# MansfieldNow

MAGA7INE

DECEMBER 2024

### A Hot DIY Project

Enhance the coziness of your backyard with a new fire pit

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt

Crossword/Sudoku

Featured Business:

Mansfield Glass & Windows

### A Christmas Legacy

At Home With Isaac and Tiffany Price

2024 Holiday Shopping Guide

In the Kitchen With Lynn Taylor

OTR TREPRE SOATBON IN U OTAN XT BALLAG OSHCA TAMITEN

Postal Customer



### Merry Christmas

Dr. Alan M Taylor II

### Brandy G., Mansfield, TX

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#### ON THE COVER



While showcasing Christmas decorations, the Price family reveals their narrative.

#### Photo by Lori Baur.

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### Sandra

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### **EDITOR'S NOTE**

It's that time of year already!

Wow! It seems like 2024 went quickly. I recall adjusting to writing or typing 24 on various documents, and now this year is coming to a close. I am thankful for the opportunity to celebrate December once again.

I absolutely love the environment that Christmas creates. My husband is the decorator. He received his decorative skills from his mother. We have been his assistants for many years. We decorated the house and trimmed the trees with twinkling lights, and keepsake and new ornaments brought a sense of nostalgia, while holiday music filled the air with cheer. While we decorated, my son asked a question, "Mommy, what do you want for Christmas?" Yes, he's 25 and still calls me Mommy. I paused, and he said, "You don't ever say anything." The previous year when he asked, I replied, "I'm good. You're my gift." I was simply glad that he was at home. He didn't realize he was an answered prayer with a bow on top in my heart. I am so thankful for all the blessings I have received, and it's nice to be in a place where I don't feel like I need anything. I haven't always been in this position. I'm a practical person, so I appreciate my adult children and older family members while we keep traditions and make new ones.

This December, I pray that you find moments of joy and appreciation. May it bring warmth and encouragement for a hopeful and festive season.

Make the season 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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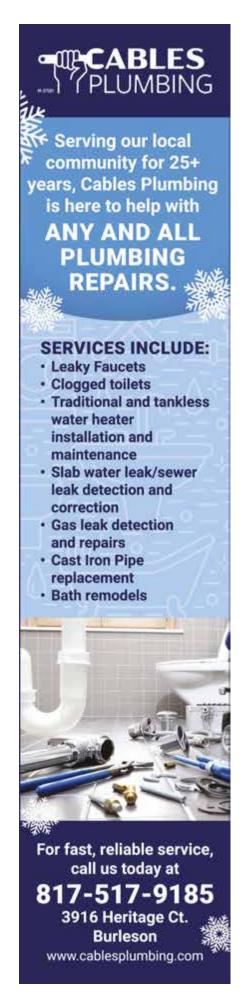
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# CHRISTMAS AT HOME WITH ISAAC AND TIFFANY PRICE LEGACY

- By Sandra Walters

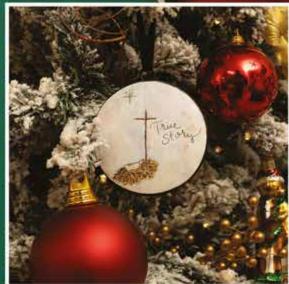












As Christmas approaches, the Price family — Isaac, Tiffany, Isaiah, Elijah, Victoria and Abigail — find themselves reflecting on the deeper meaning of the holiday season. Tiffany, in particular, recalls her childhood memories with fondness. "My mom was like an interior decorator," she shared. "We didn't have much, but during Christmas, she would transform our home into a wonderland. It was magical. She had such a gift for creating beauty, and she passed that talent down to me."

Tiffany's holiday preparations begin long before December. "I start decorating for fall in October and just keep adding things as the weeks go on," she said. "After Thanksgiving, I fully dive into the Christmas spirit. My mom is no longer with us, but I feel her presence in the way I decorate. Her touch lives on in everything I do."

When the Price family first moved from Florida to Fort Worth, they were starting over completely. Relocating for work, they initially rented a home with uncertainty about when they might be able to purchase again. Tiffany reflected on those tough times. "We couldn't even afford a Christmas tree, and we had no idea how we'd purchase presents for our kids. But the church we were attending at the time stepped in. A group of church members came together to help us get gifts for the kids. I remember my husband promising that we'd never be in that position again. He said we'd always have a Christmas tree, and that we'd make sure to bless others because Christmas isn't just about the gifts."

After working to recover financially from 2016 to 2018, they found a home in Mansfield. In May 2019, the Price family moved to this area. Today, Isaac and Tiffany make it a point to be appreciative of how far they have come and pass on acts of kindness. "It's all about family," Tiffany added. "Just enjoying time together, making cookies and soaking in the joy of the season is a blessing."



The festive spirit of the Price family is on full display as guests approach their home. The entrance is flanked by two small Christmas trees adorned with red ribbons, and a wreath hangs from the front door. Their welcome mat proudly reads PRICE, setting the tone for the warmth that awaits inside. As soon as you enter, the staircase is wrapped in lush, forest-green garland, and the entire space feels like a portrait of holiday cheer.

In the living room, a family picture is placed above the fireplace, adding a personal touch. Pillows on the sofa display words like joy and gather, perfectly in sync with the season's spirit. A striking canvas in the room reads, A child is born, to us a son is given; and his name is Jesus, offering a reflection of the family's faith-based celebration. The room is anchored by a sleek, flocked Christmas tree positioned near the double doors, elegantly decorated with gold and red ornaments with a green and white polka-dot ribbon. Among the ornaments, one stands out: It depicts a manger scene with the words *True Story*, underscoring the religious significance of the holiday for the Price family again. At the top of the tree, a graceful angel dressed in white adds a beautiful finishing touch. Across the room, a side table features a bold red JOY sign, surrounded by colorful miniature cone decorations and stockings that add even more festive charm to the space.

The formal living room exudes sophistication, enhanced with festive touches. A striking centerpiece on the





table features an off-white wooden box that matches the candles on both sides. A lantern with a candle inside is encircled by greenery and branches with red berries, adding warmth and coziness to the atmosphere. The table is dressed with a simple white runner, while the place settings include elegant, charger plates topped with decorative paper plates bearing the words Peace on Earth, all in shades of red and green.

One of Tiffany's most cherished holiday decorations is the snow village, a treasured memento from her childhood. "My mom bought this in Midland, Texas, when I was 11 or 12," she recalled, smiling. The snow village, complete with twinkling lights and tiny figures, is a nostalgic winter wonderland. It features four buildings: a tan Victorian-style house, a salmon-colored general store, a quaint schoolhouse and a traditional brick church. Outside the general store, a figurine of a woman in a blue coat and red-brimmed hat stands next to a present. The schoolhouse has two figures standing in front of its festive windows, while the snow-covered church completes the idvllic scene. Fir trees line the backdrop, evoking the snowy landscapes of Tiffany's childhood memories.

In every room, the Price family's holiday decorations tell a story — a celebration of faith, family and the enduring traditions that make Christmas special. Tiffany's decor brings her mother's legacy to life, while the family's own memories continue to grow with each passing holiday season. NOW

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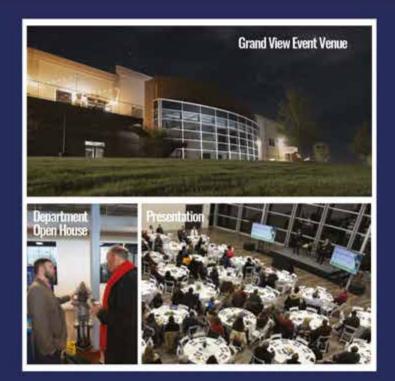


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### **Evening Session:**

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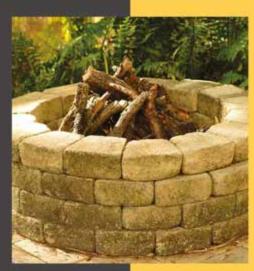
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### A HOT DIY PROJECT

— By Bill Smith



What could be more pleasant on a cool, late-fall-through-early-spring evening than being seated around your own backyard fire pit? As a do-it-yourself project, the task is not only relatively simple, but it's also inexpensive and can be completed in just a day.

You'll need some common tools for this project. Both a straight and a pointed shovel will come in handy. A level — ideally a two-foot level and a four-foot level. Have a two-by-four about three feet long to use as a screed. A rubber mallet will help align your stones, and something with which to tamp the base down is also needed.

Materials include retaining wall blocks (36 is a good number for an average fire pit), square concrete pavers might be used for the floor of the pit, but some people also use gravel or lava rock. If you choose the pavers, get some pea gravel to fill in the gaps. One bag of sand or paver base should be adequate. Get a metal fire pit ring.

Site selection is the first consideration, even before driving to the local home improvement store to choose the materials. Find a spot that is relatively level, with a water source nearby and far enough from any structures that an unfriendly fire can be easily extinguished. It appears that 15 feet from other structures is a common distance, but it is always a good idea to check local building codes before you make your final decision.

Your fire pit may be round or square, with the round structure perhaps the most popular. Paving stones or retaining wall blocks are available with sides cut at an angle so that 10 stones joined tightly together will produce a pit about 25 inches in diameter, whereas 12 stones might yield 30 to 35 inches. The thickness of the stones will determine the final height of the pit, and a common design of a backyard pit is three stones high.

Some large home improvement stores may sell a kit

that includes the stones and a metal fire ring, including instructions and a diagram of the completed size of the pit. One might want to just get an idea of what size pit the kit will produce and make a few changes, or just purchase the kit and create a "stock version." Creating your custom kit might prove to be a little less expensive, but you will probably want to include a metal fire ring with this project, so that should be the first thing to consider, since that will give you an idea of the size of your pit and how many retaining wall blocks you will need.

After you determine the location and purchase the stones and fire ring, you will need to dig a hole. Place the metal fire ring on the ground in your selected location, and surround it with the first layer of stones. Push the shovel into the ground at regular intervals around the stones to mark the circle. Then remove the blocks and dig the hole about seven inches deep inside the area you marked.

To make sure you have a firm, level base, put sand or paver base in the hole. If you are on clay soil, drainage could be an issue, so you might want to dig another, deeper hole in the middle and fill it with gravel to provide a place for excess water to go. Use a level and a screed (a two-by-four works fine) to make sure the base is level and tamp the base down firmly.

Place your first row of stones around the inside of the first hole and make sure the top is level. You can always add a little sand or paver base under part of the individual stones or take a little away to get the first row as level as possible. If the first row is level, the next rows should be also.

If you haven't already put the metal fire ring in place, do it now, then add your next two rows of stones. The project could be considered complete at this point, but some builders like to add either heat-resistant adhesive or mortar to hold the stones in place.

Well done! Now it's time to bring out the marshmallows and make some s'mores! NOW

#### Sources:

1. https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=pWffhXndXr4. 2. https://www.hgtv.com/outdoors/ landscaping-and-hardscaping/how-tobuild-a-fire-pit-for-less-than-100.





**BusinessNOW** 

### Mansfield Glass & Windows

By Sandra Walters

Mansfield Glass & Windows

Owners: Chris and Amy Ratterree 7489 Rendon Bloodworth Rd. Mansfield, TX 76063 Mansfieldglass.com (817) 473-3909

Hours: Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Mansfield Glass & Windows has been proudly serving the DFW Metroplex for over 25 years. Chris Ratterree said, "My wife, Amy, is the owner/president, and I am the vice president. I grew up working in my father's construction business on the west side of Fort Worth.

As we contemplated purchasing Mansfield Glass several years ago, his 45 years of experience and wisdom were invaluable and still are. He has taught us so much about serving our customers, listening to their needs and delivering on our promises."

Mansfield Glass & Windows maintains an A+ rating from the Better Business Bureau, is a certified Woman-Owned Business (WBENC), a Texas Certified Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) and a member of the Good Contractors List. They're also current members of the Texas Glass Association (TGA), the local chapter of the National Glass Association (NGA).

"We operate with integrity because it's core to who we are. We believe the customer comes first and work tirelessly to ensure their satisfaction. We are a brick-andmortar business that isn't going anywhere. We're all-in!"

At Mansfield Glass & Windows, their team is fully

trained, insured for both residential and commercial projects and equipped with the latest tools to get the job done right. They are not a one-person operation — their entire team is dedicated to delivering quality service and ensuring customers are pleased every day. They are ready to assist with all your glass needs. From replacement windows to showers and even the smallest glass needs, their experienced office and field teams are committed to ensuring your complete satisfaction from purchase to installation. Their technicians are highly trained and take great pride in their craftsmanship. From the initial measurement to the final inspection, they aim to provide the best glass service experience in the DFW area.

In today's market, customers are more informed and discerning about their purchasing decisions. This makes it crucial for established companies with physical locations, comprehensive insurance coverage and well-trained, properly equipped staff to stand out.

They provide beautifully crafted frameless shower glass, which has become the standard from the non-traditional framed enclosures. They also provide and install highquality replacement windows. In addition, they create custom cut glass, ranging from tabletops and cabinet glass to single pane window glass. If a client has an ornate corner, then they will make a pattern to ensure the glass fits properly. They educate customers with no-pressure, no-cost consultations.

Mansfield Glass and Windows takes great pride in offering commercial services, including storefront and aluminum doors, curtain wall, interior glass partitions, mirrors and mirror walls, sliding doors, transaction windows, door hardware and window film.

As a proud part of the local community, their doors are always open — feel free to stop by for a consultation on your next important project. They also source all of their quality material from local suppliers to ensure quick delivery. Give Mansfield Glass & Windows a call today to see how they can help! NOW



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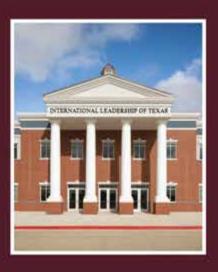
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### **Around Town**



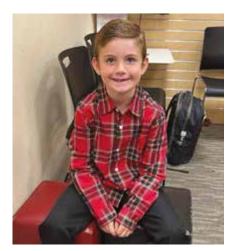
Grant Williams is all set to go.

### **Zoomed In:**The Grubb Family

Madyson, Carson and Coty Grubb are wearing their matching pajamas. Jessica Grubb, their mother, said, "This has become a beloved Christmas tradition for our family, adding a touch of warmth and unity to the holiday season."

From festive patterns featuring the Grinch and reindeer to cozy flannel sets in classic red and green, these coordinated outfits bring them together in a fun, lighthearted way.

Not only do matching pajamas make for adorable family photos by the fireplace, but they also create a cozy, relaxed atmosphere for Christmas morning, perfect for unwrapping gifts, enjoying a hearty breakfast and spending quality time together. This tradition has grown in popularity as families seek meaningful ways to bond and make the holiday season feel even more special.



Grayson Busher looks like he's ready for the holidays.



Mansfield Library employees dress up for the library masquerade.



Rachel Gerich, a DBU first-generation college graduate, celebrates her accomplishment.

By Sandra Walters

### NOW



Kade Cronin poses for a fun picture in his glasses.



Darlene Hornsby hugs Monica Nevels after catering Dr. Hornsby's appreciation celebration.



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### ACCESS MANSFIELD

Current Projects, Current News

Mansfield breaks ground on Julian Feild improvements, veterans memorial

The community held a groundbreaking for the long-awaited veterans memorial in November.

The memorial will be located within Julian Feild Park, 1531 E. Broad St. Mansfield's first park and namesake of one of the city's co-founders will undergo a slate of renovations including restrooms, garden redevelopment, and a veterans memorial

"Mansfield has long been a city where we take pride in our local veterans and honor their sacrifices," Councilman Larry Broseh said. "Having this memorial as part of the Julian Feild improvements will create the perfect place for residents to come together to reflect and remember."

The Mansfield Veterans Memorial and Tribute Foundation assisted with the design. Congressman Jake Ellzey and State Rep. David Cook were also on-site to help celebrate the upcoming improvements.

Serenity Gardens, quiet, peaceful area to remember lost loved ones, will be realigned, with new landscaping, sidewalks, and all existing memorial bricks repaved into one open reflection space. A large, octagonal-shaped pavilion is being added, with a design referencing Mansfield's historic Memorial Hall, the building constructed in 1918 to honor WWI veterans. An open plaza in the rear of the park will have granite pylons representing the military branches, creating a second space within the park for remembrance and reflection designed especially for veterans and











their families. The creek will become a reflecting pond, not only creating a new space to gather, but also alleviating some ongoing drainage issues. Bridges across the pond will allow for easier access to the west side of the park from the Magnolia Street parking lot. The update will remove the playground, which will be donated, with that area becoming a large open event plaza with tiered seating built into the natural topography. In addition to the sidewalks connecting all of these new features, the park is also getting restrooms.

Estimated completion for this first phase is tentatively expected for the end of 2025.

Future phases include walking trails with additional scenic overlooks, and a connection to the existing Walnut Creek Linear Trail.

This major park improvement project has a budget of \$6.5 million and is funded through the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #1.

The groundbreaking was the start of the city's week-long Veterans Day celebration

that included an art exhibit, traveling Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and annual Veterans Day Parade and Salute.



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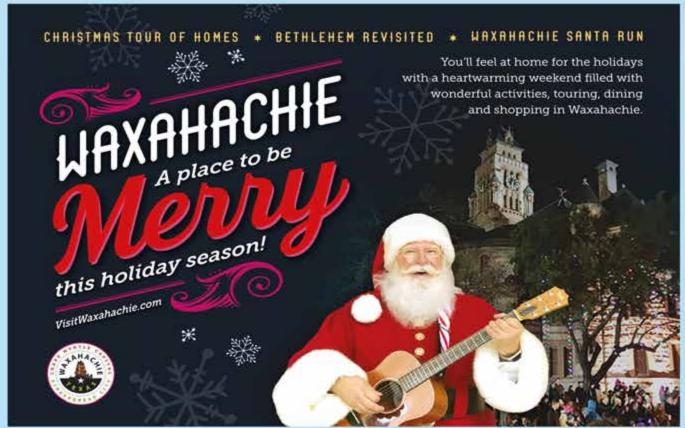


### 2024 HOLIDAY SHOPPING GUIDE



### 2024 Holiday Shopping Guide

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







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### 2024 Holiday Shopping Guide

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







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









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16 oz. cut, Grass Fed and Grain Finished

### **TEXAS FILETS**

20 8 oz. Steaks

ONLY \$159.95

### SIRLOIN STRIPS

20 8 oz. Steaks

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### SAMPLER ASSORTMENT

- 4 Pork Chops
- 4 T-Bones (10 oz.)
- 4 Filet Mignons (8 oz.)
- 2 Beef Roasts
- 3 lb. Spare Ribs
- 4 Chicken Fried Steaks
- 2 lb. Pork Sausage
- 2 lb. Bacon
- 12 Ground Beef Patties
- 2 lb. pkgs. of Ground Beef
- \$219.95

4 - Rib Eyes

4 - NY Strips

4 - Top Sirloins

#### THE CATTLEMAN'S PACKAGE Texas Grass-Fed Grain-Finished Beef AVAILABLE TEXAS PRIME CHOICE CERTIFIED CORN-FED BEEF

- CHOICE CERTIFIED CORN-FED BEEF

   8 8 oz. Tenderiois Steaks (Flet Mignon)
   16 oz. Bone-in Ribeyes (Cowboy Cut)
   6 16 oz. Telbene Steaks
   8 10 oz. Sirloin Steaks
   8 10 oz. Sirloin Steaks
   CUSTOM CUT!
   4 24 oz. Full Cut Tenderized Round Steak (Chicken Fried)
   6 20 oz. Chuck Pey Steaks (Delmonicos)
   2 24 oz. Puth Eye Steaks (Delmonicos)
   2 24 oz. Puth Eye Steaks (Sing Cut)
   5 lbs. Seasoned Skirt Fajitas (3 packages)
   12 Ground Chuck Patties (approx. 8 oz. each)
   6 1 lb. Packs, Ground Chuck (BS/15)
   1 10 lb. Smoker Ready Brisket
   1 7 lb. Pork Shoulder (Br. Pulled Pork)
   3 lbs. Beef Short Ribs (Great for Smoker)
   3 lbs. Thick Texas Bacon
   3 lbs. Farm Sausage



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  - WHOLE BEEF TENDERLOINS
  - · LAMB, VEAL
- · PORK CROWN ROAST

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"Growing up, I lived in 10 different states, so I believe this influenced my tastes buds. However, I never cooked before getting married. This gave me lots of good and bad experiences, but I learned. Now I enjoy down-home cooking, and when we lived in Colorado, we discovered Mexican food for the first time. What a delight!" Lynn Taylor said.

Because of her past, she taught her daughters to cook at an early age. She allowed them to create menus for dinner. Then, she bought the items needed to supervise the process. "Yes, sometimes it was just basics or even breakfast, but they did it. Now people call me to ask for recipes and tips," she shared. "I love sharing ideas with them from full meals to desserts."

### **Cranberry Tea**

- 3 Tbsp. instant black tea powder
- 1 1/2 tsp. ground allspice
- 1 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
- $1 \, 1/2$  tsp. ground nutmeg
- 18 cups boiling water
- 3 3-oz. pkgs. cherry Jell-O
- 3 cups orange juice

- 3/4 cup lemon juice 12 cups cranberry juice 1 1/2 cups white sugar
- 1. Place the tea, allspice, cinnamon and nutmeg in a bag; steep in the boiling water for 5 minutes.
- 2. Remove the spices; add the Jell-O. Let cool.

- 3. Add the orange juice, lemon juice, cranberry juice and sugar. Mix until the sugar is dissolved.
- 4. Serve warm or cold. Based on the temperature, it tastes like 2 different drinks. Keep extra in the refrigerator, if desired cold.

### Holiday Chicken Salad

- 1 1/2 cups mayonnaise
- 1 1/2 tsp. paprika
- $1 \frac{1}{2}$  tsp. seasoning salt
- 2 1/4 cups dried cranberries
- 1 1/2 cups celery, chopped
- 3/4 cup green bell pepper, minced
- 3 green onions, chopped
- 1 1/2 cups pecans, chopped
- 6 cups cooked chicken, cubed Pepper, to taste
- 1. In medium bowl, mix together the mayonnaise, paprika and seasoned salt.
- 2. Blend in the dried cranberries, celery, bell pepper, onions and pecans.

**3.** Add the chicken; mix well. Season with black pepper to taste. Chill for 1 hour.

#### **Eggnog Pound Cake**

1 16-oz. box pound cake mix

1 1/4 cups eggnog

2 large eggs

1/2 tsp. freshly grated nutmeg

1/2 tsp. vanilla

#### Topping:

Ginger sugar, to taste, optional Chocolate sugar, to taste, optional Peppermint sugar, to taste, optional Hot cocoa sugar, to taste, optional

- **1.** Preheat the oven at 350 F. In a large bowl, beat all the ingredients together on low speed with an electric mixer until blended. Increase the speed to medium; beat for 2 minutes.
- 2. Pour the batter into a lightly greased 9x5-inch loaf pan. Bake for 65 minutes or until a toothpick is inserted in the center and it returns clean. Cool in the pan on a wire rack for 10 minutes. Remove the cake from the pan to a wire rack; cool completely, about 1 hour.
- 3. Add ginger sugar, chocolate sugar, peppermint sugar or hot cocoa sugar and serve.

10-12 yellow squash, sliced

#### Squash Soup

2 onions, chopped 1 tsp. cumin 1 tsp. garlic power I cup butter 3 8-oz. blocks Velveeta, shredded 1/2 tsp. cayenne, or to taste 1/2 tsp. white pepper 1 gt. half-and-half 1/4 tsp. baking soda Salt, to taste Pepper, to taste Parsley, for garnish Sour cream, for garnish

- **1.** In a medium-sized pot, add the squash and onions; cover with water. Bring to a boil: cook until tender. Drain the water. reserving approximately 1 1/2 to 2 cups of the water.
- 2. Puree in a blender. Combine the puree and the remaining ingredients, except for the garnishes, in a large pot. Warm over medium heat.
- 3. Serve topped with parsley and sour cream. Enjoy!

#### **Chicken Enchiladas**

1/2 to 1 green bell pepper, diced 1/2 to 1 onion, diced







 can H-E-B Poblano Soup
 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
 can H-E-B Cream of Chicken Soup
 can Hatch Ro-Tel
 Tbsp. chili powder
 cups H-E-B Mexican Cheese, shredded (divided use)
 12.5-oz. cans chicken breast, shredded
 H-F-B Fresh Tortillas

**1.** In a large bowl, add the bell peppers, onions, poblano soup, garlic powder, chicken soup, Ro-Tel and chili powder with



- 2 1/2 cups of cheese.
- **2.** Mix well; remove 1/3 of mixture. Add 1 cup of cheese to the 1/3 portion of the mixture you removed.
- **3.** Add the chicken breast to the 2/3 portion of the mixture.
- **4.** Cut the tortillas in half; line half of them in a  $9x \, 13$ -inch baking dish. Put the chicken mixture on top of the tortillas. Add the remaining tortillas on top of the chicken mixture. Add the 1/3 mixture with the cheese. Top with the remaining cheese.
- **5.** Bake at 350 F for 20 to 30 minutes. Remove from oven; top as desired with cilantro, pico, mango or guacamole.
- **6.** Serve with chips, refried beans or Spanish rice.

- **1.** Melt the butter in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the onions and jalapeños; sauté for 3-5 minutes, until soft.
- **2.** Stir the Ro-Tel into the mixture, while adding the rice, salt, pepper and enough water to cover the rice.
- **3.** Bring the rice mixture to a boil; reduce heat and cover. Simmer the rice for 40 to 45 minutes until the rice is cooked.
- **4.** Garnish with sour cream, green onions and cheese. Serve.

#### **Spanish Rice**

3 Tbsp. butter
1 onion, chopped
1 jalapeño, chopped (optional)
1 can Mexican Ro-Tel, drained
1/2 cup white rice
Salt, to taste
Pepper, to taste
1/4 cup water
Sour cream, for garnish
Green onions, chopped, for garnish
Cheddar cheese, shredded, for garnish

To search for more great recipes from any of the 9 NOW Magazines publications, visit www.nowmagazines.com.





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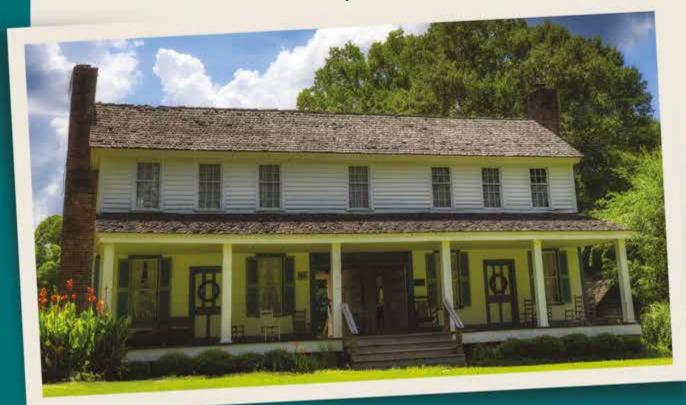






## A Jeisurely Ride THROUGH HISTORY

— By Bill Smith



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 in-depth 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!

#### 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/tishomingo-belmont-ms/130-cave-spring.html.









## THE LOCAL TABLE

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

- Virginia Woolf









### **Crossword Puzzle**

	1	2	3				4	5	6	7
8		T	T		9	10		+	t	T
11	$\vdash$	$\vdash$	$\vdash$	12		$\vdash$	$\vdash$	T	╁	$\vdash$
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36	$\vdash$	+	$\vdash$				37	+	+	

#### Across

- 1 Empty writing
- 4 Bonkers
- 8 Stiding window
- 9 Harlem theater
- 11 Small amount, low interest lender
- 13 Alias
- 14 It tells you where you are
- 15 Stimulus
- 16 III will
- 18 Anorak
- 19 Steeps
- 21 Perversely, The Rolling Stones gathered plenty

- 24 Potion or peak in California
- 28 Lyric poem
- 29 "Agnus --- "
- 30 Abe's fourth
- 31 Not a lot Hun might con characters about
- 34 School skipper
- 35 "Go placidly the noise ... (Ehrmann, "Desiderata")
- 36 Spot
- 37 Plump

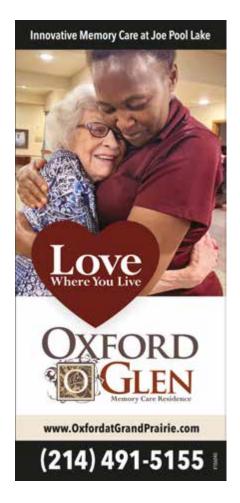
#### Down

- 1 Cold comfort?
- 2 Far Eastern intergovernme organization
- 3 College professor's degree
- 4 Put on
- 5 She pondered about a grin without a cat
- 6 Finely ground grain meal
- 7 In good shape,
- musclewise 8 Residual mark
- of a wound
- 9 Right now
- 10 Sign of infection
- 12 "Firebird" composer Stravinsky

- 17 The Tiffany network
- 18 Snowden's former
- employer 20 Zachary Taylor was one
- 21 Game with a 40-card deck
- 22 Air freshener targets
- 23 Organization
- 25 Make political speeches
- 26 Implied
- 27 Target for Ritalin
- 29 Cacophony
- 32 It's hit at bedtime
- 33 Chairman painted by Andy Warhol

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Online versions and solutions available at www.nowmagazines.com. From our Homepage, click on the Crossword-Sudoku tab. Click on a puzzle. Click on the See All button to view solutions.





## Sudoku Puzzle

Easy									٨	Mediu	m							
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5	8					2	4				6	7		1				8
	3	9			2											3	4	

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#### 12/1-12/31

#### **Grand Prairie Lights:**

Enter the line 6:00-10:00 p.m., or until the park reaches capacity, whichever comes first. Marked Prairie Lights vehicles will drive to the end of the line at that time. Open every night through December 31. Cost: \$50 per car. Lynn Creek Park, 5610 Lake Ridge Pkwy., Grand Prairie, TX 75052.

#### 12/4

#### **Toys For Tots:**

Join the toy drive and community event, which will include holiday performances, face painting, an ice hill, train rides, photos with Santa, food trucks and more! Cost: Free. 5:00-9:00 p.m., Dr. Jim Vaszauskas Center for Performing Arts, 1110 W. Debbie Lane.

#### 12/6

#### **Hometown Holidays:**

Hometown Holidays returns to
City Hall this year, with a can't miss
seasonal spectacle. Intricate light
displays, local performances, carnival
rides, festive food and a holiday
drone show presented by H-E-B
are all just the start of the fun! Cost:
Free. 5:00-9:00 p.m., Mansfield
City Hall, 1200 E. Broad St. For
more information, visit https://
www.mansfieldhometownholidays.
com/ for the full collection of events
across the entire city this December.

#### 12/7

#### **Snowman Run:**

This family-friendly 5K walk/fun run includes very merry photo ops and fun activities, a festive route full of cheer and hot cocoa and s'mores for everyone at the finish line. Cost: \$20. 9:00-11:00 a.m., James McKnight Park East, 700 U.S. 287 Frontage Rd. For more information, call (817) 728-3680 or visit mansfieldparks.com.

## Hometown Dance Spectacular:

Be transported through a night of amazing music, dance and seasonal magic as the Mansfield ISD Fine Arts department features its student dancers. Cost: \$5-\$10. 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., Dr. Jim Vaszauskas Center for Performing Arts, 1110 W. Debbie Lane.

#### 12/8

#### Mansfield Women's Club Holiday Home Tour:

Tour homes decorated for the holidays, and get into the spirit! This fundraiser helps those in need in Mansfield. Purchase tickets at Tom Thumb, Mansfield. Cost: \$30. 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. For more information, call (817) 932-2329.

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



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