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Heim Barbecue



# Merry Christmas

Dr. Alan M Taylor II

# Brandy G., Mansfield, TX

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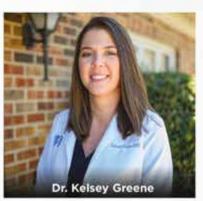
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# ON THE COVER



Lighthearted pranks fill the Borowski home with laughter throughout the holiday season.

Photo by Lori Baur.

Publisher, Connie Poirier General Manager, Rick Hensley

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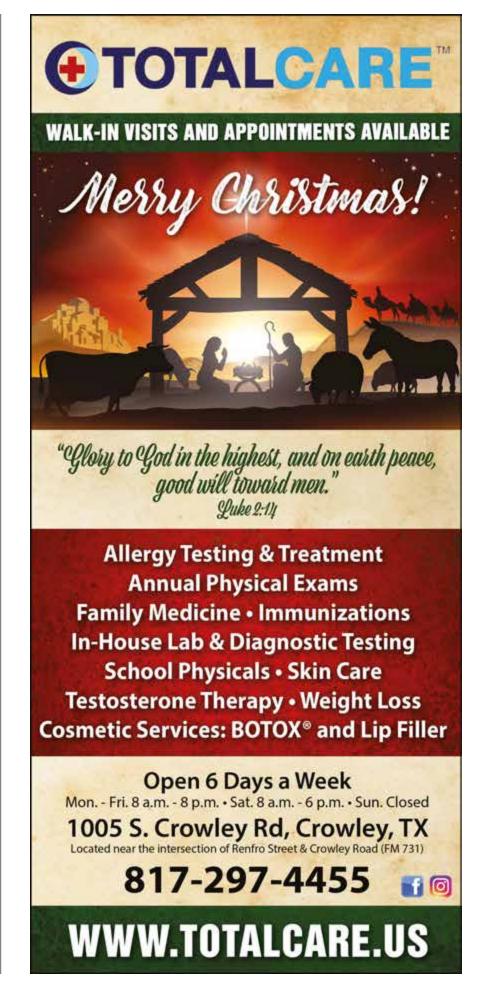
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# **EDITOR'S NOTE**

'Tis the season!

It's hard to believe that it's Christmastime once again. It seems like Halloween (my second favorite holiday) was just yesterday. If you're like my mother and me, then as soon as your Halloween festivities end, you begin playing your favorite Christmas carols and making a game plan for the holiday.

Getting older, most holidays have started to lose the wonder they once held. Half of the excitement of Easter was hunting for eggs, and what's the point of celebrating Valentine's Day, if we're no longer stuffing candy and cards into decorated cardboard mailboxes? Christmas, for me, escapes this fate.

My favorite part of Christmas, like any kid, used to be unwrapping gifts from Santa. Now, my favorite part of the season is the lead up to December 25. I love unearthing decorations from their year-long hibernation, remembering past years spent with them. I enjoy wrapping carefully chosen gifts for my loved ones in pretty, printed paper. I look forward to icing Christmas cookies with my mom and watching The Muppet Christmas Carol with my dad.

Despite my enthusiasm for these activities, I kind of dread the day itself. Sorrow overcomes me when the last cookie has been eaten and the final decorations have been repacked. However, I'll try to see the untouched snow through the sludgy ice, for I know Christmas will come again next year. Until then, let's savor these next 24 days (or less, depending on when you read this).

Happy holidays!

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!



# ANNUAL ENROLLMENT



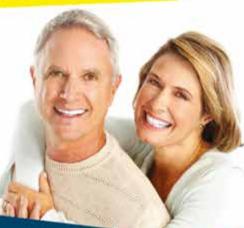
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# SUGAR SWEET MCCA At Home With Larry and Sheila Borowski — By Emma McKay

As winter blooms, images of DIY sugar plums and childhood memories dance in the heads of Larry and Sheila Borowski. Each year, the couple and their five kids — Tristin, Ryan, Tanner, Gianna and Paulina — excitedly decorate their home in memories of Christmas past and create new memories to last a lifetime.

Before moving to Texas, their church in New York would host a yearly gingerbread decorating night. One of the women baked all the gingerbread sheets they used to construct the buildings. "Everybody would bring candy, and we'd have a gingerbread house party," Sheila explained. When they settled in Burleson in 2005, they decided to carry on the tradition for their own family, buying kits to assemble and decorate.

One year, Shelia decided she wanted to turn their home into a real-life gingerbread house. Putting her crafting skills to the test, she created an icing trim out of plywood to hang on the fascia of their house. "It grew from there," Larry said. "We decided to add something different to the outside of our house each year." Since then, the Borowskis have added PVC candy canes, wooden gingerbread men and fairy-light fencing with colorfully wrapped hard candies hanging from it.

The holiday decorations continue indoors, with an old-fashioned Christmas tree, decorated in multicolored lights, tinsel and ornaments both old and new. "Several ornaments are from my grandmother's tree back in the early '30s," Sheila said of the blown glass ornaments. "We make sure to put them on the tree in honor of those loved ones." Encircled around the base of the tree rests a tree skirt Larry's mother made for the happy couple after they first got married, which they continue to cherish after 27 years.

In addition to decorating together, the Borowski family enjoys playing together. "A newer tradition my kids love is decorating *me* while we decorate the tree. They very stealthily hang ornaments on my back from my sweater or pants pockets, seeing how many they can get on before I notice!" Sheila laughed.

Their kids' antics don't stop at the ornament tomfoolery. As they grew up, Sheila and Larry would tell their children not to wake them up before 7:00 a.m. on Christmas morning. "That began the tradition of them coming into the room, yelling and jumping on us at 7:00 on the dot! As they got older, they moved on to banging pots and pans to wake us at 7:00. One year, we decided to thwart them in their efforts." Their kids, ages 5-15 at the time, had stashed the pots and pans in their closets to be close at hand in the morning. At 3:00 a.m., Sheila and Larry snuck the dishes back into the kitchen and screwed the cupboards shut. "Of course, we quietly listened through a cracked open door as they discovered everything sealed off, and it was hilarious! That's now a legend in our family!"



















Since that fateful Christmas morning, the family has only upped the ante. One year, Larry and Sheila piled folding chairs in the doorway between the hallway and the living room, hoping the kids would knock them over, causing a ruckus. A different year, they scattered LEGOs across the living room floor, knowing there's little worse than stepping on a LEGO brick in the dark. "We've tried to be creative as they get older, and we always have a good time with it. The kids have gotten the last laugh the past few years, though," she continued. Being a part of the drumline, their high schoolers take their snare drums home over the break. "If you think snare drums are loud on the marching band field, you haven't heard them played indoors in my bedroom at 7:00 a.m.!"

On a snow-capped hill beyond the Christmas tree rests a quaint little village comprised of buildings both inherited and newly acquired. "When we were young, it was common for families to have train sets under their Christmas trees. All my friends did. But in my family, we had the most magical village set up under our tree. I would lie on the floor, looking at the peaceful scenes created by my mother, and imagine what life was like in that little village." Sheila recalled later realizing that the magical landscape was created by draping white sheets over boxes, and the trees were pinecones collected from their backyard. "There was a mirror set up in the front that was the ice-skating rink, complete with ice skaters and a poor little dog losing his footing on the ice. One person skiing, one on a toboggan, it was all there!" When visiting Canton last fall, Sheila happened upon a vendor selling the same figurines from her childhood. "I





was so excited! I'd never, ever, seen these in real life outside of our village. Of course, I bought three new ones!"

Despite the new additions, most of the village came from Sheila's loved ones. "When Mom passed away, I was given her village to distribute among my siblings and me. Most of my village today is from my mom. There are some new special pieces, like a camel carved from olive wood from Israel my sister gave me, and a toy shop I got from a sweet friend from my job." Although much of it is mismatched. Sheila believes it adds to the village's whimsy. "Nothing compares to the nostalgia of building and enjoying [a village] that was decades in the making and has so many precious memories attached to it." she said.

Larry has decorations from his family on display, too. At the center of the fireplace mantel, a ceramic Christmas tree lords over the stockings of Sheila and Larry's growing family and their band of dancing Snoopys. The tree came from Larry's grandparents' home. "It was a central decoration in that holiday party. When Grandma passed away, Grandpa said we could have whatever we wanted from their Christmas decor, and Larry snatched up that tree!"

The Borowskis celebrate the Christmas season with decorations and activities inherited and created. Christmas, for them, is the magical feeling of spending time with the people they love. **NOW** 







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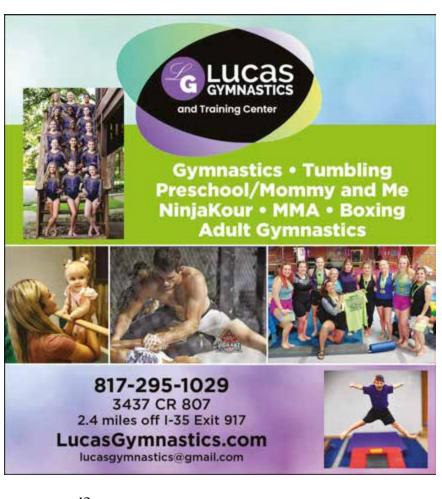
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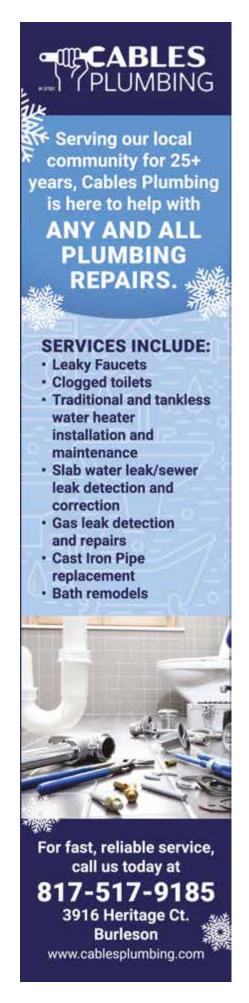
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# Heim Barbecue

— By Emma McKay

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"Heim is a top-tier barbecue," said Andrew Uzzel, the director of operations at Heim Barbecue in Burleson. "Anyone who comes to Fort Worth from out of town and wants to know the best barbecue, we got to take them to Heim." Travis

and Emma Heim founded Heim Barbecue to share their love of smoked meats with the Metroplex. Since opening their first location in 2016, they have opened three more restaurants including, most recently, their Burleson location.

Heim prides itself on being a farm-to-smoker restaurant. They source their meat from local Texas farms and get shipments of it twice a week, so the meat isn't sitting around in freezers. "Our guests say they taste the difference in our quality compared to other places around the area.

"When [my family] moved by the Heim on River, we would get the Bacon Burnt Ends once a month. Get that craving in," Andrew said of his favorite menu item. "It's basically meat candy." To create such a treat, the pitmasters slow-cook the bite-sized pieces of pork belly until it caramelizes. "None of the other barbecue places have Bacon Burnt Ends like we have."

For their brisket, the cooks start smoking the cuts at 6:00 a.m. the day before serving. They let the meats cook for

around 12 hours and take them off the smoker in the evening. "They rest overnight, so they can fully soak up the flavor and come out perfectly tender the next day." For other menu items, such as their sausages and ribs, they cook up batches throughout the day, so guests always get the freshest product.

In addition to their smoked meats. guests can order specially crafted burgers, such as the Heim Burger, which is slathered in their Bacon Burnt End jam, or their Hell Burger, which is layered with jalapeños and pepper jack cheese. On the side, you can order their ginormous, hand-battered onion rings or their Green Chili Mac 'N' Cheese. "You definitely can't go wrong with it. It's not super spicy. [The green chili] adds a lot more flavor to it."

# AS TIME GOES ON, **ANDREW HOPES HEIM BARBECUE — AND THEIR** ROOFTOP PATIO — **BECOMES THE PLACE TO CELEBRATE IN BURLESON.**

For dessert, Andrew recommends the banana pudding, which they make fresh every day. "If you're a banana pudding fan, you've got to try the banana pudding. It's not just vanilla pudding with bananas. It's got banana flavor in it."

Being located at Mayor Vera Calvin Plaza, the Heim Barbecue team has enjoyed participating in many of Burleson's celebrations. "We're always open during big events. We'll offer things like all-day happy hour." They've even taken part in holiday-themed bar crawls and BTX Best Fest. "Anytime we can participate in something going on in the community, we're definitely down for it."

As time goes on, Andrew hopes Heim Barbecue — and their rooftop patio – becomes the place to celebrate in Burleson. In addition to renting the patio out for parties, they host live music there on Fridays and Saturdays. Andrew encourages people to check out their Facebook events page and stop by for an order of Bacon Burnt Ends. NOW



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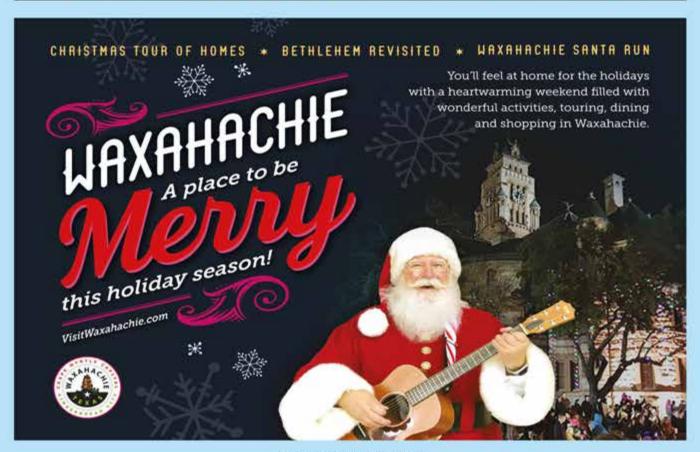
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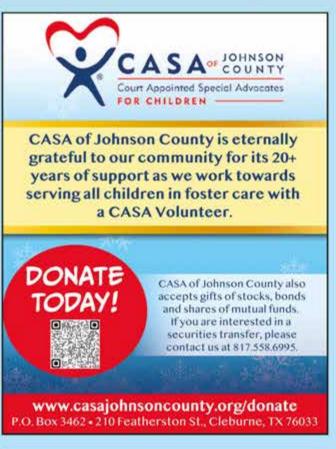




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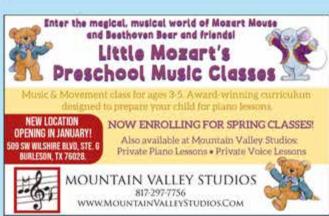
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# Around Town



Receptionist Amanda Buchanan and Spa Manager Lindsey Davis kindly help clients at Island Massage Spa.

# Zoomed In: **Amber Case**

By Emma McKay

"I came to Harvest House in 2015 as a client," said Amber Case. "I was a single mom. I struggled with different poverty barriers."

In 2020, she began working there, moving through different departments. Last month, she accepted the position as executive director.

Amber enjoys the spiritual aspect of Christmas, striving to love like Jesus during the holiday. "On Christmas, my family serves at our church's homeless outreach."

While assembling care packages, Amber sends her kids on a prophetic scavenger hunt, having them write a description on an envelope of money. Upon finding someone matching the description, they'll give them the envelope and pray over them. "This community restored my life," Amber noted. "I'm dedicated to restoring the lives of those most vulnerable in the community."



Billy and Emily Moore slide into fun at Clark Park.



The Centennial JV Cheer team enjoys cheering on their football team, while supporting breast cancer awareness with their bows.



The Burleson Heritage Foundation hosts another successful Founders Day!



The Worley family enjoys a late lunch at Razzoo's.



The BFD throws Chief Martinez a retirement ceremony for his 18 years of service.



Team members at H-E-B pass out candy at Boo Bash!



Veteran Sandy Mason teaches Cannon Greer the proper way to retire an American flag at the repository box at Veteran Memorial Park.





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Lauri Smith grew up watching her mother and grandmothers create wonders in the kitchen. "My fondest childhood memories with my grandmothers involve picking fresh vegetables from their gardens and watching them prepare comforting Southern dishes." Despite this, she didn't learn to cook until she got married, gathering recipes from these women to inspire her. Now, she looks forward to sharing her love of cooking with her granddaughter, like her mother and grandmothers did with her.

Lauri works as the bilingual/ESL professional development coordinator at Responsive Education Solutions, focusing on instruction for over 100 campuses across Texas. "I've even had the chance to cook for some of the campuses!" Although her job fulfills her, she's happiest when cooking for her loved ones. "There's truly no greater joy!" Now

### **Baked Tortellini Casserole**

- I small onion, diced
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 lb. lean ground beef (97/3)
- I lb. mild Italian sausage
- 1 32-oz. jar Classico Tomato & Basil Pasta Sauce
- 1 22-oz. jar Rao's Marinara

- 1 1/2 Tbsp. kosher salt Black pepper, freshly ground, to taste I small pinch red pepper flakes
- 1/2 tsp. sugar
- 1 Tbsp. Italian seasoning
- 1 pkg. Lawry's Spaghetti Sauce Spice & Seasonings
- 1 20-oz. pkg. Buitoni Three Cheese Tortellini Refrigerated Pasta
- 3 cups mozzarella cheese, freshly grated

- **1.** Preheat the oven to 350 F. In a large skillet, sauté the onions in olive oil until soft. Add the garlic; cook for an additional minute.
- **2.** Add the ground beef and Italian sausage; cook until browned.
- **3.** Once the meat is cooked through, drain off the grease; return the meat to the pan.
- **4.** Stir in the tomato and basil sauce and the marinara. Season with salt, black pepper, red pepper flakes, sugar, Italian seasoning and Lawry's seasoning.
- **5.** Prepare the tortellini as directed on the package.
- **6.** Scoop a small amount of sauce into a 9x13-inch baking dish. Use just enough to cover the bottom of the dish.
- **7.** Take half the tortellini and layer it over the sauce. Then cover the tortellini with half of the remaining meat sauce. Cover the sauce with 1 1/2 cups of mozzarella cheese. Repeat the same layers one more time to complete the process, ending with the last portion of mozzarella cheese on top.
- **8.** Cover tightly with foil; bake at 350 F for about 40 minutes, or until hot and bubbly.

# Taco Soup

3 lbs. ground beef

I onion, chopped 10 cloves garlic, minced

l pkg. taco seasoning

2 1/2 Tbsp. powdered ranch dressing mix

I can Ro-Tel

1 29-oz. can tomatoes, diced

1 tsp. chili powder

3/4 tsp. turmeric

 $1 \frac{1}{2}$  tsp. cumin

2 Tbsp. dried cilantro

I tsp. Knorr tomato bouillon

2 cups water

2 10-oz. cans beef broth

1 15-oz. can Ranch Style Beans, undrained

1 16-oz. can pinto beans, undrained

1 4-oz. can green chilis

Cheese, shredded, to taste

**1.** In a Dutch oven, brown the ground beef with the chopped onions and garlic, stirring frequently. Once the beef is browned, drain the grease from the pan. Add the taco seasoning and Ranch dressing mix. Cook until it's blended.

**2.** Add the rest of the ingredients, except the cheese; mix well. Let simmer over low heat until done, about 30 to 45 minutes.

**3.** Ladle out the soup into bowls; add shredded cheese. *Note: This is also good with sour cream and avocado over combread, Fritos or tortilla chips.* 

# **Migas**

12 large eggs

1/4 cup milk

1 tsp. kosher salt

1/2 tsp. black pepper

1/3 cup canola oil

6 white corn tortillas, cut into 1/4-inch strips

I small onion, diced

4 jalapeño peppers, seeded and diced

4 garlic cloves, minced

I medium tomato, diced

1/2 cup cilantro (divided use)

1 pkg. Jimmy Dean Breakfast Sausage Crumbles

I cup cheddar or Monterey Jack cheese, shredded

Corn or flour tortillas, for serving

**1.** In a bowl, whisk the eggs and milk together. Stir in the salt and pepper. **2.** In a large skillet, heat the oil on medium-high; place the tortilla strips into the skillet, cooking for about 3 minutes, turning once. Remove the tortilla strips to a paper towel-lined plate. Drain the oil from the skillet, leaving about 2 Tbsp.

**3.** Add the onions and jalapeños to the





pan; cook for 2-3 minutes. Add the garlic, tomato, 1/4 cup cilantro and sausage; cook for an additional 2 minutes.

- **4.** Add the egg mixture and tortilla strips to the skillet; let the eggs sit for about 1 minute or until set on the bottom; gently stir. Sprinkle cheese on top; continue to cook until melted.
- **5.** Top the eggs with the remaining cilantro; serve hot with tortillas.

# Italian Stromboli

2 Tbsp. butter2 cloves garlic, minced2 tsp. parsley, chopped

- 3 Tbsp. Parmesan cheese, grated
- 1 tube Pillsbury pizza crust
- 8 slices deli ham
- 8 slices Genoa Salami
- 12 slices sandwich pepperoni
- 1/2 pkg. Jimmy Dean Breakfast Sausage Crumbles
- 8 slices provolone cheese
- 8 slices mozzarella cheese
- **I.** Preheat the oven according to the instructions on the pizza crust package.
- **2.** Melt the butter in the microwave; mix in the minced garlic, parsley and Parmesan cheese. Set aside.
- 3. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

- **4.** Stretch the pizza crust on the prepared baking sheet.
- **5.** Begin layering the meats on the stretched crust starting with the ham, followed by salami, pepperoni and sausage crumbles.
- **6.** Place slices of cheese over the top of the meat
- **7.** Carefully roll the stromboli lengthwise and ensure the seam is sealed well.
- **8.** Pinch and mold the ends of the dough to seal, and tuck them under the stromboli.
- **9.** Score the top of the stromboli a few times with a serrated knife to allow steam to escape during baking.
- **10.** Spread the garlic butter mixture on the top of the stromboli.
- **11.** Bake in the preheated oven for the same amount of time recommended for baking a pizza on the dough's packaging, without par-baking.











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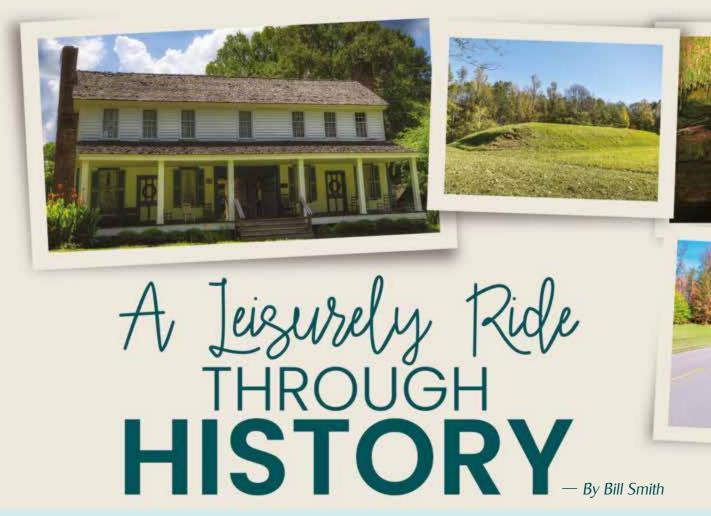
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The No. I attraction for driving along the Natchez Trace Parkway is probably just being able to slow down and enjoy the relaxation that is inherent in the trip. This is a place where "the destination might truly be the journey." Meandering over 400 miles across Mississippi, a brief pass through just a corner of Alabama and concluding in Tennessee, there may be no better way to experience the natural beauty of these Southern states than a drive along the parkway.

Automobile travel is not the only way to traverse the Natchez Trace Parkway, as each year thousands of cyclists ride part or all of the route. In addition, there are numerous hiking and equestrian trails along the way. As part of the National Park Service, there are camping and picnic sites to enjoy. NPS Interactive Park Ranger Kristen Maxfield said in an introductory video, "The Natchez Trace Parkway is really made for recreation. You can enjoy the natural beauty at a slower pace."

There are a number of historically significant attractions along the parkway. About halfway through Mississippi

is the Colonel James Drane House. Constructed about 1847, it was once the home of one of the earliest settlers of Choctaw County, Mississippi. The home has been considered a treasure of early antebellum architecture, featuring a dog run on the lower floor. The home was moved near the Natchez Trace Parkway in 1981 and now serves as a museum overseen by the French Camp Academy. The restoration of the house was overseen by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

There are several Indian mounds along the parkway, and the Bear Creek Mound and Village Site is farther northeast about 45 miles from Tupelo, Mississippi, near the Alabama state line. Dating back about 1,000 years, the mound was used for either Indian ceremonies or was perhaps the site of the home of one of the prominent leaders of the Indians who were settled in the area. Prior to its acquisition by the National Park Service, landowners and farmers had lowered the height of the mound as a result of their plowing. After it was excavated by archeologists in 1965, the mound was built back to its estimated original width and height of 85 feet across and 8 feet high. Additional Mounds are located along the Natchez Trace Parkway, including the Emerald, Pharr, Bynum and Boyd Mounds.

Cave Spring is another site worthy of a stop along the beautiful parkway, and it is not far from Bear Creek Mound. Considered a sacred American Indian site, Cave Spring is likely a place where the Indians who built Bear Creek Mound drew water. It is a limestone cave with a wide and impressive opening, but entry is prohibited by the National Park Service,





and the water is no longer considered potable. However, a visit to the cave is a must when one is in the area, as it is a beautiful place, and caves in Mississippi are certainly rare. A nature trail leads to the entrance of the cave, and it is nicely paved for a pleasant hike.

Natchez Trace Parkway is a road trip worth taking, whether you plan to stop along the way to take an indepth look at the history of the area, or your plan is just a leisurely drive in the country. Follow the links below for more information about these sites, as well as links to the many additional sites along the way. It is a trip through time you are sure to enjoy! NOW

### Sources:

I. https://www.nps.gov/natr/index.htm. 2. https://www.apps.mdah.ms.gov/ public/prop.aspx?id=3568&view=facts &y=1176U.S. Department of the Interior, National Register of Historic Places. 3. https://www.natcheztracetravel.com/ natchez-trace-mississippi/tishomingobelmont-ms/130-cave-spring.html.





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12/7

### Santa's Breakfast:

Celebrate the season with the Parks and Recreation's annual

Santa's Breakfast. Enjoy a pancake breakfast, holiday crafts and the big man himself, Santa Claus! Children (3-12): \$5; adults (13 and up): \$7. Registration for your 30-minute time slot is required. 7:00-11:00 a.m., Russell Farm Art Center, 405 W. CR 714. Purchase tickets at the BRiCk or visit burlesontx.com/events.

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

Spend the morning crafting ornaments, enjoying refreshments, embarking on a scavenger hunt and more! This is a free event. 9:00 a.m.-noon, Burleson Public Library, 248 SW Johnson Ave.

### **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. This is a free event. 6:00-9:00 p.m., Mayor Vera Calvin Plaza, 141 W. Renfro St.

# 12/14

## **Christmas Craft Fair:**

Local vendors showcase their sewn creations, art, jewelry and other handmade items. There will also be a Toys for Tots toy drive and a roaming Santa! 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Burleson Senior Center, 216 SW Johnson Ave.

### **Christmas on the Farm:**

Visit Russell Farm Art Center for a country Christmas full of crafts, activities and a children's farmer's market. 3:00-6:00 p.m., Russell Farm Art Center. 405 W. CR 714.

# 12/15

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

Bring family, friends and neighbors to see the Brazos Chamber Orchestra perform! This is a free event, though donations are accepted. 7:30-9:00 p.m., Pathway Church, 325 NW Renfro St. For more details, visit brazoschamberorchestra.org.

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





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