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M A G A Z I N E

DECEMBER 2023

Childlike Wonder

At Home With
Darrell and Scherry
Engelbrecht

In the Kitchen With
Cynthia Scales

2023 Holiday
Shopping Guide

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt
Crossword/Sudoku

Featured Business:
Take Out Burgers

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ON THE COVER



The Engelbrechts spread joy through holiday decorating.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Joy to the world ...

The Bible tells us what happened at Christmas, but it doesn't actually say when it happened. In Luke chapter 2, it tells us it was in the reign of Augustus Caesar, but not what month or day. We do know, from ancient writings, that Christians were already celebrating Jesus' birth about 50 years after the New Testament was finished. But we don't know when those celebrations were held.

Some early writers suggested that Jesus might have been born in March or April. Some of the Eastern churches first celebrated January 6 as a combination celebration of His birth, circumcision and presentation at the Temple.

Whatever the reason, very early, the date of December 25 was agreed upon Churchwide. You'll often hear people claim that it's because of the Winter Solstice, but that's December 22. You'll also hear that it was to compete with the pagan festival of *Sol Invictus*, the Unconquered Sun. But Christmas was already being celebrated on December 25, throughout the Roman Empire and beyond, before Emperor Aurelian invented *Sol Invictus*, so it's more likely that he chose December 25 to compete with Christmas than the other way around.

Personally, I think it's more likely that Jesus was born in the fall, at the feast of Tabernacles, when He came to tabernacle among us. All the events of His death and resurrection coincide with biblical feasts. I think His birth probably did, too.

All that said, I don't know why December 25 was chosen to celebrate His birth, but I enjoy celebrating it all the same. I hope you find light and life this season.

... the Lord is come!

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!



Adam

Adam Walker
SouthwestNOW Editor
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Darrell and Scherry Engelbrecht kick off their Christmas celebration right after Thanksgiving dinner. "We used to have the youngest grandchild turn on the lights and inflatables in the yard right after dinner," Scherry explained. "We have five grandkids who call us Nana and Papa. They used to all come over for Christmas. However, they are mostly grown now, so it's just us and the puppy dogs, Newton and Tooney. But we carry on the tradition, and the neighbors will come over to chat about how grand it looks."





Childlike Wonder

— By Adam Walker

AT HOME WITH DARRELL AND SCHERRY ENGELBRECHT

Their front yard is home to a wonderland of penguins, snowmen and other inflatable Christmas characters. “Snowmen and penguins is our theme. We usually buy at least one new snowman or penguin each year,” Scherry added.

All this Christmas decorating commences immediately after Halloween. “I’m the gofer,” Darrell proclaimed. “I get the bins and other decorations out of the attic. Well, and I do the outside setup.”

Scherry freely admits she enjoys her Christmas decorations. “I have an Elf on the Shelf, and I still move it every night during the season. There must be something wrong with somebody who does that with no children in the house!” she said jokingly.

Her 28-foot-long Christmas village is amazing. “It’s my pride and joy. Some years, I leave it up all year! My village is called Bearsville. You begin at the left, where the people enter. Then you have the shops and some places to rest. At the center is where all the festivities happen. On the right side is where everyone lives, works, worships and plays. I have added at least one new person, thing and house every year since 1972. Last year, I added a new carousel. I like to start at one end and replay the story of the villagers in my mind. It’s a world where everything is happy and safe.”

With that kind of enthusiasm, you might think the rest of the decorating was just an afterthought. You’d be wrong. “A close second for me is my collection of nutcrackers. I love them because they are just so hideous! They’re so goofy. I display 50 to 60 of them on the mantel, but they’re all through the house.” Some of them are very small. Some of them stand on the floor, almost as tall as a person. “I also add a new nutcracker every year. And I have ones for Easter, the Fourth of July and Halloween as well. I’m crazy about them. When I look at them, I smile.”

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Wreaths and sprays of greenery deck the walls from the entry hall to the family room and beyond. “I make all my wreaths. I make them for friends, too,” Scherry explained. “I enjoy creating them from just about anything. Even when I buy a wreath, I take it apart and put it back together to suit me.” Also hanging out in the entryway, is a family of bears wearing Scottish plaid. The bears guard the doorway to the formal living room, which is draped with a garland of musical bells that light up and play Christmas songs.

Back in the formal living room, next to the mantel bedecked with nutcrackers and festooned with stockings, stands the nine-and-a-half-foot Christmas tree. The tree is covered in peppermint-striped poinsettias, as well as some with more traditional colors. Candy canes repeat the stripe motif, while elves climb around through the branches. A ladder from the floor helps the elves access their perches. “That’s how the elves get up there. They don’t fly, you know!” Scherry exclaimed.

“She has so many decorations on the tree that we have to rotate the theme for different years,” Darrell exclaimed. “One thing about Scherry, she’s so very creative. She comes up with all these ideas. She tells me, ‘I need you to make this for me.’”

“Then he just goes to the garage, comes back and says, ‘Here. I made it!’” Scherry enthused.

The decorating continues into the backyard. “I decorate the outdoor kitchen. We have some nutcrackers out there, and I hang a wreath on the gazebo. That wreath has a cup and a spoon. When we get home in the

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evening, we have our 'happy hour' in the backyard with a cup of tea or a beer or some wine, as we walk around the lawn."

Their outdoor decorating theme remains the same, but the indoor decorating changes a bit from year to year. "Friends say they don't need to decorate their houses. They just come to my house. People come from as far away as Plano. One lady asked if she could take some pictures with her child in front of the Elf on the Shelf inflatable in the yard. I did her one better and showed her inside to the tree with our Elf, so she could get pics of her daughter. Her daughter's eyes were filled with wonderment and joy as they took in all the decorations. It brings joy and smiles." **NOW**

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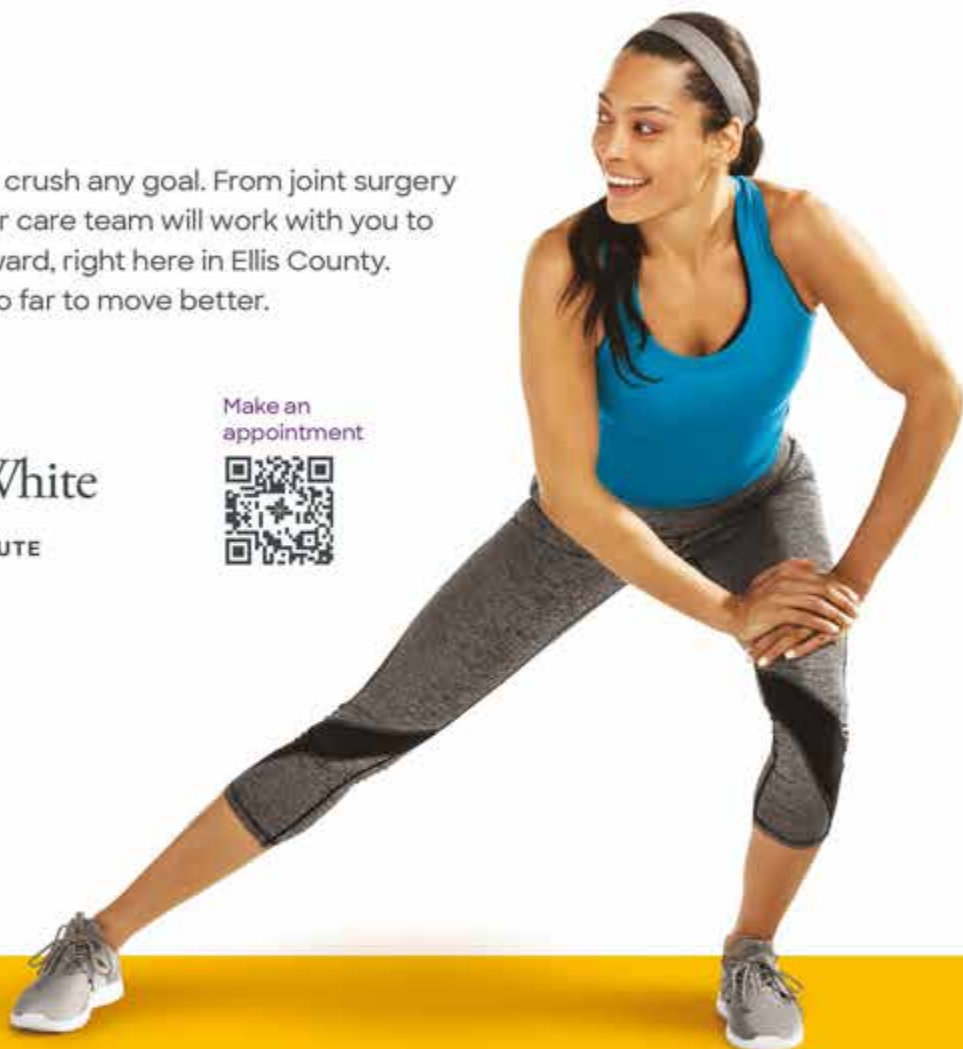
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— By Adam Walker

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Tracy Shook, owner of Take Out Burgers, has a long history in Duncanville food service. “Take Out Burgers has been here for seven years, but the parent company, Tracy Shook Company, has been serving food in Duncanville for 30 years,” he said. “I’m 50 now, but I started this company when I was 20. There aren’t a lot of companies started by 20-year-olds that are still operating 30 years later! I’ve had so much support from my staff, and I value them so much. My parents taught me to respect people and give them the kind of service that I want to receive.”



Take Out Burgers offers burgers, Philly cheesesteaks, sandwiches, catfish, wings and a variety of sides and desserts. “Our burgers are fresh ground beef, handmade patties. Everything is fresh and juicy, not dry. We have quarter-pound burgers, doubles and triples. And we have specialty burgers like our bacon ranch burger, chili cheeseburger, chipotle burger, Swiss mushroom burger and the thunder burger. The Take Out Burger menu also includes a turkey burger and a vegetarian black bean burger option. And you can customize with a whole list of add-ons.”

Their sandwich options include favorites like the BLT, grilled cheese and a patty melt. They also have a fish sandwich, a fried steak sandwich and a hot link sandwich, which is something you can’t get just everywhere.

“Our Philly cheesesteaks are good. We serve a lot of them, and they have some of the best meat you can get. We have several options like chipotle, Buffalo and bacon ranch.” They also offer a chicken option.

Their catfish dinners come in two-piece and three-piece sizes with the option to add more! “We use a proprietary

breeding. This is a recipe that we've had for years." Their wings come in multiple sizes as traditional or boneless wings, with lots of flavor options. "We have Buffalo and barbecue, of course, but we also have garlic Parmesan. Our mango habanero sauce is really popular with anyone who likes a kick.

"We have really great sides. Our onion rings are cut fresh and hand breaded. We go through about 150 pounds of onions for onion rings every week! We have loaded nacho fries with grilled onions, jalapeños and nacho cheese that are really great." They also offer french fries, of course, but they add fried mushrooms and fried okra to the options.

"Our burgers are fresh ground beef, handmade patties. Everything is fresh and juicy, not dry. We have quarter-pound burgers, doubles and triples."

When dessert is what you need, Take Out Burgers has some nice options. "We have Blue Bell ice cream and shakes," Tracy reported. They offer flavors that you don't often find in restaurants, like butter pecan, rainbow sherbet and cookies and cream, in addition to the big three. And when it's just too long to wait for the next State Fair, they have funnel cakes.

Keeping families in mind, Take Out Burgers offers kids' meals with kid-sized burgers, fries and a drink served in fun boxes. They also have a great deal with four burgers and four fries for only \$24, which is a help to any family, and convenient online ordering is available.

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Zoomed In:
Aubrey and Susan Teeter

By Adam Walker

Aubrey and Susan Teeter of Duncanville were spotted working at the State Fair of Texas, customizing and selling cowboy hats at Don Reim’s booth. “Don has been at the State Fair for 35 years,” Susan explained. “So he’s a fixture here, selling Resistol and Stetson hats. I worked at Boot Town for years in administration, and then Aubrey got on in the store. He had a knack for shaping and selling cowboy hats. Now, he’s a master hatter.”

“We travel all over for Don,” Susan beamed. “Next, we’re headed to an event in Vegas, and then a rodeo in San Antonio. We just had our 25th anniversary, so while we’re in Vegas, we’re going to look for the cheesiest chapel we can find and renew our vows!”



Sheriff Brown, Mayor Gordon and Rep. Yvonne Davis congratulate Linda Lydia on another successful Pink Diamonds Breast Cancer Awareness Ride.



Students of First Methodist School dress as their favorite helpers.



D² Catering holds a ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Amanda-Kate Basinger and Jovie Prince compete in the Miss Country Day Pageant.



Permerter Middle School students learn to play mariachi.



DeSoto ISD students challenge their minds at STEM Fest hosted by the Perot Museum.



The DKD Hip-Hop group performs at Country Day on the Hill.



Fourth-graders at Katherine Johnson Technology Magnet Academy learn the importance of math and measurement in construction.

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CYNTHIA SCALES

— By Adam Walker



Cynthia Scales grew up in Memphis, Tennessee, cooking with her mother and father. “My mother and I had the best mother-daughter talks, while I observed her prepare daily meals and especially meals for holiday gatherings. Most of my recipes are from memory, and I do not measure. I taste. But, when you bake cakes, you have to be precise, so measuring is involved. So most of the recipes below are baking.

“My husband, Jim, and I moved to DeSoto in 2012 to be close to family. We are both retired and enjoying life here. Now, I have the pleasure of spoiling my grandson, Grayson; son, Jimmy; and my daughter-in-law, Chiquita.

“Enjoy the recipes I have selected for the holidays. They are some of my family’s favorites!” **NOW**

Lubie’s Dinner Rolls

In memory of my sister-in-law, Lubie Dixon.

1/2 cup, plus 1 tsp. sugar (divided use)
1 1/2 tsp. salt
1 1/2 sticks butter, melted
2 pkgs. yeast (Don’t use rapid rise.)
1 cup warm water
4 cups flour
3 large eggs (or 4 medium)

1. In a large bowl, mix 1/2 cup sugar and the salt into the butter.
2. In a large measuring cup, add the yeast and 1 tsp. of sugar into the warm water to activate.
3. Begin adding flour, 1/2 cup at a time, to the butter mixture, alternating with the eggs. Mix well after each addition of flour. Add the yeast mixture, a little at a time, to the flour. You may need to add additional flour,

depending on the consistency.

4. Cover; let rise in the refrigerator overnight. Remove from the refrigerator; kneed in the bowl. Pinch off the desired size; let rise in pan at least 1 1/2 hours.
5. Bake at 375 F until golden brown.

Cream Cheese Pound Cake

3 sticks butter
1 8-oz. pkg. Philadelphia Cream Cheese
3 cups sugar
6 eggs
3 cups cake flour
2 tsp. vanilla

1. Preheat oven to 325 F Grease and flour a Bundt or tube cake pan.
2. Beat the butter and cream cheese until creamy. Gradually add the sugar; beat until light and fluffy.
3. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating well after each. Add the flour 1/2 cup at a time, beating well after each addition. Stir in the vanilla until blended.
4. Pour into the prepared pan. Bake 90

minutes. Let cool in the pan for 30 minutes. Remove from pan to continue cooling.

Coconut-Pecan Frosting

- 4 egg yolks
- 1 12-oz. can evaporated milk
- 1 1/2 tsp. vanilla
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 3/4 cup (1 1/2 sticks) butter
- 1 7-oz. pkg. Baker's Angel Flake Coconut (about 2 2/3 cups)
- 1 1/2 cups pecans, chopped

1. In a large saucepan, beat the egg yolks, milk and vanilla with a whisk until well blended.
2. Add the sugar and butter; cook on medium heat for 12 minutes, or until thickened and golden brown, stirring constantly. Remove from heat.
3. Add the coconut and nuts; mix well.

German Chocolate Cake

- 1 4-oz. pkg. Baker's German Sweet Chocolate
- 1/2 cup water
- 4 eggs, separated
- 2 cups flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1 cup butter
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 cup buttermilk
- Coconut-Pecan Frosting, recipe in this article
- Pecan halves, for garnish (optional)

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F.
2. Cover the bottoms of 3 9-inch round pans with waxed paper; spray the sides with cooking spray.
3. In a large bowl, microwave the chocolate and water on high 1 for minute; stir. Microwave another 30 seconds to 1 minute, or until the chocolate is almost melted. Stir until the chocolate is completely melted.
4. In a small bowl, beat the egg whites, with a mixer on high speed, until stiff peaks form; set aside.
5. Combine the flour, baking soda and salt.
6. In a large bowl, beat the butter and sugar, with a mixer, until light and fluffy. Add the egg yolks, 1 at a time, beating well after each addition. Blend in the melted chocolate and vanilla. Add the flour mixture, alternating with the buttermilk, beating until well blended after each addition. Add the egg whites; stir gently until well blended.
7. Pour into prepared pans. Bake 30 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the centers comes out clean. Immediately, run a small spatula around the cake in pans. Cool the cakes in the pans for 15 minutes; remove from pans to wire racks. Cool completely.

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German Chocolate Cake

1/2 cup butter or margarine, melted
6 cups fresh corn kernels (about 12 ears) (Or substitute frozen whole kernel corn or drained canned shoe peg corn.)

1. Combine the first 4 ingredients.
2. Whisk together the eggs, whipping cream and butter. Gradually add the sugar mixture, whisking until smooth; stir in the corn.
3. Pour the mixture into a lightly greased 13x9-inch baking dish. Bake at 350 F for 45 minutes, or until golden brown and set. Let stand 5 minutes.
4. *Variation:* Southwestern Corn Pudding: Stir in 1 4.5-oz. can drained chopped green chilies and 1/4 tsp. ground cumin.

8. Spread the Coconut-Pecan Frosting between the cake layers and onto the top and sides of the cake. If desired, add pecan halves to garnish.

Cranberry in Snow

- 1 6-oz. pkg. cherry Jell-O
- 2 cups sugar
- 3/4 cup boiling water
- 2 cans whole cranberries
- 1/2 cup celery, finely chopped
- 1 8-oz. can crushed pineapple
- 1 cup pecans, chopped
- 1 small jar marshmallow crème
- 8 oz. cream cheese
- 1/2 pt. whipping cream, whipped

1. Dissolve the Jell-O and sugar in boiling water. Stir in the cranberries; let cool. Add the celery, pineapple and pecans; refrigerate until set.

2. In a bowl, combine the marshmallow crème, cream cheese and whipping cream; mix well. Spread on top of the set Jell-O. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

Tee's Corn Pudding

- 1/4 cup sugar
- 3 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 1/2 tsp. salt
- 6 large eggs
- 2 cups whipping cream

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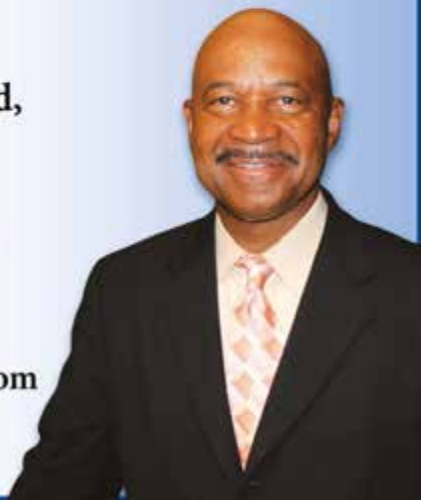


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"Coincidentally, a lot of people who are anxious about going to the dentist are also people who don't have good insurance. That's a bad combination. I have membership plans for patients without insurance, and really good discounts on implants and dentures. 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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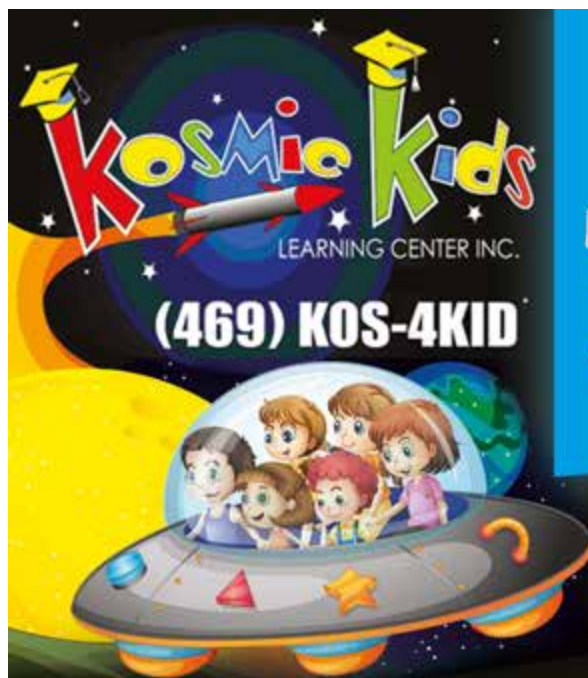
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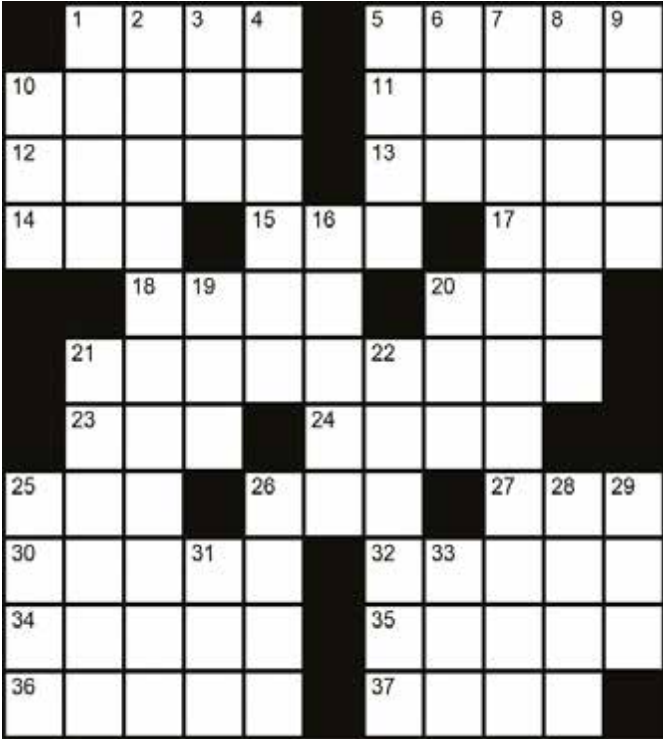
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- 5 "America's Most Wanted" presenter John ---
- 10 Trite and tiresome
- 11 Gem state
- 12 Exclusive group
- 13 Unpaid worker that never tires
- 14 Eccentric
- 15 Cut and dried grass
- 17 Saturn's wife
- 18 Decorated
- 20 Front end cover on a car
- 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
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- 31 Baseball league below the Majors
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9								
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8				5				
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	6			4				

Medium

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12/1

Christmas Festival:

Santa, a Christmas market and caroling. Free. Parade: 6:00 p.m.; tree lighting: 7:15 p.m., drone show following. Armstrong Park, 100 James Collins Blvd., Duncanville.

12/4

Home Town Holiday Block Party and Tree Lighting:

Food trucks, bounce houses, music and more. 6:30-8:30 p.m., Town Center, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd., DeSoto.

12/7

Holiday on the Hill:

Santa presides. 5:30-8:30 p.m., Downtown Cedar Hill.

12/9

Cookies With Santa:

10:00 a.m., Duncanville Rec Center, 201 James Collins Blvd.

Christmas Craft Making at Santa's Workshop:

Learn to make holiday wreaths. 1:00-4:00 p.m., Town Center, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd., DeSoto.

Jose the Reindeer:

Presented by Love Your City Theater. \$10. 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., 1231 E. Pleasant Run Rd., Cedar Hill. Tickets at loveyourcitytheater.com.

12/10

Sensitive Santa:

A Santa event for children with special needs and their siblings. 10:00-11:30 a.m., Hillside Village, 305 FM 1382, Ste. 406, Cedar Hill.

12/13

Cedar Hill Senior Activity Christmas Luncheon:

Come for food and fellowship. 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Sims Rec Center, 310 E. Parkerville Rd., Cedar Hill.

12/21

Blue Christmas Service:

This service is focused on

those dealing with illness or loss. 7:00 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church, 1302 S. Clark Rd., Duncanville.

Daily Through 1/7

DeSoto on Ice:

Outdoor rink. Ages 4 and up. \$15. For tickets and times, see desototicketline.simplenetix.com. Town Center, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd.

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



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- Classroom and Campus Grants
- Senior Scholarships
- Teacher of the Year Awards/STEM Teacher of the Year
- CHHS Red Army Band Sound System
- Art Desks for CHHS Visual Arts
- Mesh Backpacks for 2023-24 Back-to-School
- Chip-In Fund Meal Balances
- New Employee Lunch & Backpacks
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