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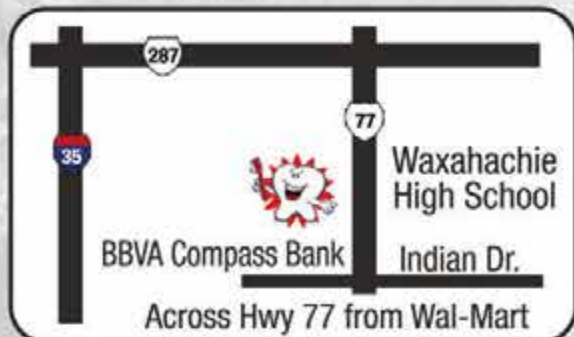
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ON THE COVER

A wreath welcomes visitors to the Steindler home.

Photo by
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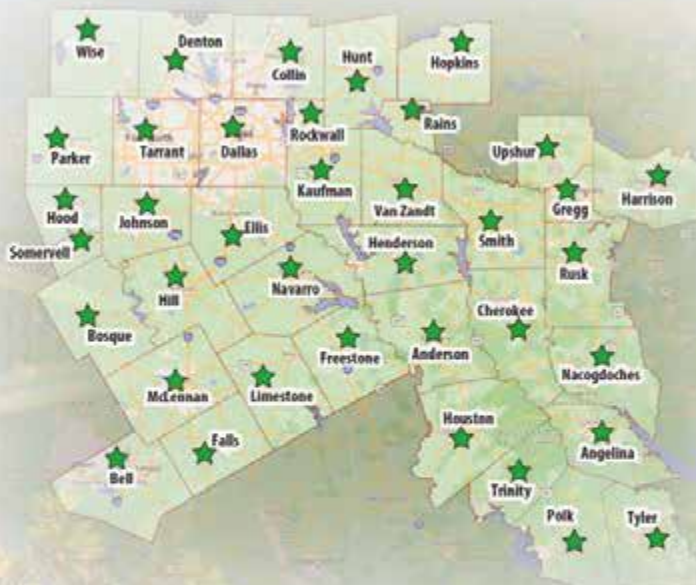
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EDITOR'S NOTE



Adam

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Hark the herald angels sing!

I hear people complain about Christmas music all the time, but they're usually thinking about that four-song loop at the department store. Mariah Carey has a great voice, but there's only so many times you can listen to "All I Want for Christmas Is You," baby. I love Christmas music. Not the kitschy Santa and elves stuff so much, but the sacred songs.

I have hundreds of Christmas songs on cassette, CD, vinyl and sheet music, many that most Americans have never heard of — even some of the American songs. I have "Silent Night" in the original German, but also in French and Chinese. I have "O Holy Night" in the original French, and other languages, too. I have carols and hymns and concertos. Several of the greats of classical music wrote fantastic pieces of music to celebrate Christmas. I have Russian, Zulu and Huron Christmas songs. I have Korean songs and Japanese songs celebrating the birth of Christ, and Arabic songs remembering the miracle in their native musical styles. There is a whole world of Christmas music from the modern to the ancient, from German lullabies to modern rock, from Indian bhajans and Pakistani qawwalis to African drumming and Swedish nyckelharpa.

I once had a student complain that Christmas music is "too happy." So, I showed her "The Coventry Carol," about King Herod killing all the babies in Bethlehem. With both mournful tune and lyrics of a bereaved mother, it covers a part of the Christmas story that's often glossed over. And I won't even mention "Christmas Shoes." With over a thousand years of music to choose from, there's something for every taste.

I'll be humming something Polish!

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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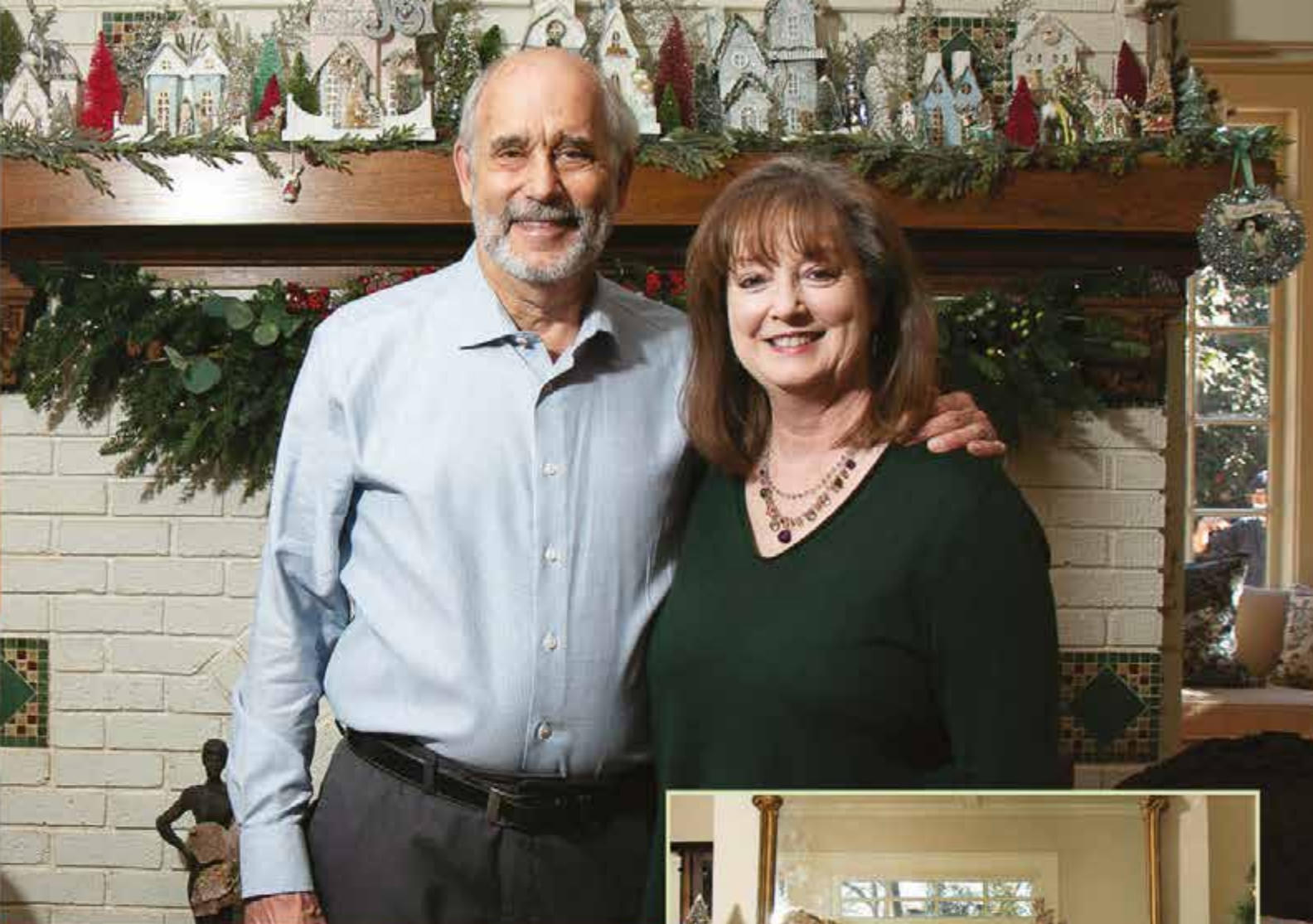


Old Time YULE

— By Adam Walker

“Decorating is my biggest Christmas tradition,” Brenda Steindler declared. “I spend a lot of time decorating. I don’t do a lot of baking, but I love gift wrapping. I really enjoy making gifts look pretty. Mike and I both enjoy decorating the house outside and in, for holidays. But Halloween is really his holiday, and Christmas is mine.”

When Mike and Brenda Steindler decided to move back to the Dallas area from Houston, where they had spent 20 years, Waxahachie just seemed like the perfect fit. Brenda grew up in the area. “I was born and raised in Mesquite. As a young mother, I loved Waxahachie and would bring my kids here for the Gingerbread Trail and to go antiquing.” Mike was from Muskegon,



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Mike and Brenda
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Michigan, an old lumber town with lots of gingerbread houses. So, Waxahachie fit his style when they were looking for a unique house to call home.

Most of Brenda's family live in either Rockwall or Corsicana, so Waxahachie put them about halfway between, and it offered plenty of the kinds of houses they were looking for. "This house was built in 1913," Brenda revealed. "I've researched it in the county records. You couldn't build a house like this now. Plus, it sits on nearly an acre. The backyard is like our personal park. During COVID, it's been nice to garden, trim trees and move bushes. I have enjoyed building gardens for many years now, and since retiring in 2020, I'm filling up the backyard."

The Craftsman house includes lots of old glass windows. The entire entry is a glassed-in sunroom that sparkles in the light, even before the Christmas decorations go up. "That's my favorite room," Brenda confessed. "I love all the glass. I also love pocket doors." Those pocket doors let the light spread and invite you to wander from room to room, looking at the Christmas trees and village scenes scattered throughout.

One of those trees features shiny silver tea balls. "Many of those are from England. They really get into their tea service." Another tree features timepieces. "Those are all antique watches that I made ornaments out of. It started with my dad's pocket watch. I wanted to do something to preserve that memory and have it be a part of Christmas." A third tree is dedicated to homemade ornaments. "That one has all the kids and grandkids' popsicle stick ornaments and school crafts."

It comes as no surprise when Brenda admits that she owned antique shops in both Dallas and Houston.

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"I was very good with the antiques. I learned a lot and had a lot of fun. But I wasn't so good with the business side. I was always giving stuff away and donating stuff! I add to my Christmas decorations year by year. I've been collecting Annalee dolls since the '70s. I like to give them as gifts. I also collect Christopher Radko ornaments. I buy them when we travel, so I have ones from Paris, New York City and Niagara Falls. I have a dedicated 'Christmas closet,' so nothing gets stored in the attic where it's vulnerable to the weather or animals. But you do run out of room!"

That must be a problem for future days, because Brenda manages to maintain a lot of collections. "I have a woodland theme on the mantel in the entry, and I put sugar houses on the living room mantel, under the frieze of musicians built into the chimney." She also collects Lilliput Lane English cottages. "I love the detail and the color. This is a collector's house, not a decorator's house!" Whimsical Krinkle enamel boxes by Patience Brewster are another part of her Christmas decor. "I picked my crystal snowman up at the airport in Switzerland."

As much joy as it gives her, Christmas isn't just about the decorating, it's also about family traditions. "I always went to Grandmother Miller's house for Christmas Eve. We'd have punch and cookies and ham sandwiches. Then my sisters and I continued getting together on Christmas Eve. But Christmas Day was time with our own kids and husbands, for dinner and gifts. Now, I always want all of the kids here for Christmas Day to have dinner together. I understand they want to spend time with the other sides of their families, but I want Christmas Day. The whole month of December is very busy. My mother-in-law, two granddaughters and a sister all have birthdays in December — plus me. Buying Christmas presents and birthday presents at the same time is hectic. Another of my daughters has her birthday on January 4, so one year, she decided to celebrate her 6-and-a-half-year birthday in June!"

"I also try to squeeze in time to drive around looking at Christmas lights. You just don't know how much pleasure it gives me. I hope others get that same pleasure when they drive by here!" **NOW**

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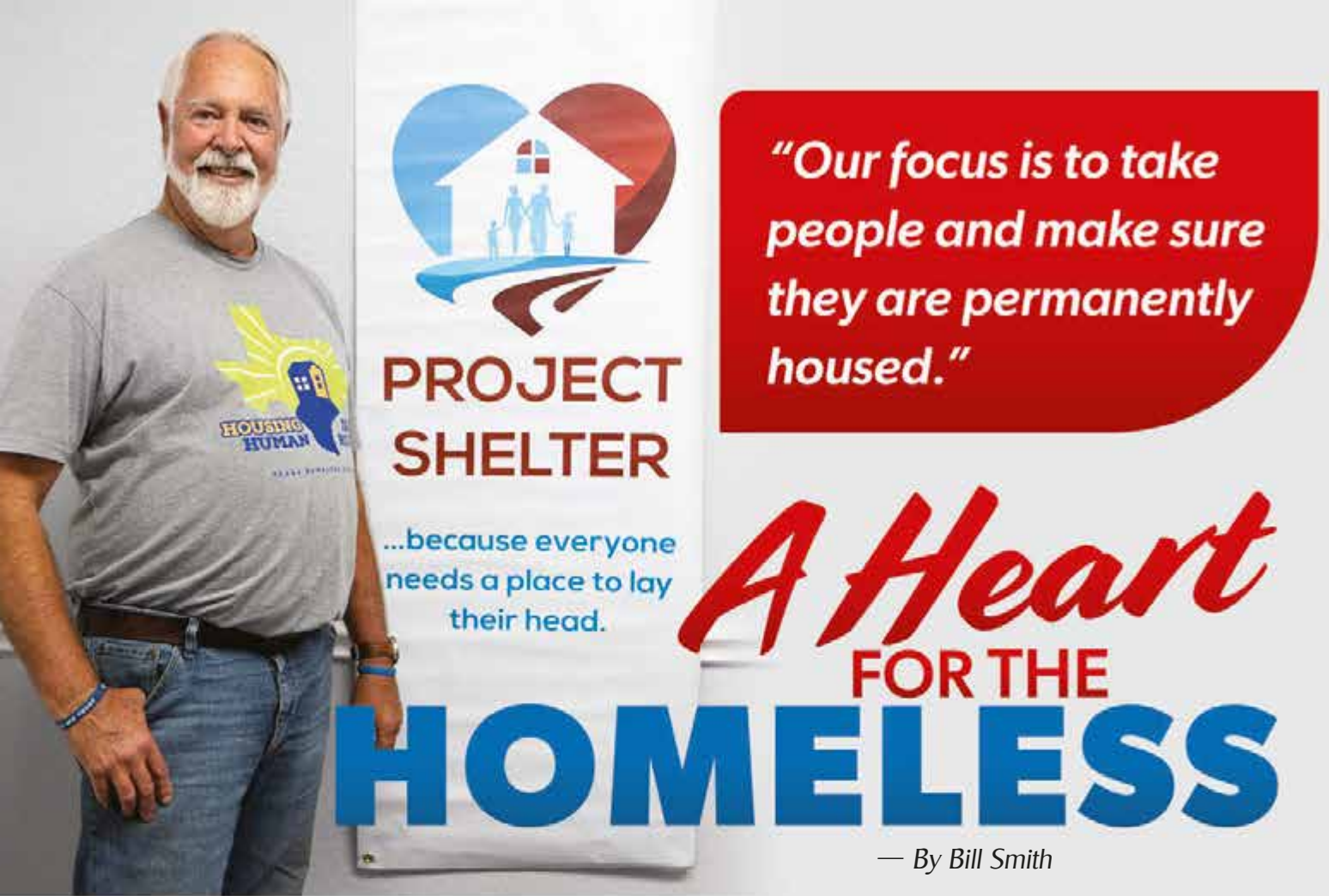
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James Bell became uniquely able to empathize with the homeless in Ellis County after he and his wife found themselves without a home just over 10 years ago. “I had a successful business, good health and a home. During the economic downturn of 2008, I lost all of those things, including suffering heart failure and the loss of our home,” James related.

“We had to leave Waxahachie and move in with my brother. I worked in my uncle’s apple orchard in Idalou outside of Lubbock.” James’ education is in horticulture, and his business before he became homeless and left Waxahachie had been landscaping. “Eventually, we were able to work our way back down here, and we wanted to be here because this is where our children and grandchildren are,” he continued. “In 2020, just as the pandemic was starting, we began forming the nonprofit Ellis County Homeless Coalition.”

Homelessness in Ellis County is a crisis situation. According to the statistics and census data that James shared, 27 percent of households in Ellis County are one paycheck away from homelessness. In an address James recently made in September to county commissioners, he pointed out, “During

the January 2020 Point-in-Time Count (the official count for HUD), 74 people were found experiencing homelessness in Ellis County. This count is for people of all ages living unsheltered or in a temporary shelter provided by a nonprofit. There were 435 Ellis County students classified as homeless in our 11 school districts. In addition to those actually living on the streets, this includes those living in hotels or at friends’ addresses. As of June 1, 2020, we found 70 families throughout the county living in hotels. For 2021, our count was about half the 2020 numbers because of the restrictive procedures in collecting data during the pandemic, except for hotels where the numbers have increased. Since the February freeze, we have assisted 74 people with needs related to housing and homelessness.”

Forming the coalition is important, as it opens the door for receipt of federal funds to assist with the local mission. “We need a ‘shelter,’” James emphasized. “Our focus is to take people and make sure they are permanently housed. Right now, we place a number of people in hotels where we have negotiated favorable rates, but that is certainly not a long-term solution. We will soon have access to a voucher system with which housing navigators will be able to work with landlords to provide rent assistance. In addition, we look forward to helping with affordable housing, budgeting, job education, transportation and eventually self-reliance.”

James doesn’t just talk about the homeless and their needs. He acts. At the beginning of the pandemic, his wife wanted a greenhouse, so he built one on their property. Before

she could move any plants in, James had welcomed three homeless men to shelter in that greenhouse.

He also ministers and teaches horticulture to offenders at the Sanders Estes Unit in Venus. "The Estes Unit is a re-entry facility. The ex-offenders are one of the groups that will be homeless unless they are able to find employment and housing. Currently in Ellis County, there is not much to offer for men needing overnight housing. We started a tent encampment in Palmer for chronically homeless men. Serenity Veterans Village in Palmer is a place of transitional housing for at-risk or homeless veterans." James admitted that the demand for affordable housing greatly outnumbers the current supply.

ALICE is an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. It refers to households that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county. As the cost of living has increased, wages have lagged behind, further exacerbating the problem. Although renters gained some relief from fear of eviction during COVID, evictions are again on the rise negatively influencing homelessness.

Ellis County Homeless Coalition is part of 215 counties in Texas that form the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care. One of the overarching goals of the Continuum of Care is to promote community commitment to the goal of ending homelessness. James can quote all of the statistics one can request without looking at his notes. He understands the homeless because he has lived as they live.

In January 2022, the coalition will conduct the annual Point-in-Time Count of the homeless in Ellis County and host the Let's Get Warm Giveaway at First Baptist Church in Waxahachie. There is a need for volunteers to assist with the event. James concluded his recent report to the county with, "Help us to provide a night shelter for men, women and families in our county that is not currently available. Help us make homelessness a rarity and affordable housing a reality in Ellis County." **NOW**

Editor's Note: For more information, visit www.elliscountyhomeless.com.



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— By Adam Walker

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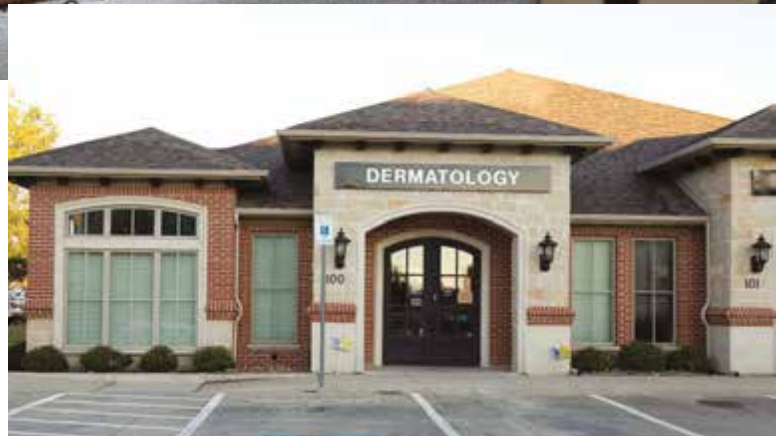
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There are many conditions that can affect the skin — from annoying to life threatening. Holly and her team treat everything from rashes, whether caused by medication, poison ivy and hives, from a range of causes, to acne and fungal infections like athletes’ foot. Eczema and psoriasis, warts and

cysts are common conditions that they treat. "Staph infections are common during wrestling season. We also treat, burns, sunburns and photo-induced conditions. Vitiligo and alopecia are common issues. We see skin conditions that are genetic, work-related, age-related and environmental. There are so many things that can cause problems with our skin." Some conditions only require a good moisturizer. Others are much more serious.

"We do screenings, exams and treatment for skin cancer. Most people should have their first full-skin exam in their 20s for a good baseline. Then as you age, regular screenings become increasingly important. Moles need to be monitored for any changes in size, shape, color or border irregularity. If skin cancer is detected, we have options from excision to superficial radiation to Mohs surgery available. If you need Mohs surgery, we will send you to one of our four locations that are fully equipped for the procedure. It's about the only procedure we don't do at this location. And all your post-op happens here."

If you just want to look your best, Holly and her crew can help you there, too. "We do BOTOX, Dysport, chemical peels and SkinPen microneedling. We also deal with hair loss from various causes and even dandruff, which is very common. We treat nail fungus, weak and brittle nails and psoriasis that effects the nails."

Some problems are fixed by the simplest methods. "A lot of people don't understand the importance of simply moisturizing. Using a good, fragrance-free moisturizer does a lot to keep your skin healthy, especially after a long bath or shower that strips away your natural oils. Also, you don't normally need abrasive cleansers. A mild cleanser and a soft cloth are better for your skin."

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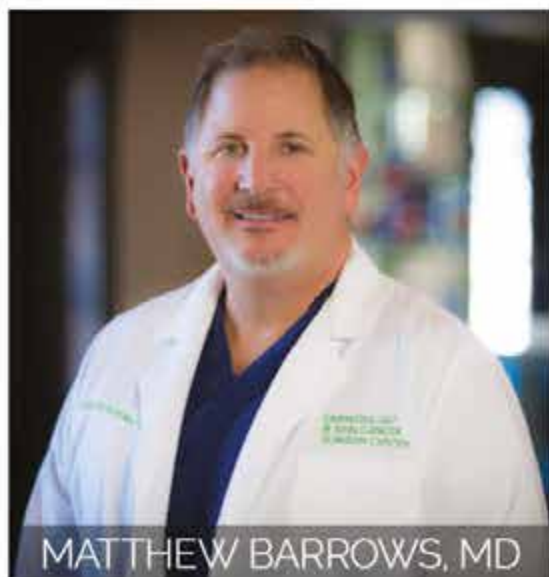
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Zoomed In: Hatsie Haran

By Adam Walker

New Waxahachie resident Hatsie Haran stopped by the Bob Philips Texas Country Reporter Festival, along with her husband and their dog, Buck, to see all there was to be seen. “My husband and I just moved here, and we had never been to the festival before, so we decided to come and have a look around,” Hatsie explained, including her husband who doesn’t like pictures.

Buck, their Labradoodle, seemed to be enjoying the dog-friendly festival just as much as his people, or any of the other dogs parading around. A passerby with a Collie commented on how red Buck’s coat is and asked if he were part Irish Setter. Buck didn’t seem to be offended, but his doggie daddy assured the Collie parents that Buck is, indeed, 100 percent Labradoodle.



Cathy Stagner, Father James Yamauchi and Alma and Robert Alva celebrate Oktoberfest at St. Joseph Catholic Church.



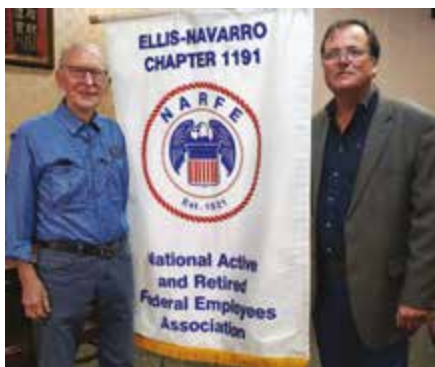
Gabby Gallegos, digital experience specialist at Neighborhood Credit Union, helps members manage their banking needs.



Queen Brooklyn Baskin and King William Lockhart reign supreme at homecoming.



Chris, Ashley and Barry Williams enjoy food, fellowship and fun at Bridges BBQ Bash.



Ralph Nelson welcomes Kevin Strength to speak at the NARFE meeting at Asian King Buffet.



Jessica Chaney helps paint the new mural at Optimist Field.



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Juan Galinda and Tyler Ortiz march in the homecoming parade.

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Channa Lee is a born baker. She remembers going to Boise State with her great-grandmother who was head chef there, and she learned other kitchen skills from her grandmothers. But she is mostly self-taught in the realm of baking.

“The best part of being in the kitchen is getting creative and having fun doing so. When creating recipes, disasters are inevitable. But my greatest triumph is probably winning the Bridges Cupcake Wars in two of the three categories: best taste and best appearance. That was a great time. I love coming up with original cakes that perhaps people have never tried, like my winning Sweet Basil Cupcakes With Basil Blackberry Curd Filling.” She doesn’t mind sharing recipes, but that one’s staying a secret for a while! **NOW**

Sparkling Cranberry White Chocolate Cake

Sparkling Cranberries:
1 1/2 cups sugar (divided use)
1 cup water
2 cups fresh cranberries

Cranberry Cake:
Baking spray
Parchment paper
3 1/3 cups all-purpose flour
2 1/2 tsp. baking powder
1 1/2 cups salted butter, room temperature
2 cups sugar

3 eggs
2 Tbsp. vanilla extract
1 cup sour cream
1 cup milk
3 cups fresh cranberries

White Chocolate Icing:
12 oz. white chocolate chips
3/4 cup heavy whipping cream
3/4 cup butter, room temperature
8-9 cups powdered sugar

1. For cranberries: Bring 1 cup sugar and water to a simmer in a saucepan. Simmer until the sugar is completely dissolved. Pour into a heatproof bowl; cool for about 10 minutes. Add the cranberries; stir to coat.
2. Refrigerate overnight, stirring a couple of times to coat with syrup. Remove the cranberries from the syrup; roll in remaining 1/2 cup sugar. (Roll them a few times to get a couple layers.) Set aside to dry for an hour or so.

3. *For cake:* Preheat the oven to 350 F. Prepare 3 8-inch cake pans with baking spray and parchment paper in the bottoms.
4. Whisk together the flour and baking powder in a large mixing bowl.
5. In another mixing bowl, cream the butter and sugar together; add the eggs one at time. Add the vanilla, sour cream and milk. Mix on medium speed just until smooth.
6. Add the flour mixture in two batches being careful not to overmix. Gently stir in the cranberries. Divide the batter evenly between the 3 cake pans.
7. Bake 35-40 minutes, until a toothpick inserted comes out with a few crumbs. Allow to cool for about 10 minutes; remove to a rack to finish cooling.
8. *For icing:* Place the white chocolate chips in a metal bowl.
9. Microwave the heavy cream until it starts to boil; pour over the chocolate chips. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap for 5-7 minutes. Whisk until smooth. Allow ganache to sit until mostly cool. It should be thick.
10. Beat the ganache with a mixer for about 2-3 minutes, until smooth and fluffy. Add the butter; beat until fully combined. Slowly add the powdered sugar; beat until fluffy and the right consistency. Add more cream if needed.
11. *To assemble:* Top the first layer with icing. Add the second layer and repeat. Add the top layer; then frost the cake with the remaining icing. Decorate with the sugared cranberries.

Blueberry Lemon Mascarpone Cake

This cake must be refrigerated.

Cake:

- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 3 large eggs
- 1 tsp. lemon extract
- 2 lemons, zested and juiced
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 2 1/2 cups, plus 2 Tbsp. all-purpose flour (divided use)
- 3 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 9 oz. blueberries

Frosting and Filling:

- 2 1/4 cups heavy whipping cream
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 16 oz. mascarpone cheese, cold
- 1 jar lemon curd

1. *For cake:* Preheat the oven to 350 F.
2. Prepare 3 8-inch round baking pans, by lining the bottoms with parchment paper and greasing the sides. Prepare your Bake Even Strips, if desired.



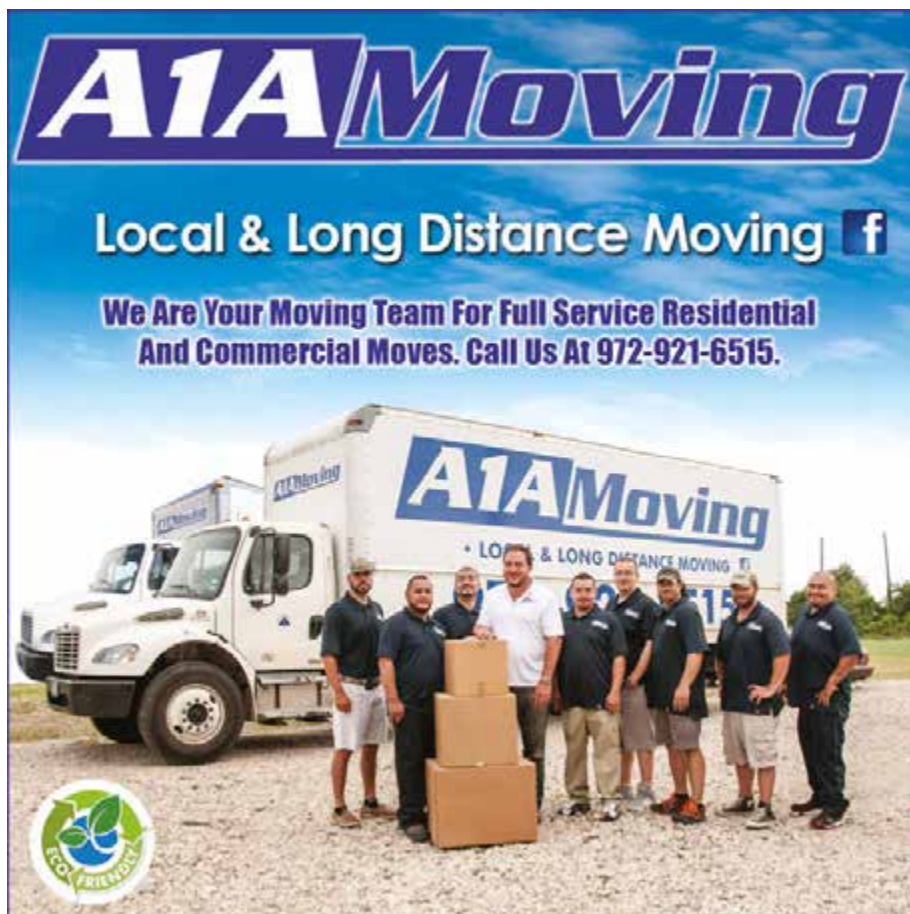
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3. In a large mixing bowl, combine the first 4 ingredients. Beat on medium speed until well incorporated and the batter is lighter in color, about 2 minutes. Scrape down the bowl as needed.

4. Add the lemon zest, 4 Tbsp. of lemon juice and sour cream; beat until well combined.

5. In another bowl, sift 2 1/2 cups flour, baking powder and salt together. Add half the flour mixture to the mixing bowl on low speed, while pouring in half of the buttermilk; mix just until the flour starts to incorporate.

6. Add the remaining flour mixture and buttermilk while beating until well combined.

7. Scrape down the sides of the bowl; stir the batter from the bottom to the top to ensure it's well mixed.

8. Toss the blueberries with 2 Tbsp. of flour. Gently fold them into the batter, saving a small handful to drop on top.

9. Divide the batter evenly between the 3 pans (about 1 2/3 cups per pan). Drop the remaining blueberries on top. Bake for 20-23 minutes. Test for doneness by inserting a toothpick into the center of the cake. If it comes out clean, it's done. Remove from the oven; allow to cool completely.

10. For frosting and filling: Place the mixing bowl and whisk attachment in the freezer for 5 to 10 minutes to chill. Pour the heavy whipping cream into the chilled bowl; beat on



Sparkling Cranberry
White Chocolate Cake

medium-high until it starts to thicken. Slowly add the powdered sugar and vanilla. Continue beating on high until soft peaks form.

11. Spoon the mascarpone into the bowl; continue beating on high until stiff peaks form.

12. To assemble: Use a cake leveler to cut the domes off the tops of the cakes.

13. Place half of the mascarpone in a large piping bag fitted with a large open round tip. Pipe a layer of frosting; spread evenly. Spread half the lemon curd over the mascarpone filling.

14. Add the second layer of cake; repeat, using all of the remaining lemon curd.

15. Add the final layer of cake on top. Use your piping bag to fill in any gaps between the layers and to create a crumb coat. Using

an offset spatula or icing smoother, wipe away the excess frosting, leaving just enough to coat the outside of the cake.

16. Frost the top and sides using your offset spatula. Garnish with lemon slices and leftover blueberries.

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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?

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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-socks-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-socks/>.

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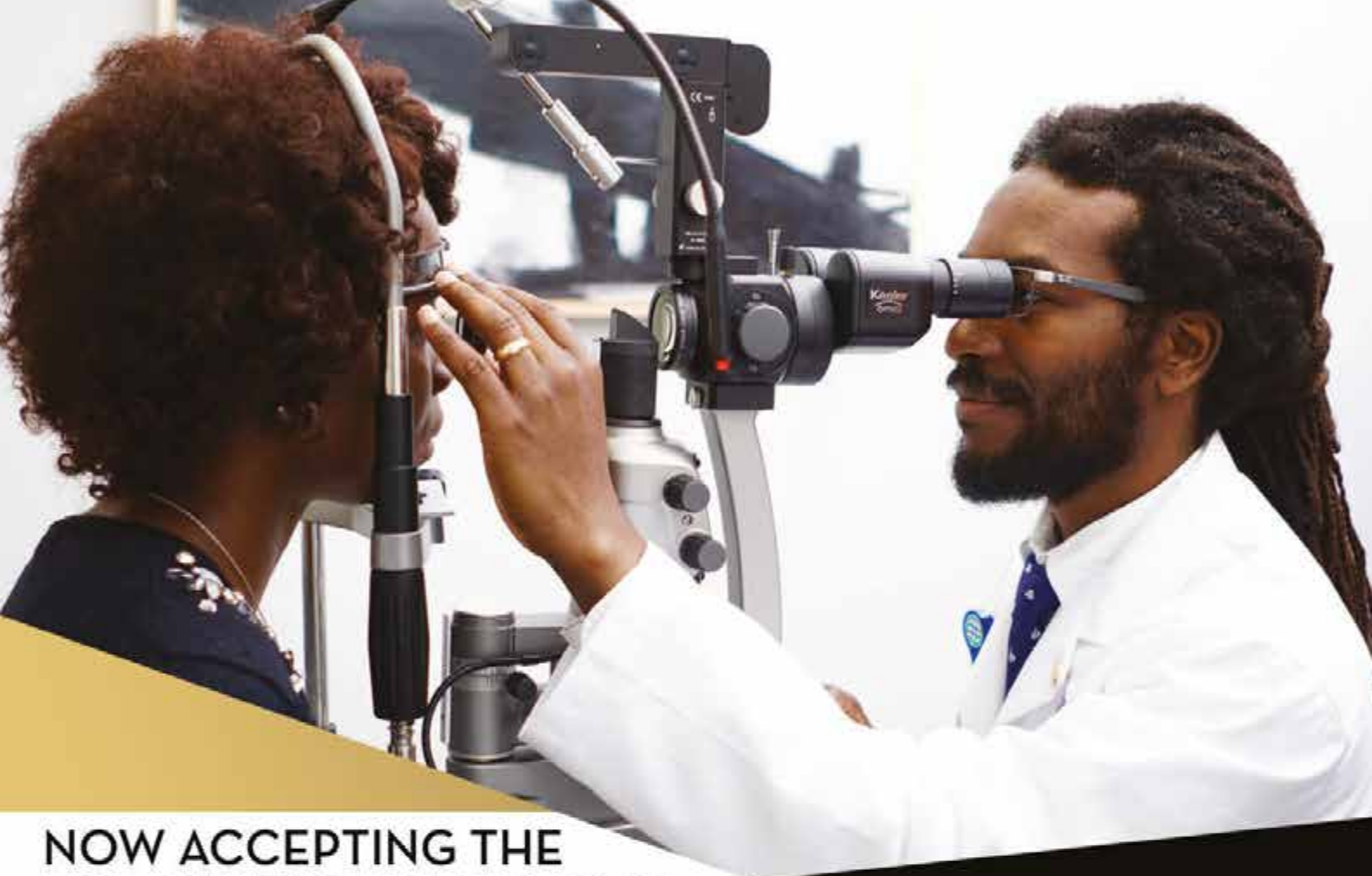
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A city twinkling with small-town personality, come visit and explore all the hidden treasures the charming community has to offer. From wildflowers in the spring to historic sites, wine trails to Christmas lights, Johnson City has something for the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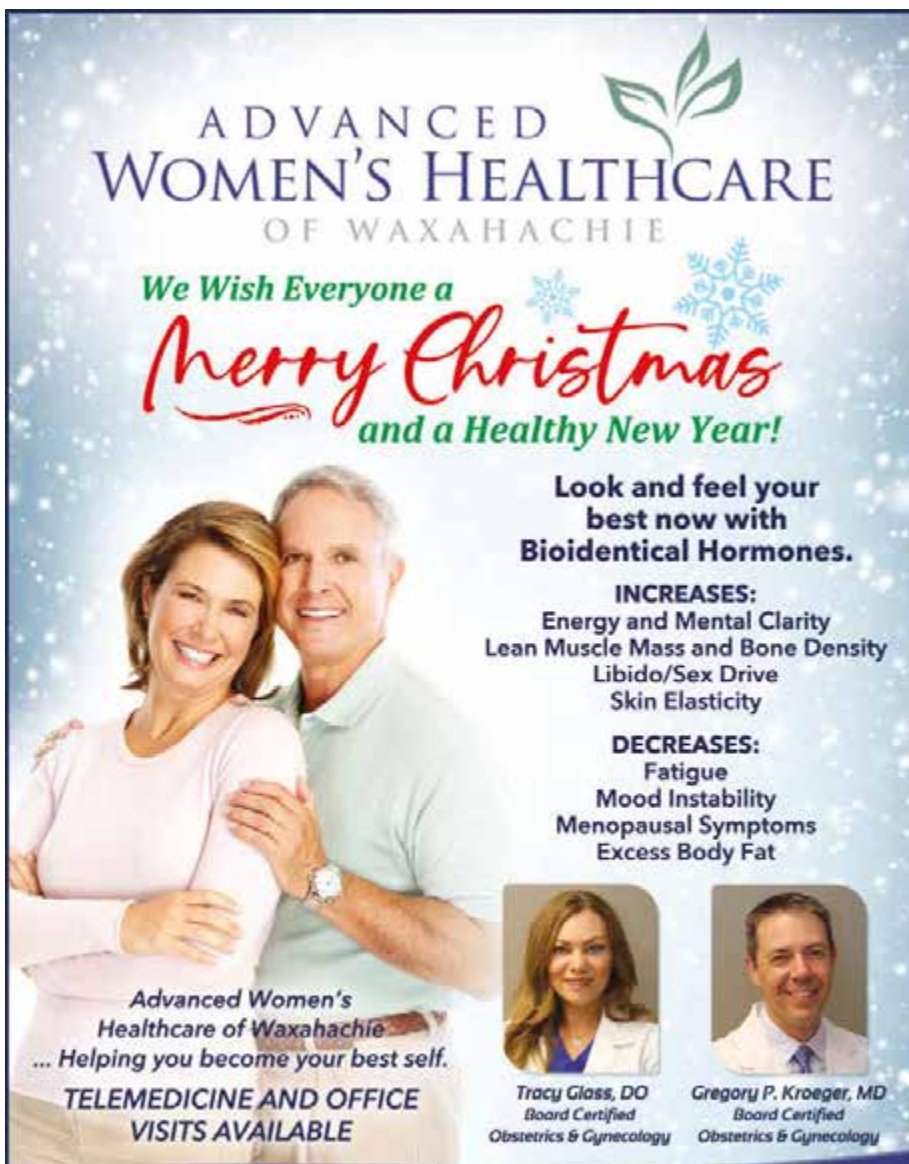
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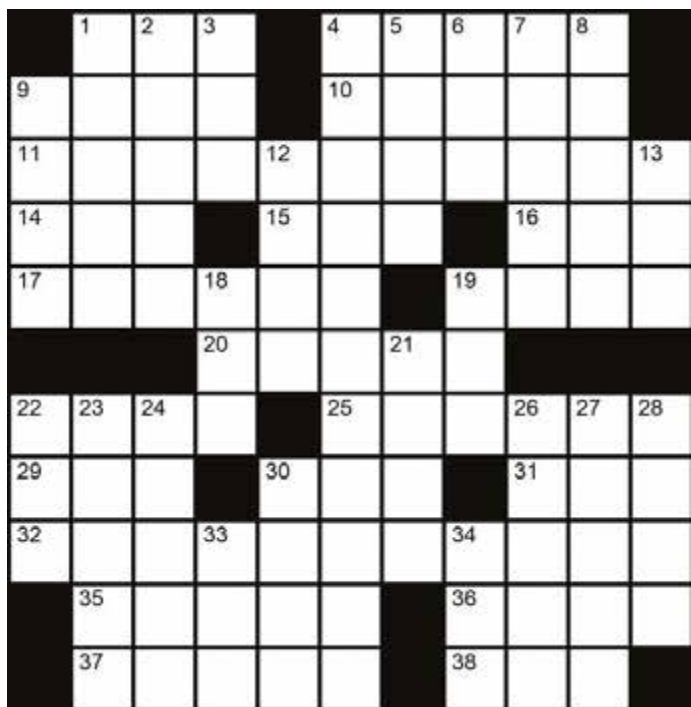
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Across

- 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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								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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12/1

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12/2

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12/3

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Sparkle and Sleigh:

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Waxahachie Civic Center, 2000 Civic Center Ln.

Live Nativity:

Lone Star Cowboy Church presents this Christmas experience as a drive-thru or park-and-stroll event. Train rides and free hot coco and cider included. Free.

Friday: 7:00-9:00 p.m.; **Saturday:** 6:00-9:00 p.m., 1101 E. Ovilla Rd., Red Oak.

12/3-12/12

Bethlehem Revisited:

Step back in time 2000 years, to the night of the first Christmas. 6:00-9:00 p.m., 402 N. College St.

12/4

Wes Davis and the Highwater:

Live music. 5:30 p.m., Railport Brewery, 405 W. Madison St.

Movie Night — Polar Express:

Real train cars and the classic film make a great combo. Free. 6:00 p.m., Railyard Park, 455 College St.

12/10

Candlelight Walk and Caroling:

Participate in a holiday tradition that has almost disappeared. 5:30 p.m., Railyard Park, 455 College St.

12/10-12/12

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever:

Hey, you! Waxahachie Community Theatre presents the hilarious classic. Adults and school age children: \$10; preschoolers: Free. **Friday and Saturday:** 7:30 p.m.; **Sunday:** 2:30 p.m., University Church, 221 Solon Rd.

12/11

YMCA Santa Run:

Get your jingle on! 9:00 a.m., Railyard Park, 455 College St. Visit <https://www.ymcadallas.org/locations/waxahachie> to register.

Danceworks Annual Nutcracker Tea:

Enjoy selections from Tchaikovsky's classic ballet. \$20-\$35. 2:00-4:00 p.m., Chautauqua Auditorium, Getzendaner Park, 400 S. Grand Ave.

Sounds of the Season With the Ft. Worth Symphony Orchestra:

Check laughter and cheer off your holiday list this season with a spectacular Christmas program by the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra. Sing along to beloved Christmas carols and seasonal tunes sure to warm the hearts of listeners of all ages and make memories to last a lifetime. \$20. 7:00 p.m., SAGU Hagee Center Performance Hall, 499 E. University Ave.

12/11-12/12

TICA All Breed Cat Show:

See some purr-fect cats and overload on the cute! **Saturday:** 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; **Sunday:** 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Ellis County Expo Center, 2300 W. 287 Byp.

Historic Waxahachie Christmas Tour of Homes:

Enjoy holiday splendor and fantastic architecture. 2:00-8:00 p.m. See www.historicwaxahachie.com for a list of participating homes.

12/14

Teen Holiday Party:

Stop by and see what the library has going on. Free. 5:00-6:30 p.m., Sims Library, 515 W. Main St.

12/18

Tween Holiday Party:

The library would never forget you guys! Free. Noon-1:00 p.m., Sims Library, 515 W. Main St.

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



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Find 5 hidden
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in 5 different ads in this issue
(not counting the one above).

Email the page numbers and
specific ads where they are
found, plus your contact
information and phone
number, by December 15th.
To ensure your Scavenger Hunt
answers go in the drawing,
you must use the

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scavenger.wax@nowmagazines.com

One entry per person.



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Winner must pick up prizes
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Paperclips were found on
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11	E	R	A	12	D	I	C	A	T
14	M	O	P	15	B	U	D	16	Z
17	I	N	T	18	H	I	S	19	W
20	O	S	A	21	M	A			
22	B	E	R	23	G	24	T	25	U
26	U	A	E	27	W	I	G	28	P
29	S	T	E	30	T	H	O	31	S
32	A	S	E	33	A	N	34	I	C
35	T	E	X	36	T	S	37	S	H

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
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