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DECEMBER 2022

Generations of Joy

At Home With
Shana Davenport Owen

In the Kitchen With
NOW Community Editors

2022 Holiday
Shopping Guide

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ON THE COVER



Shana Davenport Owen's walls celebrate family Christmases past and present.

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Subscriptions are available at the rate of \$35 per year or \$3.50 per issue. Subscriptions should be sent to: NOW Magazines, P.O. Box 1071, Waxahachie, TX 75168. For advertising rates or editorial correspondence, call (903) 875-0187 or visit www.nowmagazines.com.

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Virginia

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Feliz Navidad!

The magic of Christmas is sparkling everywhere. Our city is lit for Christmas, and activities abound for all ages. This year's celebration is coupled with the city's 175th birthday party, which will last for a year. The party began with the Christmas tree lighting ceremony last month. It's going to be a fun-filled, busy 12 months. I hope everyone makes the walk or drive through Community Park to experience the creativity of our Parks and Recreation Department folks. Take a photo or two at Beaton's Christmas tree, and stroll our beautiful downtown.

My huge old oak is gone, and I'm still in mourning over the bare spot in my yard. The squirrels and so many birds I enjoyed are also gone, since they have had to move to more distant trees. During a recent grandchildren's visit, we attempted to count the rings in the stump I had the tree trimmers leave for a future table or plant stand honoring the tree. We lost count, and thus the interest of the 3-year-old, at 138 rings/years. Since we weren't even a fourth of the way counting, it was an old tree that had seen much history, and yet, due to the crew's efficiency, was gone in a day. It had tried to survive our infamous freeze with a few leaves sprouting the next spring, but the arborist said they couldn't support the nutrition the tree needed. A friend reminded me, we need to enjoy every moment of life's cycle and cherish the memories made.

Here's to a great Christmas making those memories with cherished loved ones and friends. Travel safely this season.

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19

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24

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25

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Matthew 1:21

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GENERATIONS OF JOY

AT HOME WITH
SHANA DAVENPORT OWEN

— By Virginia Riddle

The towering Christmas tree's lights can be seen for blocks. No, it's not the one on Beaton Street. This holiday beauty stands tall lighting Shana Davenport Owen's yard and welcoming front porch. Her dad created the metal tree when Shana and her sister were children, and that same tree stood in that same yard during their childhood. Yes, Shana bought her childhood home from her parents, the Honorable H.M. and Carole Davenport. "My dad had the tower stored but brought it back here after we renovated the home," Shana said. "He did have to order and restring the lights after all these years. Everyone remembers the tower."

"My family and friends have so many memories in this house," Shana shared. "My favorite is my dad chasing my friends and me down the hallway while wearing a scary mask. The windows were up because we had an attic fan, and the neighbors could probably hear us all screaming."

These days, when Shana walks in her home's door after a busy day at work, she's greeted by her Boxer, Bingham, with his overflowing personality, and memories of her childhood. "However, I see the house differently and yet the same," Shana revealed. "I still see my sister and me swinging on the swing, but the unicorn wallpaper and pink is gone in my bedroom. Shana was renting and looking for a home to buy when she thought of this home. "I really didn't want a project, but that's what I got!" Shana explained. Still owned by her parents as a rent house, she bought the home in July 2020, and the unwanted project began with demolition that month. "The contractor





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started in September, and my family all chipped in,” Shana recalled. “I owe my dad hours and hours of labor. We bleached, cleaned and painted. It was fun to see him get excited to do this project and to work with my dad. I’m not a girly girl since my dad taught us to do a lot on our own. Most of the flooring is original and restored to its former beauty, but we replaced nearly everything except the roof. It’s hard to recall what we didn’t do.” A few items were kept but repurposed. Two walls are exposed original shiplap, and an archway that once was the kitchen entry is now in the front room.

A completed project, the home is special to another generation, Shana’s first grandbaby. Besides her parents, Shana has two married daughters, Lexie and McKenna, both of whom live in the area, and the family’s enjoying remembering the old while making new memories in her home during the holidays. “The nativity scene is my mom’s mom’s,” Shana said. “She gave it to me because I said I loved it. The vintage ceramic Christmas tree was also hers. She was a sweet, simple lady. The square table with the ball feet is an antique from my granddad’s mom, and I can still wind up the clock that’s on the icebox. It still works!” A framed piece of the original wallpaper hangs on a shiplap wall.

Shana has put her adult stamp on this beautifully updated home with additional holiday decorations. The “tower” has a smaller Christmas tree, door wreath and other decorations, adding warmth to the inviting front porch with its white pillars that frame the gray siding. Christmas trees brighten interior rooms, while elves decorate pillows. A photo of her daughters is surrounded on a shelf by a draped

All of God's Creatures Love Christmas!





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garland, candles, deer and a silver cone tree. Christmas stockings hang on either side of the arched doorway, which is topped with a garland. Poinsettias enhance the clean, updated look in the neutral gray and white rooms. A shiplap wall plays background to a Christmas tree, which is heavy with ornaments. The centerpiece of pine cones, a deer and candles adorns the dinner table and is a beautiful addition to the white quartz countertops, copper hood and the red and green of another poinsettia in the kitchen.

This Corsicana native daughter graduated from Corsicana High School and continued her education at Texas A&M University, earning a master's degree from The University of Texas at Arlington. Shana is the director of special programs at Corsicana ISD. "I like that my hometown maintains its small-town feeling and is a community with a vibrant arts district," she stated. She enjoys gardening, cooking and trying new restaurants. "Food is my passion," she added. Gardening must be also, because she has now landscaped the front yard — an ongoing and challenging project that all gardeners can understand and appreciate.

Shana's Facebook posts of the before, during and after photos tell of the contractor and family's progress from demolition to move-in. The photos also tell of the family's love of togetherness and of the home. "It's been interesting interacting with the community on this project," Shana said. "So many memories recalled. It's satisfying to see the before and after pictures and seeing my family's joy over the house being restored. Now I'm spending time making new memories with my girls and grandbaby." **NOW**



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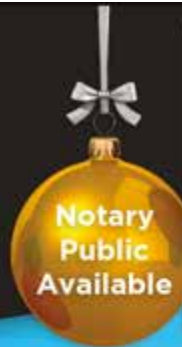
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BusinessNOW

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— By Virginia Riddle

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Founded by Greg in February 2022, the business employs three auto repair technicians. Checks, cash and all major credit cards are accepted as payment. "We are a member of the Corsicana & Navarro County Chamber of Commerce and the National Federation of Independent Business, and we support the Navarro County Youth Expo," Greg said.

While Greg's Alignment and ADAS is a new business in Corsicana, Greg is experienced in the automotive world and known also as the owner of Chuck's Paint and Body Shop. "I haven't had the alignment shop long, but it has a 5-star Google rating online. My Chuck's Paint and Body Shop has earned Best of the Best in its category now for four years running," Greg explained. His biggest challenges are those faced by many businesses today — the lack of parts due to supply chain issues and a shortage of experienced technicians.

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Having grown up in a family that has always been in the automotive industry helps Greg overcome today's business challenges. His brother, Richie, owns Richie's Auto Repair. A native of Navarro County, Greg earned his A/P license at Texas State Technical College-Waco and has earned the Automotive Service Excellence and I-CAR training and certifications. "I am a very self-motivated and competitive person. I am always setting short-term and long-term goals for myself and my businesses," he explained.

That competitiveness and an appreciation for his hometown area leads Greg to support local youth sport teams, the Navarro College softball teams and the Corsicana High School Tiger cheerleaders. "I like the small-town feel that Corsicana has. It is a close-knit community — a place where everyone knows everyone," he remarked. This busy businessman doesn't have many spare moments, but in those few times he allows, Greg enjoys fishing, traveling to new places and restoring classic cars to their former glory. He enjoys spending time with family and friends, especially his two daughters, Maycee and Emalee Price. "They both graduated from Mildred High School," Greg said. "And they're about to graduate from Tarleton State University. They are my pride and joy!" **NOW**

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



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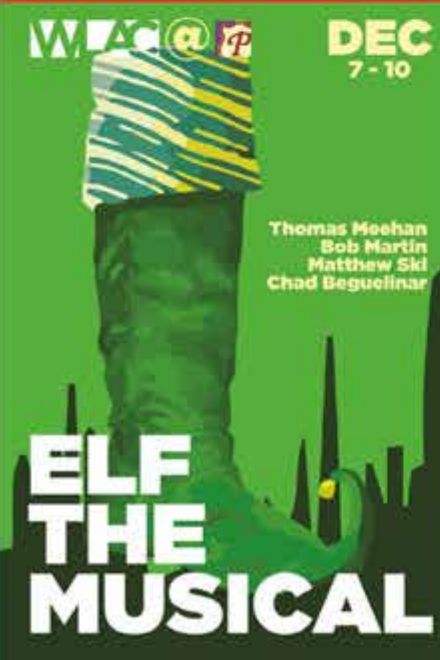
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Jack Moss demonstrates his watercolor technique at the Pearce Museum's Western Artist Roundup Show.

Zoomed In: Ana and Mateo Contreras

By Virginia Riddle

While those in school were out on fall break, Ana and Mateo Contreras were on a scavenger hunt. Puzzles and clues were placed in the Little Free Libraries by the Navarro County Early Childhood Coalition staff and volunteers. Families visited the libraries, which are located throughout the county at parks, fire stations and various community centers.

Ana and Mateo, along with other children, had fun collecting points toward prizes, such as activity books and gift cards to local businesses. Rachel Gillespie, co-chair of the Navarro County Early Childhood Coalition, stated, "My biggest joy is going to a Little Free Library and seeing that the shelves are getting close to empty. Many kids have gotten really excited about the LFLs."



Jennifer Cottongame introduces Bra Pong to Savvy Seniors during Breast Cancer Awareness month.



Mildred HS varsity football team members read to The Eagle's Nest Play to Learn Center's preschoolers.



Corsicana Art League members and the Navarro Council of the Arts present "The Magic of the Season" at the WLAC Gallery.



Boo on the Block is a hit with children of all ages, even the grown-ups!



Denell and Rick Flores enjoy treats at the Opy's Corsicana Creamery.



Fall nights invite guests to enjoy dinner under the stars at Purdon Groves.



Mexia Woman's Friday Club president, Wendy Simmons, presents an appreciation certificate to Gael McKeever with Packs of Kindness.



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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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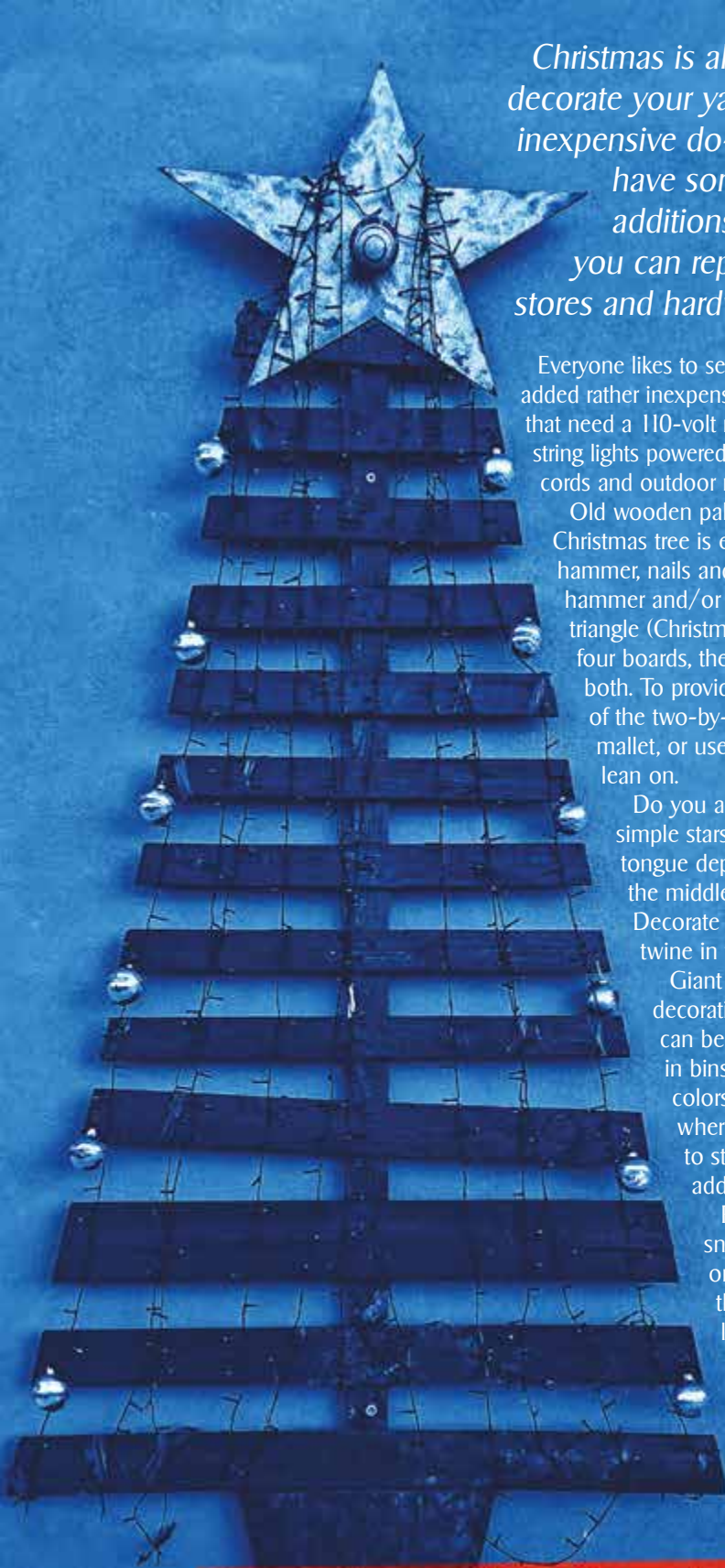
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Christmas is almost here, but it is not too late to decorate your yard for the season with some easy and inexpensive do-it-yourself decorations. You may even have some of the basic parts for these decorative additions from other seasonal decorations that you can repurpose. Another source will be discount stores and hardware stores.

Everyone likes to see Christmas lights as part of decorations, and they can be added rather inexpensively to most of these projects. Long strings of large bulbs that need a 110-volt receptacle can be used, but with the availability of LED string lights powered by either replaceable or rechargeable batteries, extension cords and outdoor receptacles may not be necessary for these ideas.

Old wooden pallets can be a crafter's delight. A wooden-pallet Christmas tree is easy to make, and the only tools required are a claw hammer, nails and a saw. Carefully take the pallet apart using a claw hammer and/or a pry-bar, cut the one-by-four boards into a large triangle (Christmas-tree shape) and reattach them to one of the two-by-four boards, then either paint your decorations on, add string lights or both. To provide additional support for the tree, you can sharpen one of the two-by-fours into a stake and drive it into the ground with a mallet, or use the two-by-fours as supports behind the tree for it to lean on.

Do you already have trees in your yard to decorate? Make these simple stars and snowflakes using craft sticks (Popsicle sticks-tongue depressors). Just stack several of the sticks, glue them in the middle, and arrange them to look like stars and snowflakes. Decorate them with paint and glitter. Maybe add some binder's twine in the middle to hang them from your tree branches.

Giant round ornaments are a popular addition to outdoor decorations, and an easy and inexpensive do-it-yourself project can be made with large, inflated plastic balls that you can find in bins at big-box stores. Just spray paint the balls in holiday colors, add a wooden dowel with a spot of glue in the hole where the ball is aired up, and they should be relatively easy to stick into the ground. Add ribbon to the dowels for an additional touch.

Repurpose your plastic Halloween pumpkins into a snowman! If the plastic jack-o-lanterns have a handle on them, remove them, then just use a glue gun to hold three of them stacked together. (If there is a jack-o-lantern face on them, just turn it to the back.) Spray paint them white, glue on some large black buttons and paint a face on or use other craft items for the nose, mouth and eyes. A couple of sticks from your yard form the arms, and of course you can add a scarf and a hat. Look at Frosty go!

PERSONALIZED CHRISTMAS DISPLAYS

— By Bill Smith



Paper-plate lollipops may be the least expensive decoration that you can imagine, but they may also be the most decorative and unique. Simply glue or tape a half-inch wooden dowel, (you might want to use differing lengths for variety, one foot to three feet long) to the inside of a paper plate. Glue another paper plate, upside down, to the edges of the first plate, covering the dowel. Paint both sides of the lollipop solid, with stripes or other shapes. Cover the lollipops with cellophane joined to the dowel with a ribbon, then place the lollipops in groups around your yard with the dowel driven into the ground.

Finally, make large candy-cane decorations with three- or four-inch PVC pipe. Use a long, straight piece to make the candy cane as tall as you desire, probably three or four feet, then glue elbows and small sections to the top to make the hook shape. Paint the candy cane with white spray paint. Allow it to dry, then use painter's tape to circle the candy cane at an angle from top to bottom. Spray the area between the tape with red paint to complete the decoration. Slide the bottom of the candy cane over a two-by-four stake driven into the ground to make the candy cane stand up.

Outdoor decorations are done! Now, let's trim the tree! **NOW**

- Sources:
1. www.prudentpennypincher.com.
 2. www.smartschoolhouse.com.

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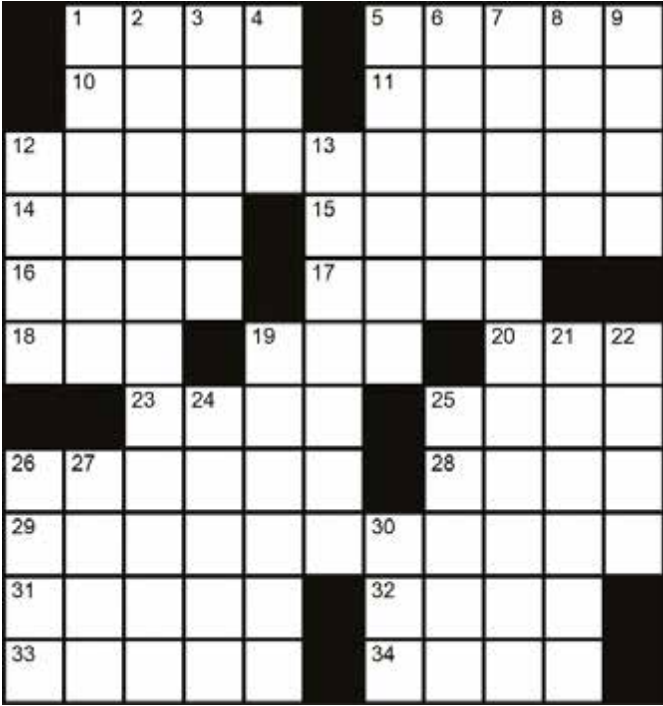
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- Across**

 - 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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		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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12/1-12/10

The Magic of the Season Christmas Exhibit:

Presented by Corsicana Art League/Navarro Council of the Arts. Closing Reception: 12/10: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Warehouse Living Arts Center, 119 W. 6th Ave. (903) 872-5421.

12/3

Breakfast With Santa:

9:30-11:30 a.m., Kerens Ex-Student Building, Downtown Kerens. (214) 232-2192.

Mexia Christmas Parade:
10:00 a.m., Downtown Mexia.

For more information, call (254) 562-5569.

Festival of Lights Parade:

6:00 p.m.,
Downtown Corsicana.
(903) 654-4846.

12/7

Kinsloe House Christmas Tea and Silent Auction:

3:00-5:00 p.m., Kinsloe House,
618 W. 3rd Ave. Reservations,
(903) 874-5791.

12/9

**Asleep at the Wheel
Merry Christmas Y'all:**
7:30-9:00 p.m.,

The Palace Theatre, 112 W. 6th Ave. www.corsicanapalace.com.

12/10

The Nutcracker:

2:00 and 7:00 p.m., The Palace Theatre, 112 W. 6th Ave. For more information, visit www.corsicanapalace.com.

12/16

Corsicana Newcomers Club Luncheon and Ornament Exchange:

11:00 a.m., Kinsloe House.
Annie Avery, (714) 345-6707.

**Polar Express
Movie Night:**

5:00 p.m., The Palace Theatre, 112 W. 6th Ave.

www.corsicanapalace.com.

12/19

Christmas Village:

5:30-7:30 p.m., Pioneer Village, 912 W. Park Ave.
(903) 654-4846.

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

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