

# MidlothianNOW

M A G A Z I N E

December 2021

## The Christmas Experience

At Home With Aaron and Kimberly Gabrysch

## Working Smarter

Talon Berg encourages everyday fitness

In the Kitchen With Kristen McClure

2021 Holiday Shopping Guide

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt

Crossword/Sudoku

Featured Business:  
Envy Aesthetics

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## ON THE COVER

*Holiday decor is second to travel and culture in the Gabrysch home.*

**Photo by**  
Kobbi R. Blair.

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*Angel*

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

*Open your eyes ...*

I was going to ask you to close your eyes and picture something with me, but then I realized if your eyes are shut, you won't be able to read what it is I want you to envision. So, here's what I'm asking you to consider: What is your first memory of money? Now that you understand the assignment, close your eyes and reflect. Go ahead, I'll wait ...

What did you see in your mind's eye? Was it collecting change from beneath your pillow the morning after losing a tooth? Accepting an allowance for household chores? Maybe it was getting paid for babysitting or collecting a paycheck from your first-ever "real" job. I've heard it said that your initial money experiences set the tone of your financial habits for life. Which leads me to sharing my first monetary memory: Pennies in a plastic toilet.

That's right. The first piggy bank I recall owning was a miniature toilet, where my pennies collected in the bowl. One night, a young house guest helped himself to the cash, and I woke up to find my money seemingly flushed away. It's no surprise that today I'm incredibly frugal (read: cheap). Still, I'm conflicted about shopping megastores because, while their prices may be cheaper, I know my dollar means far less at them than it does to a small business.

This Christmas I'm making a concentrated effort to shop small, because even though prices may be slightly higher, I know my money is helping the community. My pennies could then be left by the tooth fairy, used to pay a kiddo for his chores or fund a Midlothian teen's first paycheck. And that's the kind of money memories I want to make.

*See for yourself!*

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



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# *The* Christmas Experience

*At Home With Aaron and Kimberly Gabrysch*

— By Angel Morris





*For the Gabrysch family, life is about collecting experiences, not possessions, and the holidays are the perfect time to fulfill that mission. “We are really all about memories instead of things. Anything that can create a lasting memory, we are there!” Kimberly enthused. “I dreamed of being the house everyone wants to go to. We made that dream come true in July 2020.”*

Before becoming a family, Aaron and Kimberly met at Texas A&M University through mutual friends. Their first date was almost derailed when Aaron called to report car trouble. “My dad is a mechanic, so I easily knew how to bring him gas,” Kimberly joked, and the two quickly became a couple from that point forward. “We got engaged on a cruise to the Bahamas and married a year later.”

When deciding where to make their home, the Gabryschs knew they wanted their children to experience the same environment Kimberly had growing up in Midlothian. Landing teaching and coaching jobs in MISD cemented their decision to return to town in 2015. “Having my parents nearby to take care of our first child made the decision obvious, too,” Kimberly said.

Daughter, Addison, was born in 2014, followed by son, Graham, in 2019. The family moved to a new home in 2020 after falling in love with the land. “We wanted to create a dream backyard that our kids, family and their friends would be able to always enjoy,” Aaron reflected. “We built a pool, cabana, putting green, basketball court and fort for the kids right when we moved in. We have lots of space to play, lots of tree swings and back up to a lake for the kids to fish.”

Kimberly’s farmhouse-style vision came true with “lots of white and shiplap,” the perfect backdrop for holiday decor. “I like to decorate before we go out of town at Thanksgiving, that way, when we get home from traveling it is already done,” she mentioned.

The family style is classic and simple. “We have a firefighter do our lights every year around the whole house. Our neighborhood street is one of the most festive in town, and last year, the electricity went out for us because of all the lights,” Aaron recalled.





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# Holcim

A large flocked tree finds a home in the living room, where the family's toy manger scene also resides. The mantel is subtly decorated, as well. Each of the children have their own bedroom trees, but the family prefers to focus on the meaning of the season rather than the decor.

"To me, the decorations are fun, but such a small part. As young parents and former teachers, we are very conscious of how our children are being brought up in this world," Kimberly expressed.

Before they became a family, Aaron earned a bachelor's degree in history at Texas A&M University, then his master's in educational leadership at Stephen F. Austin State University. He was a teacher, coach and assistant principal before joining Kimberly as co-owner of their own business.

Kimberly earned her bachelor's degree in health from A&M, worked in health care consulting, and then became a teacher and coach before taking a leap of faith to start her own online company, Kimmy Gs Enterprises. "I retired myself from teaching after a year-and-a-half in my social media business, so I could stay home in my second pregnancy. In 2020, I was awarded Young Entrepreneur of the Year for the United States," Kimberly explained.

Now the duo continues to educate, but as mentors to adults starting their own similar business. "We also are dedicated to feeding malnourished children all over the world and contributing to scholarships for our church," Aaron said.

The Gabryschs enjoy sharing travel and culture with their kids. Just like in their daily lives, the family's holidays revolve around experiences. "Some of







our favorite traditions all have to do with activities: A weekend getaway to the Hilton Anatole every year, the Polar Express train ride, reading the Christmas story, making cookies, pictures with Santa at Heritage House, and we even love driving to College Station to visit Santa's Wonderland just south of it," Aaron outlined.

The Gabryschs also host Christmas with each side of the family. "Last year was such a pretty week at Christmas that we used the hot tub, played putt-putt in the backyard and had competitions on the basketball court," Kimberly reflected.

The Gabryschs keep family at the heart of the holidays by intentionally avoiding too much hustle and bustle. "I think it's always funny when people care so much about gifts. I can't recall one gift besides a puppy that I got as a kid, but I do remember the traditions we always did with family. That's what matters most!" Kimberly underscored.

So, while the family holds dear annual ornaments of the children's hands and feet, the holiday is more about serving as hands and feet themselves, Kimberly said. "Is there someone you can bless this holiday with a simple act of kindness? Is there someone you can spend time with who has been having a hard year?" she asked. "As we celebrate this season and begin to make resolutions, I pray that everyone looks inside themselves and decides to focus on kindness."

For the Gabryschs, that will mean continued focus on faith, family and building the future they want in and for Midlothian. "We encourage others to join us trusting those 'God nudges.' If He puts it on your heart, He did it for a reason!" Kimberly shared. "See how you can use your talents and skills for His glory, keeping your eyes on the reason for the season!" **NOW**



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# WORKING SMARTER

— By Angel Morris

*Battles Won Academy, hosted by the U.S. Marine Corps, is a program set on recognizing and inspiring young individuals who have succeeded in overcoming the challenges they face, including academically, athletically, communally and personally. Local graduate, Talon Berg, was a member of the Semper Fidelis All American program's inaugural class in 2017 and still uses its lessons today. "Out of the thousands of students they researched, they picked me — they must have seen something in me that I didn't see in myself at the time," Talon reflected. "But meeting all the inspiring and accomplished kids there gave me something to live up to."*

Those selected showed they could persevere despite some personal setback or challenge. "I was never the biggest guy on the football field. In fact, I was always the smallest, often by more than 50 pounds. But I always found a way to persevere," Talon recalled. "I was never the smartest person in the class, but I challenged myself by taking all advanced classes."

Talon credits the BWA experience with a shift in his perspective. The program provided a five-day, all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C., including a stay at the Capital Hilton Hotel. Talon and the 95 other participants met military leaders and celebrities like Sage Steele, Christian McCaffrey, Carli Lloyd and Cal Ripken Jr.

In addition to the trip's capital tour and scavenger hunt around the capital's memorials, participants experienced a series of physical competitions at the Baltimore Under Armor facility. "We all enjoyed it, and it gave a chance to show off what got us all there, not just talent, but grit and the fact that we could grin at each other through the pain, but it was all in good fun. Such a positive environment as a whole," Talon recalled.

As an MHHS football player, Talon had always enjoyed sports, but the BWA experience solidified his interest in physical fitness. After high school graduation, he pursued a degree in the field. "I chose Tarleton State University in Stephenville, which is known as the Cowboy Capital of the World. It seemed to attract people who take responsibility for both their successes and their failures," Talon credited.

At Tarleton, Talon was a personal trainer and group fitness instructor at the campus recreational center. He earned multiple fitness and nutrition certifications — NASM CPT and ISSA Sports Nutritionist, and is working toward a CSCS Strength and Conditioning certification.

"These certifications don't allow me to prescribe medicines, but they allow me to make very good suggestions. I like that. I feel it puts more pressure on us to actually know what we're talking about," Talon noted.



Graduating with a kinesiology degree in just three years, at the age of 20, Talon now focuses on making fitness and nutrition information accessible to anyone. His primary platform is his YouTube channel, Talon Fitness, where he posts regularly, especially on the little changes one can implement into workouts, daily habits that can make a big difference toward a healthier life. "My main goal is to spread the truth about the science behind it all, so everyone can understand the why behind the things they do to their own bodies. The dream is to be able to help everyone get from the step they are at to the next one. Things that can be life-changing for anyone willing to apply them."

Currently employed at The Exercise Coach in Dallas, Talon is further exploring ways to optimize people's fitness. There, they use isokinetic training to make the most of only 20-minute workouts. "I personally see this as the future of fitness for many people, especially for older individuals, and took the opportunity to work there to get ahead of the curve," he noted.

Much like overcoming his own struggles, Talon said investing in one's physical fitness is a journey. "The things I teach are about working smarter, not harder. They are about enjoying the process by becoming your own best ally and figuring out both the 'why' and the 'how' to make the effects last," Talon reminded. "Your reasons for fitness are yours alone, and no one else has to understand them, whether it's as simple as wanting to look better or as meaningful as being capable of playing with your grandkids, it's the commitment to bettering oneself that unites the fitness community. If your reason is important enough to you, failure will not be an option."

Today, Talon is better able to embrace his own successes and looks forward to helping others win their battles. "I finally started to understand what was meant when they say, 'Luck is when opportunity meets preparation,' but with a caveat: It's only worth anything if we accept and embrace the opportunity, because the only thing holding us back is ourselves." **NOW**



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# BusinessNOW

## Envy Aesthetics

— By Angel Morris

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As the saying goes, “Glowing skin is always in.” Many people dream of finding the answer to maintaining youthfully vibrant skin, especially in life’s later years. Today, Jennifer Grimes, AGACNP-BC, owner of Envy Aesthetics in Midlothian, is fulfilling that dream for her clients. “I have been trained and worked in a wide variety of health care settings but have always wanted to practice in aesthetics,” Jennifer reflected.

Opening her own practice in April 2019, Jennifer now improves her patients’ skin through anti-wrinkle injections like



BOTOX and Xeomin, as well as dermal fillers. She also carries medical-grade skincare products through the ZO Skin Health line. In addition to offering aesthetic injections, Jennifer now provides microneedling and PRF (platelet-rich fibrin) treatments.

Envy Aesthetics moved locations two years ago with plans for growth that have come to fruition. The office now houses a hairstylist and, coming soon, an esthetician with more than 15 years of experience and certifications including hydrafacials.

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

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



Before opening her own practice, Jennifer was a nurse practitioner for a cardiology practice in Mansfield for four years and has been a registered nurse for more than 15 years. "But I grew up in this town and wanted to stay local," she explained.

Serving her hometown is just the start of Jennifer's passions, and her husband, Josh, motivates her to pursue all of her dreams. "He encourages me to be my best and listens to my crazy ideas. He is also the maintenance guy/contractor for the office," she laughed.

**"I GET THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE CLIENTS FEEL GREAT ABOUT THEMSELVES. I LIKE MAKING THEM LOOK GREAT FOR THEIR AGE WITHOUT OVERDOING IT."**

Lillie, Jennifer's 5-year-old daughter, keeps her on her toes. "As a wife and mother, I understand the challenges of time involved in maintaining a self-care routine. That's why I offer flexible hours to accommodate most schedules."

More than making people look good, Jennifer appreciates really meeting clients' expectations. "I get the opportunity to make clients feel great about themselves," she explained. "I like making them look great for their age without overdoing it. One day, I'd like to incorporate laser treatments into my list of services to better serve the community with healthier and more vibrant skin."

Jennifer aims to help customers look their best with minimal downtime, with the use of top-notch products. "I inject myself with my own products," she said. "People think I'm nuts for doing it, but I want to know exactly how well the product works — the possible side effects and pain scale."

As a result, clients get firsthand, honest feedback from Jennifer about the products and services she offers. So, if you are ready for healthier, wrinkle-free skin, Jennifer is only a phone call away. "My motto is 'refreshed' not 'frozen,'" Jennifer promised. "Aging is a fact of life, but looking your age is not!" **NOW**

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If Kristen McClure could stay home and cook all day, she would. “I love baking, cooking up meals in the kitchen and trying new things on our smoker,” Kristen shared. As a cookbook collector, she never runs out of new recipes to try. “I will get a new cookbook and sit down and read it cover to cover like a traditional book.”

Kristen also finds inspiration from chefs Paula Deen and The Pioneer Woman, Ree Drummond. TikTok and Pinterest are other portals to provisions. “We tailor them to our family’s taste by leaving certain things out or adding a touch more heat.”

Potlucks are the go-to method for feasting with extended family members during the holidays. Sharing treats is also a tradition. “My daughter, Abby, and I love making goodie baskets at Christmastime for our neighbors.” **NOW**

## Frito Corn Salad

- 4 15-oz. cans corn, drained
- 1 cup Hellman’s Mayonnaise
- 1 1-oz. pkt. Fiesta Ranch Dressing dry mix
- 1 cup Colby cheese, grated
- 1 9.25-oz. bag Chili Cheese Fritos

1. In a large bowl, combine the corn, mayonnaise and dry dressing mix; mix well. Add the grated cheese; transfer to a 9x13-inch baking dish. Cover; refrigerate at least 1 hour.

2. Before serving, sprinkle the top with a layer of Chili Cheese Fritos.

## Slow Cooker Stuffing

- 1 cup butter or margarine
- 2 cups onion, chopped
- 2 cups celery, chopped
- 1/4 cup fresh parsley, chopped
- 12 cups dry bread cubes
- 1 tsp. poultry seasoning
- 1 1/2 tsp. dried sage
- 1 tsp. dried thyme
- 1/2 tsp. dried marjoram

- 1 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. ground black pepper
- 4 1/2 cups chicken broth, or as needed
- 2 eggs, beaten

1. Melt the butter or margarine in a skillet over medium heat. Add the onions, celery and parsley; stir frequently until softened.  
2. In a large bowl, add the bread cubes. Spoon the cooked vegetables over the bread. Season with poultry seasoning and the next 5 ingredients. Add enough broth to moisten the bread; stir. Add the eggs; mix until combined.  
3. Transfer the mixture to a slow cooker; cover. Cook on high for 45 minutes. Reduce heat to low; cook for 4-8 hours.

## Granny’s Frozen Cranberry Salad

- 3 oz. cream cheese
- 2 Tbsp. sugar
- 2 Tbsp. mayonnaise
- 1 16-oz. can whole cranberry sauce
- 1 11-oz. can mandarin oranges, drained
- 1 8-oz. container of Cool Whip



1. In a bowl, cream together the cream cheese, sugar and mayonnaise until well combined. Fold in the cranberry sauce and the remaining ingredients.

2. Freeze overnight. Let it thaw before serving, but serve it cold. It may still have a few frozen pieces when serving.

## Nutella Caramel Bars

2 cups flour

2 cups quick cooking oats

1 1/2 cups brown sugar, packed

1 tsp. baking soda

1/2 tsp. salt

3 sticks butter, melted

1 13.4-oz. can dulce de leche

1 1/2 cups Nutella chocolate hazelnut spread

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F. Spray a 9x13-inch glass pan with nonstick cooking spray.

2. In a large bowl, combine the flour, oats and the next 3 ingredients. Add the melted butter; stir with a wooden spoon until well mixed. Press half of the mixture into the prepared pan; bake for 17 minutes.

3. Remove the pan from the oven. Spoon the dulce de leche evenly over the top of the hot bars. Let it sit for 1 minute until dulce de leche begins to soften; carefully spread to cover the surface. Spoon the Nutella evenly over the top of dulce de leche. Let soften for 1 minute; spread over the surface. Evenly crumble the other half of the flour and oat mixture on top; bake for an additional 17 minutes.

4. Remove from the oven; cool for several hours before cutting into squares and serving.

## Yellow Cake Mix Cinnamon Bread

1 15.25-oz. box yellow cake mix

1 3.4-oz. box instant vanilla pudding mix

3/4 cup oil

3/4 cup water

1 tsp. vanilla extract

4 eggs

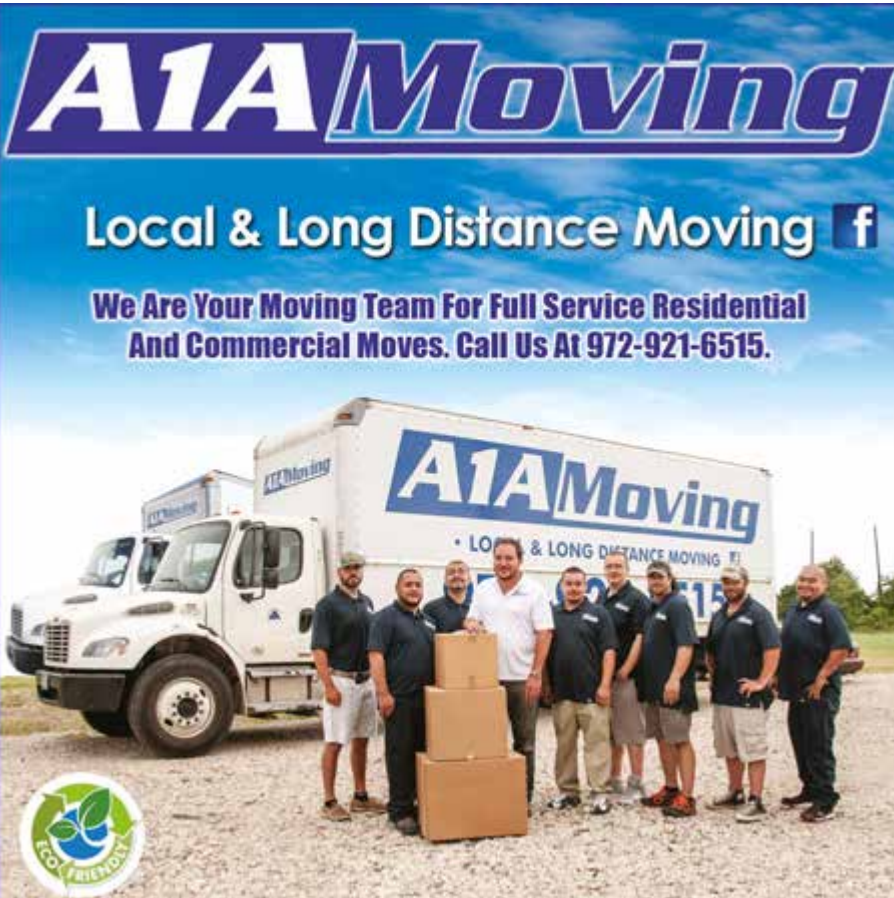
1/2 cup brown sugar

1 Tbsp. cinnamon

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F. In a mixing bowl, add the cake mix and the next 4 ingredients. Begin blending, adding one egg at a time. Blend on high for 8 minutes.

2. In a small bowl, mix together the brown sugar and cinnamon; set aside.

3. Grease 2 loaf pans. Fill each pan halfway with batter; sprinkle a quarter of



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the cinnamon/sugar mixture on top of the batter in each loaf pan. Swirl the batter with a knife. Divide the remaining batter evenly between the two loaf pans. Sprinkle the rest of the cinnamon/sugar mixture evenly on top of the two loaves; swirl again with a knife. Bake the loaves at 350 F for 45 minutes.

## Breakfast Oatmeal Cupcakes To Go

- 5 cups rolled oats
- 2/3 cup mini chocolate chips
- 1 tsp. salt
- Cinnamon, to taste (optional)
- Coconut, shredded, to taste (optional)
- Walnuts, chopped, to taste (optional)
- Raisins, to taste (optional)
- 2 1/2 cups overripe bananas, mashed
- 5 Tbsp. pure maple syrup, agave or honey
- 2 1/3 cups water
- 1/4 cup, plus 1 Tbsp., coconut or vegetable oil
- 2 1/2 tsp. pure vanilla extract

1. Preheat the oven to 380 F. Line 24 cupcake tins with paper liners.
2. In a large bowl, combine oats, chocolate



Kristen's Pumpkin Bread

chips, salt and any of the optional ingredients desired; mix well.

3. In a separate bowl, combine and stir together the bananas and remaining wet ingredients. Combine the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients; spoon the mixture into cupcake liners. Bake for 21 minutes. If you want a crisper top, broil for an additional 1-2 minutes. These can be eaten right away or frozen and reheated for an instant breakfast.

## Kristen's Pumpkin Bread

- 3 cups sugar
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 4 eggs, slightly beaten

- 1 15-oz. can pumpkin
- 3 1/2 cups flour
- 2 tsp. baking soda
- 2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. nutmeg
- 1 tsp. allspice
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. ground cloves
- 2/3 cup water

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F. In a large bowl, mix together the sugar and oil. Add the eggs and pumpkin; blend well. Add the flour and the remaining ingredients; mix completely.
2. Pour the batter into 2 well-greased loaf pans. Bake for 1 hour or until an inserted toothpick comes out clean.

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## Zoomed In: Mark Fanning

By Angel Morris

A decade ago, Mark Fanning started the Bikes for Tykes program with his wife, Amanda, to provide new bicycles to underprivileged children on Christmas morning. Partnering with their workplace, Texas Ace Heating and Air, and coordinating recipients through Manna House, the Fannings have collected thousands of bikes for local youth. "My wife wanted to give back, and it has been a success and grown every year," Mark explained.

Midlothian businesses support the cause, donating thousands of dollars to fund hundreds of bikes. "The community always shows up for this. We appreciate any local business willing to give support this December," Mark noted. "It takes some effort, but the rewards of seeing children getting bikes and just enjoying being kids is pretty special."



Claire Phillips shows her Dallas Cowboys spirit at the Longbranch Community Baptist Church Fall Festival.



Andrew Alvarado dresses up for his first MHS homecoming dance.



Gerda breaks ground on its newest energy project consisting of 231,000 solar panels on 700 acres of land.





Ovilla Christian School senior Raylee Parker is all smiles as she donates to Carter BloodCare during her school's annual blood drive.



Methodist Midlothian Labor & Delivery team members celebrate Alyssa and Daniel McCoy's daughter, Heidi, the 100th baby born at the hospital.



Breast cancer survivor, Johnna Jones (center), and breast cancer surgeon, Dr. Birdwell, discuss a call with a ref during Midlothian High School's annual Pink Out game in October.



Soyokaze staffers Stacey Knight, Renee Cook, Terra Johnson and Marilyn Bolton support the Manna House Signature Dish fundraiser.

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## • TALES OF TEXAS •

# Who's Minding the Store?

— By Bill Smith

*Window shopping in downtown Dallas took on a whole new meaning as one perused the displays at the flagship store of Neiman Marcus in the 1970s. Many downtown stores were suffering declining sales as the concept of shopping malls moved sales to outlying communities around the major metropolitan areas. However, Neiman's continued to flourish because of its unique brands of high-end merchandise and customer service. At the helm of the store, of course, was the ubiquitous Stanley Marcus.*

The history of the store reveals its inception was the result of a partnership between Stanley's father, Herbert Marcus, and his uncle, Al Neiman. Their idea was to fill a niche in Dallas for exclusive clothing that was available as ready-to-wear, rather than custom made. The store offered tailoring only for alterations, doing away with raw fabric sales. One of Stanley's early contributions to the store's image was his insistence that they carry no brands that were available at any other store in Dallas.

While neither of the founding partners had completed high school, Stanley graduated from Harvard in 1926. He

immediately went to work in the store as a floorman. By 1929, he was merchandising manager for all apparel divisions. The business philosophy his father often quoted and Stanley used at the opening phrase of his book *Minding the Store* was, "There is never a good sale for Neiman Marcus unless it is a good buy for the customer." Stanley could be seen in the store drawing just as much satisfaction in the closing of a \$10 sale as he would from a \$500,000 sale, if he knew he had genuinely met the customer's need.

Stanley spent a lot of time traveling between Dallas and the fashion centers of New York, but his influence was much greater than this continent, as at one time he was considered Dallas' most internationally famous citizen. In *Minding the Store*, he wrote, "Some people become stagestruck at an early age and never recover. From the time of my initial trip to Europe in 1925 I was 'Europe Struck.' And although I shall never duplicate the thrill of my first visit to Paris or London, forty-nine years and fifty trips later my pulse quickens when the plane touches down at Orly or Heathrow." Rumors abounded after WWII that Stanley was being considered during the Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson administrations for an appointment as ambassador to France. Though the rumors may or may not have been true, he did receive a call from the Kennedy administration for consideration as ambassador to South America, which he declined.

Innovative is hardly a strong enough description for the marketing genius that was Stanley Marcus. He started *Fortnight* at Neiman Marcus by saying, "We are going to do something no



other retailer has ever done. We are going to disclose our fall promotional program six months in advance.” Retailers normally do not reveal such future plans, but Stanley’s plans were so thorough (and perhaps so outlandish) that he felt no other retailer would be able to keep up. The promotions were international in nature and a tremendous success.

Advertising in nationwide publications was another successful venture for Neiman Marcus under Stanley’s leadership. And who is not familiar with the “his and hers” items in the Christmas catalog, things such as airplanes, submarines and jaguars — his was a Jaguar roadster, hers was a jaguar coat? One promotion was captioned “Junk for Christmas,” and it was actually a Chinese junk (boat) offered for \$11,500. To the surprise of Stanley and the rest of the store, they sold eight of them, and delivered them to various bodies of water around the world!

Stanley had a reputation for having an opinion, and newspapers were interested in what he had to say. After the Kennedy assassination in Dallas, Stanley had an editorial published in paid space in both of the local newspapers. While it could have been titled, “What’s Wrong with Dallas?” Stanley chose a much more positive, “What’s Right With Dallas?” as the title and theme. The article was reprinted in numerous editorial markets across the world, and the editorial comments were favorable.

There is a portrait of Stanley that was taken in 1974 by Shelly Katz. Katz was a renowned photojournalist, and it shows in the photograph because the photo tells a story. Stanley’s eyes squint with a mischievous glimmer. His smile is not quite complete, as if he paused in mid-phrase to see and hear the response to what he just said. His eyeglasses are held gently between the thumb and forefinger of his left hand, because it appears he wants his audience to see the genuineness of his neatly groomed, bearded face.

Such was Stanley. Whether it was a mink coat, a pair of tennis shoes, or just an idea, the man was going to sell you something. **NOW**

Sources:

1. [Britannica.com/biography/St Stanley-Marcus](http://Britannica.com/biography/St Stanley-Marcus).
2. *Minding the Store* by Stanley Marcus.



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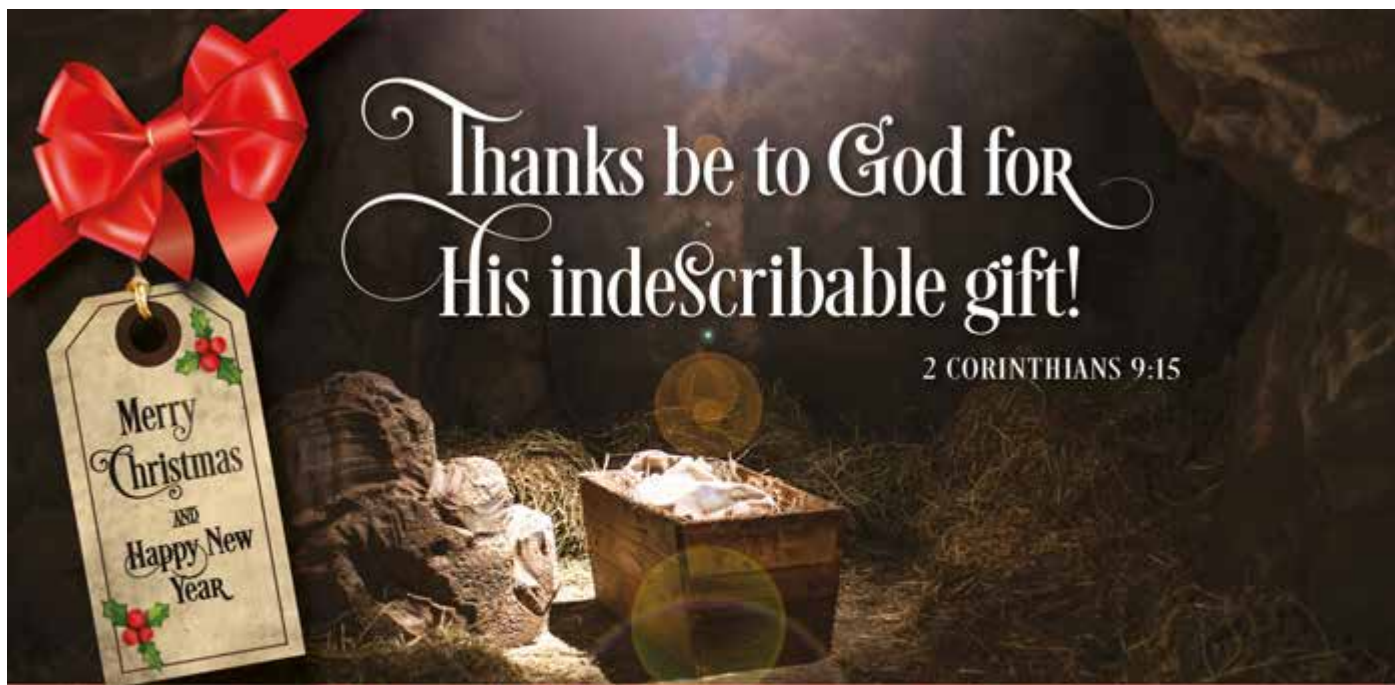
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# BY THE CHIMNEY

## *With Care*

— By Lisa Bell



*While Christmas trees command the focal point during the holiday season, stockings hung by the chimney with care also command a critical place in most decor. Ornate, handmade stockings can become a treasured heirloom, and making one can be easier than you think.*

Traditionally, we think of a plain red stocking or maybe a different color, but have you ever considered making one from leftover fabric? Use a festive Christmas pattern, or consider any remnant of plaids, polka-dots or unordinary Christmas colors that match your regular decor. Fleece, flannel, heavier cotton blends, metallics, burlap or pre-quilted fabric make excellent choices for this project. Perhaps you want to repurpose old sweatshirts and other clothing, or maybe old blankets. Feel free to engage your imagination.

For those daunted by sewing an original stocking, don't fret. Instead, purchase an inexpensive pre-made stocking and create

an extraordinary piece with it as your base. Apply one of the suggested embellishments below to make a spectacular creation.

### *Simple Fabric Stockings.*

Fashion cute and comforting stockings from patterned fabric and upholstery webbing. Fold 1/2 yard of red, white or patterned fabric in half, right sides together. Trace a stocking shape onto the fabric and cut out two shapes. With right sides together, sew around the stocking shape with a running stitch, leaving the top open. Turn the top edge inside and hem, then turn the stocking inside out. Pin upholstery webbing around the top of the stocking and stitch in place. Create a loop with fabric, ribbon or lace and tack it in place with a stitch at the top. Add a bow or trim around the top with a strip of lace or ribbon and secure it with a running stitch or whipstitch.

### *Adding Snowflakes.*

Purchase a snowflake stencil, white glitter paint and a brush or small sponge. Place paper inside of the stocking and position the stencil wherever you want a snowflake. Dab the paint until you have the desired effect. Move the stencil



and repeat until you have as many snowflakes as you want. Remove the paper, and let it dry.

### *Repurposed PJs.*

Have pajamas your child loved but outgrew? Cut off the legs at the desired length, leaving the footed part. Turn down the top and tack in place, or add a decorative cuff. Add a fabric loop for hanging, and you have instant new stockings.

### *Glittery Monogram Stocking.*

Make or purchase the stocking of your choice, and add the special touch of a tiny, silver-bead monogram. Thread the beads onto a thin wire. Bend it to shape the desired letter, and secure it to the stocking with a few stitches.

### *Sensational No-Sew Stockings.*

Transform inexpensive ready-made felt stockings. Glue on glittery sequins, pom-poms, fringe, fabric yo-yos, decorative buttons, rhinestone pins, small bells, fabric or silk flowers or anything you like. If preferred, use simple stitches to attach the objects. For a more unique design, use objects to create a scene on the stocking.

### *Snowy and Sophisticated.*

Using cream cable-knit stockings, fill the top with baby's breath, producing a snowy design throughout the season. Surprise your family by switching out the flowers for presents on Christmas morning.

Use one of these wonderful ideas to begin your project. As you work, let your imagination run wild, have fun and treasure the experience. With these simple instructions, enlist the help of a child and form a precious memory, too. **NOW**

#### Sources:

1. Smith, H.C. (2020, Nov. 6). 37 Creative DIY Christmas Stocking Ideas. Retrieved from HGTV: <https://www.hgtv.com/design/make-and-celebrate/handmade/unique-handmade-christmas-stockings-pictures>.

2. VanSchmus, E. (2021, June 9). 17 Pretty and Easy Handmade Christmas Stockings. Retrieved from Better Homes and Gardens: <https://www.bhg.com/christmas/stockings/easy-christmas-stockings/>.



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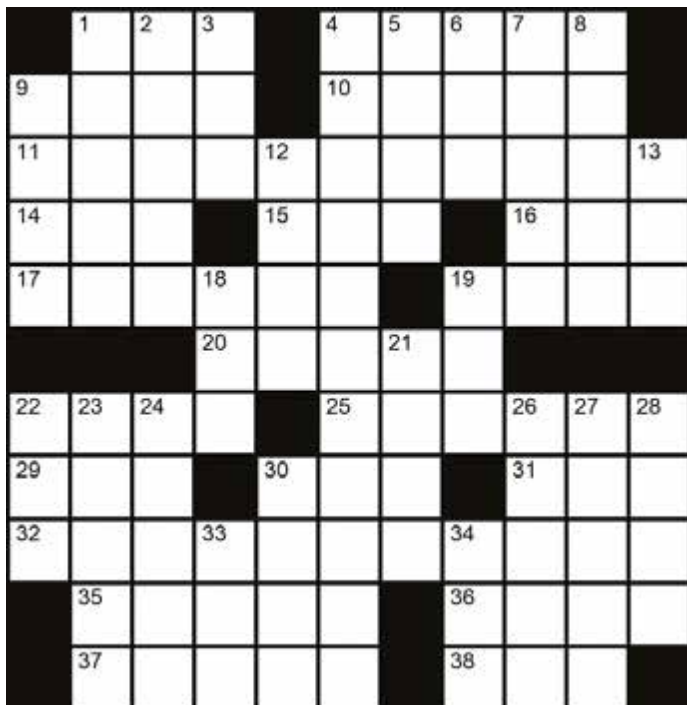
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## Across

- 1 Rotten
- 4 Wanted an answer
- 9 Art movement intended to shock
- 10 Official Texas state dish
- 11 Wiping out
- 14 Thick mane
- 15 Youngster
- 16 Found in the middle of Arizona
- 17 We're all --- together
- 19 Heat up
- 20 9/11's mastermind
- 22 Polar shipping hazard
- 25 Donned for dinner
- 29 Abu Dhabi is its capital
- 30 Artificial locks
- 31 What a captured soldier becomes
- 32 Confused pooches test vet's instrument
- 35 Jakarta-based inter-governmental organization
- 36 Finishes off a cake
- 37 Written phone messages
- 38 Withdrawn

## Down

- 1 Beef cut for a nobleman?
- 2 Adjust to fit
- 3 The old man
- 4 Charges
- 5 Food fish
- 6 Baby ferret
- 7 Higgins's prodigy
- 8 Casual eatery
- 9 Bruce's ex
- 12 Sacred Egyptian bird
- 13 Sparkler
- 18 Harley
- 19 Grow
- 21 Faces
- 22 Type of conductor
- 23 --- Joe's (classic gustatory exhortation)
- 24 Della ---, jazz and Gospel singer
- 26 Bit of a period
- 27 One of a famous septet
- 28 Has yet to settle
- 30 "Huh?"
- 33 Man from Dallas or Amarillo, perhaps
- 34 Successor to the U S S R

Solutions on page 52

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Easy

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

Medium

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

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Solutions on page 52

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# Merry Christmas

## 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.

12/1

### Christmas Tree Lighting:

Musical accompaniment for the reading of *The Christmas Story* and official lighting of the new city Christmas tree. Rain out date: **Dec. 2.** 6:00 p.m., Heritage Park, 234 N. 8th St.

### Beauville:

Storytime, games, cookies, cocoa and more for families. 4:00-6:00 p.m., Navarro College Midlothian Campus, 899 Mt. Zion Rd.

12/4

### Southern Star Christmas Festivities:

Arts and crafts booths, food vendors, selfies with Santa, letters to Santa, make-and-take crafts and shopping. Toys for Tots donations accepted.

1:00-5:00 p.m., Heritage Park, 234 N. 8th St.

### Grinch Pics With Pets:

Bring your own camera or purchase professional pictures of your family and pets.

2:00-6:00 p.m., The Forgotten Ones Animal Rescue, 3225 U.S. 287

### A Storybook Christmas Light-Up Parade:

Annual holiday parade. 6:00 p.m., beginning at Avenue B and

North 8th Street and ending at Avenue F and Overlook.

### VistaTurf's Night of Lights:

Millions of twinkling lights, music and carolers. Free entry with an unwrapped toy. 6:00-9:00 p.m., Earthtones Greenery, 810 E. Main St.

12/5

### Pet Photos With Santa:

Hearts and Tails of Hope Pet Rescue hosts pictures with the whole family. 1:00-5:00 p.m., 116 N. 8th St.

### Drive-Thru Christmas ADVENTure:

Walk through the four weeks of Advent activities ending with a live nativity. 6:00-8:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church of Midlothian, 800 S. 9th St.

12/10

### Merry Movie Night:

Outdoor showing of the holiday classic, *Elf*. Free. 6:30-8:30 p.m., Midlothian Community Park, 3601 S. 14th St. For more information, call (972) 775-7177.

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

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## Crossword - Sudoku Solutions

1	B	A	D	4	A	S	K	E	D
9	D	A	D	A	10	C	H	I	L
11	E	R	A	D	12	I	C	A	T
14	M	O	P	15	B	U	D	16	Z
17	I	N	T	H	I	S	19	W	A
20	O	S	A	M	A				
22	B	E	R	G	25	T	U	X	E
29	U	A	E	30	W	I	G	31	P
32	S	T	E	T	H	O	S	C	O
35	A	S	E	A	N	36	I	C	E
37	T	E	X	T	S	38	S	H	Y

Easy

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

Medium

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

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