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M A G A Z I N E

DECEMBER 2022

The Upstairs Village

At Home With Lyn Whittaker
and Beverly Davis

2022 Holiday
Shopping Guide

In the Kitchen With
NOW Community Editors

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt

Crossword/Sudoku

Featured Business:
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A photograph of a smiling grandmother, mother, and young girl in a kitchen. The grandmother is on the left, wearing a white shirt and a grey apron. The mother is in the center, wearing a dark shirt and a grey apron. The young girl is on the right, wearing a red shirt and a white apron. They are all smiling and looking at each other. In the foreground, there is a wooden cutting board with sliced yellow peppers, a woven basket filled with green and yellow bell peppers, and a glass jar filled with cookies.

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Dr. Peter Sutton, DMD, MSD

Dr. Sutton graduated #1 in his class from University of Kentucky and completed his orthodontic residency at one of the top programs in the country, University of Texas Health Science Center. Dr. Sutton has been practicing orthodontics in Texas for 7 years. Dr. Sutton wants orthodontics to be fun and engaging for his patients. He is skilled in many different treatment options from metal braces, clear braces to Invisalign Clear Aligners. His ultimate goal is to get each patient a great result and have fun during the process.



Dr. Kelsey Greene, DDS

Dr. Kelsey Greene, DDS completed her undergraduate degree in biochemistry with a minor in biology at Roanoke College. She graduated from VCU School of Dentistry in 2018 and went on to do additional training in general dentistry at the Washington DC Veterans Affairs Hospital. Dr. Greene enjoys practicing all areas of restorative and cosmetic dentistry. She is focused on keeping up with the latest dental technology and practices, and she continues to exceed the hours of continuing education each year. During her free time, Dr. Greene enjoys volunteering at dental service projects, cooking and spending time with family. She looks forward to meeting you!

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ON THE COVER



A Christmas village comes to life at the home of Beverly Davis and Lyn Whittaker.

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Lori Baur.

*Publisher, Connie Poirier
General Manager, Rick Hensley*

EDITORIAL

*Managing Editor, Becky Walker
Burleson Editor, Lisa Bell
Office Assistant, Kristin Bato
Editors/Proofreaders, Lisa Bell
Rachel Rich . Virginia Riddle*

GRAPHICS AND DESIGN

*Creative Director, Chris McCalla
Artists, Kristin Bato . Beth Davis
Martha Macias . Anthony Sarmienta*

PHOTOGRAPHY

*Photography Director, Chris McCalla
Photographers, Lori Baur . Bill Smith*

ADVERTISING

*Advertising Representatives,
Karen Schaefer . Bryan Frye
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Dustin Dauenhauer . Kelsea Locke
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Billing Manager, Angela Mixon

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Lisa

Lisa Bell
BurlesonNOW Editor
lisa.bell@nowmagazines.com
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EDITOR'S NOTE

Drifting in the air ...

The soft sounds of Christmas transition me to a place of peace, joy, calm and love. OK, if I'm honest, sometimes they transfer me to a place of chaotic rush, people fighting for the last item on a shelf and panic over trying to get everything done in the next 24 or fewer days. Still, I love it. No matter how crazy life gets this month, I drink in everything about the season, and when it ends, I wish for a few more days to relish it all — even the cheesy Christmas movies.

I know. Some of you already said, "Bah, humbug." But admit it. Christmas brings out the best in most people. At least, I want to believe it does. More generosity, smiles, patience in long lines, the love shown in a special gift. I find myself wondering, *Why can't every day be like Christmas? Why don't we show more kindness all year long?*

Maybe we can, if we remember the source of our seasonal attitudes. Perhaps seeing a nativity reminds us of the ultimate love — Emmanuel, God with us. God, in human form coming to Earth, giving up heaven to walk among mankind. Who dares to give up so much? When I consider such a gift, it makes me want to give. And if I don't lose that feeling after December 25, then perhaps it will be a wonderful year indeed.

This Christmas, may love, peace and joy fill your heart to overflowing!

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 Upstairs Village

— By Lisa Bell

At Home With Lyn Whittaker and Beverly Davis





Since 2007, Lyn Whittaker and Beverly Davis have shared a home in Burleson. Five years ago, Beverly's son, Luther, asked to move in with them. Now her grandchildren, Tyler, Tomaya and Trey, live there, too. Lovers of Christmas, they all look forward to opening their home to family and friends. Beverly said, "I like to walk in, and Christmas rains down on you." Every year, they choose a different theme and decorate the entire home. Every room holds a touch of the holiday, but upstairs, Beverly creates a masterpiece — a Christmas village, which takes at least 27 hours to assemble. Lyn built platforms for the village, but when it comes to placing each piece, she steps back and lets Bev take control.

Born in Arizona, Lyn's father served in the Air Force and met her mom in Germany. Her dad's mother lived in New Orleans, Louisiana, which she made her home for 48 years. She spent 35 years working with mentally and physically disabled people. Now retired, she volunteers with Huguley Hospital, Hope Center and local food banks. She enjoys taking meals to elderly shut-ins.

Originally from New Orleans, Louisiana, Bev works for Texas Health and Human Services. Despite long days, she loves her job helping people. She chose a home in Burleson because of academics and the community's friendliness. A gospel singer, Bev traveled the world, but it became too demanding for a single mother. A constant in her life, religion remains important to her.

Because they share Christmas as a favorite holiday, they host parties with about 30 guests. "I'll feed anyone," Beverly said with a smile. "Christmas brings out the better side of people. It brings out calmness, sweetness, gentleness and compassion. Even mean people become gentler."

Lyn agreed, "Christmas brings family and friends together. It's a fun time of year. We take the kids for rides through the neighborhood and have even gone to Polar Express."

For at least two or three years ahead, Bev knows what she wants to do for Christmas. Each year, she delights in changing themes and colors. The basics remain the same, with collections of nutcrackers and Santa figurines, and an outdoor display that





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warms the hearts of those driving by. In the front entry, a curved staircase creates a perfect niche for a tall, slender Christmas tree. They enjoy adding a matching touch of decor to the banister.

A formal dining area provides the perfect place for a festive table, which holds delicious tastes of the season. An avid cook, Bev looks forward to preparing a feast of treats and sharing them with family and friends.

Last year, they used nutcrackers as a theme. This year, they plan to feature winter white, blue and gold. Next year, she'll switch to warm colors. "I just know what I want," Bev said. "If it's gonna be done, it's gotta be right."

A smaller tree graces the family room. Tomaya decorates that tree now, learning at a young age to take on her grandmother's flare for Christmas decorating. Fun objects fill the rooms, including a 49-year-old Santa music box. It was Bev's daughter's first present. Santa, in the kitchen, acts as their security guard, a mere 35 years old. For a birthday present, Lyn gave Bev a Santa's toy shop figure as the newest "toy."

Bev shared, "I just like Christmas. The kids love it no matter how early we put it up, or how late we take it down."

"Christmas was my mom's favorite holiday. I just go along with it," Lyn admitted with a grin. Although Lyn helps decorate inside the house, she and the kids take on setting up the exterior lighted display.

At the top of the stairs, an open room serves as the perfect place to feature the Christmas village. Despite the many hours required to create the scene, Bev considers it worth every minute. She prefers tackling the job by herself and simply loves putting it together. She builds layers with larger





trees in front and smaller in back to craft a three-dimensional look. Spanning 20 feet wide and coming out 15 feet, the village lights up the entire room.

While she changes up things from year-to-year, many parts remain the same, with themes running throughout. A river runs through the tiny village with a waterfall, amusement park, campground, schools, churches and a beautiful night sky. A train encircles part of the village, capturing the attention of young and old. The entire scene comes to life with movement and lights, mesmerizing everyone. Sometimes, children get on the floor and look up, which gives them a different view than when they stand beside the village.

With 175 buildings, hundreds of various-sized trees, miniature people, vehicles, and animals plus other pieces such as carousels, the scene evokes a magical atmosphere. Surrounding strings of twinkling lights enhance the overall appearance. Beverly explained, "I want it to look like an authentic story."

For decades, both Lyn and Bev have frequented Christmas stores wherever they go. Because they enjoy traveling, they take trips about once a month, but many elements of the village came as gifts.

"We find them at garage sales, sidewalk sales, thrift stores or people give them to us," Lyn said. "While we seldom pay full price, we found one 10-piece collection we splurged on."

Bev added, "In a Paris, Texas, antique store, we bought 25 houses with figurines. Some were collectibles."

With the labor of love completed, Lyn and Bev gear up for this year's festivities. As they greet visitors with warmth, friendship and tasty food, most will find their way upstairs. And in that quiet space, perhaps the magic of a tiny village will transport them to moments of peace. **NOW**

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BusinessNOW Southern Gem

— By Lisa Bell

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After opening in a small location, Gayla moved her business to the third floor of The Windmill Building at The Standard of Chisenhall. From a single-owner business to now employing four amazing people from the community, Southern Gem quickly outgrew their space again. With a new store space under construction, they plan on moving to the first floor of the same building. After the change, Gayla envisions a bright future with events and a lounge area open to their customers.

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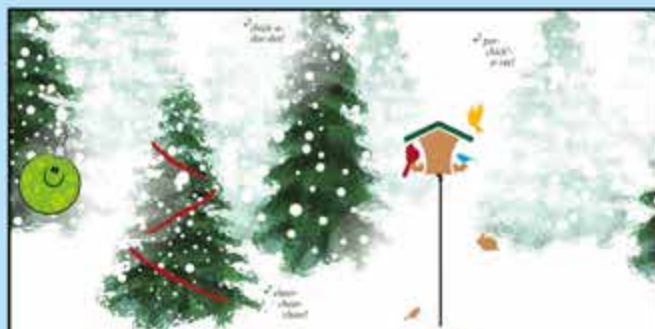
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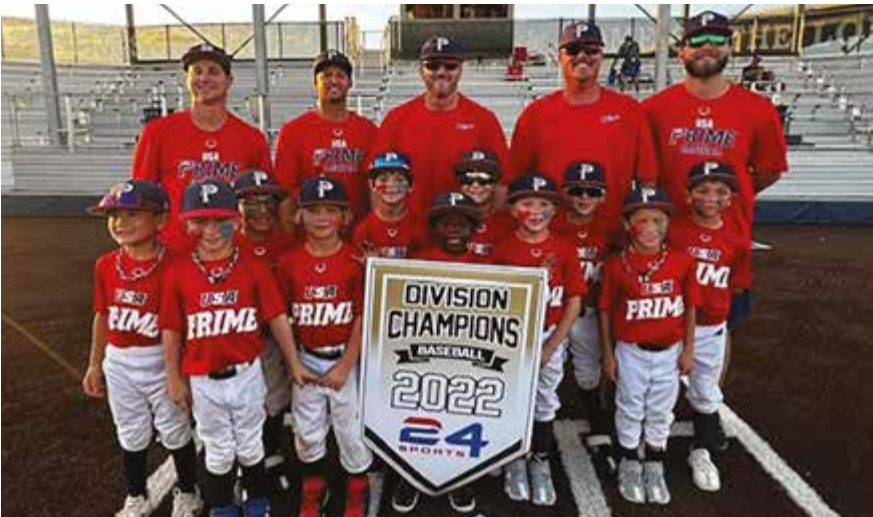
Zoomed In:
Leigh Payne and Michael Beckham

By Lisa Bell

On a mild autumn afternoon, Andie Leigh Payne and Michael Beckham enjoyed an afternoon at Bailey Lake. They started dating about six months ago, although Michael shared, “We tried for almost a year.” Andie Leigh explained, “It didn’t feel right. I had things to deal with, and so did he. But it worked, because we’re together now.” Both Christians, the young couple discussed doing Bible study together. That morning, Michael decided, “Today is the day to do it.” So, they sat in gentle breezes and warm sunshine, looking at how to face fear without it stopping them from moving forward. Both find value in each other, and wherever the future leads, they plan to continue building their relationship based on faith.



Santa makes an early appearance at the Power of Heels Holiday Bazaar.



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Michelle Milford shares information about the Center for ASD (autism spectrum disorder).



Teddi Zucker teaches a butterfly class at Wild Birds Unlimited.



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CookingNOW In the Kitchen With NOW COMMUNITY EDITORS

— By Lisa Bell

A special thanks to The Lighthouse Church in Midlothian for the use of their kitchen for the photo shoot.

At NOW Magazines, community editors enjoy creating monthly cooking features — a favorite of readers. Here we share some of our own special holiday recipes.

Angel Morris covers *MidlothianNOW* and *NorthEllisCo.NOW*. She enjoys baking because she said all her teeth are sweet. She most enjoys breakfast for dinner with her family. Virginia Riddle, editor for *CorsicanaNOW*, enjoys traveling. Her Grandmother Bates always brought ingredients for ambrosia. “The smell of the oranges was so rich and heavenly.”

EnnisNOW editor, Bill Smith, said, “While my wife, siblings and in-laws helped with holiday meals, everyone knew Mom was in charge, and she set a high bar for all the food.”

Editing *MansfieldNOW*, Sandra Walters shared, “My husband’s grandmother (Nebber), mother-in-law (Gail), Mrs. Scales and Mama Gee always created exquisite meals during the holidays.”

Adam Walker, the *SouthwestNOW* and *WaxahachieNOW* editor, loves exploring the world of food. “But I’ll stop anywhere that has good chocolate,” he admitted.

Covering *BurlesonNOW* and *WeatherfordNOW*, Lisa Bell grew up as Mom’s baker and said, “I come from a long line of fantastic cooks.” **NOW**

Pretzel M&M Hugs

Angel Morris — a fun way to involve kids in the kitchen.

Servings: One bag of Hugs contains about 75 pieces (one batch). The bags of M&Ms and pretzels yield 4-5 batches total.

1 16-oz. bag Snyder’s Snaps Pretzels, square shaped (not butter flavored)

1 11-oz. bag HERSHEY’s Hugs chocolates (or your favorite flavor)
1 11.4-oz. bag red and green M&Ms

1. Preheat the oven to 200 F. Line a cookie sheet with a baking mat or parchment paper. Place the pretzels on the cookie sheet in a single layer; top each pretzel with 1 HERSHEY’S chocolate.

2. Bake 4-6 minutes, or until the chocolate is shiny and soft, not totally melted! Remove from the oven; carefully place 1 M&M in the center of each soft Hug. Press down on the M&M to spread the chocolate.
3. Place in the freezer or refrigerator for 10-15 minutes, allowing the chocolate to set. Store in an airtight container. *Note: If using multiple flavors of HERSHEY’S Kisses, make each flavor in its own batch as melting times will differ from flavor to flavor.*

Ambrosia

Virginia Riddle — 4 servings (can double or triple)

2 cups fresh oranges, cut into bite-size pieces
1/4 cup coconut, shredded
1 20-oz. can pineapple tidbits
19 maraschino stemless cherries, halved (Reserve 4 whole cherries with stems for topping.)
2 tsp. sugar
1 8-oz. tub Cool Whip (optional)
3/4 cup pecans, chopped (optional)

1. Combine all the ingredients; stir well.
2. Serve as an appetizer or dessert in compote dishes; use whole cherries with stems to top each dish.

One Dish Chicken, Potatoes and Green Beans

Bill Smith

Spray cooking oil

- 2 14.5-oz. cans green beans
- 2-3 chicken breasts; cubed
- 3-5 small to medium potatoes
- 1 pkg. dry Italian dressing mix
- Black pepper, to taste
- 1 stick butter, melted

1. Lightly spray a 9x12-inch baking pan with the cooking oil. Drain the green beans; place them in 1/3 of the pan area.
2. Add the chicken next to the green beans; then add the potatoes. The chicken, green beans and potatoes should each cover about 1/3 of the pan.
3. Sprinkle the dressing mix over everything. Add black pepper to taste.
4. Drizzle the butter over the top. Cover with foil; bake at 350 F for 1 hour and 10 minutes.

Nebber's Rolls With Modern Twist

Sandra Walters

- 1 cup shortening
- 2 1/4 cups water (divided use)
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 1/2 tsp. salt
- 3 pkgs. instant dry yeast
- 3 eggs
- 8 cups flour
- 2 sticks butter, melted

1. Place the shortening, 1 1/4 cups water, sugar and salt in a bowl; heat the ingredients in the microwave for about 30 seconds. Stir until the shortening is melted; cool to lukewarm.
2. In a large bowl, dissolve the instant dry yeast in 1 cup lukewarm water.
3. Add the shortening mixture and eggs; gradually add the flour, beating well with a spoon.
4. Once combined, knead until soft, circular and elastic. Place the dough in a greased bowl, turning once to grease the top of the dough.
5. Cover with a cloth; let rise in a warm place for 10-15 minutes.
6. Roll out flat; cut using a small, circular cup on a flat surface. Dip the cut out dough into the melted butter. Fold in half; place the dough close together in greased baking pans.
7. Bake at 350 F for 15-20 minutes. Brush with butter and serve.

Chocolate Ribbon Pie

Adam Walker

- 4 oz. cream cheese
- 2 Tbsp. sugar



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2 Tbsp. condensed milk (divided use)
 1 8-oz. tub Cool Whip, thawed
 (divided use)
 1 9-inch Oreo Crumb Crust
 2 cups cold milk
 2 4-oz. pkgs. chocolate fudge
 instant pudding
 Cocoa powder or chocolate shavings

1. In a bowl, beat together the cream cheese, sugar and 1 Tbsp. of the condensed milk until smooth. Gently fold in half of the Cool Whip. Spread on the bottom of the crust.
2. In another bowl, combine the milk and remaining condensed milk. Add pudding; whisk for 2 minutes. Pour over the cream cheese layer.
3. Refrigerate for 4 hours, until well set and chilled. Top with the remaining Cool Whip; spread evenly. Garnish with cocoa powder or chocolate shavings.

Lazy Day Soup

Lisa Bell — perfect for large gatherings when people want to eat at various times.

1 medium onion
 1-2 Tbsp. olive oil
 2 lbs. lean hamburger meat
 Garlic powder, to taste

Salt, to taste
 Pepper, to taste
 1/2 to 1 tsp. cumin
 2 Tbsp. cornstarch
 1 2- to 3-lb. bag frozen mixed vegetables
 1 46-oz. bottle V-8 Juice
 Sour cream, for garnish (optional)
 Cheese, for garnish (optional)

1. In a large skillet, sauté the onions in the olive oil until softened. Add the hamburger; brown, stirring in the seasonings. (I usually add other favorite spices.) When the meat finishes cooking, stir in the cornstarch.
2. Transfer the meat to a 6- or 8-qt. Crock-Pot. Add the frozen vegetables and V-8 Juice. Stir everything well; cook on low for at least 4 hours. Add water or broth if extra liquid is needed.
3. Serve in individual bowls with sour cream and cheese, if desired.

Cherry Pecan Bread

Becky Walker, Managing Editor

1 16-oz. jar maraschino cherries
 2 cups flour
 2 tsp. baking soda
 2 tsp. cinnamon
 1/2 tsp. salt
 1 1/2 cups sugar

1 cup vegetable oil
 1 tsp. vanilla extract
 3 large eggs
 1 cup pecan pieces
 1 Tbsp. cherry juice

1. Remove the cherries from the jar. Reserve the juice. Slice each cherry in half; set aside.
2. In a large bowl, sift together the flour, baking soda, cinnamon, salt and sugar.
3. Add the oil, vanilla, eggs, cherries and pecans; mix together. Add the cherry juice; mix well.
4. Evenly divide the batter between 2 well-greased loaf pans. Bake at 350 F for 50-55 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

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 9 NOW Magazines
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- Virginia Woolf



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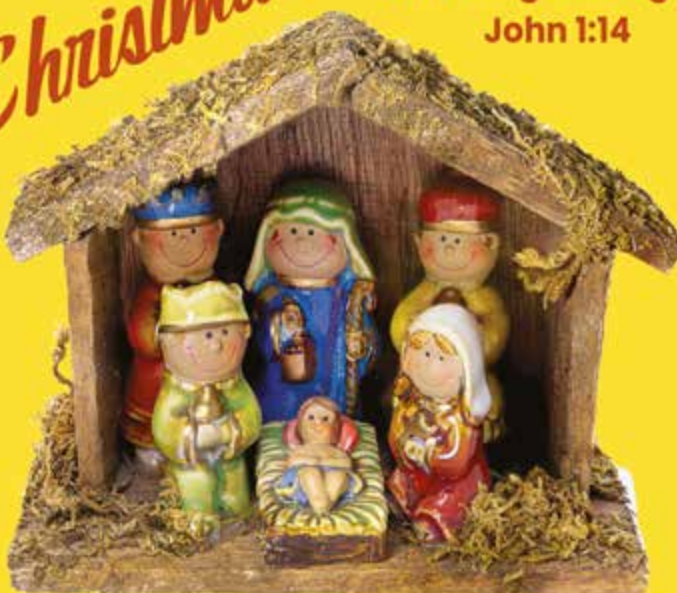
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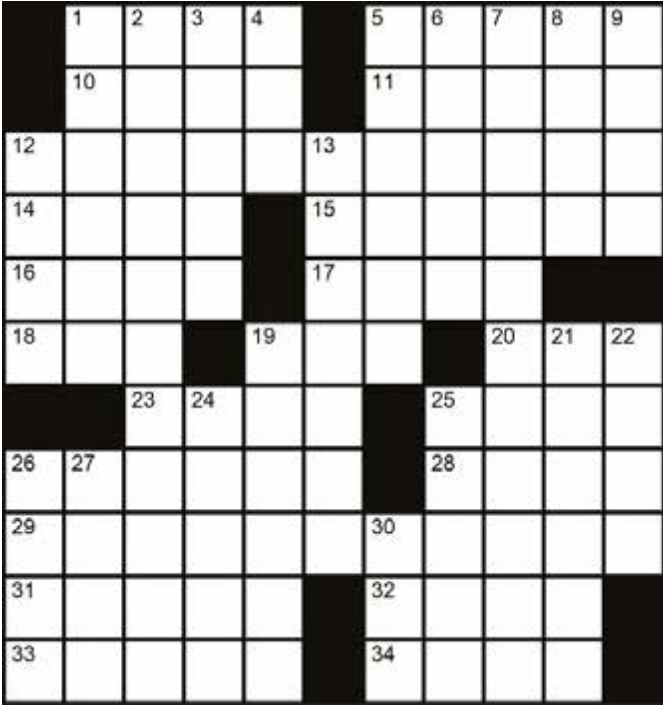
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The Word became
flesh and made his
dwelling among us.
John 1:14



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Crossword Puzzle



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- Across**

 - 1 Workplace watchdog
 - 5 Saw
 - 10 Half of a boilermaker
 - 11 Two-wheeled Delhi carriage
 - 12 Like the best of U S?
 - 14 "But, --- I what light ... " (Romeo and Juliet)
 - 15 Bricklayers
 - 16 Purposes
 - 17 Bridge support
 - 18 It precedes beauty?
 - 19 Shot
 - 20 Top private
 - 23 Going with it is usually the easy option
 - 25 Barry Manilow's faded showgirl
 - 26 Relaxing order
 - 28 Nest eggs, briefly
 - 29 Most prominent position
 - 31 Discrimination
 - 32 By its own action
 - 33 Silky
 - 34 Competition for all comers
- Down**

 - 1 Rectangle
 - 2 Martial arts
 - 3 Preliminary races
 - 4 Set to go off
 - 5 One kind of jacket
 - 6 Composure
 - 7 Embody
 - 8 "A Visit from the Goon Squad" writer
 - 9 Rather and Duryea
 - 12 Serving in the navy, perhaps
 - 13 Invest with authority
 - 19 "To strive, ---, to find, and not to yield." (Tennyson, "Ulysses")
 - 21 Large wine holder
 - 22 Legal proceeding
 - 24 Frothy milky espresso
 - 25 Became cheerful
 - 26 N T book
 - 27 Small dabbling duck
 - 30 Brazilian saint

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Easy

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

Medium

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

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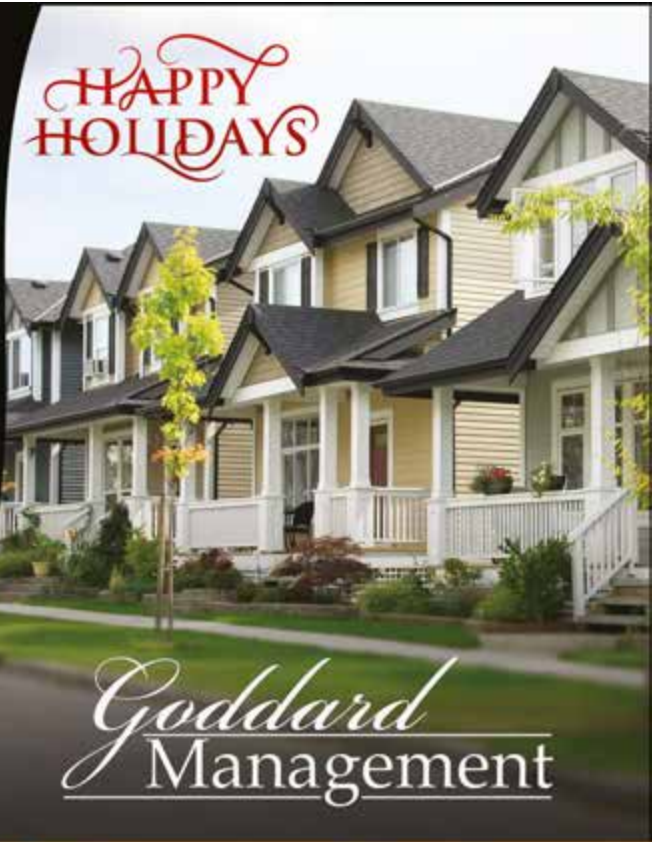
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11/25-12/23

Granbury's Santa House:

Santa's house is free to the public; bring cameras and enjoy the magic. **Fridays-Sundays; 12/19-12/23 nightly.** Times online. Historic Town Square, Granbury. www.facebook.com/granburysantahousepage/.

12/1-12/7

Bag of Books Bonanza:

Friends of the Library will host this weeklong event when they sell bags of books. www.burlesontx.com/72/library.

12/2

Holiday Edition Old Town Picture Show:

Free community event featuring the showing of *Elf*. Enjoy the family-friendly movie on a giant screen. 6:00 p.m., Mayor Vera Calvin Plaza. www.burlesontx.com.

Careity Celebrity Cutting:

Yellowstone meets 1883. Tickets available now. \$20-\$30. 7:00 p.m., Will Rogers Memorial Coliseum. For more information, visit www.careity.org.

12/3

Breakfast With Santa:

Breakfast with Santa on the farm includes pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee and lots of jingle bells. Don't forget

the camera for pictures. Adults:

\$7; kids 2-12 years:

\$5; under 2: free. 7:00-11:00 a.m., Russell Farm Art Center, 405 W. County Road 714. www.burlesontx.com.

Craft Fair and Bake Sale:

Mariposa Senior Apartments will host their annual event featuring handmade items. Visit Santa until noon. 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., 155 Elk Dr. Contact for information, collective.bears48@gmail.com.

Christmas at the Library:

Celebrate a day of crafting and getting into the holiday spirit. 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Burleson Public Library. www.burlesontx.com.

Christmas in Burleson:

Lighted Christmas parade, city tree lighting, singers, dancers, a spectacular drone show, and, of course, Santa. Free community event. 6:00-9:00 p.m., Mayor Vera Calvin Plaza. www.burlesontx.com.

12/7-12/9

Nights of Lights:

Celebrate the season enjoying hot cocoa and Christmas music under holiday lights. 6:00-8:00 p.m., Russell Farm Art Center. www.burlesontx.com.

12/10

Christmas Craft Fair:

Holiday craft fair with local

vendors showcasing handmade items. 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Burleson Senior Activity Center, 216 SW Johnson Rd. www.burlesontx.com.

Christmas on the Farm:

Visit Russell Farm for a country Christmas. Festivities include Christmas craft stations, pictures with Joey the Rein-Donkey (bring a camera) and other Christmas-related activities. Fun for the whole family! Noon-8:00 p.m., Russell Farm Art Center. www.burlesontx.com.

12/11

Christmas Bash:

For children with special needs and siblings. Decorate cookies, drink hot cocoa, do Christmas crafts and see Santa and Mrs. Claus. Free. 2:00-4:00 p.m., Burleson Church of Christ, 1150 NW John Jones Dr. www.burlesoncoc.com.

12/12

Tale of the Forgotten Toys:

Heartwarming musical story presented by Texas Tradition Chorus. Suggested donation of \$10 for tickets. 7:00 p.m., First UMC of Burleson, 590 NE McAlister Rd. www.texas traditionchorus.org.

12/17

Land of the Sweets Tea Tyme:

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12/18

Family Christmas Service:

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12/24

Christmas Eve Service:

First United Methodist. 4:00, 7:00 and 11:00 p.m., Burleson FUMC, 590 NE McAllister. For more information, visit www.fumcburleson.org.

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

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3 lb. Chicken Breasts
4 lb. Thick Bacon
5 lb. Rib Steaks
4 lb. Sirloins

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SAMPLER ASSORTMENT

4 - Pork Chops
4 - T-Bones (10 oz.)
4 - Filet Mignons (8 oz.)
2 - Beef Roasts
3 lb. Spare Ribs
4 - Chicken Fried Steaks
2 lb. Pork Sausage
2 lb. Bacon
12 - Ground Beef Patties
2 lb. pkgs. of Ground Beef
4 - Rib Eyes
4 - NY Strips
4 - Top Sirloins

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WRAPPED**

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V.I.P. PACKAGE

4 - 8 oz. Filets
4 - 12 oz. NY Strips
4 - 12 oz. T-Bones
1 - 3 Rib Prime Rib
4 - 12 oz. Top Sirloin
1 lb. Texas Jumbo Gulf Shrimp
4 - 12 oz. Rib Eyes
2 - 14 oz. Main Lobster Tails
4 - Chicken Breasts
1 lb. Large Scallops

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