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M A G A Z I N E

DECEMBER 2021



Refracted Radiance

Steven Crow crafts
glass for every season

Soaring Friends

Katie Christman shares
the importance of
counting birds

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Scavenger Hunt

Crossword/Sudoku

Featured Business:
Prosperity Dental

2021 Holiday
Shopping Guide

In the Kitchen With
Cameron Kainerstorfer

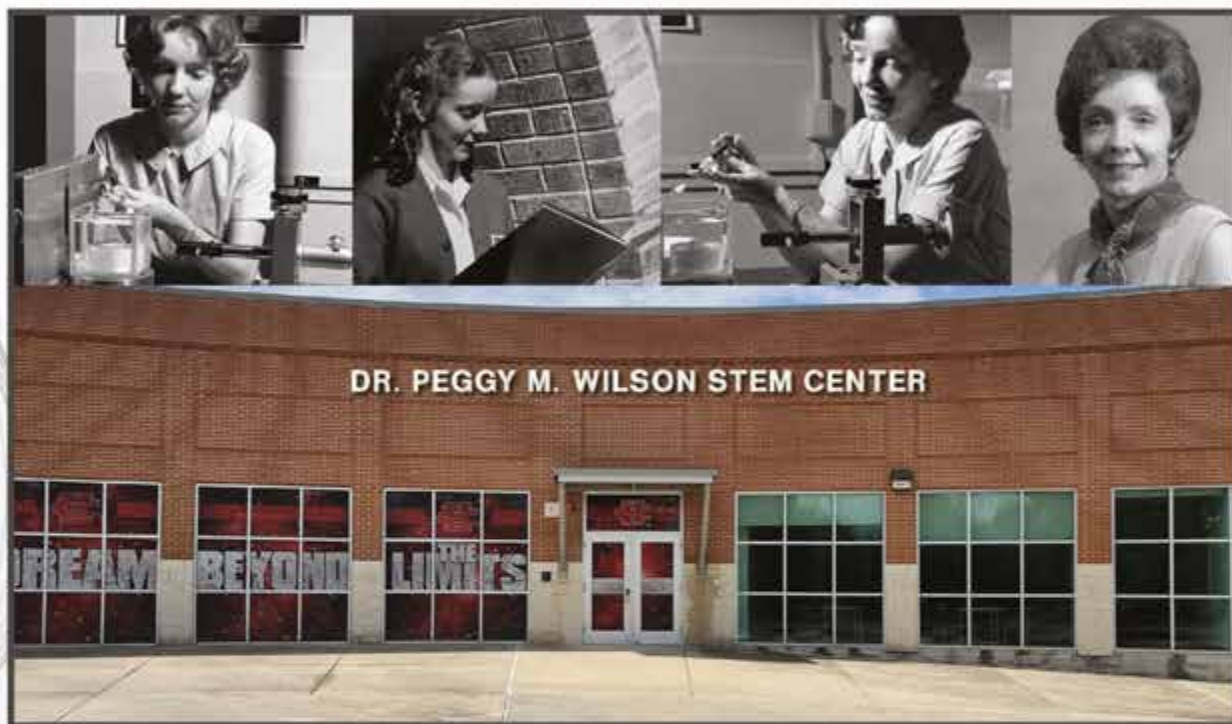
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Dr. Peggy M. Wilson

STEM CENTER DEDICATION



ABOUT DR. PEGGY M. WILSON

Dr. Peggy Mayfield Wilson is the namesake of Cedar Hill ISD's new district STEM Center. She was the first female to serve on the Cedar Hill City Council and was a trailblazer long before she arrived in Cedar Hill. She was the first female regent at East Texas State University (now known as Texas A&M University-Commerce).

Wilson became one of the first females to earn a PhD in a scientific field from The University of Texas at Austin. She graduated from UT with a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry with Honors in 1948 and a PhD in 1952. She was a Post-Doctoral Fellow and Special Instructor in 1952 and 1953.

Dr. Wilson then became the first female scientist at Magnolia Petroleum Company, a predecessor of Mobil Oil. She received more than 30 federal patents as well as patents in Canada and Europe. She was Mobil Oil Corporation's first female PhD in 1953 and became the first female manager of a research activity in 1984.

Wilson was the first recipient of the Cedar Hill Chamber of Commerce's Golden Cedar Award for Lifetime Achievement.



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Rudolph is watching you!

Photo by
Shane Kirkpatrick.

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Texas Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics focuses on improving instruction and academic performance in science and mathematics related subjects and increasing the number of students who study and enter STEM careers.

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Adam

Adam Walker
SouthwestNOW Editor
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(469) 285-2008

Christmas memories ...

I've always loved celebrating Christmas. When I took a job teaching English in Taiwan, I realized I wouldn't be home for Christmas, so in the midst of packing to move across the globe, I took time to decorate my apartment and hold a Christmas in July party for friends and family. My Lebanese friends were truly confused, but enthusiastically joined in. My friends from Zimbabwe and Zambia already knew I was nuts, but a good kind of nuts, so they just laughed in that African way and brought the party. It was the right season, if not the right month on the calendar, for them to celebrate Christmas.

I made desserts and cranked the A/C up as high as it would go! My Chinese friends came with last minute advice about living in Taiwan, well wishes and warnings about the dangers of air conditioning.

The Russians and other Europeans had trouble accepting Christmas without snow, but many of them had at least heard of the American insanity about Christmas in July. They had just assumed, rightly, that it wasn't something normal people actually did.

A friend from Trinidad came and purchased my love seat for a few dollars. She had a dorm room to furnish!

My family was more sober about it. They came and joined in the lunacy, but they also knew it would only be a few more days before they wouldn't see me for half a year. I'd be coming home at Chinese New Year, but not Christmas.

I don't know if there'll be snow, but have a cup of cheer!

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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REFRACTED

Radian

— By Adam Walker



There's just something about glass. The way it plays with light, splitting and sparking and bending and reflecting and refracting. Ordinary glass and light just make magic together, but put that glass in the hands of an artist like Steven Crow, and the fun is just starting.

Steven didn't start with glass. Ceramics was his first foray into art. "I started in high school. There was a local shop in my town that taught ceramics painting, and a neighbor got me into it. After college, I moved out on my own and quit doing art for

quite a few years. Then in '88, I bought my first townhouse and started teaching ceramics classes. I poured, made molds and everything at home. After 2001, I moved to a single house, and I continued to teach and create my own pieces at home, until I changed jobs in 2003 and had to take another hiatus from creating."

In 2009 or 2010, he was inspired after seeing a friend's jewelry made of glass. "I started using my ceramics kilns to make glass, and I got heavily into it. I started doing fused glass. When I began teaching an ultrasound class at Harper College in Palatine, Illinois, and found that their art department had nothing to offer for fused glass, I proposed and then taught a class on that, too, from 2011-2013. I also taught the kids at the

ce

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summer camps the college runs. They made jewelry, tic-tac-toe boards and American flags. I got spoiled with the college's kilns."

When he quit that teaching job and then moved to Texas in 2015, he could only bring one little kiln with him. "I was really busy with work and travel, but I needed a creative outlet, so I started making glass again. I like glass because there are so many different things you can do with it. And there's the mystery of never knowing exactly what you'll get until you open the kiln. Will it be a happy surprise, or a not so happy one? Sometimes mistakes are annoying, sometimes gorgeous. I like making intricate things with my hands. I like small, detail work. Some people hate it, but I love it. I make a lot of these holly leaves. The small ones only fire for three hours, and not at super high temperatures. Some pieces take two days to fire and cool down. It all depends on the thickness of the glass. Bigger pieces have to fire longer and slower. They have to heat slow and cool slow, or else they crack. All the while, you're praying to the kiln gods to be kind!"

Steven estimates that he has thousands of dollars invested in glass. "It's easy to do. Glass is an expensive medium to work in. Recently, I was making a custom piece. I heated it too fast and blew \$50 worth of glass. It took a long time to make, but it didn't work. But one thing — you never throw glass away. You keep all scraps for other projects." Steven keeps orderly supplies of glass for his projects — from window-sized sheets of vibrantly colored glass for big projects, to vials of ground glass paste for tiny projects like those holly leaves. "I make those in silicone molds. I fill the mold with the glass paste, using a tiny spoon. Then I freeze them before I scrape away the

excess glass making the back flat. You have to work quickly before they start to thaw. I pop them out of the mold, without damaging them, and place them in the kiln to fire them. At the end, if I'm lucky, I have another batch of holly for other people to use in their projects."

One of his most popular items in his Etsy store, www.GetGlassGoodies.com, is his Scandinavian "Forever Flowers," five-petaled glass flowers, with designs painted on them before being fired. The flowers are then mounted on a bright copper stem. "Since the stems are copper, they're just as suitable for garden art as they are for a bud vase or bouquet in a windowsill or on a table. I also make sun catchers. Another very popular item, year-round, is rainbow bridges. I make them of seven pieces of fused glass, to commemorate pets who have passed on. I also make coasters in sets of four, that each have a different design on them, but when you arrange them correctly, they make a larger picture."



Steven designs ornaments for Christmas as well. "I use some of those holly leaves on my wreaths. Lots of people like snowmen. My whimsical reindeer heads are a lot of fun to make. But I also make abstract designs from pieces of glass that are just beautiful."

In making jewelry, Steven makes use of dichroic glass, shimmery glass with a coating of metal oxides, deposited in a vacuum. The metal coating reflects light in different colors, depending on the viewing angle.

Steven and his kilns are always trying new things. "You open the kiln, and every time it's like Christmas morning! I like that mystery. The experimentation is exciting. It's fascinating what heat can do to something." **NOW**



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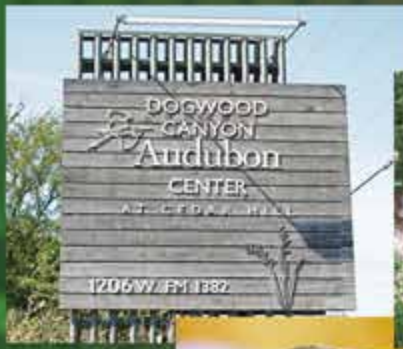
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SOARING FRIENDS

— By Sandra Walters

It's amazing to realize Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center is celebrating its 10th year in Cedar Hill. The Audubon Society's mission is to protect birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow. As a result, this nonprofit informs people by providing information and offering opportunities to learn about birds and their ecology. They rely heavily on volunteers and donations from the community to assist with the effort to preserve birds.

Katie Christman, the education specialist at Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center, stated, "I always loved nature. I'm from Upstate New York. I lived in a rural farming area growing up, and I totally enjoy being outdoors." As a result, Katie majored in environmental education, receiving a bachelor's and a master's degree in this field. She follows her passion by teaching communities and people of all ages about their natural surroundings. "We align our curriculum with the Science Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, and we work with teachers in the Cedar Hill and Dallas Independent

School Districts often. We work with grades K-12, but typically second- through fifth-graders come to our site for field trips. We take students on hikes, teach about birds and explain the importance of protecting birds and their habitats. I love kids and people. Kids are nervous about going outside on the trails, but we educate them and adults about nature," Katie added.

"This December 14 to January 5, the Cedar Hill Audubon Center will be conducting our annual Christmas Bird Count. The process started 120 years ago. This is an annual bird census to determine which species are healthy and which are endangered," Katie continued.

On Christmas Day in 1900, Frank Chapman and 26 other conservationists organized the first Winter Bird Count to promote conservation by counting rather than hunting birds. Some counts have been running ever since CBC began, and now there are more than 20 countries participating in this process. Between the appointed days, tens of thousands of volunteers across the United States and Canada go out to count birds. "A compiler works with volunteers by creating teams for certain areas pinpointed within a particular radius to conduct counting. The compiler is responsible for recruiting, training and guiding participants on the count and summarizing the data. Also, he or she manages 15 to 20 people in each assigned zone. This individual chooses a single day within the allotted time, and the Christmas Bird Count is done on one calendar day for each circle. And volunteers must sign up



to participate with the circle compiler. Each count takes place in an established 15-mile diameter circle. The participants count every bird they see and hear all day," Katie informed.

A CBC volunteer must arrange with the local compiler in advance of the count date if he or she is interested in being a participant. Next, follow the instructions from the compiler, and learn what data to collect. On count day, the birders go to the allocated spot and record their findings. The final step is sending the data to their compiler as soon as possible. Birders of all skill sets get involved in CBC. They use various techniques to count birds, while often using binoculars and telescopes to catch a glimpse of them. Some birders make noises to attract certain fowls. Birders have a specific lingo while in the process of counting. The compiler will pair individuals with experts to assist new participants.

Unaware people may take birds for granted if they are not informed of how humans benefit from their presence. However, when we think about it, the advantages become obvious. Farmers rely on birds to stay productive, which has an impact on our food supply. They prevent erosion, which protects our drinking water, and they act as a barrier to the spread of disease. Birds ensure that the furniture industry has enough wood. While bees, beetles and butterflies are frequently used for pollination, this procedure is also carried out by a variety of birds all around the world. This bird census provides vital information about the health of our environment.

"We invite people to participate in Christmas Bird Counting as an opportunity to assist Audubon with protecting the birds in our area and to learn more about how we benefit from birds in our environment," Katie concluded. "The Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center would be thrilled if you participated in the Annual Christmas Bird Count event this Christmas." **NOW**

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— By Adam Walker

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Dr. Thamen Kennedy Evans of Prosperity Dental is new to Duncanville, but not new to the area. “I started my practice 27 years ago. We chose Duncanville for our current location just over a year ago. But before we moved here, I had my practice in Grand Prairie, and before that I was in Arlington. I grew up in Dallas and went to Skyline High School. I’m a 1993 graduate of the Baylor College of Dentistry. We handle all phases of general dentistry and treat both adults and children age 3 and up.”

Dr. Evans treats all the common dental complaints from



simple cleanings and cavities to root canal therapy, but she has a special focus on gums. “I focus on periodontal care because the gums are foundational to a healthy mouth,” she explained. “I do nutritional counseling for healthy teeth and gums. We also do TMJ therapy as well as fillings and porcelain crowns for smile design. We handle basic preventative care like cleanings and sealants to protect the surface of the tooth.” They also use digital X-rays to limit patients’ exposure to the radiation inherent in old-style X-rays.

The front desk at Prosperity Dental is staffed by Diane Becht, who is also cross-trained as a medical assistant. Itzel Montez is a registered dental assistant. Omri Reown, a nursing student at Howard University, assists during breaks in his university coursework. “My staff have been with me a long time,” Dr. Evans affirmed. “My receptionist has been with me for 13 years. One of my assistants has been with me for five years, and the other has been with me for four years. We’ve

known each other for a long time. We're friends, and we work together very well. I think that's important. Listening is another important part of being a good dentist. There are a lot of nuances of a patient's dental issues that don't show up on a checklist. If you don't take the time to listen to your patients, you can miss important information."

Dr. Evans doesn't just listen when you come in for a scheduled appointment. She cares about dental emergencies, too. "One unique thing about Prosperity Dental is the fact that I don't use a messaging service. If you have an emergency on a Saturday or Sunday, you don't have to wait for a messaging service to forward that to me. It comes straight through to my personal cell phone, so I'll know right away that you have a problem. My patients really appreciate that."

"I focus on periodontal care because the gums are foundational to a healthy mouth."

Dr. Evans likes to spend time with her family and friends, when she's away from the office, and to try out new hobbies. "Recently, I've been enjoying golf. I'm a true novice, but it's a lot of fun learning!"

Here at the end of the year, many people need to use their dental benefits, before the next calendar year comes along, and their benefits don't roll over. "We take most insurance plans, including United Health Care, AARP Advantage plans and Medicaid," Dr. Evans assured. "Come in, and we'll make sure you have a positive experience. We enjoy taking care of our patients!" **NOW**

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- Scholarships for graduating seniors
- \$15,000 donation for the Fine Arts
- Awarded gift cards to every classroom teacher in the district totaling \$21,550
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Zoomed In: Kristin Bato

By Adam Walker

Kristin Bato is a long-time employee of NOW Magazines and no stranger to the SouthwestNOW area. "I lived in Cedar Hill for over 20 years. I've been with NOW Magazines for eight years, first as a graphic designer, and now I'm the new office assistant as well. Working on layouts for ads and articles was a passion while I was in college. It was nice to put my skills to use."

Her new position allows her to interact more with the public. "I like people. I'm excited to come to the office more often and see everyone. I'll get to talk to readers and customers more. I enjoyed living in Cedar Hill, and I'm excited to take your calls and help in any way I can!"



Akilah Ellis-Bullard is honored by DeSoto's Mayor Proctor for her efforts to support breast cancer survivors.



Izabelle McCalla performs with the Duncanville Color Guard during a halftime show.



CHISD honors the Lacey family, the family who integrated the district in 1971.



The Duncanville Fire Department visits First Methodist School for Safety Month.



Councilwoman Letitia Hughes, Deberah North and Dick North celebrate his birthday at the DeSoto Chamber of Commerce.



Students at the University of Dreams create a human ribbon for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



DeSoto education fans tie blue ribbons to celebrate World Teachers' Day.



Cedar Hill ISD honors its first quarter HOOPLA winners.

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CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With CAMERON KAINERSTORFER

— By Adam Walker



Cameron Kainerstorfer grew up eating from her father's garden. "I was exposed, at an early age, to a lot of things that were not easy to find in the market. I look for whatever is freshest at the store and plan my cooking around that. I love to try unfamiliar ingredients, like quellite cenizo and amaranth leaves. I find myself sketching them sometimes."

She works for the DeSoto Public Library and enjoys cookbooks as a form of "armchair kitchen travel. Some of my favorite recipes are from places I've lived, or from friends and family. Photographs fade over time, but each time a treasured recipe is made, conversations and laughter return to the table. As a dear friend once mentioned to me, "it's all about the food!" **NOW**

Liptauer Spread

Liptauer spread is made with a mild, fresh cheese known as Topfen in Austria and as Quark in Germany. It is difficult to find in the US, so this recipe uses a substitute.

Topfen Substitute:

1 cup cottage cheese
2 1/2 oz. cream cheese
1 Tbsp. ricotta cheese

Liptauer Spread:

1/4 cup (1/2 stick butter), room temperature
2 Tbsp. sour cream
1/2 cup onion, finely diced
1 Tbsp. pickle, minced
1 tsp. capers, minced
1 tsp. Dijon mustard
2 tsp. paprika
Salt, to taste
White pepper, to taste

1/8 to 1/4 tsp. caraway seeds
Sardine paste or sardine fillets (optional)
Chives, minced

1. Cream the butter in a large bowl. Add the Topfen substitute ingredients and sour cream; mix thoroughly.
2. Add the remaining ingredients, except the chives; mix again. Form into a rounded mass. Sprinkle with minced chives before serving.
3. Serve with crackers or any kind of rustic bread, such as rye or pumpernickel. Slice radishes, cucumber and yellow wax peppers to serve on the side.

Liptauer Sandwich Wraps

2-4 sandwich wraps (such as Mission or Flatout Wraps)
Liptauer spread
1 cucumber, halved and cut in thin strips
1 carrot, diced
2 lettuce leaves, chopped
1 pkg. sprouts and/or microgreens

**Protein of choice (tofu, chicken or ham),
cut in chunks**

**1/2 tsp. fresh herbs, chopped (parsley,
chives, and/or salad burnet)**

Length of twine

1. Lay out a wrap flat on a counter or plate. Add some of the Liptauer spread to the middle of the wrap with a knife, making a horizontal stripe.

2. Add a thin horizontal layer of vegetables, protein of choice and herbs to the middle of the wrap.

3. Fold the left and right sides toward the middle. Slowly roll the wrap until it is completely enclosed.

4. To help keep each sandwich from coming loose, tie the wrap around the middle with a length of twine.

Lazy Letscho

This side dish can be eaten hot or cold with grilled meat or vegetables, or with a lentil dish.

3 deseeded bell peppers (Use any color but green.)

1 small onion

2 medium tomatoes

6 Tbsp. oil

2 garlic cloves, minced

Salt, to taste

Pepper, freshly cracked, to taste

1/2 cup vegetable broth or bouillon

1 Tbsp. parsley, minced

1. Cut the bell peppers into long, thin strips. Cut the onion into strips or dice. Cut the tomatoes into eighths.

2. In a large pot, heat the oil; add the onions. Cook until the pieces are translucent. Add the bell peppers, garlic, salt and pepper; briefly cook on medium heat. Add the vegetable broth or bouillon. Cover; cook for 10 minutes.

3. Add the tomatoes. Cover; cook for 10 more minutes. (Or cook it uncovered for a thicker result.)

4. Remove from heat. Add salt and pepper to taste; stir in the parsley.

Orange Sesame Slaw

1/3 cups golden raisins or dried diced pineapple

6 cups red cabbage or 3 cups each red and white cabbage, finely chopped

1 large orange, peeled and segmented, with each segment cut into 5-6 pieces

1 1-inch piece ginger root, peeled and minced

2 Tbsp. rice vinegar

3 Tbsp. sesame seeds

1 Tbsp. soy sauce

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1 tsp. sesame oil
2 tsp. brown sugar
1 Tbsp. water
1 large carrot, shredded
White pepper, to taste

1. Add the raisins or pineapple, cabbage and orange pieces to a large ceramic or glass bowl. If there is any juice remaining from the orange slicing, add it to the bowl.
2. Add the ginger root and rice vinegar to the bowl; mix well. Cover with a large plate; let stand 15 minutes.
3. In a small bowl, combine the sesame seeds, soy sauce, sesame oil, brown sugar, and water.
4. Add the carrots and the ingredients in the small bowl to the large bowl. Mix well, adding white pepper. Refrigerate overnight before serving.

Mom's Spiced Oranges

These can be eaten as a dessert on their own, or added as a topping to dark chocolate ice cream.

4 oranges, peeled or unpeeled, cut into 3/8-inch slices

Whole cloves, to taste

1 cup sugar

1 cup water

1/3 cup light corn syrup



Liptauer Sandwich Wraps

1/4 cup apple cider or red wine vinegar
Pinch of salt

1. Stud every orange slice with 3-4 cloves. In a saucepan, combine the sugar, water, corn syrup, vinegar and salt; simmer, uncovered, for 5 minutes.
2. Add the orange slices; simmer for 5 more minutes. Let cool; transfer to a container. Refrigerate for 2 days.
3. After 2 days, remove the oranges from the syrup; remove all of the cloves and any remaining orange peel. Serve.
4. *Optional:* Enjoy the syrup by adding some to a glass of iced or hot tea with a sprig of mint, mineral water or champagne.

Scottish Shortbread

2 1/2 cups flour

1 cup (two sticks) butter, room temperature

1/2 cup sugar

Fresh lemon zest (optional)

1. Preheat the oven to 300 F.
2. Combine the first 3 ingredients until they can be pressed into a ball.
3. On a board, flatten the ball of dough to about 1/2-inch thick. Cut into shapes. Prick with a fork. Place on a baking sheet; sprinkle with sugar and the lemon zest if using.
4. Bake for 45 minutes or until just beginning to turn golden around the edges.



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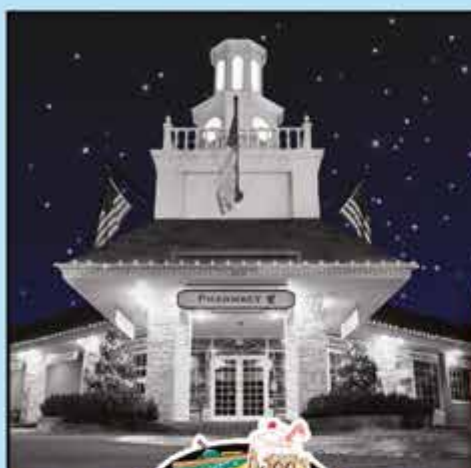


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A quick look at the gift items and discounts available locally.



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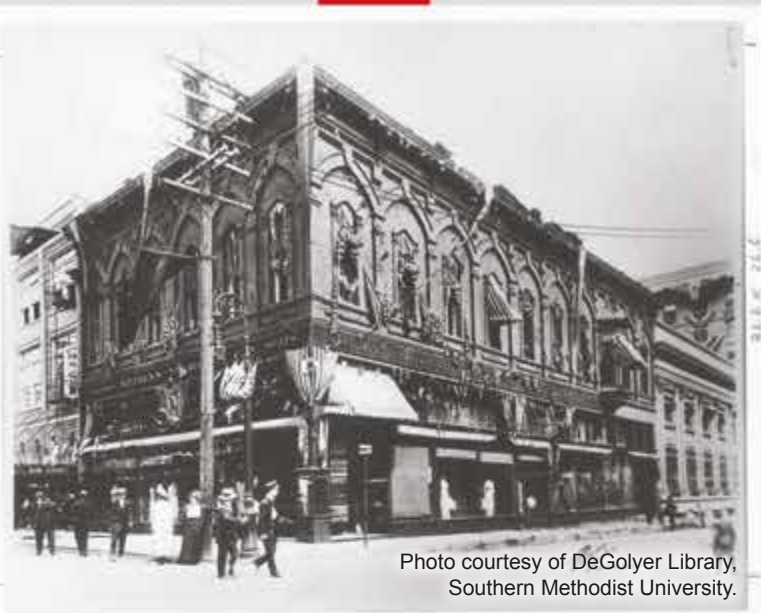


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• TALES OF TEXAS •

Who's Minding

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/Stanley-Marcus*.
2. *Minding the Store by Stanley Marcus*.

the Store?

— By Bill Smith



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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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A city twinkling with small-town personality, come visit and explore all the hidden treasures the charming community has to offer. From wildflowers in the spring to historic sites, wine trails to Christmas lights, Johnson City has something for the entire family. Johnson City's convenient proximity to the state

capital keeps you connected while still affording the benefits of small-town living. In the words of Lyndon B. Johnson, "All the world is welcome here."

Full of history and family adventure, everyone will want to visit President Johnson's boyhood home and ranch. The home of Texas legends, take in the Sauer-Beckmann Living History Farm or the Behrens Cabin.

Learn while having fun at the Science Mill. A family destination, they offer a fun, interactive learning environment for all ages. Through cutting-edge, technology-based exhibits, games and programs, the Science Mill expands students' understanding and appreciation of science in their everyday lives. By igniting their curiosity and inspiring them to pursue post-secondary education, the Science Mill experience starts students on the path to a lifelong career in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

While in Johnson City, explore the great outdoors at Pedernales Falls State Park. You can camp, hike, mountain bike,



Photo courtesy of the National Park Service.



Photo courtesy of the National Park Service.



picnic, geocache, bird-watch and ride horses. On the river, you can swim, wade, tube or fish. Look for local wildlife and plants at the bird blind and butterfly garden. It's the perfect way to spend time outdoors with your family or friends.

Local shops offer an array of items, including specialty items unique to Johnson City. Our art galleries are unrivaled in the area. We have several wineries, breweries and distilleries. Your journey across the 290 Texas Wine Trail starts here and works west to Fredericksburg, Texas.

The Exotic Resort Zoo & Safari Cabins is a wildlife park where you can go on a guided safari. Things are always wild and fun for all ages. With art, science, history, farms, outdoor activities and plenty of shopping, everyone in the family can enjoy the trip. Iconic restaurants wait to serve your new favorite dish, featuring a memorable experience different from the ordinary chain restaurant. Stay with us at a cozy hotel or one of our hospitable bed-and-breakfasts for that "not in the big city" feel.

During Christmastime, Johnson City features Light Spectacular. The community transforms itself from a slow-paced, presidential hometown nestled on the banks of the Pedernales River, into a bright beacon of light like a guiding star, welcoming visitors with good old-fashioned Christmas cheer. Included on multiple top Christmas towns in Texas lists, consider making this a memory of a lifetime or a regular tradition for your family.

Whether you decide to stay for a weekend, a week or a lifetime, come see why Johnson City is the Crossroads to Texas Hill Country. It's a trip you may want to repeat often. **NOW**

By Mayor Rhonda Stell and Frances Giron, executive director, Johnson City Visitors Center/Chamber of Commerce. Photos, unless otherwise noted, courtesy of Johnson City Chamber and Visitors Center.

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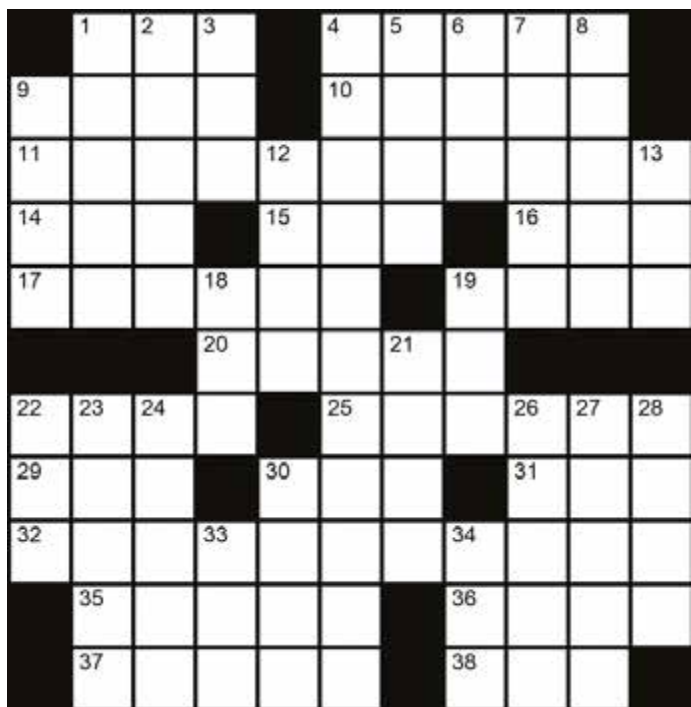


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Across

- 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 60

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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 60



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**Urgent
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An Important HEALTH WARNING for Men and Women Age 55 or Older!

**Do You Suffer from *Pain, Burning, Numbness,*
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Diabetes, Infection, or *ANY* of the Other
Conditions Listed in this Urgent Special Report?**

*If so, now you can virtually end your discomfort,
protect your health, and help you live a more active life.*

Dear Suffering Friend:

Tens of millions Americans have nerve damage — a condition known as "neuropathy."

The most common symptoms of nerve damage are pain, burning, tingling, and loss of feeling in your feet, legs, and fingers — with the pain ranging from mild to almost unbearable.

If you are diabetic, and especially if you are also age 60 or older, odds are that your nerve damage has been caused directly by your diabetes — although many younger diabetics also have nerve damage from this potentially deadly disease.

But many OTHER people with these symptoms — pain, burning, and tingling — are NOT diabetic, yet also suffer from nerve damage.

According to the Mayo Clinic, the many diseases and conditions that can destroy the nerves in your extremities and limbs include:

- | | | |
|------------------------|--|------------------|
| ✓ Alcoholism | ✓ Repetitive motions such as typing | ✓ Chemotherapy |
| ✓ Autoimmune diseases | ✓ Bone marrow disorders | ✓ Tumors |
| ✓ Vitamin deficiencies | ✓ Certain prescription medications | ✓ Infections |
| ✓ Liver disease | ✓ Falls, sports injuries, and other trauma | ✓ Kidney disease |
| ✓ Underactive thyroid | ✓ Wearing a cast or using crutches | |

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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.

12/1 and 12/8

Conversation Circle:

Practice English or Spanish in a small-group setting. Practica inglés o español en grupos pequeños. 6:30 p.m., Duncanville Public Library, 201 James Collins Blvd.

12/2

Mayor's Prayer Breakfast:

Hear about Mayor Mason's transformation vision. 7:30-9:00 a.m., Sims Recreation Center, 310 Parkerville Rd., Cedar Hill.

Holiday on the Hill:

Celebrate with kids' activities, live performances, an ice rink, train rides and a polar extreme obstacle course. Free. 5:30-8:30 p.m., Old Downtown Cedar Hill.

Mayor's Quarterly 360 Meeting:

Come hear Mayor Proctor's report on the present and future of DeSoto. 6:30-7:30 p.m., Council Chambers, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd., DeSoto.

12/4

Duncanville Christmas:

Join in the fun at the annual parade and tree lighting. Free. Parade: 6:00 p.m.; tree lighting: 7:00 p.m., Memorial Park, 101 N. Main St., Duncanville.

12/7

Christmas Tree

Lighting Ceremony:

Celebrate with live choral music and dance, as well as snacks. Free. 6:00 p.m., DeSoto Town Center, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd.

12/9

Parents Night Out:

Get that shopping done while the kids are entertained with games and candy. Free. 6:00-8:45 p.m., Duncanville Recreation Center, 210 James Collins Blvd., Duncanville.

12/11

Holiday Palooza:

Enjoy Santa pictures, live music, costumed storytelling, crafts and refreshments. Free. 1:00-4:00 p.m., DeSoto Public Library, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd., Ste. C.

12/18

Hometown Holiday Parade:

Watch the magic from DC3 Church on Polk St., to DeSoto Town Center. Free. 10:00 a.m., DeSoto Town Center, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd.

Hometown Celebration:

Show up for a storytelling Santa, ice skating, Zumba and more. Free. Noon, DeSoto Recreation Center, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd.

Christmas Musical:

Live: A range of local artists sing seasonal favorites. \$5-\$10. 7:00 p.m., Black Box Theatre, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd., DeSoto.

12/20-12/23 and 12/31

Holiday Break at DeSoto Recreation Center:

Come check it out. **First week:** 5:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.; **second week:** 5:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., DeSoto Recreation Center, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd.

First Tuesdays

Teens Can Cook Tutorial:

Learn how to cook from other teens. Free. Limited to 10 participants. 2:00-3:00 p.m., DeSoto Public Library, Multipurpose Room, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd., DeSoto. Register with Ms. Runnels at (972) 230-9663.

First and Third Tuesdays

Teen Tuesday:

Teen-focused fun. Free. 5:00 p.m., Zula B. Wylie Public Library, 225 Cedar St., Cedar Hill.

Thursdays:

Knitting Group:

Learn and knit together. Free.

1:00-3:00 p.m., Duncanville Public Library, 201 James Collins Blvd.

Saturdays

Binge Watch Film Club:

Watch movies and discuss them afterward. Free. 2:00 p.m., Duncanville Public Library, Programming Room, 201 James Collins Blvd.

Crafters Guild:

Ages 15 and up learn new crafts every week. Some materials provided. 3:00 p.m., Duncanville Public Library, 201 James Collins Blvd.

Third Saturdays

Duncan Switch

Saturday Street Market:

The event includes vendors, food and fun. 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Main and Center streets, Duncanville.

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



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1	B	A	D		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	
17	I	N	T	H	18	I	S		19
					20	O	S	A	
22	B	E	R	G		25	T	U	X
29	U	A	E		30	W	I	G	
32	S	T	E	T	33	H	O	S	
35	A	S	E	A	N				
37	T	E	X	T	S				

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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