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M A G A Z I N E

DECEMBER 2025



The Legacy We Created

At Home With Stoney
and Julie Short

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt

Sudoku

Featured Business:

LIVINGSRING

Family Medical
Center

2025 Holiday
Shopping Guide

In the Kitchen With
Michelle Trout

Postal Customer

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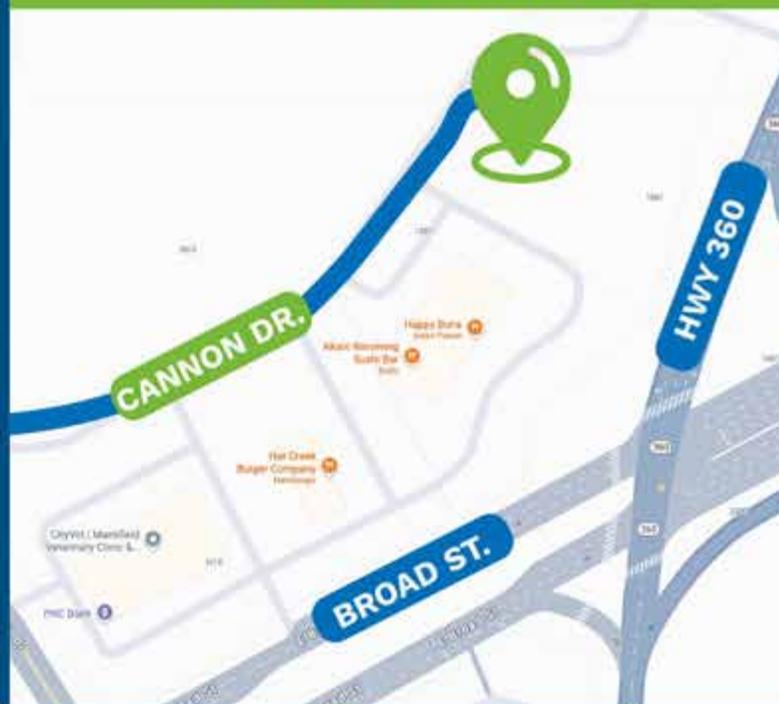
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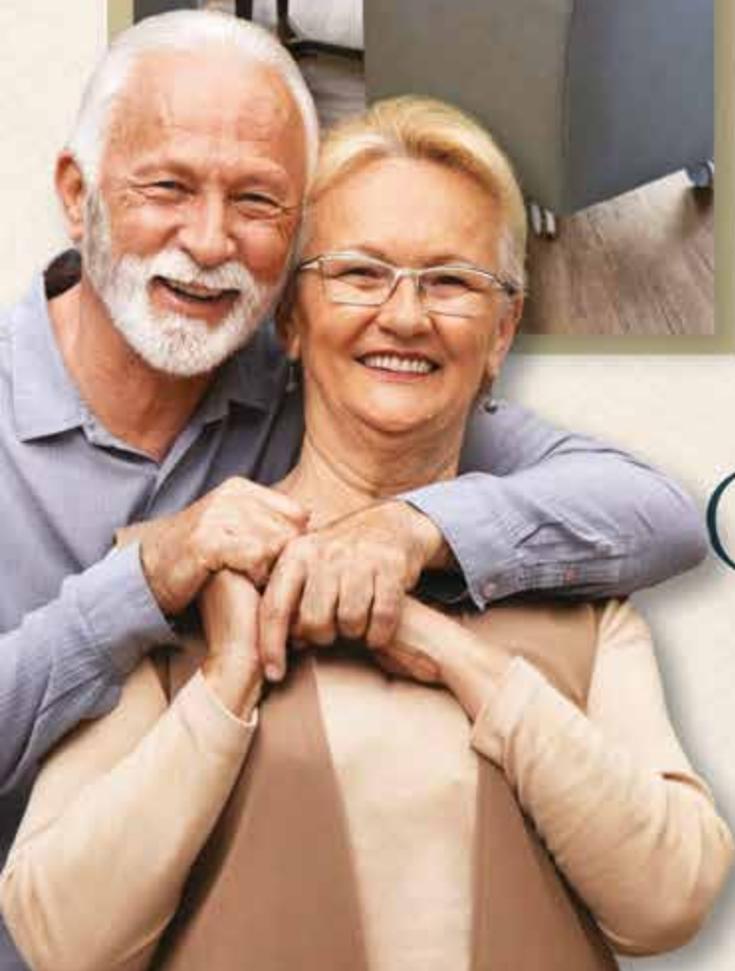
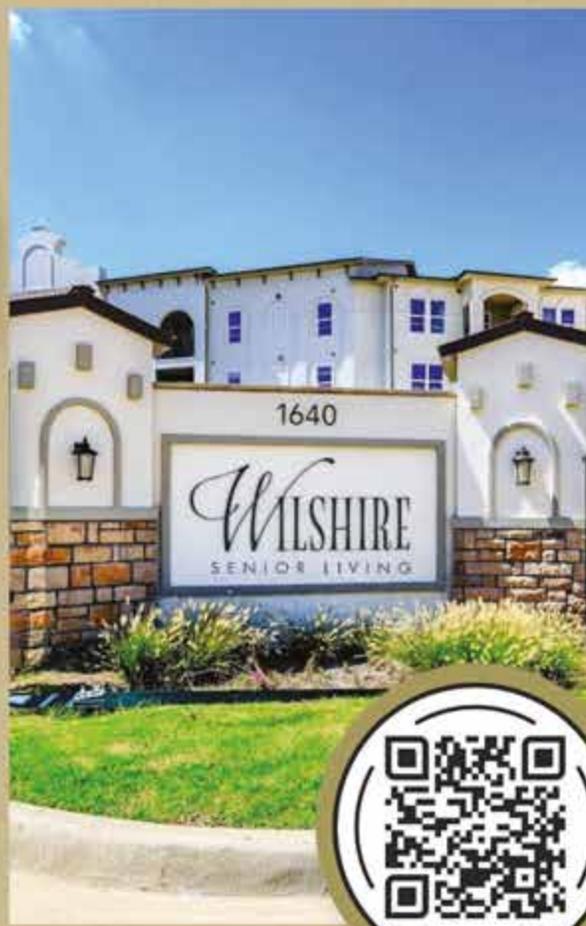
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EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Mansfield Family,

This holiday season feels different for many Americans. With rising costs and uncertain paychecks, Christmas isn't as bright for everyone. The pressure to give, celebrate and stay cheerful can feel heavy when the bills don't stop and the income does. It's a hard truth, but it deserves to be acknowledged.

But even in tough times, there's still light. Across the country, programs like Toys for Tots and countless local charities are stepping up — quietly making sure kids still have something to unwrap, families still share a meal and hope doesn't fade. These acts of generosity remind us that the real meaning of the season has never been about what we buy, but how we show up for each other.

If you're struggling this December, know that you're not alone. Just be smart about managing your budget. And if you're in a position to help, a small gesture can ripple farther than you think. Gratitude and kindness still go a long way. I wish you a December filled with great memories, wisdom in moving forward and comfort as you finish the year 2025!

Merry Christmas!

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!

Sandra

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ON THE COVER



Here's a glimpse into Stoney and Julie Short's home during the holiday season.

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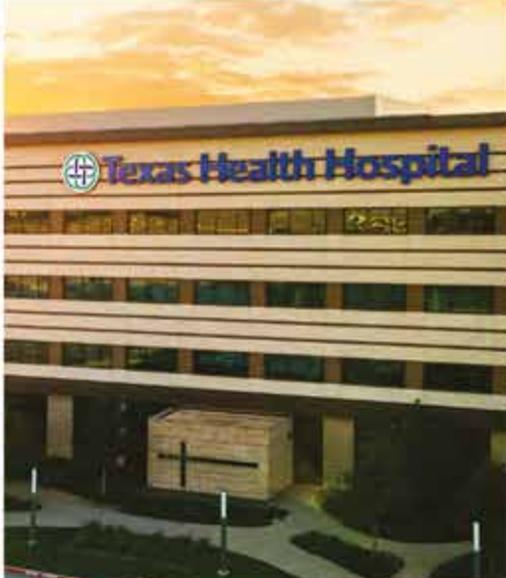


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THE LEGAL WE CREATED

— By Sandra Walters

The Shorts grew up around the construction business. Julie's father and brother assembled tape beds and textures for builders. Eventually, she worked alongside them, following their directives to ensure the work was quality. They often talked about the drywall crews, until one day, their go-to drywall guy became Stoney. At that time, she never imagined she would marry him. Now, 29 years later, she and Stoney Short have built a life together with seven children and 15 grandchildren.

When it came time to build their new home, Julie said she prayed about the details. "God told me to pick what I wanted, and He was taking care of it," she recalled. "So I told my husband, and he smiled and said, 'Then He needs to tell me that.'"

The couple finished their home about three-and-a-half years ago. Soon after, the Mansfield Women's Club invited them to showcase it in the annual Holiday Home Tour. They had never participated before, but Julie and Stoney embraced the idea. "He even had suggestions for the decorations, which included his humor," Julie said. "I love Christmas — it's my favorite holiday. It's an honor to celebrate our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, by inviting people into our home. So I asked friends to help, and they jumped right in."

The Short home has been the hub for holiday gatherings for years. A week before Christmas, Julie's extended family — her brothers, sisters and their families — gather at her house for a big potluck, Christmas Bingo and more. Their children and grandchildren celebrate at their own houses on Christmas Eve or early Christmas Day, prior to arriving at Stoney and Julie's home between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m. Stockings are the first stop for the younger grandkids, followed by opening presents and the festive meal. Since Thanksgiving is always reserved for turkey, Julie cooks ham and prepares specialty sandwiches and other unique dishes to keep Christmas dinner fresh.

She is the organizer for all things Christmas. To ensure that no one is left out, she keeps a spreadsheet for presents. "I used to shop throughout the year, but I couldn't wait until Christmas to give them the gifts," she laughed. "Now I begin in November."



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I shop with my buddies because I enjoy shopping with friends." Every stocking includes essentials like a new toothbrush, and my husband makes it a point to pick out special gifts himself, so the kids know they're from him.

The only challenge? Storage. "The hardest part of Christmas is putting everything away," Julie admitted. "But decorating is so much fun. Stoney really got into it this year — he loved moving Santa and Mrs. Claus around the house for laughs and even wanted a snow machine."

The Shorts exhibit Christmas trees in every room. With a color scheme of gold, black and silver, the decor blends elegance with playful touches. From the outside, visitors are welcomed by lights woven around flower boxes, giant ornaments that grace the porch and wooden columns that are wrapped in glowing strands. Flags fly proudly, reflecting the family's love for America and Texas. When the doors open, the marble floors set a polished stage for the beautifully flocked Christmas tree embellished in gold, black and silver ornaments. Black ceramic reindeer complete the design alongside the perfectly wrapped gifts.

The words, *Merry Christmas*, shown in a greeting style, wrapped presents and a variety of gold circular-like ornaments strung in a lovely design are displayed on a distinctive sofa table in the living room. Miniature gold, blue and fir Christmas trees may be seen on the side and center tables as you move across the room. A nativity scene set next to the fireplace, gold ornaments, a decorative sign that reads *Glory To The New Born King* and a star above the words create an inviting environment.

Gold and navy blue chairs are arranged at the dining room table as guests enter the kitchen. There is a service plate beneath the black plate on each place setting. On top of the plates are gold napkins with seasonal

leaves and a Christmas tree design wrapped around them. The centerpiece is a glass rectangular vase containing decorative silver and white balls on the bottom and white flowers and figs. The vase sits on a black runner in the center of the table and is surrounded by two reindeer — one silver and one gold. Then on the island, more reindeer appear — this time wearing a black and white gingham design. Their antlers are gold, and a matching gold ribbon is tied around their necks. The clean lines of the white walls, marble floors, glass and black and gold fixtures exemplify the contemporary home.



Once you exit the kitchen and look toward the fitness area, Santa is featured on a treadmill, and Mrs. Claus is spotted working out on the Peloton. You will encounter the life-size Nutcracker dressed in a stunning red and green uniform, styling a black and gold hat, and holding a scepter as you approach the pool. When you arrive outside, Santa Claus and a reindeer are prepared to greet visitors.

About 600 people toured their home during the Holiday Home Tour last year. Julie acknowledged, "It was a great experience, and if someone is considering it, do it. Our house was spotless when we returned, and the security made sure our valuables were taken care of."

For Julie and Stoney, Christmas has always carried a deep meaning, more than the sparkle of decorations or the joy of family traditions. It is a season that reflects the values they have carried through every stage of their lives together — faith, perseverance and love. Raising seven children was not without its challenges, but each obstacle became part of a journey that shaped their story. They recognize that they never walked that path alone. **NOW**

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— By Sandra Walters

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At 15 years old, Tolulope Olabintan moved from Nigeria with her parents and siblings to start anew in the United States. Four years later, she earned her bachelor's degree from Temple University, and soon after, her medical degree from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New



Jersey Rutgers Medical School. She went on to complete her Family Medicine Residency at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. However, Dr. Olabintan's story is about more than credentials. It's about her calling.

She recalls an encounter early in her career that changed everything. A patient, worn out and skeptical, challenged her with the words, "Why do you care? We all die someday, Doc!" Instead of dismissing the moment, she carried it with her. Around the same time, she noticed how patients in their 90s — still thriving — shared simple keys to long life: eat well, forgive easily, stay active and never stop moving forward.

These lessons planted a seed. "I wanted to open a practice that emphasized healthy choices, maximizing each visit, and helping people live long and strong because I truly care," she explained.

"During the pandemic, it hit me that I must live out my purpose to the fullest and conquer my fear. Psalm 56:3 reads, 'Even when I'm afraid I will trust you,' so I felt a peace as I stepped out with the support of my husband, kids, extended family and team."

Together, Dr. Tolulope Olabintan and her husband, Jimi Olabintan, opened LIVINGSPRING Family Medical Center, inspired by the Bible's description of God as the source of living waters and the wellspring of true healing. "I see myself as a vessel," Dr. Olabintan said. "I listen. I guide, and I walk with people through the healing process."

When patients enter the space filled with hope, they are welcomed by brightly colored walls and uplifting music. The motto: "Care, Sincerely" isn't just painted on the wall. It's lived out in every visit. Many patients affectionately call her "Dr. O," a name that reflects both her expertise and warmth.

"I wanted to open a practice that emphasized healthy choices, maximizing each visit, and helping people live long and strong because I truly care."

Since the summer of 2021, LIVINGSPRING has expanded. Dr. Olabintan acknowledged, "We hired more nurses, medical assistants and an online doctor to meet the needs of patients. Our staff members are interestingly predominately women, so we embrace, cry, express our feelings, look out for our clients and one another. With the guidance of mentors and surrounded by a nurturing environment, I continue to grow as a leader. If I approach things incorrectly, they will tell me, and I find that to be humbling. I frequently remind myself that I am not alone. God's got me!"

Today, Dr. Tolulope Olabintan, MD, DipABLM, FAAFP, continues her mission as a Board-Certified Family Physician, a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians and a Lifestyle Medicine expert. Alongside her husband and co-founder, Jimi, and the LIVINGSPRING team she remains deeply committed to serving the community with compassion and excellence. Above all, she is a doctor who cares — deeply, sincerely and with purpose. LIVINGSPRING is currently taking new patients, so set up an appointment by calling the office or sign up online. **NOW**

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Scarlett Akers strikes a pose after taking off her sweater.

Zoomed In: Lofton Barber

By Sandra Walters

This football season, Lofton Barber made an impressive debut for Legacy High School, beginning on the freshman team as a wide receiver. Eventually, his coaches noticed him, earning him a promotion to the junior varsity squad and, before long, a spot on varsity as a freshman.

Lofton's skills and determination were undeniable. He capped off his first year with a 40-yard punt return and a solid tackle. Beyond his work as a receiver, he showcased versatility by contributing at cornerback, safety, and on both punt and kickoff returns. His mother, Deatra-Starling-Kinard said, "From stepping onto the field as a freshman to varsity, making big plays, he showed his heart, discipline, growth every game, dedication, focus and teamwork."



Arie Fedon and her dog, Beans, enjoy the fall weather.



A lot of students attend the Field of Faith event.



Emilee Dooley smiles as she celebrates the season.



Stacia Anderson and Shundria Riddick attend a concert together.



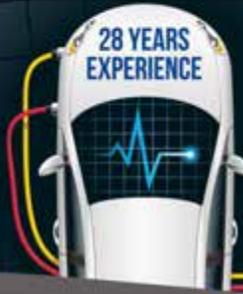
Shaelee Propst models as she enjoys the season.



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Focused on the Future:

Groundbreaking for Mansfield's First Class-A Office Marks Milestone Moment

The City of Mansfield joined with developer Admiral Legacy Investments at the end of October to celebrate the groundbreaking of its new project, the Mansfield Innovation Community (MIC).

The MIC, located along Heritage and Regency parkways, is a project within the City's upcoming innovation corridor known as the LinQ. The MIC will feature 150,000 sq. ft. of Class-A office, the first within the City. This space will bring together Mansfield's next generation of entrepreneurs and leaders.

"The MIC is a lifestyle and workstyle hub where problem solvers can join forces to put their ideas, discoveries, and ventures

to work in unprecedented ways," said Ese Aihie, President of Admiral Legacy Investments. "Our goal is to build an ecosystem that fosters innovation by linking educational institutions, incubators, accelerators, businesses, and investors to create pathways for the future workforce."

Other LinQ projects include Verdexium, local business Sellmark Corporation's next project along Heritage Parkway. Verdexium will span just over 170,000 square feet across a multi-phase campus designed to accelerate American-led manufacturing. This space will empower entrepreneurs to prototype and refine products using shared infrastructure, access to expert networks, and

advanced manufacturing capabilities all in one space. The goal is to accelerate the commercialization of American-made products and strengthen the nation's supply chain, all within Mansfield.

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Mansfield Celebrates 10 Years of the Chris W. Burkett Service Center

Residents got a behind-the-scenes look at the noteworthy essential services the Public Works Department provides during a November open house. For 10 years, the staff who call the Chris W. Burkett Service Center home have delivered exemplary service to Mansfield.

Attendees had the opportunity to view a variety of demonstrations and tour the Environmental Collection Center. Demonstrations included how staff handle a water main break,

specialty vehicle demos, and a visit from River, the City's leak detection dog.

The Public Works team is made up of Environmental Services, Street Operations/Traffic Control, as well as Water Utilities. The Service Center, located at 620 S. Wisteria St., houses offices as well as essential equipment for these teams. The facility is currently undergoing an expansion project that is expected to be completed in 2026. This will expand space for the growing team as well as

the operations staff for the Parks and Recreation department.

The Service Center is home to the Environmental Collection Center, which regularly holds the household hazardous waste collection events, chunk your junk, and shred days.

Thank you to everyone who came to support this event and the dedicated staff who keep Mansfield's infrastructure running strong.



2025 Holiday Shopping Guide



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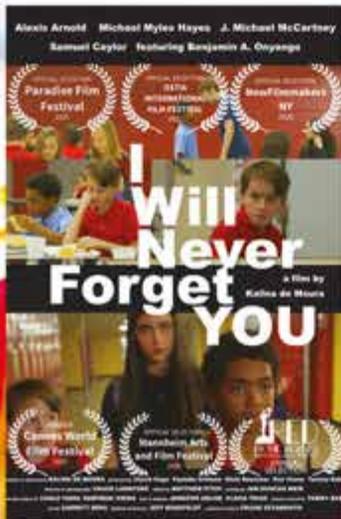
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2025 Holiday Shopping Guide

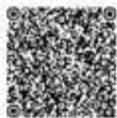
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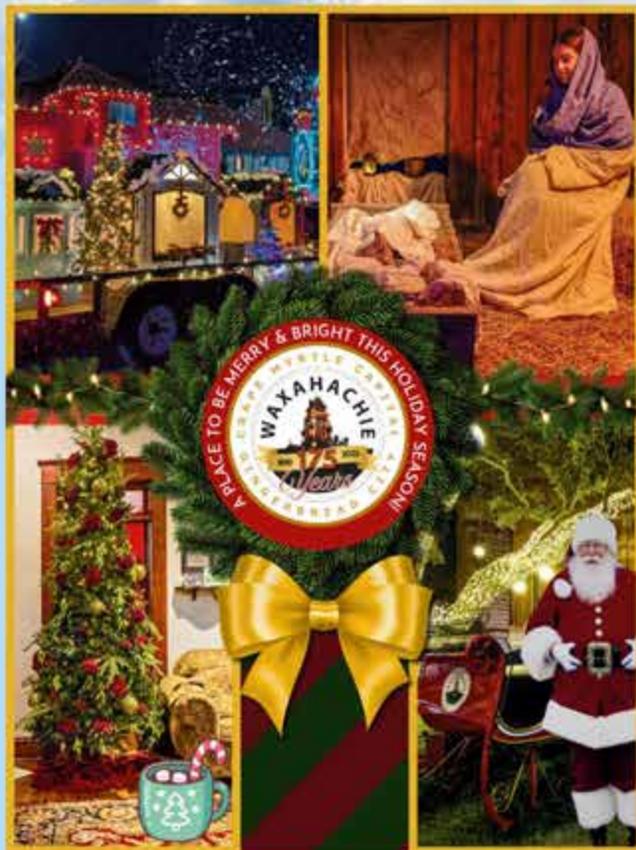
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CookingNOW

IN THE KITCHEN WITH MICHELLE TROUT

— By Sandra Walters



“In our home, Christmas dinner looks a little different. Instead of the traditional holiday meal, we bring the warmth of Italian food to the table. Over the years, this has become our way of celebrating — a spread filled with vibrant flavors, family favorites and plenty of fresh bread,” Michelle stated. “With eight of us gathered around our large dining room table, this is about more than food. It’s laughter, conversation and togetherness.”

In addition, the Focaccia bread recipe has truly earned its place in their Christmas meal. A friend first introduced her to this golden, olive oil-kissed delicacy, and it quickly became a favorite. She baked it countless times, often giving it as a gift during the holiday season, and without fail, it’s always been a hit. Now Michelle shares it with you! **NOW**

Focaccia Bread

- 3 cups water (divided use)**
- 1 1/4-oz. active dry yeast packet**
- 6 cups bread flour**
- 2 Tbsp. Diamond Crystal kosher salt**
- 3/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil (divided use)**
- 2 Tbsp. rosemary sprigs**
- 4 garlic cloves, thinly sliced**
- Flaky salt**

1. Put 1/2 cup lukewarm water (about 105 F) in a small saucepan. Pour the water into the bowl attached to a standing mixer; whisk in the yeast. Let sit until cloudy and slightly puffed (about 5 minutes).

2. Add 2 1/2 cups room temperature water, flour and kosher salt to the mixture. Using the dough hook, mix on low for about 1 minute, or until shaggy dough forms. Increase the speed to medium-high; knead until smooth and wrapping around the hook for 5 minutes. Cover the bowl with a damp towel; let rest for 10 minutes. Mix again on medium-high until the dough is very smooth, elastic and pulling away from the sides for 10-15 minutes. The dough will be sticky.

3. Pour 1/4 cup oil into a large bowl and coat the bottom. Transfer the dough into the oiled bowl. Use your fingertips to lightly spread the oil over the top of the dough. Cover with a damp towel; let rise at room

temperature for 1 to 1 1/2 hours until doubled in size.

- 4.** In a small bowl, mix 1/4 cup oil, rosemary and sliced garlic; set aside.
- 5.** Drizzle 1/4 cup oil onto a standard half-sheet pan, coating the bottom and sides. With oiled hands, loosen the dough from the bowl. Lift the dough, and let gravity stretch it downward. Return the dough to the bowl, folding it onto itself. Rotate the bowl 90 degrees; repeat the stretch and fold process 3 times in total. After the last fold, transfer the dough onto the oiled baking sheet. Gently stretch the dough to fit the pan. If it springs back, cover with oiled plastic wrap, and let rest for 15 minutes.
- 6.** Uncover and with oiled fingertips, press deep dimples all over. Spoon the garlic-rosemary oil evenly over the dough; tuck the garlic into the dimples, so it doesn’t burn. Sprinkle with flaky salt.
- 7.** Let the pan sit until puffy and slightly jiggly for 20-30 minutes. Meanwhile, heat the oven to 450 F
- 8.** Bake 20-25 minutes, rotating once, until the edges are deeply golden and lightly browned on top. If the garlic browns too fast, tent loosely with foil.
- 9.** Cool for 10 minutes in the pan. Then loosen the edges, and transfer to a rack. Brush with extra-virgin olive oil; slice and serve warm.

Dipping Sauce

- 1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil**
- 2 Tbsp. balsamic oil**
- 2 Tbsp. Parmesan, grated**
- 1 Tbsp. minced garlic**
- 1 Tbsp. red pepper flakes**
- 1 Tbsp. Italian seasoning**
- 1/2 Tbsp. fresh cracked pepper**
- 1/2 Tbsp. salt**
- 1/2 Tbsp. dried parsley**

- 1.** Mix all ingredients together.



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- Virginia Woolf



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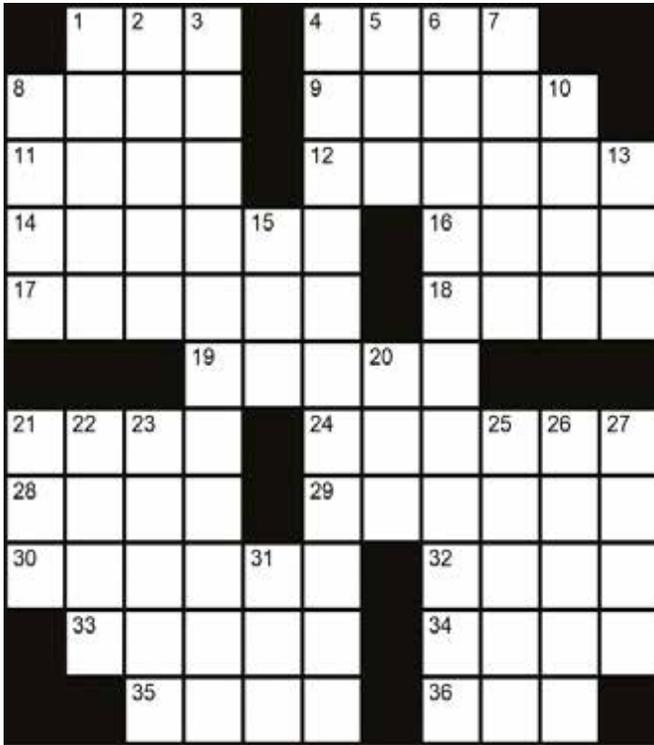
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Across

- 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 ---
- 21 Former Russian ruler
- 24 Seismic event
- 28 "Before I forget ..."
- 29 "I Want ---!" (1958 Susan Hayward movie)
- 30 How trains run if they're on schedule
- 32 "Oily Oily --- free"
- 33 It has a World Series, like baseball
- 34 Kind of wave
- 35 Torn clothing
- 36 "--- a Heartache" (Bonnie Tyler song)

Down

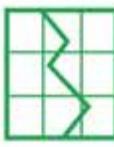
- 1 Girl Scout cookie
- 2 "He's --- fool!"
- 3 1980s Soviet policy of reconstruction
- 4 Distributing tasty bribes gets home helps
- 5 "You --- it to yourself"
- 6 Nosy pelican flapped about in the House
- 7 Orange Sesame Street room-mate
- 8 Charging station
- 10 Distribute cards
- 13 Beat
- 15 Ingot
- 20 Sports moneymaker
- 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"

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2		9	5		3			7
7								2
5						1		
3				7	8			1
	4	1	9					8
	3							7
								6
		5	4			8		

Medium

						3	4	
			3	4	1		5	
				9	6			
	4	5					6	
				8				
1		2	5					
	7	4	1				3	6
	6		8			7		4
								2

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12/1-12/31

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12/3

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12/5

Hometown Holidays:

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12/6

Snowman Run:

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12/7

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12/11

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12/14

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