

# CorsicanaNOW

M A G A Z I N E

DECEMBER 2025

## Sharing the Season's Joy

At Home With  
Ronnie and  
Stacie Patterson

In the Kitchen With  
Barbara Watkins and  
Debby Bryant

2025 Holiday  
Shopping Guide

Also inside:  
Scavenger Hunt  
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Featured Business:  
Crazy Dave's Discount Store

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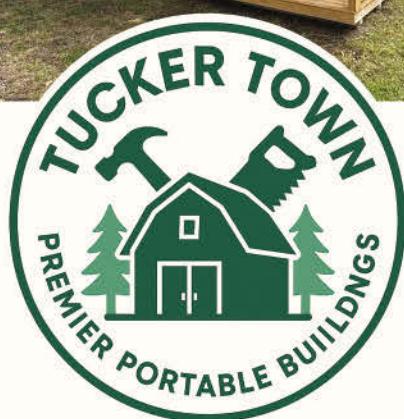
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*Virginia*

Virginia Riddle  
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# EDITOR'S NOTE

*Bells are a ringin'...*

Bell choirs, large bells in steeples and tiny jingle bells herald the season of Jesus' birth. However, there's no record in biblical or Quranic writings of bells having rung for Mary and the baby Jesus on that momentous occasion. The lovely tradition of ringing bells at Christmastime came later in Christianity's history, and it's a tradition that, as a musician, I cherish.

Just think of all the beautiful music that is centered around bells. Titles such as "Silver Bells," "Sleigh Bells Ring," "Jingle Bells," "Carol of the Bells" and "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" come to mind. We know these songs by heart and enjoy singing along with carolers.

Heralding events such as the birth of our nation, the birth of a baby, a call to prayer and praise or to give thanksgiving, bells have also been used, historically, as a call to action in times of danger or fire. It's all a part of our community coming together. Whether it's Santa's sleigh bells, church bells or the Salvation Army's bell ringers, our community will be full of jingling and pealing bells this merry season.

*May your season be 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!*

December 2025  
Volume 22, Issue 12

## ON THE COVER



*Snowmen are a favorite decoration in Ronnie and Stacie Patterson's home.*

**Photo provided by**  
Ronnie and Stacie Patterson.

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*Merry Christmas!*



"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end." ~ Isaiah 9:6



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# *Sharing the Season's Joy*

## **At Home With Ronnie and Stacie Patterson**

— By Virginia Riddle

*The star's light shines afar from Ronnie and Stacie Patterson's manger scene, declaring the reason for celebrating the season. "We are pretty simple people, and we have few traditions, but we love the holidays and celebrating Jesus' birth," Stacie explained. "We like to decorate for Christmas and go to see the beautiful lights."*

Both Ronnie and Stacie are Corsicana natives. Ronnie's parents are Chesley and Martha Patterson, and Stacie's parents are Gilbert and Carolyn Sutherlin. "Ronnie and I met at the Village Roller Rink 'once upon a time long ago' it seems now," Stacie recalled. The couple started dating in 1984 and married in 1987. Together, they have three children: Taylor Patterson, Chelsi Patterson and Presli Patterson Bamburg, who is married to Josh Bamburg. One of Ronnie and Stacie's motivating factors in decorating their home so wonderfully, not only for Christmas but during nearly every holiday all year long, are their five grandsons: Chandler, Madden, Sawyer, Dallas and Quinceton. "They are all precious blessings, but no granddaughters yet. We're still hoping," Stacie added.

Whether it's working at the business they've owned since 1998, R&S Foundation Repair and House Leveling, decorating their home and church for special occasions or updating their home and landscaping, Ronnie and Stacie believe in working hard. "One of my favorite sayings is, 'Wishes don't wash dishes,'" Stacie revealed. "We've lived in our home for the past four years, and we love it here. The location and our neighbors are the best. Ours is an awesomely built older home."

The kitchen of any home is usually its heart, and Ronnie and Stacie's kitchen is central to their Christmas celebration. It's where they get creative with decorations or cooking with their grandkids. "We both love to cook and bake," Ronnie said, "and we enjoy making fudge, cakes and pies during the holidays." Christmas trees totally covered in red- and green-themed decorations flank a church scene in the kitchen and dining area. A doll, white bows and snowman with his top hat adorn their dining table. Ronnie and Stacie have added new decorations each year, and the most special to the couple are those made by their children and grandchildren.





"We always let the grandkids put their homemade decorations from school or wherever else on the Christmas trees," Stacie said.

Their faith and the work they do at church are important to the Pattersons. As members of Community Chapel Church in Corsicana, they volunteer in plays, skits, decorating the church and making floral arrangements. "Ronnie plays the drums and harmonica for church, and I play the tambourine and sing occasionally," Stacie shared. "Our leaders are Pastor Lonnie and Sister Debbie Keele." Faith helped the couple through Stacie's cancer treatment. "I'm very thankful to God that I am a 13-year breast cancer survivor," she added.

When not working or volunteering, the couple enjoys traveling, especially to Branson, Missouri. "Branson is probably our favorite place to visit,"

**Merry Christmas!**



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window in which a holiday display is highlighted by enhanced lighting. A grandson, dressed in a bear costume, might be the one to open the door to guests, while other grandsons play with large snowmen. Upon touring the home, guests find a heavily decorated tree in almost every room. Green and red ribbons appear in large bows or in winding vertical strands on some trees, while other trees sport a blue and silver theme. Cuteness oozes from

a tree decorated with snowmen and checkered bows. Brightly wrapped presents are set on accompanying tree skirts under some of the trees.

In the living area, a whole bevy of snowmen with top hats are seated on the sofa, while the stuffed elf dolls that adorn a shelf look like they are about to sing carols. A manger scene decorates another shelf. Bedrooms are not left undecorated. One bed, covered in white linens, is accented with red and white checkered pillows and a red blanket. A green garland is draped across the headboard. A Christmas tree casts a soothing light across the room.

“My special ornaments that I still use every Christmas are red wicker bells my mother gave me and snowmen my mother-in-law gave us,” Stacie said. “I also have some gold and glass angels I still use from one of our first Christmas trees.” Ronnie and Stacie enjoy sharing the message of Christmas with everyone. Stacie concluded, “I love the magical feeling of the spirit of Christmas.” **NOW**

Stacie explained. “There’s always lots to do and great food, and we love the shows.”  
Out in the yard, bright, multicolored lights line the walkway that winds between the manger scene, brightly lit gold and white cross and Santa. The home is lit, especially the bay

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— By Virginia Riddle

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**Hours:** Thursday-Saturday: 10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

Sunday: 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

Last minute Christmas shopping is upon us, and Crazy Dave's Discount Store is where, as their slogan goes, "Prices are Insane!" Founded 40 years ago by David Semel, CEO, the store stocks casual clothing for all ages, hats, perfume, backpacks, shoes, handbags, keychains, kids' and dog toys and "useful everyday items." The walls, bins and tables are



full of colorful items. "Our mission is to bring Corsicana the best deals we can find on things real people need — always — at prices that are still reasonable in a world where inflation seems to be everywhere," Dave stated.

Having moved from Florida to Texas, Dave and his wife, Angela, have found Texas, in general, and Corsicana, specifically, to have a good business climate. "It's the people that make or break a place, and the people here are just plain nice people," Dave said. "We like and trust that."

Twenty-five Corsicana employees work in Crazy Dave's retail and shipping logistics. "We work with a local organization that supports single mothers who need work and child care while at work. Our training program is more of a bootcamp for people who want to learn from the challenges of doing business in the real world with real world deadlines," Dave explained. "We provide our employees guidance to develop the skills necessary to operate in a business environment that they may never



have been exposed to in the past. This helps build their self-confidence, and that drives improvements in their overall well-being. We all must start somewhere, and I'm thankful to my friend and business associate, Ed Erwin, for introducing me to the organization.

"I earned a college degree, but my real education came from the school of life or, as some say, hard knocks," Dave added. "The saying, 'When you don't have a way, you make a way,' is true for me. I enjoy the opportunity to learn something new while working in our organization. Over the 40 years we've been in business, it's been the learning that drives us to understand how we can work together as a team and leverage our experience to deliver for our customers."

**"IT'S THE PEOPLE THAT MAKE OR BREAK A PLACE, AND THE PEOPLE HERE ARE JUST PLAIN NICE PEOPLE."**

Working in the challenging world of retail and shipping is something which Dave has faced through business cycles over the years. "Anything worth doing presents challenges in both life and business," he stated. "The trick is to meet every challenge with an attitude of, 'How can we make this work for us and our customers?' I went into this career field because buying and selling was all I ever wanted to do, and it's all I've ever known."

Dave personally volunteers through business contacts and charities located in the United States. He enjoys traveling for work and when visiting family. "My business and finding new ways to increase business value is my hobby," he revealed.

Crazy Dave's Discount Store, Dave and Angela have found their place in Corsicana's business community. Dave concluded, "My team at Crazy Dave's and the people of Corsicana are my family here in Texas. If we all work together as a community to help each other when help is needed, I know we will all live better lives." **NOW**

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~ Luke 2:11

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*CHS Calicos, going to national competition, hold a Fill the Boot fundraiser.*

## Zoomed In: By Virginia Riddle Leslie Hayes and Tristan Arteaga

It took a village at Navarro College to begin offering its new RV Tech Program, but the first students have become certified. Dean of Workforce and Career Pathways, Leslie Hayes, is part of that “village,” and Tristan Arteaga, a Corsicana native, is one of those students.

“I enjoy being able to impact this community and businesses directly,” Leslie stated. A 15-year Navarro College employee, she supports her children’s interests in sports and the Mildred ISD fishing team.

Tristan, a Fun Town RV Corsicana employee, received one of the first scholarships. He has a 9-month-old daughter, and his wife is a nurse. He said, “My hobbies are all about my daughter now.” Tristan is a dad on duty at night while his wife works.



*Melissa Castillo, executive director of Compassion Corsicana, explains its program to Kinsloe House members.*



*City employees dress for Boo on the Block.*





Lucy Mendoza Avila and her mom, Daniela, enjoy designing and painting stockings for our troops overseas or on the seas.



The witches are shopping in abundance during the Witches Night Out.



Julie Woods, pilot of the Pitts S-2B and a commercial airline captain, shows the Corsicana Airshow crowd a winning performance.



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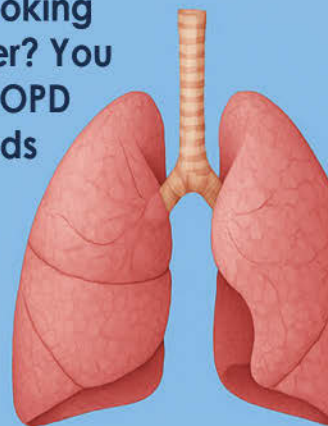
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Joshua 18:8 Deuteronomy 19:14



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Chicken Liver Pâté



## CookingNOW

### IN THE KITCHEN WITH

### BARBARA WATKINS AND DEBBY BRYANT

— By Virginia Riddle

Among the many aspects of life that sisters, Barbara Watkins and Debby Bryant, share is their love of cooking and their membership in the James Blair Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. “Our chapter has projects that honor military veterans and first responders, and often our contribution is preparing food,” Debby said. “We cherish spending time together whether it’s researching our family history and ancestors, antiques, gardening or enjoying the beauty of flowers.”

Barbara shared, “2026 will mark America’s 250th anniversary of its independence. The James Blair Chapter is planning for the purchase and dedication of the America 250 Patriot Marker for the Navarro County Courthouse Spring 2026. The marker will preserve the memory of those courageous individuals who helped found our nation after the American Revolution.” **NOW**

#### Chicken Liver Pâté

*This tastes great served on toast points or crackers and freezes well.*

**1 cup butter, plus 2 Tbsp., room temperature (divided use)**  
**1 tsp. oil**  
**1 1/4 lbs. chicken livers**  
**3/4 medium onion, minced**  
**2 large garlic cloves, crushed**  
**1 tsp. fresh rosemary**  
**2 tsp. fresh thyme**  
**2 Tbsp. fresh parsley**  
**Dash nutmeg**

**Dash salt**

**Dash pepper**

**1/2 cup pistachios, chopped**  
**1/2 cup clarified butter**

1. In a skillet, melt 2 Tbsp. butter with the oil; add the chicken livers, onions, garlic and rosemary. Sauté about 3 minutes, until the livers are barely cooked through.
2. Put the liver mixture into a blender or food processor; add the herbs and seasonings. Process until the mixture is smooth.
3. Add 1 cup of butter; mix again. Stir in

the nuts; pour the mixture into a small loaf pan or mold. Top with the clarified butter; chill thoroughly before serving.

#### Spirited Cranberry Sauce

*This will keep well refrigerated for up to one week.*

**2 cups sugar**  
**1/2 cup port**  
**3/4 cup water**  
**1 lb. (4 cups) fresh cranberries, washed**  
**1/4 cup orange liquor such as Triple Sec**

1. In a saucepan, stir the sugar, port and water together until the sugar is dissolved and all ingredients are completely blended.
2. Add the cranberries; bring the mixture to a boil over medium-high heat. Stir often. Cook the mixture for 8-10 minutes, or until the skins on the cranberries split. Remove the saucepan from the heat; let the mixture cool for 15 minutes before adding it to a blender or food processor. Process the mixture 3-4 times until the cranberries are chunky.
3. Stir in the orange liquor; place the sauce in an airtight container. Cover; chill the sauce 8 hours or overnight before serving.

#### Pralines

**3/4 stick butter**  
**2 cups sugar**  
**1/2 cup white Karo syrup**  
**1 tsp. vanilla**  
**3 cups pecans**

1. In a pot, add the butter, sugar and syrup. Cook to soft boil stage at 235-250 F; stir during cooking.
2. Stir in the vanilla and pecans; continue stirring until the mixture thickens.
3. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto waxed paper; cool completely.





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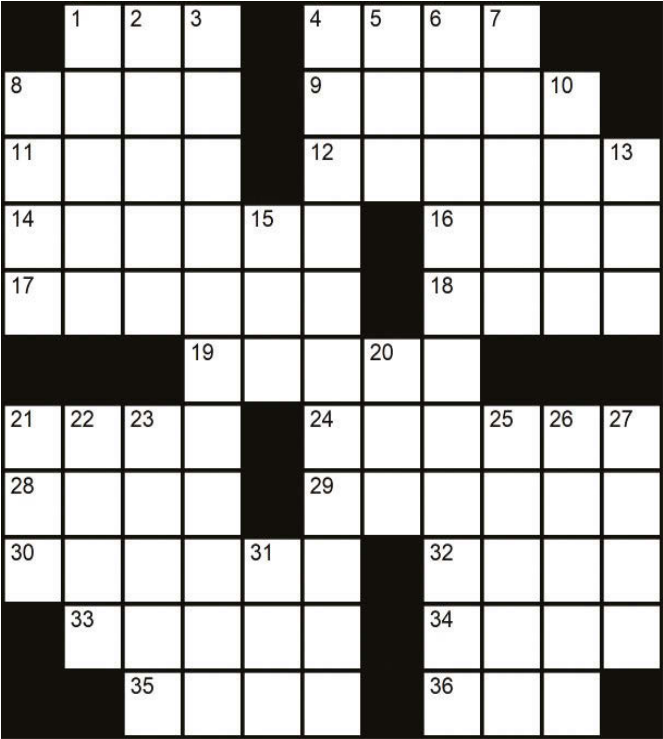
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# Crossword Puzzle



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## Across

- 1 Chucklehead  
4 Rover's reward  
8 --- Battlefield Historic State Park  
9 Blue ribbon, for example  
11 --- Bradley, five-star General  
12 "Pride and Prejudice" heroine Elizabeth ---  
14 Acquire  
16 Hi or 'bye in Italy  
17 Where Dorothy was blown away  
18 Quick sharp bark  
19 Monica Lewinsky's former friend Linda ---

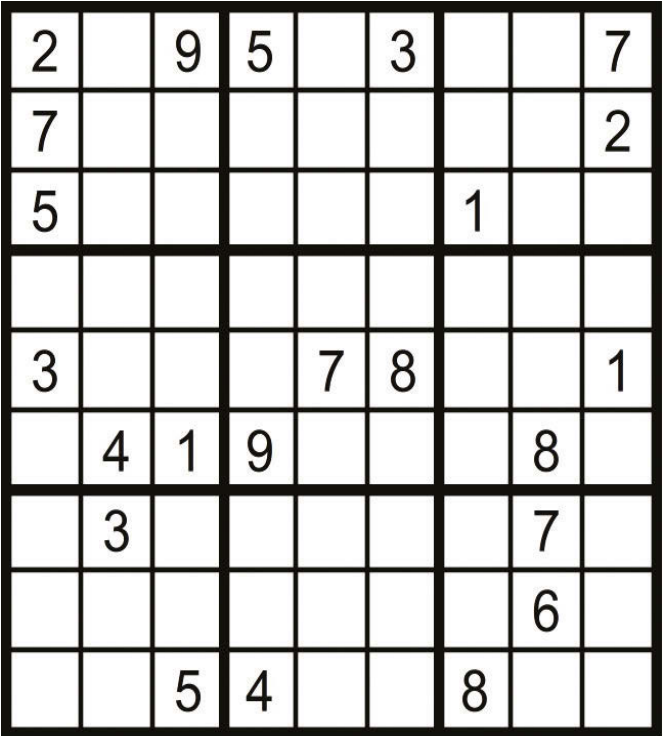
## Down

- 1 Girl Scout cookie  
2 "He's --- fool!"  
3 1980s Soviet policy of reconstruction  
4 Distributing tasty bribes gets home helps  
5 "You --- it to yourself"  
6 Nosy pelican flapped about in the House  
7 Orange Sesame Street room-mate  
8 Charging station  
10 Distribute cards  
13 Beat  
15 Ingot  
20 Sports money-maker  
21 Make lace  
22 Farm fare  
23 Mary --- of "The Maltese Falcon"  
25 Start fighting  
26 They take the cake  
27 "Pandora's Box" painter --- Magritte  
31 Eldest of the "Little Women"

Online versions and solutions available at [www.nowmagazines.com](http://www.nowmagazines.com). From our Homepage, click on the Features tab. Click on the Crossword-Sudoku tab. Click on a puzzle to view solutions.

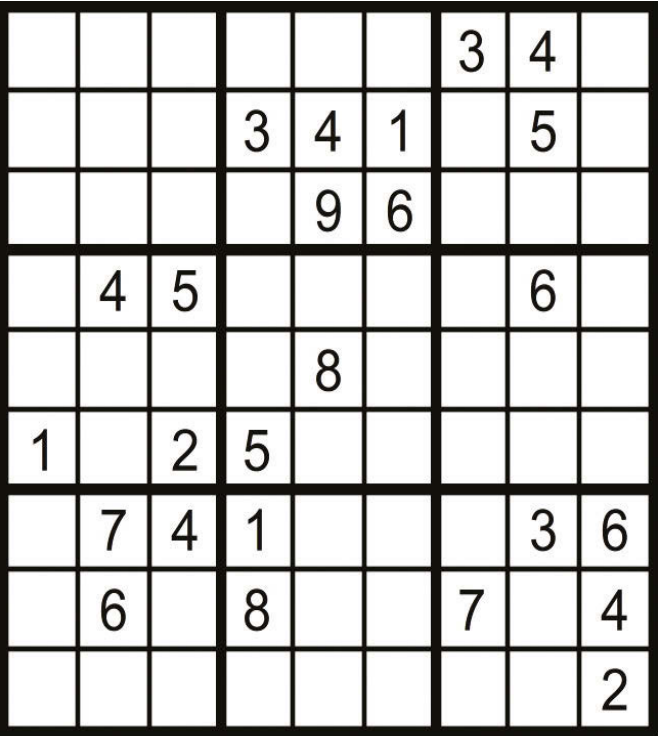
# Sudoku Puzzle

Easy



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Medium



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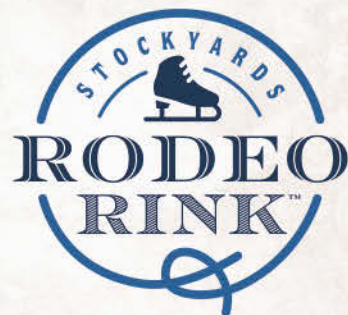
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# Merry CHRISTMAS

## DECEMBER

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

### 12/1-12/10

#### Corsicana Art League Art Show:

Times vary. Warehouse Living Arts Center, 119 W. 6th Ave. (903) 872-5421.

### 12/1-1/5/26

#### American Plains Juried Show:

Pearce Museum, Cook Education Center, 3100 W. Collin St. [www.americanplainsartists.com](http://www.americanplainsartists.com).

### 12/3

#### Kinsloe House Benefit Tea and Silent Auction:

2:30-5:00 p.m. Regular

luncheons will be on **12/10 and 12/17 at noon**. Reservations required. Kinsloe House, 618 W. 3rd Ave. (903) 874-5791.

### 12/4-12/7

#### White Christmas:

An uplifting musical, based on Irving Berlin's classic. For all ages. Times vary. Warehouse Living Arts Center, 119 W. 6th Ave. [www.thewlac.com](http://www.thewlac.com).

### 12/5

**The Very Merry Library:** Crafts, games, cookies and more. 6:00 p.m., Corsicana Public Library, 100 N. 12th St. Facebook: Corsicana Public Library.

### 12/6

#### Open Studios:

Noon-4:00 p.m., 100 West, 100 W. 3rd Ave. For more information, visit [www.corsicanaresidency.org](http://www.corsicanaresidency.org).

#### Festival of Lights Parade:

6:00 p.m., Downtown Corsicana. For more details, call (903) 654-4850.

### 12/10

#### Santa Storytime:

A story read by Santa. Enjoy cookies, too! 10:00 a.m., Corsicana Public Library, 100 N. 12th St. Facebook: Corsicana Public Library.

### 12/12

#### Better Garden Club Christmas Party and Auction:

Noon, Kinsloe House, 618 W. 3rd Ave. [Sludderth60@gmail.com](mailto:Sludderth60@gmail.com).

### 12/18

#### CelloVoci-Christmas:

7:30 p.m., The Palace Theatre, 112 W. 6th Ave. [www.corsicanapalace.com](http://www.corsicanapalace.com).

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



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**Dec. 6 Brick Streets Emporium Christmas Bazaar 9am-5pm**

**Dec. 6 "The Others Band Music Starts at 7pm**

**Dec. 12 "Outlaw & Lace" Music Duo 8 - 10:30 pm**

**Dec. 13 Private Event**

**Dec. 20 Chaser Crouch Band 9 - 11:59pm**

**Dec. 31 "New Year's Eve Party" with Twisted Cactus Band**

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