Mansfielding

DECEMBER 2023

The Presence of Christmas

At Home With Joel and Laurance Bogar

Yuletide Contest

Gingerbread house kits make this holiday activity easier than ever

2023 Holiday **Shopping Guide**

In the Kitchen With Akilah Collins

Also inside

Scavenger Hunt

Crossword/Sudoku

Featured Business: Atlas Foundation Co., Inc.



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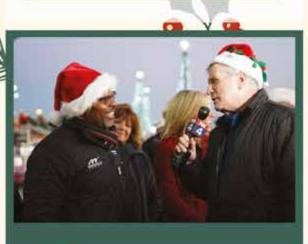
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ON THE COVER



The Bogar family enjoys the holiday season.

Photo by Lori Baur.

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Sandra

Sandra Walters MansfieldNOW Editor sandra.walters@nowmagazines.com (682) 554-1743

EDITOR'S NOTE

Mansfield Family ...

As I reflect on the holiday season, I celebrate the past of making great memories as a young mother. When we moved to this area, my daughter was 3 years old, and my son was 7. Now she is 21, and he is 25. Wow ... how time flies!

I recall their first Christmas here. They woke up, ran downstairs and immediately noticed two new bikes under the Christmas tree. They yelled, "We got new bikes!" Next, they inspected the bikes and reclined on the seats for a moment. Briefly after, my son located a special box designated for him. Then, he began opening it and discovered a bass with a sound system. He immediately started to play, entertaining the family. During the musical production, our daughter picked up a present with her name on it and tore off the wrapping paper. She exclaimed, "A school! A school! I got a school!" She had a doll house community in the playroom, which included about seven houses. Then, her dad escorted her upstairs to add the school to the dollhouse neighborhood. I loved playing with her and listening to her narratives while we played. Her stories were wild. I appreciate those times, and now I am grateful for my young adult children. I enjoy their voices and simply am delighted that we're in the same space loving on one another.

I wish you a December filled with warmth, reflection and joy. Remember to embrace both the past and the possibilities of the future!

Have a wonderful holiday!

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!



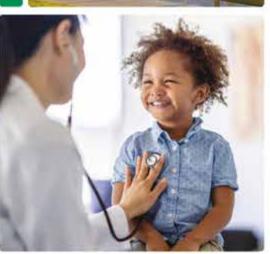












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> **DECEMBER 4** 6:30PM-8:30PM

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DECEMBER 9

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DECEMBER 23

CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

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Holiday Weekend Celebration

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HOLIDAY TRAIN RIDE

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FACE PAINTING

'Tis the season to spread holiday cheer, and what better way to do it than with some fabulous Christmas face painting designs. We can't wait to see your holiday spirit shine.

PAINT AND PARTY

Calling all little artists! Get ready to embark on a colorful adventure at our upcoming Kids' Paint and Party event. It's a day of creative fun, laughter, and imagination for your little ones. Let's make this a day filled with paint, laughter, and unforgettable memories for your young artists!

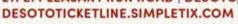
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You will soon discover how the Bogars celebrate Christmas, as they invite you into their story. Before they were married, they observed how their families conducted Christmas celebrations a little bit differently. Laurance reflected, "Growing up, my parents thought Christmas was too commercialized, so we didn't decorate or have a Christmas tree. In elementary school, I recall not being allowed to color things like Santa Claus, etc., because this didn't represent the real meaning of Christmas, but we did receive gifts from our extended family."

On the other hand, Joel said, "We didn't have a lot of money, but my mom was big on decorating. We always selected a live tree and flocked it with white snow spray. There were a few presents under the tree, so we all got something and a pair of socks. However, as our family grew bigger, we did a gift exchange,





OF CHRISTMAS

AT HOME WITH JOEL AND LAURANCE BOGAR

— By Sandra Walters

which included our cousins, aunts and uncles. We met at our aunt's house for the festivities, played bingo and won prizes. Christmas was always a big deal."

"I really love Christmas," Laurance added, "so I knew when I became an adult, I would celebrate Christmas at a different magnitude. I planned to create an environment where my kids didn't miss out."

In previous years, Joel's Aunt Janet Allums of Fort Worth came and decorated their house all night. She's an interior decorator, and Laurance respects her gift. They loved the ambience that the decor brought. Now, the Bogars transform their home into a fantasy by hiring a Christmas interior decorator, Adorned by LaRon,

who does her magic from 8:00 a.m. till midnight in early

November. Then, they are all set with three trees, one of which is a brand-new, 12-foot tree. Having a tree that nearly reaches the ceiling excites Laurance.

Once everything is complete, the couple invites people to come and enjoy. Laurance's mom always spends Christmas at their house. She takes in all of the excitement as she enters and tours the home. Joel teases, "See what y'all created?" while he laughs and ushers his mother-in-love into the holiday environment to appreciate the season. She compliments the elaborate production and encourages them to continue.



"Our kids don't typically ask for much for Christmas," Joel said. "They enjoy experiences more than 'stuff,' so we don't break the bank during this season. Their needs are met throughout the year. We've learned to offer our children teachable moments and experiences," he added.

They participate in the spirit of Christmas by donating to toy drives and giving to others. In addition, they get the pleasure of extending the invitation to celebrate Christmas in their warm, welcoming environment. Today, Joel and Laurance combine their joy for Christmas and desire their house to be a place to create enjoyable memories.

As an individual walks toward the door, they will see clear colored lights framing the house. Once the lights are set up, their daughter, Avery, usually turns them on each day. She anticipates seeing the lights come on, which makes her smile widen.

On the door, is a beautiful, vertical wreath adorned with royal blue, silver and green ornaments. When the door is opened and the staircase unveiled, dark forest green garland appears revealing pinecones, white, silver and gold ornaments. Next, behold two life-size, silver, stylized Christmas trees next to the railings on each side and little trees at the foot of the stairs. The two pots are covered with brown burlap, and royal blue bows laced around the fabric completes the entryway decorations.

There is an option to remain downstairs to examine the tree on the first floor. However, if you choose to walk up the steps, notice the slender. but bedazzled, silver and royal blue, stylized Christmas trees on the right, while encountering a beautiful photo





of loel and Laurance midway up the stairs. As you arrive at the top, you will see the upstairs Christmas tree, which resembles the tree below. Also displayed in this area are the elegant pictures of Laurance, Avery, Carson, Grant and the family photo that highlights everyone, lined up in gallery style.

While venturing downstairs toward the tree, view its unique design of silver leaves, flowers and miniature sleighs. The ornaments and berries are a variety of colors, such as silver, green, royal blue, light blue, white, turquoise and green spirals on the tree. Also, the word Believe can be seen intertwined on branches alongside a high heel shoe trinket. A white house is found nestled on the tree representing the celebration of Christmas in their home. Royal blue presents are underneath the tree completing the decor.

On the table, there is a centerpiece that follows the garland's theme, including white and silver ornaments with royal blue, stylized Christmas trees. These are embellished with silver. As you glance in a nook, discover two miniature blue, sparkly trees, a candle holder and a silver deer wearing a blue ribbon around his neck.

The Bogar family stands in front of their name with pride as it is draped onto the garland hanging across the fireplace. The little things create positive memories.

"We don't have to receive a gift. We just like creating an experience for our family. We work to put aside a special budget for decorating during Christmas. Many people come and compliment the designs," Laurance concluded. There is a canvas that reads: Family: grateful, thankful and blessed. That's the experience the Bogars try to create on a daily basis while producing a special environment during the holidays. NOW





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BusinessNOW

Atlas Foundation Co., Inc.

By Sandra Walters

Atlas Foundation Co., Inc. Owners, The Ford Family 3916 Heritage Dr. Burleson, TX 76028 (817) 478-1181

https://www.atlasfoundationinc.com

Hours: 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Atlas Foundation Company, Inc. was established in 1958. "My great-grandfather started this business, and we are the fourth generation," Lindsay Green said with pride. "Currently, my dad and uncle are the CEOs of Atlas Foundation."

In November of 1980, Lonnie and Darrel began working with their father, Glenn Ford. They both repaired foundations with crews who went into the field while learning the

business for many years. Eventually, Darrel and Lonnie worked as crew foremen, involved in the daily process of leveling homes. When Darrel and Lonnie's parents retired, the brothers took over in 1995.

Lindsay said, "Darrel is my dad, and my mom used to work as the office manager, taking care of the daily responsibilities. I started as an intern after college and became the office manager in 2021. I grew up around the business, so managing, marketing, overseeing bookkeeping and scheduling upcoming projects is literally in my blood. We see customers as an extension of our family, so that's the way we treat people. We love what we do!"

At Atlas Foundation, they don't employ salespeople, and that's what makes them unique. Only an owner or welltrained management staff will evaluate a home's foundation. This policy ensures you are dealing with someone who has firsthand knowledge of every aspect involved in foundation repair and is considered an expert in the foundation repair industry. They provide each customer with a dedicated on-site foreman who will oversee the entire project from start to finish and stand behind every foundation repair with a transferable Lifetime Warranty.

Because of the excessive moisture levels and high clay soil concentration in this region of Texas, foundation movement and issues are well-known. Sinking foundations, collapsing or cracked walls, doors sticking and uneven flooring are examples of foundation issues. Atlas welcomes the opportunity to assist clients with all of their foundation repair needs.

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This company offers a variety of services for your foundation, and the Atlas professionals will recommend the best solutions for their clients. That may involve concrete piling, which is a common repair procedure for resolving foundation problems. However, steel piling can be required because a more intensive action must be taken. Steel piling penetrates through stiff layers or boulders in an effort to settle the structure issue. The pier and beam process repairs include replacing any rotted wood ensuring the floor is structurally sound and verifying footings are in good condition. They also assist many property owners with concrete leveling to correct uneven surfaces for sidewalks, driveways and patios. Finally, the owners and management are very familiar with the permit process, so they ensure it is taken care of in a timely and efficient manner when needed.

"My daughter is already talking about working for the business. We take pride in our legacy and believe everyone deserves to be treated like family," Lindsay concluded. They fully understand that your home is a big investment, so they provide highquality home foundation repairs. The Atlas Company has been doing this for 65 years, and they stand behind their reputation for the lifetime of the home. If you have concerns about your foundation, give them a call. NOW

Photos by Paula Deaton | Weslan Photography.





















Around Town





Opal Lee celebrates her 97th birthday with her cousin, Natalie Dyer.

Zoomed In: Chuy Cruz

By Sandra Walters

While many celebrate the Texas Rangers' first World Series win, Chuy Cruz stands proudly with the Rangers' trophy within hand's reach. He said, "I've been rooting for them for years, and they finally did it!"

This trophy is a symbol of dedication, teamwork and resilience, serving as a tangible reminder of the countless hours of training and unwavering commitment that led to this triumphant moment.

During the parade celebration in Arlington, many Rangers fans reflected on the glory of the hard-fought victory with contagious smiles, spreading the joy of the team's success as they engaged with each other. It is estimated 500,000 to 700,000 people attended the historic occasion. Chuy Cruz captured a snapshot of a shared journey, dreams and determination.



Cindy Newton and Sharon Love are well prepared for their walk.



AJ looks absolutely adorable in his police costume alongside Sergeant Kipker.



Local girlfriends enjoy a day out holiday shopping at The Pottery Barn in Southlake.



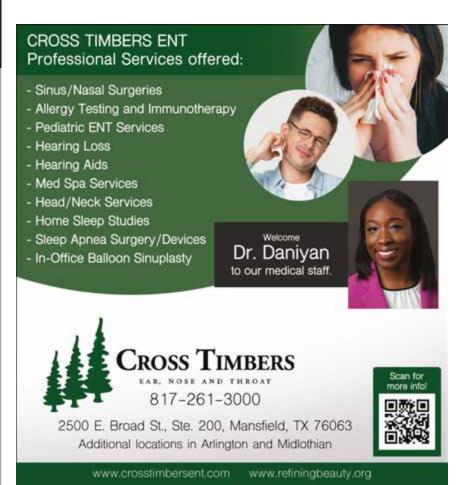
The Visor family enjoys the Toys for Tots festivities.



Richardo and Gladis Hidalgo celebrate their anniversary.



Baby Zayne Hardman hangs with proud Paw and Papa.





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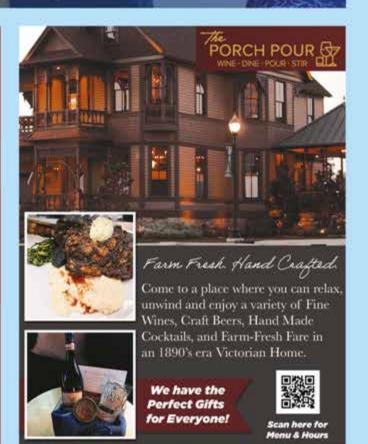
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5:00pm - Children's Mass 8:00pm - Spanish Mass 12:00pm - Midnight Mass

December 25th
10:00am - Morning Mass

WEEKEND MASS TIMES: SATURDAY: 5 PM ENGLISH ● 7 PM SPANISH

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"As an only child, I helped my mother in the kitchen. She's an excellent cook who never measured anything, so neither do I. Over 20-plus years, my husband and I have been eating 100 percent plant based, so I adapted many of my mom's recipes into vegan versions," Akilah Collins said.

Initially, she became a vegetarian because it made her feel better. Then, she transitioned into becoming vegan because her children suffered from allergies to eggs and dairy. Once they are all home for the holidays, she enjoys making her vegan edition of holiday delicacies. "I have modified recipes over the years to perfection," Akilah said. "The chili recipe is an example of my mother's recipe that I've converted." Now

Chili

- 1 16-oz. bag red kidney beans 20 cups water (divided use)
- 3 bay leaves
- 2 tsp. sea salt
- 2 Tbsp. avocado oil
- I medium red onion, diced
- I green bell pepper, diced

- 1 pkg. Beyond Beef Plant-Based Ground
- 4 tsp. seasoned salt (divided use)
- 3 tsp. ground black pepper (divided use)
- 2 tsp. ground cayenne pepper
- 1 Tbsp. ground cumin
- 2 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 tsp. garam masala
- 4 Tbsp. ancho chili powder
- I tsp. dried oregano

1 28-oz. can, diced or stewed tomatoes 1 16-oz. jar medium salsa Hot sauce or Sriracha sauce, to taste

- **1.** Soak the kidney beans overnight or for at least 5 hours in 10 cups of water.
- **2.** Rinse until no bubbles form. Place the beans in a large, nonstick pot. Cover with 10 cups of fresh water. Add the bay leaves and sea salt to the pot. Bring to a boil for about 5 minutes. Reduce the heat to simmer for 60-90 minutes, or until tender. Stir periodically.
- **3.** Remove from heat. Drain; reserve the excess liquid, but keep enough liquid in the pot to cover the beans by about 2 inches.
- **4.** Heat a large, nonstick skillet, over medium heat. Add the oil, onions and bell peppers; sauté until the onions are translucent. Add the veggies to the pot of beans.
- **5.** Put the Beyond Beef into the same skillet. Use a potato masher to break it up into small chunks. Add 1 tsp. of seasoned salt and 1 tsp. of black pepper; cook for 8-10 minutes on medium, stirring frequently.

6. Return pot of beans to medium heat. Add the Beyond Beef, remaining spices, tomatoes and salsa. Add the hot sauce and more seasonings to taste. If needed, add some of the reserved bean liquid. Serve hot!

Vegan Corn Bread

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 cups enriched yellow cornmeal
- I tsp. salt
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- I tsp. baking soda
- 2-4 Tbsp. sugar
- 2 cups vegan milk (rice milk, soy milk, oat milk or almond milk)
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- **1.** Preheat the oven to 375 F.
- **2.** In a large bowl, mix the flour, cornmeal, salt, baking powder and baking soda. In another bowl, mix the sugar, vegan milk
- **3.** Pour the wet ingredients into the center of the dry ingredients. Use a hand mixer for about 2 minutes until well blended; scrape the sides and bottom of the bowl frequently.
- **4.** Coat a 9x13-inch baking pan with nonstick cooking spray. Pour the batter into the prepared pan. Bake for about 35 minutes. Insert a toothpick into the center to ensure it's cooked.

Vegan Corn Bread Dressing

- I prepared pan of Vegan Corn Bread
- 2 Tbsp. avocado oil
- I large yellow or red onion, diced
- I head celery, diced
- I green bell pepper, diced
- 1 32-oz. carton vegetable broth
- 1 32-oz. carton Imagine Foods Portobello Mushroom Creamy Soup
- 3 bay leaves
- 1 stick Earth Balance Vegan Butter
- 3 Not Chick'n Bouillon cubes
- I pkg. Whole Foods 365 Organic Multigrain Stuffing Mix (divided use)
- 2 Tbsp. salt
- 2 tsp. pepper
- 2 tsp. garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp. ground cumin
- I tsp. ground red cayenne pepper
- 3 tsp. sage
- **1.** Preheat the oven to 375 F. Crumble the corn bread while it is still warm into an extra-large mixing bowl; set aside.
- **2.** In a large skillet, heat the avocado oil over low-medium heat. Sauté the onions, celery and bell pepper until the onions are translucent (not too mushy); set aside.
- **3.** In large pot, combine the vegetable broth, mushroom soup, bay leaves, butter and bouillon cubes. Simmer and stir until hot but not boiling.







- **4.** Add half of the bag of stuffing mix to the crumbled corn bread; mix until combined. Add the sautéed vegetables; mix until combined.
- **5.** Pour half of the pot of stock (approximately 2.5 cups) over the top of the stuffing mixture; stir. Continue adding stock until the mixture is very moist, but not soupy. Add the salt, pepper, garlic powder, cumin, cayenne and sage. For a savory flavor, add more sage before baking.
- **6.** Add 2-3 cups more stock, and/or another 1-2 cups of stuffing until the mixture is visibly moist but clumps together enough to cling to a spoon.

7. Pour the mixture into a coated 9x13-inch metal baking pan. Smooth the mixture; cover with foil. Bake for about 45 minutes. Test the center with a toothpick. When close to set, remove the foil. Continue cooking until golden brown.

Sweet and Spicy Sweet Potato Bites

3 lg. sweet potatoes3 Tbsp. olive oil

2 tsp. salt

1 tsp. pepper

1/2 tsp. ground cayenne pepper 1 tsp. ground cinnamon

- **I.** Preheat the oven to 375 F. Wash and scrub the outside of the sweet potatoes. Keep the skin on while cutting into cubed, bite-size chunks. Spread evenly on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
- **2.** Drizzle with olive oil; sprinkle well with seasonings. Toss until evenly coated.
- **3.** Bake for 15 minutes. Toss; return to the oven for 15 minutes, or until tender. Serve!







THE **LOCAL TABLE**

One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well.

- Virginia Woolf



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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 funfor-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.





If you are an adult who is afraid of going to the dentist, or even just a little extra anxious, Serenity Advanced Dentistry may be just what you are looking for. "We do a lot of sedation dentistry, mostly for adults," Dr. Allala explained. "It's kind of my niche. Many adults may have some pretty serious anxiety about going to the dentist. They may not even seek care. They'd rather be in pain. I provide a place to take care of these people. When patients elect to get treatment, we lower the statistics of people living in pain. I like being able to contribute to improving people's lives.

"Coincidentally, a lot of people who are anxious about going to the dentist are also people who don't have good insurance. That's a bad combination. I have membership plans for patients without insurance, and really good discounts on implants and dentures. A membership might not be necessary if you only need one simple procedure, but if you need sedation and a lot of work, it really pays for itself."

Dr. Allala is a graduate of the Texas A&M School of Dentistry. "When I started there, it was still Baylor. My diploma has both names on it," she recalled. "I specialize in oral surgery, and we're really good at it. I'm nothing without my team. We do everything in dentistry. I like being well rounded. I enjoy being an overachiever, so I'm constantly taking continuing education, keeping up with all the

newest techniques and technology. I'm also a native Spanish speaker. I grew up speaking both languages. Our YouTube videos explaining procedures are available in both English and Spanish."

Dr. Allala is proud of the service they provide at Serenity Advanced Dentistry. "I think we give five-star service. And I know my staff is five-star. We know what works and what doesn't. I know it sounds corny, but this is my life's work. Most of my staff have been with me for years, at different locations around DFW, before I came to Cedar Hill, I met Mariela seven years ago, in Pleasant Grove. It was my first job out of school. Racine has been with me four years, and Jazmine three years, both in Red Oak. Our newest team member is Jessica. She found us three months ago when she emailed me looking for an opportunity to shadow a dentist."

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theserenitydentist.com | 972-634-1434 Dr. Cristina Allala 605 E. Belt Line Rd., Suite 101, Cedar Hill

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	1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9			
											Across		
10						11					1 Natural bandage		
12		Г		Г		13					5 "America's Most Wanted"		
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34						35					18 Decorated		
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36						37					0010101000		

Crosswordsite.com Ltd

- 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 "Deall"
 - Dr Cid reacts about ways to pay
 - 3 Mandela's party
 - 4 When that time arrives
 - 5 Lean and muscular
 - 6 Commotion
 - 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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Easy								1	Medium									
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12/1-1/1

Light Park:

You won't regret bringing your family to an immersive, milelong, drive-thru spectacular with more than a million lights and the world's largest drivethru light tunnel. Cost: \$49 per car. Mondays-Thursdays: 5:30-10:00 p.m.; Fridays-Sundays: 5:30-11:00 p.m., Light Park, Hurricane Harbor Arlington, 1800 E. Lamar Blvd., Arlington, TX 76006.

12/3

Mansfield Women's Club **Annual Holiday Tour** of Homes:

Tour six great homes decorated for the holidays, and get into the spirit! This fundraiser helps those in need in Mansfield. Purchase tickets at Tom Thumb, Pinnacle Bank (220 E. U.S. 287 Midlothian) or at www.mansfieldwomensclub. org. \$30. 1:00-5:00 p.m. For more information, call (817) 932-2329.

12/8

Frosty Night at The LOT:

It's a winter wonderland in Mansfield! Get your photo taken with Frosty and the misfit elf, and enjoy snowfall from our on-site snow machine. Make a snow angel. Build a snowman. Make a snowy craft and tour the dazzling Light the LOT displays. Stick around for a showing of Frosty's Winter

Wonderland on the big LOT screen. You can also bring a toy for our month-long Toys for Tots drive. Free. 5:00-9:00 p.m., 110 Main St., The Lot Downtown.

12/9

Snowman Run:

There will be frozen fun for everyone at this family-friendly fun run. S'mores and cocoa at the finish line, holiday crafts, photos and more. 9:00-11:00 a.m., James McKnight Park East, 700 U.S. Highway 287 North. For more information, call (817) 728-3680 or email mac@mansfieldtexas.gov.

Toy Drive & Car Show:

All makes and models are welcome. The entry fee is a newly wrapped toy. Trophies will be awarded in the following categories: Best Engine, Best Interior, Best Paint, Best Under Construction, Best Ford, Best GM, Best Mopar, Best Truck and House of Hotrods pick. The facility is conducting an open house, hourly prizes, DJ, food trucks and pictures with Santa. 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Free. 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., House of Hotrods, 2301 FM 1187, Ste. 201.

12/15

Old-Fashioned Holiday Night:

Enjoy vintage holiday activities and crafts, Victorian carolers, a holiday trolley, Mrs. Claus,

classic film, food vendors, etc. Free. 5:00-9:00 a.m., The LOT Downtown, 110 S. Main St.

12/16

Jane Austen Day Tea Party:

Jane Austen's third book was Mansfield Park, so it's only fitting we toast one of literature's greatest authors on this, the official International Jane Austen Day! Free. Registration required. 2:00-3:30 p.m., Man House Museum, 604 W. Broad St. Register at https:// www.cognitoforms.com/ MansfieldActivitiesCenter/ JaneAustenDayTeaParty2023.

The Nutcracker:

The Art Ballet Academy will present the iconic holiday story with two magical performances. Cost: \$27-\$35. 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., Center for the Performing Arts, 1110 W. Debbie Ln. For more information, call (817) 299-1230.

12/22

Candy Cane Hunt:

Find candy canes and more in this very merry scavenger hunt! 2:00-3:30 p.m., James McKnight Park East, 700 U.S. Highway 287 North. For more information, call (817) 728-3680 or email mac@mansfieldtexas.gov.

Mondays

Sunrise Toastmasters Club:

Become the speaker and leader you want to be. 7:00-8:00 a.m., Methodist Mansfield Medical Center, Canedy Community Room, 2700 E. Broad St. Email Gary Lockhart at garylock28@gmail.com.

Second Tuesdays

Mansfield Garden Club Meeting:

Come grow with others learning about native and adaptive plants for North Texas from Sher Dunaway, a Tarrant County Master Gardener. 6:00-8:30 p.m., Chris W. Burkett Service Center, 620 S. Wisteria St. Sonya Bryant, (817) 266-4422.

Second Wednesdays

Mansfield Lions Club Meetings:

We work closely with MISD to provide free vision testing and eveglasses to students who need them. Noon-1:00 p.m., Mansfield Methodist Medical Center, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 2700 E. Broad St. RSVP to Karen Williams, president, (817) 729-4978.

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







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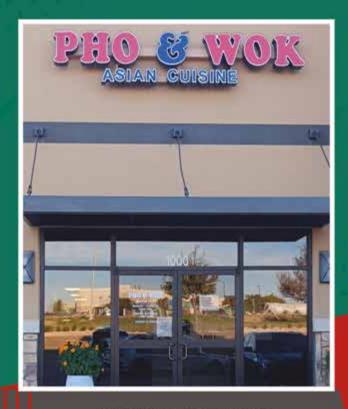
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