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DECEMBER 2023

## Jolly, Happy Souls

At Home With Karen  
and Jeff Manser

## Yuletide Contest

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Shopping Guide

In the Kitchen With  
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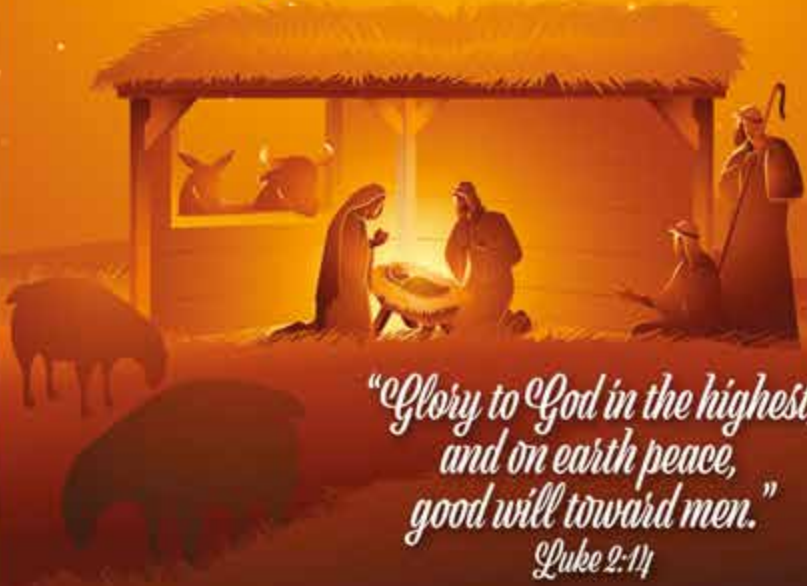
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Emma

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BurlesonNOW Editor  
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## EDITOR'S NOTE

### *Season's Greetings!*

Christmas has got to be one of my favorite times of the year. Around Thanksgiving, my mom and I break out the decorations. She sets up her Precious Moments Sugar Town on the fireplace, while I assemble the different themed trees around the house for us to embellish together. It's a whole ordeal. Christmas, to me, feels like more than just the day itself. It's the weeks leading up to it that I enjoy the most.

December hosts more celebrations than Christmas. Many people know about Hanukkah, in which Jewish families light their menorah to remember the Maccabees reclamation of the Temple in the second century and the miracle of a single day's worth of oil that lasted eight. However, did you know that up until recently, Hanukkah was only a minor Jewish holiday? According to *UT News*, due to the popularity of Christmas amongst Jewish families in the mid-20th century, religious leaders positioned Hanukkah as an alternative to Christmas, turning it into a major holiday.

Started in 1966, Kwanzaa is a younger holiday than Hanukkah and Christmas. According to the National Museum of African American History and Culture, each of Kwanzaa's seven days celebrates a different principle derived from communitarian values across Africa: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith. Kwanzaa provides an annual time for African American families to commemorate their history and celebrate their culture.

*Whatever you celebrate, may your December be merry and bright!*

*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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# JOLLY, HAPPY SOULS


AT HOME WITH KAREN AND JEFF MANSER

— By Emma McKay

*“Christmas has always been a big deal for us,” Karen Manser said. “We’ve always loved Christmas.” Every year around Thanksgiving, Karen, her husband, Jeff, and their youngest daughter, Heather “Harmony” Manser, decorate their home with over 4,000 snowmen figurines, ornaments, dishware, etc. “My husband jokes, ‘Oh! This house threw up snowmen!’” Karen chuckled. “But he supports my passion, thank goodness.”*

Karen caught snowman fever around 10 years ago, when shopping at Cracker Barrel. “I saw this snowman on clearance. I fell in love with it,” she said. “Ever since, I look for snowmen to add to the collection. All my other Christmas decorations got thrown away or pushed to the side. Every now and then, you might see a Santa Claus thrown in there, but the snowmen are what I love.”

As one might expect, visiting the Mansers’ abode feels like joining a festive party with hundreds of smiles greeting you. When entering the living room, two oak bookshelves stuffed with snowmen figures, lamps, snow globes and mugs tower on the right. On the television stand, plush snowmen have made their home in little cubicles. Gathered around the edge of the fireplace sit the singing Hallmark snowmen, which Karen’s grandkids love turning all on at once, creating a cacophony of carols that fills the room.



Many of the snowmen came from thrift stores or garage sales. Some were even given to her by those who know of Karen’s love for snowmen. “When my oldest grandson was 5, he found a snowman at a garage sale and bought it for me with his own money. He put a little note in it that said, ‘I love you, Grammy,’” Karen grinned. “While shopping three years ago, I found the same snowman he had gotten me. So, I bought it and put a little note in it and gave it to him that year.” Despite the physical similarities that many of these snowmen share, it’s memories like these that set them apart from each other.



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Behind the couch stands a chest of drawers where her “red snowmen” reside. True to the nickname, these frosty figurines of various heights are all donned with red hats and scarves. Some even wear red sweaters or hold red props, such as the *This Way to North Pole* sign the whistling snowman brandishes. In the kitchen rests its twin display, although those snowmen wear light blue. The “light blue snowmen” — and the lone Santa in their midst — crowd around a *Merry Christmas* sign in the center of the table, cheerily wishing every passerby, well, a Merry Christmas!

“I really like that most snowmen are smiling and appear to be happy and content,” Jeff explained. “They seem to be at peace in the moment.”

Like her husband, Karen has found joy in the felicity of her snowmen. “I’ve gone through some difficult times in my life, but when I have my snowmen out, I don’t think about that. I look at their faces and think, *If they can have those smiles, I can have a smile.*”

Before moving into their current home in October 2022, the Mansers lived with Karen’s parents to take care of them. “My mom ended up passing away unexpectedly in 2020, and then my dad passed away last year,” Karen shared. After her father passed, Karen and Jeff sold her parents’ home, which was located on the outskirts of Burleson, so they could live a little closer to their three grandkids and their oldest daughter, Stephanie. Although it was October when they moved, Karen decided to put her snowmen up early, to bring some joy and smiles into their new house. “It was very hard for me last year, but I made it through with the help of my grandkids and my snowmen.

“Last year, the nativity scene was special. My mom had this all-white nativity scene, which I placed on the



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mantel. Next to it, I placed a picture of my mom and my dad as a tribute to them,” Karen explained. “My mom’s favorite bird was a cardinal, and my dad loved the old steam engine trains, so I put a little cardinal figurine and a light up train by their picture.” This tribute allowed her parents to take part in the family festivities, even though they couldn’t be there in person.

To Karen and Jeff, family is the most important part of the Christmas celebrations. “Christmas is the one time of year the whole extended family gets together. When I was young, it was about presents. Now, I just need the people around me,” Karen explained.

Jeff added, “The Christmas season is a time to put all our differences aside. It is a time to focus on love, forgiveness and goodwill toward one another. A time to share our homes, our food, our talents and our kindness with one another. A time to celebrate life!”

“We always had the same tradition,” Karen smiled. “My dad would always read some type of Scripture and give a lesson. Harmony always sings at least two songs. She practices throughout the whole year just to sing at Christmas. And I have to make a tater tot casserole. People tell me that I can’t come if I don’t bring it.” Along with the Christmas Day traditions, the Mansers have their own immediate family tradition of driving around neighborhoods, looking at lights and sipping hot chocolate.

Although everything takes several weeks to put up and take down, the Mansers love doing it. “I try to get them up as soon as I can, so I can have them out as long as I can,” Karen explained. Even though the workload is immense, the satisfaction the growing collection brings makes the effort worth it.

Jeff grinned, “Karen’s wonderful army of snowmen, snowladies and snowkids brings Christmas joy to ‘kids from 1 to 92.” **NOW**

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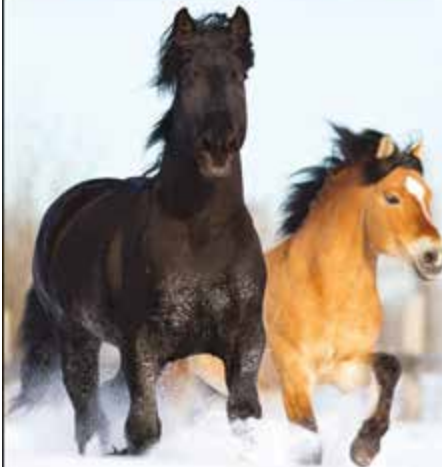
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## Jircik Medical Group

— By Emma McKay

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“I began my medical practice in a small-town hospital in South Texas in 1985,” Dr. Frank Jircik of Jircik Medical Group stated. When that hospital closed two years later, Dr. Jircik searched for a new hospital. “As an internist, I took care of hospitalized patients. That’s what I liked to do — help sick



patients in the hospital. I wanted a hospital that was big, but not so big that I’d have to refer everything to a subspecialist. Huguley Hospital had an opening for an internist, so I interviewed, and they offered me the job.” After consulting with his wife, Sheri, Dr. Jircik accepted the position, and on June 15, 1987, he opened his own practice at Texas Huguley Hospital.

Internists, such as Dr. Jircik, specialize in internal medicine. “I say we are like pediatricians for adults,” Dr. Jircik explained. “We take care of all their health needs. We just don’t do surgery.”

Jircik Medical Group offers an assortment of services including wellness exams and physicals, chronic disease management, geriatric care and dermatological treatment. “I liked adding dermatology to our practice,” Dr. Jircik said. “I take off warts, moles, skin cancers, things like that. It’s usually something acute that bothers the patient. Most of the time, I can tell what it is by looking at it. It’s just another way I enjoy helping patients.



"I grew up in a small town in West Texas, and the family doctors there were very respected. I liked what they did. They inspired me," Dr. Jircik explained. "Of course, I loved science in high school. When I put those two together, it was obvious what I wanted to go into." After earning his undergraduate degree at Texas Tech University and his M.D. at The University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Dr. Jircik traveled to Albuquerque to complete his residency at the University of New Mexico.

**"PART OF BEING A GOOD DOCTOR IS BEING A GOOD LISTENER."**

While working on his residency, Dr. Jircik received the Midas Touch Award. "The Midas Touch Award was given once a year to the second-year resident who demonstrated 'excellence in the humanistic dimensions of medical care' in my residency," Dr. Jircik explained. "In other words, it's for doctors who show concern for their patients, not those who just take care of them."

Dr. Jircik uses the humanism that helped him gain the award, as well as his 40-plus years of experience in health care to treat the nearly 5,000 patients he and his fellow practitioners — Dr. Precious Marquart, Aaron Mitschke and Jessica Nelson — see with kindness and compassion. "Part of being a good doctor is being a good listener. You want to let your patient know that they are the most important thing to you when you are in front of them."

In addition to in-office patient care, they offer at-home visits to patients who cannot otherwise make the commute. "We see a lot of people in assisted living facilities, retirement homes or their own homes. We get out and about quite a bit.

"The people of Burleson have that friendly Texas spirit. They don't see a stranger they don't like," Dr. Jircik said. Over the next few years, he hopes to expand his practice through adding another nurse practitioner, so they can help even more Burleson residents. "I appreciate Burleson, and I hope to be with it for a long time." **NOW**

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## Zoomed In: Melissa Miller

By Emma McKay

“Christmas is my favorite holiday,” said Melissa Miller, executive director of the Burleson Chamber of Commerce. “It’s all so pretty. The lights are what do it for me.”

Candlelight church services have been a beloved tradition for Melissa since she was a little girl. “My grandparents and I would always go to the candlelight services. There’s something about when the whole church is filled with a sea of soft little lights. I love it.”

Her favorite memory of Christmas lights occurred in a horrifying, yet humorous, way. Growing up, Melissa’s family spent Christmas Day at her grandparents’ house. “We had this plastic nativity cake topper. During ‘Happy Birthday, Jesus,’ the manger caught on fire.” Although melted, the family still displays that manger each year.



Shanna Clark and Dixie Ryan share their creations with the community at Roots Garden Center’s craft fair.



Kerr Middle School’s Student Spaceflight Experiments Program Mission 17 team sends their experiment into orbit on the International Space Station.



The Cooley family assembles their own scarecrow.



The Booker family shows off their decorated pumpkins at the Pumpkin Plunge.





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CHRIS BOHON  
— By Emma McKay

“Cooking has always been a binding agent for my family,” Chris Bohon, associate pastor at Pathway Church, stated. As a kid, Chris would cook with his mom and his nana. On sick days when he couldn’t go to school, Chris and his mother would sit on the couch and watch Martha Stewart’s cooking programs together.

Having grown up in a family that bonded over preparing and savoring the game they hunted, Chris enjoys experimenting using game in different recipes. When his son harvested an aoudad, they discovered recipes that made the bland meat tasty. “Cooking is a way for me to reflect on my world while doing something creative with low stakes,” he shared. “If I mess up, I can throw the food away and start over.” **NOW**

## Wild Game Meatballs

**1 cup breadcrumbs**  
**1 1/2 cups heavy cream (divided use)**  
**1 1/2 lbs. ground game meat (can substitute with beef, turkey or any other preferred ground meat)**  
**1/4 cup onion, chopped**  
**1 clove garlic, chopped**  
**1/4 tsp. allspice**  
**1/4 tsp. white pepper**

**1 egg, beaten**  
**5 Tbsp. butter (divided use)**  
**3 Tbsp. flour**  
**2 cups beef broth**  
**1 bay leaf**  
**1 sprig thyme**  
**Salt, to taste**  
**Ground black pepper, to taste**

**1.** Combine the breadcrumbs and 1 cup heavy cream in a bowl; set aside.

**2.** In a large bowl, combine the meat, onions, garlic, spices and egg; mix. Add the breadcrumb mixture.

**3.** Form small meatballs; lay them out on parchment paper- or foil-lined baking sheets.

**4.** Melt 2 1/2 Tbsp. of butter in a large skillet (cast-iron preferred). Cook each batch for about 10 minutes, turning the meatballs periodically to cook all sides. Take your time with this, don’t throw all the meatballs in at once. Set the cooked meatballs to the side after cooking.

**5.** Add the remaining 2 1/2 Tbsp. of butter to the skillet and melt. Add the flour to create a roux. Add the beef broth, bay leaf and thyme. Whisk over medium heat until it thickens. Reduce the heat; whisk in the remaining 1/2 cup cream. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

**6.** Return the meatballs to the pan; coat with the sauce. Serve when ready.

## Chili

**3 lbs. game meat (can substitute with beef, turkey or pork)**



4 cloves garlic, chopped  
 1/2 white onion, chopped  
 2 8-oz. cans tomato sauce  
 1 cup water  
 1 12-oz. can beer  
 3 Tbsp. chili powder  
 2 Tbsp. instant beef bouillon (or 6 cubes)  
 2 Tbsp. cumin  
 2 Tbsp. paprika  
 2 tsp. oregano leaves  
 2 tsp. sugar  
 1/2 tsp. coriander  
 1 tsp. unsweetened cocoa  
 1/2 tsp. Louisiana Hot Sauce  
 1 tsp. cornstarch  
 1 tsp. flour  
 1 tsp. warm water

1. Brown the meat. Add the garlic cloves and onions; stir until tender.
2. Add the rest of the ingredients, except for the last three.
3. Bring to a boil, then drop the heat to a simmer. Cover; allow to simmer for 4 hours.
4. Combine the cornstarch, flour and water in a small cup or bowl. Add the mixture to the chili; stir. Cover and allow to cook for another 20 minutes.

### Cranberry Sauce

1 16-oz. pkg. fresh cranberries  
 1 1/2 cups sugar  
 1 Tbsp. orange peel, freshly grated  
 1 cup water  
 12 oz. red currant jelly  
 1 cup walnuts, chopped

1. Combine all the ingredients, except the walnuts.
2. Heat in a saucepan on medium heat until the cranberries pop. Skim off the foam and discard.
3. Lower the heat; add the walnuts.
4. Pour into a mold; refrigerate overnight.

### Cinnamon Rolls

#### Dough:

1 cup warm milk  
 1 Tbsp. instant yeast  
 2 Tbsp. sugar  
 1 tsp. salt  
 3 Tbsp. butter, softened  
 2 small eggs  
 3 cups flour

#### Filling:

1/4 cup butter, melted  
 1 cup brown sugar  
 2 Tbsp. cinnamon

#### Glaze:

4 oz. cream cheese, softened  
 1/4 cup butter  
 1 1/2 cups powder sugar

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Taco Meat

**1/2 tsp. vanilla**  
**2 Tbsp. milk**

- 1. For the dough:** Combine the warm milk, yeast, sugar, salt, butter and eggs on low speed in a stand mixer using the dough hook.
- 2.** Slowly add the flour.
- 3.** Increase the mixer to medium speed. The dough should be soft and sticky but stay together. Add more flour if necessary.
- 4.** Transfer the dough to a greased bowl. Cover; let rise for 1 hour.
- 5.** Grease a 9x13-inch baking pan.
- 6.** Roll the dough out to a 12x18-inch rectangle.
- 7. For filling:** Brush the dough with the melted butter.

**8.** In a small bowl, combine the brown sugar and cinnamon. Sprinkle the mixture over the dough.  
**9.** Roll up tightly lengthwise to make one long roll. Cut the dough into 12 1-inch slices.

**10.** Place the slices into the greased pan. If you have some leftover filling mixture and butter, you can layer the bottom of the pan with this before putting in the dough slices.

**11.** Cover; let rise for about 1 hour.

**12.** Preheat the oven to 325 F. Bake for 25 minutes, or until brown.

**13. For glaze:** After pulling the rolls out of the oven, beat together the glaze ingredients in a separate bowl.

**14.** Frost the rolls with the glaze and serve.

## Taco Meat

**Oil, enough for sautéing**

**1/2 onion, chopped**

**3 cloves garlic, chopped**

**1 1/2 lbs. ground game or beef**

**1 1/2 Tbsp. corn flour**

**3 tsp. chili powder**

**1/2 tsp. onion powder**

**1/2 tsp. seasoned salt**  
**1/2 tsp. paprika**  
**1/2 tsp. cumin**  
**1/2 tsp. garlic salt**  
**1/4 tsp. sugar**  
**1/2 tsp. beef bouillon granules**  
**1/4 tsp. red pepper flakes**

**1.** Heat the oil in a pan; sauté the onions and garlic.

**2.** Add the ground meat; brown over medium-high heat.

**3.** Add the rest of the ingredients; lower the heat. Simmer for 20 minutes.

**4.** Serve on corn tortillas with cotija cheese, lime and cilantro.

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# yuletide

## CONTEST

— By Angel Morris



*Of all the activities available for families during the holidays, the traditional custom of building gingerbread houses has regained popularity in recent years. With the advent of gingerbread house kits, this fun-for-all-ages activity is as easy as choosing your favorite frostings and candies to add to pre-built structures.*

Traditionalists can still build the houses from scratch themselves, of course, starting with structural gingerbread dough or even graham crackers. Today, however, packaged kits that provide the basic pre-built house allow all ages to join in the fun on a level playing field.

While spending time together building a single house can be enough, some families take the tradition to new levels by

making it a friendly holiday competition. Here are a few ways to implement your own family gingerbread house-building contest.

## SUPPLIES

**Boxed houses.** If you're going the pre-built route, simply stop in your neighborhood grocery or chain store where you'll find a variety of boxed houses from small to large. These typically range in size and shape and include many tube icings, as well as a variety of decorative candy pieces.

**Decorative items.** Families may set a dollar amount in advance and let each participant shop for additional decorative items — these may be candies or craft items, such as pipe cleaners, stickers, popsicle sticks, small ornaments, etc.

**Theme.** To increase the opportunity for creativity, some families choose a unique theme in advance, around which participants design their houses. Themes may be Christmas related or more unique.





Some theme possibilities include: Texas Christmas, My Favorite Movie or House of the Future. Families can decide if everyone follows the same theme or if each individual comes up with his/her own theme and announces the theme upon the contest's end.

*Timing device.* Make sure you have an oven timer, cell phone alarm, clock or watch available.

## SET UP

*Building surface.* Make sure your building surface is well-covered to allow for easy clean up. Towels, newspaper or poster board are inexpensive ways to cover tabletops.

Lay out supplies. Open one gingerbread house box for each participant or team. Family members can compete against each other individually or establish teams such as boys vs. girls, children vs. parents, etc. Place decorative icings and candies at each building station — either those that come in each gingerbread kit or the candy/craft items purchased in advance.

## THE CONTEST

*Criteria.* Agree on the criteria by which each house will be judged. For example, best theme, most creative, most traditional, etc.

*Pick judges.* Agree on who will be the judges. Perhaps you want to invite neighbors over to vote, or you want to post images on social media for friends to rank their favorites. To be fair, you should not indicate which family member designed which house.

*Prizes.* Decide what prize the winner receives. Maybe it's bragging rights for the year, a homemade trophy to keep in one's room or the opportunity to open a Christmas gift earlier than anyone else. Perhaps the winner gets to choose which house he or she actually wants to eat. Prizes need not cost money. The more creative, the better!

*Time.* Choose the amount of time you want to allow for construction of the gingerbread houses, and make all participants aware of start/stop times. Set the timer, and start decorating! It will be fun to watch one another's houses come to life and see how creative individuals or teams can be.

Upon completion, let the agreed upon judging commence, followed by an awards ceremony. Eating the houses together can wrap up the contest, or the gingerbread houses can be displayed on a dining room table for the rest of the season — not only making a one-of-a-kind decorative holiday display, but also as a reminder of the fun time enjoyed by the family.

## BUDGET-FRIENDLY TIP

If your family might enjoy this type of contest but is not interested in eating the completed product, you may consider buying the gingerbread kits after the holiday and saving them for next year. Post-Christmas clearance sales means you can purchase the houses for 50, 75 and even 90 percent off retail prices.

Decorative candies can also be bought after the holidays on deep discount. Making gingerbread houses is a great Christmas activity to do on a budget. **NOW**



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- Virginia Woolf

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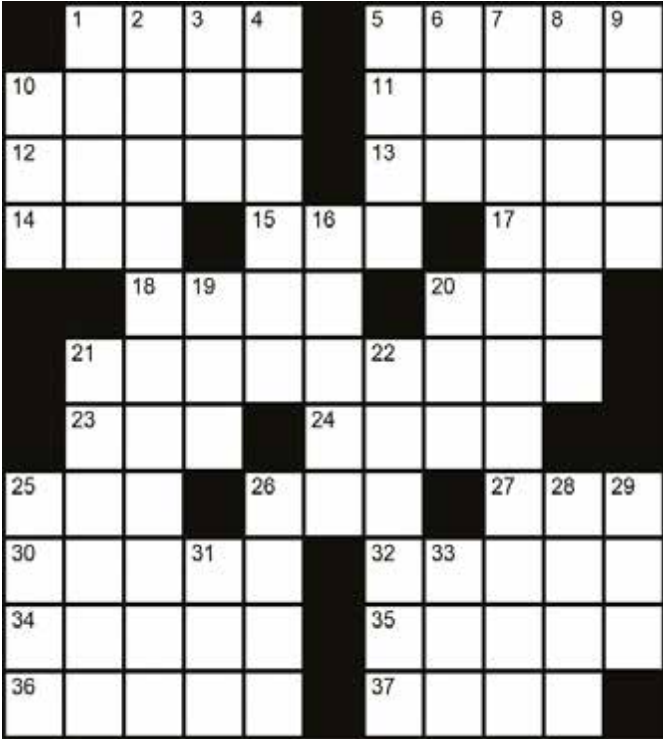
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# Crossword Puzzle



Crosswordsite.com Ltd

## Across

- 1 Natural bandage  
5 "America's Most Wanted" presenter John ---  
10 Trite and tiresome  
11 Gem state  
12 Exclusive group  
13 Unpaid worker that never tires  
14 Eccentric  
15 Cut and dried grass  
17 Saturn's wife  
18 Decorated  
20 Front end cover on a car


- 21 Excels  
23 Drug also known as "ozone"  
24 Involved with  
25 It regulates flyers  
26 Bring to bear  
27 Hoppy beer  
30 No fun  
32 Shun  
34 It's an honor  
35 They are often checked  
36 Short literary composition  
37 Act fresh

## Down

- 1 "Deal!"  
2 Dr Cid reacts about ways to pay  
3 Mandela's party  
4 When that time arrives  
5 Lean and muscular  
6 Commotion  
7 Noon burials arranged for bodies in the workplace  
8 Patronize  
9 Strong attraction  
10 Head honcho  
16 Ethiopia's capital, --- Ababa.  
19 Bottle top  
20 Discontented shout from the bleachers  
21 Suit passed out  
22 Untrustworthy people  
25 Celebrity  
26 Grotesque  
28 Oil pipeline inserts  
29 Lifeblood of TV and the web  
31 Baseball league below the Majors  
33 Through

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# Sudoku Puzzle

Easy

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

Medium

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

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# Fashion Faves

## OF 2024

— By Emma McKay

*For many people, personal fashion can be challenging. It's hard to find clothes that make you look and feel good. The fear of your style choices making you stand out in an unpleasant way can be a beast of its own. Due to fashion's cyclical nature, you might already have this winter's trends in your wardrobe.*

Burgundy is "in" again this season, which is good news for Aggies fans, whose closets are filled with burgundy's sister shade. This rich, warm color is perfect for the brutal Texas winter. There is no wrong way to wear solid-colored clothing. You could rock an entire outfit of burgundy pieces or add a splash of it here and there to tie the whole look together. To save a bit of money and closet space, try accessorizing with burgundy. Find a good, solid-colored burgundy coat, and you can make any outfit in season.

In a move that harkens back to the retro-futurism art style, metallic silver is having its moment in the wardrobes of fashion icons. Whether it be a shining polyester dress or

reflective chunky shoes, this trend is reminiscent of decades-old depictions of what the 2020s *might* look like. While silver is a solid color like burgundy, silver works best as the focal point of an outfit. If you are going to wear silver pants, don't pair them with a silver top, otherwise you might come across as a droid from *Star Wars*. Instead, pair it with a black, dusty rose or soft cream blouse. Silver shoes can be a fun way to make any casual or swanky outfit a bit more out of this world.

Classic prints such as polka-dot and plaid are back. Like with silver clothes, a general rule of thumb for printed fabric is to make it the centerpiece of the outfit. Pairing a polka dot blouse with a plaid skirt could unintentionally turn a casual outfit into a loud eye sore. Instead, the other elements of the ensemble should be solid colors that complement the printed fabric. That way, the eye will naturally gravitate toward the patterned piece, instead of getting lost in the noise. You could even pair your polka dot blouse with your silver heels or pull the burgundy look in with a plaid skirt to double your fashion points.

It's common knowledge in the fashion world that former style trends tend to cycle back into the mainstream eventually. This fashion season pulls items from several different decades back into people's closets.



Strolling in from the 1950s are the classic A-line and swing dresses. With their fitted bodices and flared skirts, these dresses are perfect for those who want to show off their form while still having fun twirling on the dance floor. Accessorize this look with a timeless strand of pearls or a peacoat for warmth.

Dust off the shoulder pads because exaggerated shoulders from the 1980s are officially back. Whether paired with a nice top and slacks or a T-shirt and jeans, a padded blazer makes nearly any outfit board meeting ready.

Double denim is the epitome of recycled fashions. Double denim has had a resurgence in popularity every decade since the 1970s. If you wish to pull this bold look off, you must be willing to commit. Your look should consist of either the same shade of denim or completely contrasting shades — think navy and white.

Oftentimes, it's the accessories that make the outfit shine. This winter, professional neckties and bold neckerchiefs can add the final touches to your outfit. While nothing beats the traditional black tie or a neckerchief in the same shade as your blouse, if you want your outfit to pop, try playing with opposing colors. You can even pull in patterned materials if you want your accessory to be your outfit's centerpiece.

Fashion works as a way of expressing oneself. It can be used to make one fit in or stand out in the crowd. Sometimes, it can be tricky figuring out how to make it work for you, but through constant study and willingness to experiment, you can master the art of fashion. **NOW**

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1. Agnew, C., & Gervais, E. (2023, August 14). The Top Fashion Trends for Fall-Winter 2023-2024. *Elle Canada*. <https://www.ellecanada.com/fashion/trends/the-top-fashion-trends-for-fall-winter-2023-2024>.
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4. (2021, March). How to Style Double Denim. Levi's. <https://www.levi.com/IT/en/blog/article/how-to-style-double-denim>.



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# Merry CHRISTMAS

## DECEMBER

Some events may have been cancelled or rescheduled while we were at press. Check with individual organizations or your city or Chamber websites to verify dates and times.

### 12/2

#### **Santa's Breakfast:**

Pancake breakfast, holiday crafts and a visit with Santa. Tickets for children (3-12): \$5; adults (13 and up): \$7. Space is limited. 7:00-11:00 a.m., Russell Farm Art Center, 405 W. CR 714. Visit [burlesontx.com/events](http://burlesontx.com/events).

#### **Craft Fair & Bake Sale:**

Homemade Christmas gifts, goodies, fudge and more at Mariposa Senior Apartments' annual event. 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Mariposa at Elk Drive, 155 Elk Dr.

#### **FUMC Burleson Holiday Market & Car Show:**

Over 40 local vendors. Vintage and classic cars. 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., FUMC Burleson, 590 NE McAlister Rd.

#### **Christmas at the Library:**

Create ornaments, enjoy refreshments, win prizes and more! 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Burleson Public Library, 248 SW Johnson Ave.

#### **Art Class:**

Stephanie Holt teaches how to make lenticular artwork. Must be 15-plus. \$30, supplies included. Noon-12:30 p.m., Russell Farm Art Center, 405 W. CR 714. [burlesontx.com/events](http://burlesontx.com/events).

#### **BTX-MAS:**

Join the Burleson Rotary Club as they host their annual

lighted Christmas parade followed by the city's tree lighting and drone show. Free. 6:00-9:00 p.m., Mayor Vera Calvin Plaza, 141 W. Renfro St.

### 12/2-12/9

#### **Bag of Books Bonanza:**

The Friends of the Burleson Library hosts their holiday fundraising event. A \$5 donation purchases a single use bag to fill with books for all ages! This event takes place during the public library's normal operating hours. Burleson Public Library, 248 SW Johnson Ave.

### 12/4

#### **Brazos Chamber Orchestra Christmas Concert Series:**

Bring family, friends and neighbors! Free event, but donations are accepted. 7:30-9:00 p.m., Pathway Church, 325 NW Renfro St. For more details, visit [brazoschamberorchestra.org](http://brazoschamberorchestra.org).

### 12/6-12/9

#### **Nights of Lights:**

Enjoy Russell Farm decked out in Christmas splendor, plus music and hot beverages. 6:00-8:00 p.m., Russell Farm Art Center, 405 W. CR 714.

### 12/9

#### **Christmas Craft Fair:**

Local vendors showcase sewn creations, art, jewelry, etc. 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Burleson Senior Center, 216 SW Johnson Ave.

#### **Carriage Rides in Old Town:**

Take free horse-drawn carriage rides and enjoy the festive atmosphere in Old Town. 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Mayor Vera Calvin Plaza, 141 W. Renfro St.

#### **Christmas on the Farm + Children's Entrepreneur Market:**

Visit Russell Farm Art Center for a country Christmas, and shop at a market run entirely by kids. 3:00-6:00 p.m., Russell Farm Art Center, 405 W. CR 714.

### 12/9 and 12/16

#### **Strolling Characters in Old Town:**

Take free photos with strolling characters in Old Town. 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Mayor Vera Calvin Plaza, 141 W. Renfro St.

### 12/12

#### **Network@Night:**

Join us for a night of networking, cocktails, appetizers and door prizes. You'll have the opportunity to meet new clients, promote your business, and expand your network. 4:30-6:00 p.m., Fish City Grill, 225 E. Renfro St., Ste 117.

### 12/16

#### **Grinch Day:**

Celebrate the season with a Grinch movie day at the library! There will also be crafts, photo props and much more! Families are welcome to bring pillows and blankets to make the movie watching more comfortable. 12:30-2:30 p.m., Burleson Public Library, 248 SW Johnson Ave.

### 12/19

#### **Outdoor Movie Night:**

Enjoy an evening in the library garden watching *Elf* (rated PG). Bring picnic chairs and blankets to lounge on. If weather doesn't permit, it will be held in a meeting room. 6:00-8:00 p.m., Burleson Public Library, 248 SW Johnson Ave.

### 12/23

#### **Teen Tacky Christmas Party:**

Burleson Public Library is hosting a Christmas party for teens age 10 and up. There will be party games, snacks and, of course, an ugly Christmas sweater contest. Noon-1:30 p.m., Burleson Public Library, 248 SW Johnson Ave.

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



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