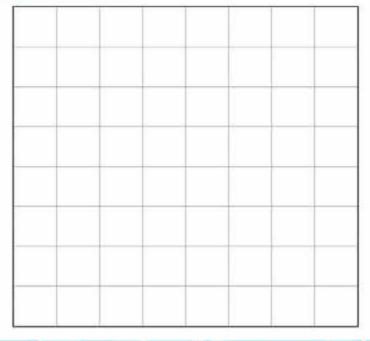
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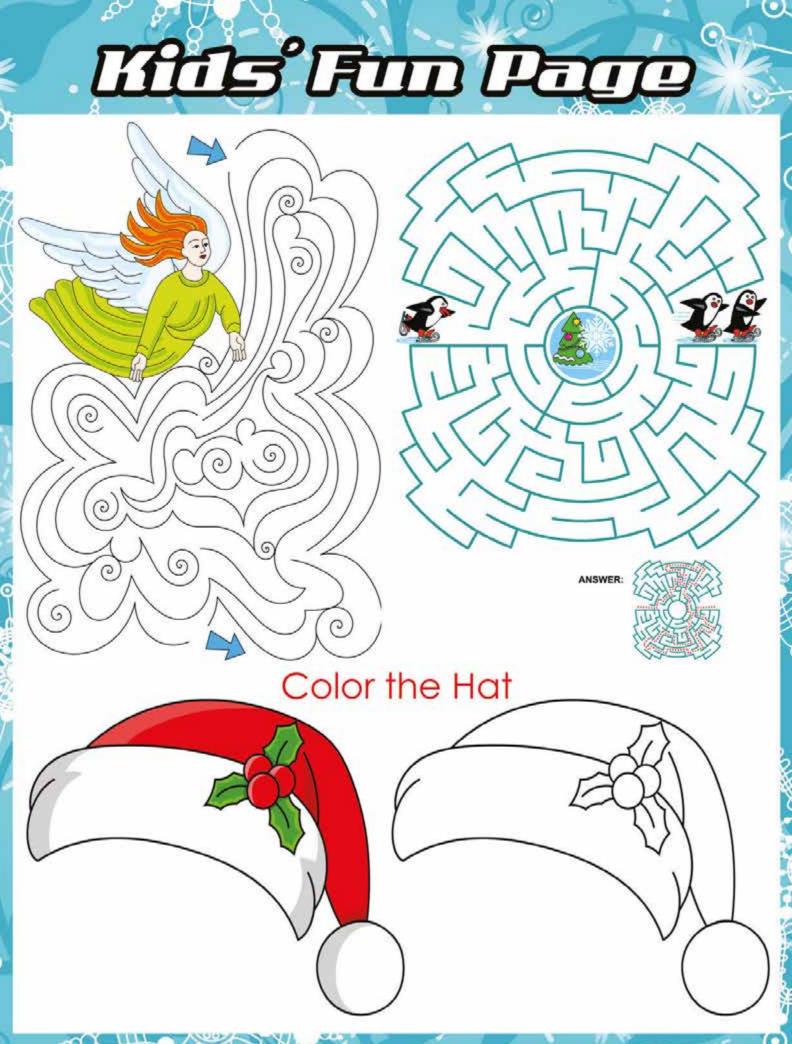


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## **Crossword Puzzle**

	1	2	3			4	5	6	7	
8		$\mathbf{t}$	$\vdash$		9		$\vdash$			
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	32	-	+	+			33			+
	34	+	+	+			35	-	+	

Crosswordsite.com Ltd

Solutions on page 52

#### 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
- to Furscan
- 27 III. 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 Dandyl
- 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

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## Sudoku Puzzle

Easy									Ν	Mediu	m							
														9	4			8
		8	4	1		2		7				9		2				
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			3	7			8	9							3	4		
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4	9			2		3					3	1					6	
								8			9							
			7		3		9	5								8	2	

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Solutions on page 52

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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.

# DECEMBER

ristmas

#### 12/4-12/5

Waxahachie Junior Service League Christmas Market: Friday: 6:00-10:00 p.m.; Saturday: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., 2000 Civic Center. For more information, call (469) 309-4045.

#### 12/6-12/7

Red Maple Riders: A cycling group with road or gravel option routes. 9:00 a.m., 213 Pecan Tree. For more information, call (651) 890-9092.

#### 12/11-12/13 Not a Creature Was Stirring

... Not Even a Moose! Presented by Waxahachie Community Theater. Tickets: \$10 each for ages 5-plus. Friday and Saturday: 7:30 p.m.; Sunday: 2:30 p.m., University Church, 221 Solon Rd. Purchase tickets online at www.waxahachiecommunitytheatre.com or at the door one hour before each performance. (972) 646-1050.

#### 12/12

Christmas Craft Beer Crawl: 2:00-6:00 p.m., Downtown Waxahachie.

> 12/19 Poinsettia Stroll:

Noon-5:00 p.m., Downtown Waxahachie.

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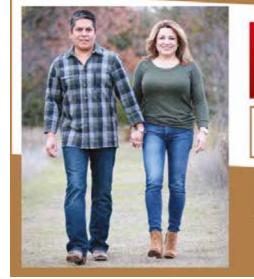
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Antonio Martinez, winner of the \$50 Cash Prize from NOW Magazines, said, "The first thing I do is look at the scavenger hunt!"



Magda and Brianna Davis, winners of the 2nd \$50 Cash Prize from NOW Magazines, said, "We both played, so we're going to share the winnings! Thank you!"





Crossword -Sudoku Solutions

	G	D	<sup>3</sup> P			*s	5H	6	A	
۴T	R	-T	0		°S	т	A	N	D	
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13	A	Т		<sup>14</sup> R	0	М		<sup>15</sup> E	L	F
10 S	т	U	<sup>17</sup> P	0	R		<sup>10</sup> T	R	E	к
		19 R	A	С	E	20 C	A	R		
21 A	<sup>22</sup> B	в	Y		23 L	E	т	0	<sup>24</sup> F	25 F
B	0	A		27 W	1	S	-	G	Е	E
29 C	0	N	<sup>30</sup> C	Е	N	Т	<sup>31</sup> R	A	Т	E
	SS S	С	0	Ρ	E		33 A	T	1	Т
	<sup>34</sup> T	E	N	Т			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
		1						
4	9	6	8	2	5	3	7	1
		3						
8	1	2	7	4	3	6	9	5

#### Medium

1	2	3	6	9	4		5	
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
				7				



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