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MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 2025

Simplicity of Celebration

At Home With
John and Bex Iten

2025 Holiday Shopping Guide

In the Kitchen With
Kari Rumfield

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt
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EDITOR'S NOTE

The gift of giving ...

When most are celebrating with family, sharing a meal with loved ones and exchanging gifts with friends, some are struggling to stay positive through the hustle and bustle of the holidays. This month is a time of giving, and the less fortunate in the local area might find a little comfort from those who choose to help others this season. Parker County is home to a variety of organizations founded to do just that — give to those in need.

Non-perishable food items are collected at agencies across the area including Center of Hope and local churches. Tarrant Area Food Bank West encourages residents to host virtual holiday food drives to raise monetary donations to help locals in need. Clothing, home decor and more can be donated at The Hope Chest, Manna Storehouse and Goodwill Store. Practical items for infants such as diapers and formula are needed at Grace House Ministries, while an Amazon Wish List including pet food and cleaning supplies exists

for the Weatherford Animal Shelter. Volunteers and monetary donations are in demand year-round.

The holidays are a time of reflection and gratitude, as well as a season of giving to others. I am grateful for my blessings and plan to volunteer my time to benefit others this month.

Happy holidays to all!

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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Volume 15, Issue 12

ON THE COVER



Whether at home or afar during the holidays, this Weatherford couple keeps family first.

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Publisher, Connie Poirier
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Managing Editor, Becky Walker
Weatherford Editor, Amber D. Browne
Office Assistant, Kristin Bato
Editors/Proofreaders, Rachel Rich
Virginia Riddle

GRAPHICS AND DESIGN
Creative Director, Chris McCalla
Artists, Kristin Bato . Martha Macias
Anthony Sarmienta

PHOTOGRAPHY
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Photographer, Zhanna Linscombe

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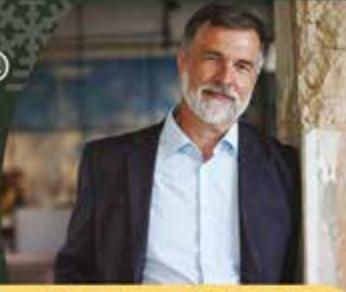


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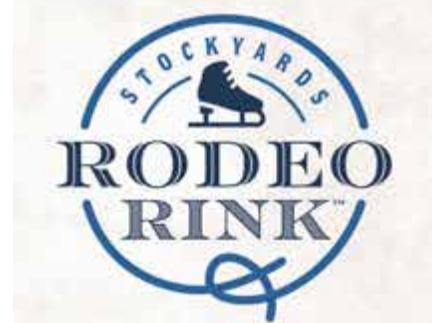
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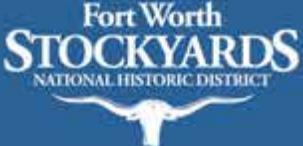
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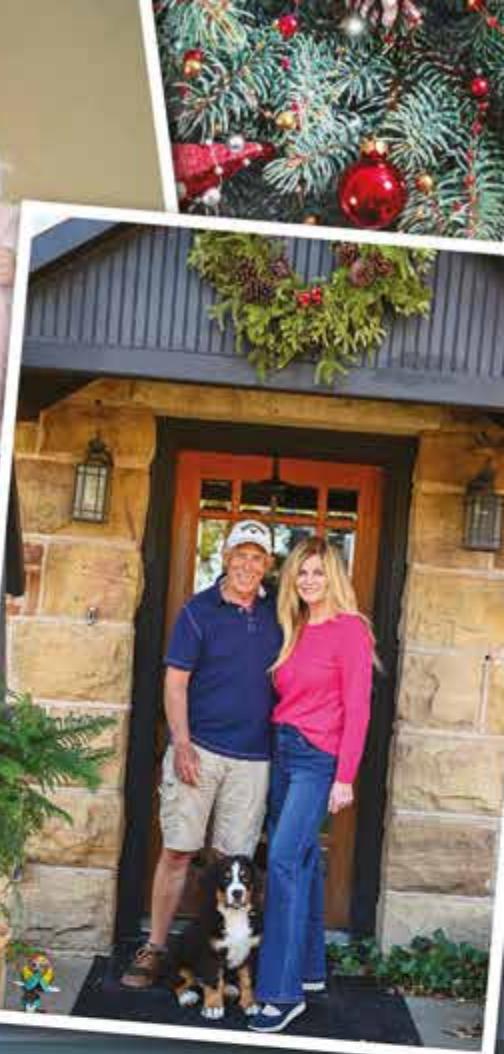
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SIMPLICITY OF CELEBRATION

AT HOME WITH JOHN AND BEX ITEN

— By Amber D. Browne

No matter the location, Christmas celebrations for the Iten couple in Weatherford require quality time with family. “We have four kids in four states, and we’re in the fifth state,” Bex, the Iten family matriarch, shared. This Christmas, Bex and her husband, John, will spend time at their son, Kyle’s, home in Pennsylvania, with plans for their other adult children in Arizona, California and Idaho to travel to “The Keystone State” to celebrate the season. Next year, the family will continue their new tradition of spending the holidays in North Texas. “We can go visit them at their place, and then bring them all back. I love that, and they love coming to Weatherford,” Bex said.

This new tradition began in 2022 when the Itens gifted their children and grandchildren airfare for the holiday season to spend time with them in their historic Downtown Weatherford home. “It was a little different for us, but we loved it,” she said. “It was such a success. The house, it’s easy to have everybody in it.”

The grandchildren took over the converted third-floor attic, which now houses a theater room. The other family members found their home away from home in bedrooms or in the Itens’ recreational vehicle temporarily parked in the driveway. The couple has since upgraded the RV to a larger version to pack up their two pups — Rufus, an English Cream Golden Retriever, and Rocco, a Bernese Mountain Dog — and travel the countryside visiting their children, Richelle in Arizona, Branson in California, Joey in Idaho and Kyle in Pennsylvania.

When hosting at home in Weatherford, Bex invokes the holiday spirit after Thanksgiving by turning on those annual holiday movies and hauling out the bins of decor. “She can be a maniac and get it done in a day-and-a-half,” John shared. “She continues for the next couple of weeks adding little things here, rearranging things over there. I just sit back and marvel at her creativity.”

One of Bex’s favorite holiday pieces is a wooden, moss-covered nativity scene, flanked by live burlap-wrapped evergreens. “It’s very rustic looking. I love that,” she shared. “It’s something I remember as a child, and I was lucky enough to have inherited it from Mom.”

Decorated Christmas trees brighten each room in the home. “I love so many different styles, so it’s fun to have different



trees." One tree features a collection of Swarovski crystal snowflake ornaments. John received their first Swarovski crystal ornament at an employee Christmas party in 2003. They fell in love with the annual designs and purchased the ornaments dating back to 2000. "It became a tradition at that point," she said. Another holiday tree in the home is host to Hallmark ornaments collected over the years.

Decor in neutral shades of white and green, pinecones, snowflakes and icicles fill the home with holiday spirit. Ornaments hang from chandeliers adding color and holiday cheer to the rooms. Each year, Bex typically incorporates a newly selected ribbon such as plaid or burlap. The ribbon is woven throughout the trees and along the garland decorating the staircase banister. "The design is usually based on the ribbon." With woodland creatures smiling from their perches in Christmas trees, Bex often incorporates small branches from the yard into the tree to add to the "woodsy" aesthetic.

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from the rows of first- and second-floor exterior windows, adding warmth to the 1930s home, known as the Bateman House. The Itens opened their home to the public last holiday season for the Parker County Heritage Society Candlelight Tour of Homes. "People were very thankful that we opened up our home," she said. "I hope other people will open their homes for some of us who love that

for the historical reasons. There's such a variety of homes out here."

For about five years, John and Bex have made the Bateman House on East Simmons their home. "We love the house," she said. Vintage books from John's grandfather wait patiently in nooks and crannies for the next generation's reader. Fresh floral arrangements fragrance the home. In her free time, Bex paints canvas artwork. Some of her landscape artwork is displayed in the home, and murals of her own creation cover other walls, as well as an outdoor shed on the property. A nurse by trade, Bex also recently began educating others about nutrition via her website, Bloom by Bex. John plays golf on a regular basis now that he has retired from the medical industry. Both find spending time together and with family to be one of their favorite pastimes, especially during the holidays.

With all the hustle and bustle of Christmastime, Bex and her family choose to focus on the reason for the season and time spent together. The home's backyard offers several areas

to share stories with morning coffee under the covered patio or warm up in front of the backyard flagstone fireplace. "We're very simple as far as Christmas. I don't want to do things too complicated. Just being with family and going to church," Bex said.

"We always, without fail, hang the stockings with care," John said, "and we read *The Night Before Christmas* even if we celebrate at Thanksgiving." Each Christmas Eve, Mulligatawny soup is a staple, with barbecue rib roast, ham or turkey enjoyed on Christmas Day. A chili cook-off became tradition for several years with the winner receiving a gag gift as the trophy — Santa in an outhouse. The family bakes sugar cookies and molasses cookies for sweet holiday treats as *A Christmas Story* plays on repeat in the background.

With modest decor and traditions added throughout the years, the Iten family Christmas celebrations will stand the test of time. "Keeping it as simple as possible gives us the feeling we want," she said. "That's the biggest part — just feeling that warmth of family and friends." **NOW**

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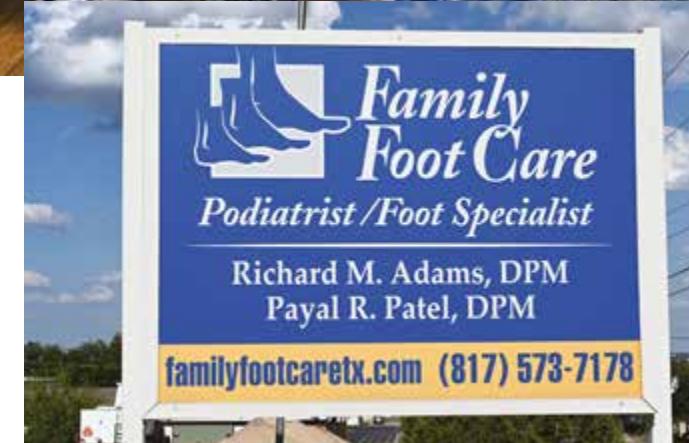
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On average, Americans take about 5,000 steps each day, but that number fluctuates based on activity level. If pain and discomfort persist, that statistic drops significantly, leading to a more sedentary lifestyle. "If you don't have healthy feet, you can't do what you need to do," said Richard M. Adams, DPM. Dr. Adams first opened his podiatry practice, Family Foot Care, in Granbury in 1992. Over the decades, he has treated



thousands within the local community, and others from across the state, who visit Family Foot Care for his expertise and the innovative medical options offered in his office.

Dr. Adams first encountered podiatry as a runner in high school. Foot issues plagued him, and some doctors suggested medications and surgery. However, a podiatrist developed orthotics for his shoes, which alleviated his pain and reduced his mile time by 10 seconds. Dr. Adams had found his niche and studied podiatry in higher education.

"One of the doctors I worked with in my residency told me that God gives us all a certain talent, and we have to use that talent, or else we will disappoint Him," he shared. "My particular goal in life is to get people walking with a minimal amount of discomfort or none at all."

At Family Foot Care, Dr. Adams works alongside Payal Patel, DPM, and Heath O. Jackson, DPM, to treat everything from trauma and structural problems to skin and nail issues. "If it has to do with the foot or the ankle, we are here to treat it," Dr. Adams stated. Doctors at Family Foot Care pride themselves

on treating heel pain using the musculoskeletal ultrasound, which can pinpoint the cause for most patients using less-invasive imaging technology. With the MSK, doctors can evaluate the plantar fascia in the heel within two or three minutes and determine the potential cause of pain. "If it is plantar fasciitis, the non-surgical treatment for that is 85 percent successful," he said. Treatment for structural, congenital and genetic abnormalities is also available, many times without the need for surgery.

"MY PARTICULAR GOAL IN LIFE IS TO GET PEOPLE WALKING WITH A MINIMAL AMOUNT OF DISCOMFORT OR NONE AT ALL."

A supportive shoe is a first step in caring for the feet, and Family Foot Care offers shoe modifications for athletes suffering with issues, and specifically diabetic patients. "It is paramount that our diabetic patients take care of their feet. A small blister or callous can lead to an infection, which can then lead to multiple surgeries and possible amputations." Maintaining toenail health is also important, and Dr. Adams suggests trimming the nail straight across and rounding the edges to alleviate potential issues.

Over the past several years, Family Foot Care has observed an increase in foot drop — a condition of weakened muscles or paralysis that causes the foot to drag. Dr. Adams admitted one of his favorite things about caring for these patients has been completely eliminating foot drop in many cases.

"We want people to feel comfortable. We want them to feel that they can call us if there is a problem," he shared. "My staff is trained to treat people like family." Patients can schedule appointments over the phone or online, and Family Foot Care accepts insurance or private pay.

With more than three decades of treating patients in Granbury, Family Foot Care is planning an expansion into Parker County. The new year will bring a new location in Weatherford. "We have a lot of patients from Weatherford," he said, "and we want to help them out." **NOW**



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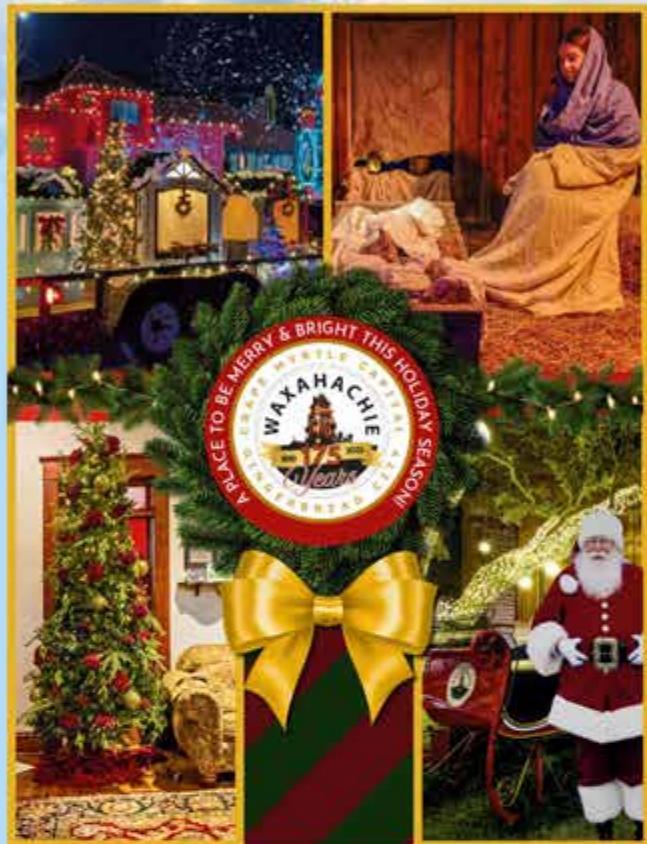
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Zoomed In: Toby Hutchison

By Amber D. Browne

At gigs across the local area, Weatherford native Toby Hutchison shares original music and some of his favorite tunes spanning Americana, country and Christian rock genres. Influenced by his father, a worship pastor, Toby's musical talents have grown from playing drums as a child to lead vocals, guitar and piano.

Since graduating from Weatherford Christian School, Toby has consistently performed his music on stage and has played at Greenwood Baptist Church for the past seven years. "I want to share my music and hope it makes an impact on people in a good way."

Toby plans to continue his pursuit of being a music artist. "Always chase your dreams," he recommended. "Keep on doing what you want to do and always strive for that. Don't just settle."



A talented cast from Weatherford College's Fine Arts department presents the Broadway musical, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*.



Bobbie Crosslin of Bottega Estephe and Liz Huwel of Cowtown Mercantile collaborate to showcase apparel at Morningstar Merry Market and Festival.



The Nelson family grabs lunch after the Veteran's Day Parade in Weatherford.



Weatherford Police Patrol Officer Riley O'Donnell and Corporal Che Loa keep downtown safe during events.

NOW



Staff Sergeant Lanski and his wife, Julia, spread the word about Toys for Tots at the Veteran's Day Celebration in Weatherford.



The Bledsaw and Bartek families are all smiles enjoying an afternoon in Downtown Weatherford.



Ella Vaughan and Kaiya Cabello volunteer at the Aledo Young Life Round Up fundraiser.

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CookingNOW IN THE KITCHEN WITH KARI RUMFIELD

— By Amber D. Browne



For Weatherford resident Kari Rumfield, food is a way to create, connect and spread joy. Kari learned how to bake and cook while spending childhood winters indoors in the Upper Midwest. "We cooked with our senses — tasting, adjusting and making each dish our own," she said.

Kari's love of food extended into her professional life, where she won awards while working in restaurants and owning a dessert shop for several years. Watching her sons play baseball in college and the minor leagues alongside her husband, Toby, a former professional baseball player, is a favorite pastime, as are golfing and reading, but food remains an important part of her world.

"Whether it's a holiday table crowded with favorites or a simple weeknight meal made from scratch," she said, "cooking continues to be the thread that ties our family together." **NOW**

Kentucky Bourbon Pie

1/2 cup salted butter
1 cup granulated sugar
1 cup light corn syrup
4 large eggs
1/4 cup bourbon
1/4 tsp. vanilla extract
1/4 tsp. salt
1 piecrust
6 oz. semi-sweet chocolate chips
1 cup pecans

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F. In a saucepan, add the butter, sugar and corn syrup; stir until boiling. Remove from the heat; cool for 5 minutes.

2. In a bowl, add the eggs, bourbon, vanilla and salt; combine well. Slowly pour the ingredients from the saucepan into the egg mixture, continuously stirring.
3. Add the piecrust to a pie tin. Top the crust with the chocolate chips. Pour in the sugar and egg mixture. Top with pecans; bake for 50-60 minutes. Remove from the oven; cool for several hours before serving.

Candied Bacon Chicken Salad

1/2 cup cooked chicken breast, chopped
3 slices candied bacon, chopped
2 cups fresh baby spinach
1/4 cup blueberries
1/4 cup strawberries

1/4 cup sliced almonds
6 cherry tomatoes, halved
1/4 cup red onion, chopped
1/4 cup blue cheese, crumbled
2 oz. ranch dressing
1 oz. balsamic reduction

1. In a small sauté pan, add the chicken and candied bacon; sauté for 5-6 minutes.
2. In a bowl, add the spinach, berries, almonds, tomatoes and onions; mix well. Add the chicken and bacon mixture; combine well. Add the blue cheese and drizzle the ranch dressing and balsamic reduction on top.

Tomato Pie

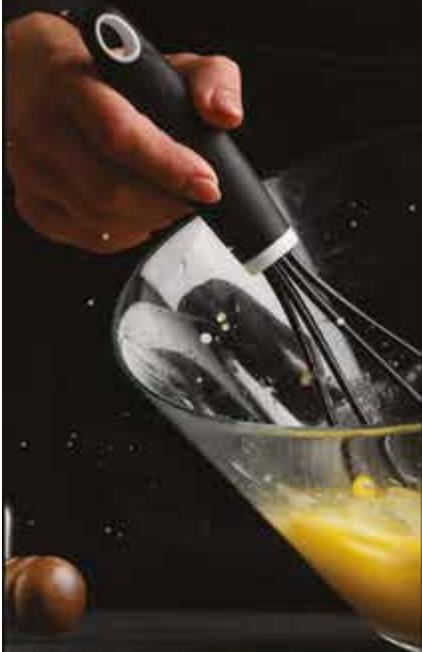
6 Roma tomatoes
1 tsp. kosher salt
1 sugar-free piecrust
1/2 cup green onions, chopped
8 large basil leaves (divided use)
1/2 cup mayonnaise
1/2 cup sour cream
1 cup sharp cheddar cheese, shredded
1 cup mozzarella cheese, shredded
1/4 tsp. cracked pepper
1/4 cup baby pearl mozzarella
1 oz. balsamic reduction

1. Slice the tomatoes; place them on a paper towel. Sprinkle the salt on top of the tomatoes. Add another layer of paper towels on top of the tomatoes; pat dry. Allow the tomatoes to dry for 2-3 hours.
2. Preheat the oven to 350 F. Add the sugar-free piecrust to a pie pan; bake for 10 minutes. Remove from the oven.
3. On the piecrust, layer the tomatoes, green onions and 6 of the basil leaves. In a separate bowl, mix the mayonnaise, sour cream, shredded cheeses and pepper. Evenly pour the mixture into the piecrust. Top with the mozzarella pearls and remaining basil leaves.
4. Bake for 30 minutes. Remove from the oven; let rest for 30 minutes. Drizzle the balsamic reduction on top; serve.



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DECOPAGE THE HALLS

— By Emma McKay

As the Christmas season draws near, people start dusting off their yuletide decorations — and adding new ones to their collection. While the knickknacks on store shelves can be cute, nothing feels more in-line with the holiday season than homemade trinkets. Decoupage ornaments or candles puts a personal touch on otherwise plain objects, and the memory of making them can be created without spending much money. To create these beautiful statement pieces, you can upcycle items you already have on hand or easily find most of the supplies at a thrift or dollar store.

DECOPAGE ORNAMENTS

Decorative napkins

Scissors

Glass Christmas ball ornaments (Depending on your napkin/tissue paper pattern, white or clear balls may work best.)

Flat paintbrush or painting sponge

Mod Podge

Ribbon

1. Carefully separate the layers of your napkins, discarding the blank layer.
2. Cut the napkins into 1-inch strips, long enough to wrap around the circumference of your ornament but not more. If your napkin has large images on it that you do not want broken up, you can use the creases in the napkin to help guide you into cutting it into fourths.
3. Remove the hangers from your ornaments.
4. Brush a thin layer of Mod Podge on the ornaments.
5. *For napkin strips:* Place one end of a napkin strip at the top of the ornament, then wrap it around the length of the ornament, making sure it adheres to the curve of the ball.
6. Rotate the ornament 90 degrees, then repeat Step 5. When looking at the bottom of the ornament, the napkins should make an X.
7. For the remaining blank space, either repeat Step 5 until the whole ornament is covered, or cut the strips of napkins to the size of those spaces and adhere them.
8. *For napkin fourths:* Place one corner at the top of the ornament, then carefully wrap the napkin around the rest of the ornament, making small folds to cover the whole thing.
9. Now that the whole ornament is covered, brush a layer of Mod Podge over the napkins. You may need to adjust the material or add a little bit of Mod Podge under any folds to make it lie flat against the ornament's surface.
10. Let the ornament dry for a few hours.
11. Once the Mod Podge has completely dried, trim any excess material around the top of the ornament, so that the hanger will fit as you place it back on the ornament.
12. Tie a piece of ribbon into a bow on the loop of the hanger.

DECOUPAGE CANDLES

Decorative napkins
Scissors
Electric or real cylinder candle
Flat paintbrush or painting sponge
Mod Podge
Craft glue (optional)
Ribbon, rhinestones or other decorative things (optional)

1. Carefully separate the layers of your napkins, discarding the blank layer.
2. Cut the napkins to the height and circumference (plus 1/4 inch) of your candle, or just cut out any large images that you want from the napkins to stick them on individually.
3. *For full coverage:* Brush a thin layer of Mod Podge over the candle.
4. Line up the edge of the napkin with the bottom of the candle, then carefully wrap it around the rest of the candle. Have the 1/4 inch extra length of napkin overlap the start of your napkin, so the candle is completely covered.
5. *For just the images:* Brush Mod Podge on the candle where you wish to place the image, then apply it to the candle. You can even treat this as a collage, using images from different napkins and overlapping images to create your own unique scene. When overlapping the napkins, be sure to give the first one that's Mod Podged down time to dry. Otherwise, the excess glue could tear the napkins.
6. Brush a layer of Mod Podge over the napkins, smoothing out the wrinkles as you go.
7. Let the candle dry for a few hours.
8. Once dried, you can glue ribbons, rhinestones or whatever crafting supplies you'd like to fill in any gaps or cover the rough edges of your napkins.
9. If you don't want to use Mod Podge on the candle, you can also apply the napkins using an iron or another handheld heat source. Just place the napkins where you want them, wrap the candle tightly in parchment paper, then on low heat, slowly work your iron around the candle. This melts the wax enough to bind to the napkin. Once the candle has cooled, you can remove the parchment paper and enjoy your new decoration!

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DECEMBER

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Check with individual organizations or your city or Chamber websites to verify dates and times.

12/4

Hope for the Holidays Concert:

The Weatherford College Jazz Orchestra performs. Free. 7:00 p.m., Alkek Fine Arts Center, 239 College Park Dr. wc.edu/calendar/calendar.php.

12/5

COHO Tree Lighting and Santa's Workshop:

This holiday event includes train rides, stage performances, activities, photos with Santa and more. Free. 5:30-8:00 p.m., Gene L. Voyles Park, 210 Hudson Oaks Dr., Hudson Oaks. hudsonoaks.com.

Christmas is a Feeling:

The Weatherford College Concert Choir performs a selection ranging from classical to contemporary. Free. 7:00 p.m., Alkek Fine Arts Center, 239 College Park Dr. wc.edu/calendar/calendar.php.

12/5-12/23

The Promise of Christmas:

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For more information, visit thepromisechristmas.com.

12/6

Christmas on the Square and Weatherford Lights the Night Parade:

Attend to kick off the Christmas holiday season. Santa's Toyland features vendors, kid-friendly activities and live entertainment: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; parade: 6:30 p.m., Historic Downtown Weatherford. experienceweatherford.com.

Christmas on the Tracks:

Enjoy train rides, llamas and a petting zoo, door prizes, vendors, pictures with Cowboy Santa and more. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Peacock's Feed & Boutique, 122 W. Water St. peacocksfeed.com.

Christmas Tyme in Aledo:

Shop unique gifts from dozens of artisans and vendors, plus enjoy holiday food, fun and entertainment. 3:00-8:00 p.m., Downtown Aledo. aledotx.gov.

12/6-1/1

Corridor of Lights:

Bring the family to stroll through the free display of more than 75,000 lights set to music. Sensory Friendly Nights held on **Wednesdays**. 6:00-9:00 p.m., Gene L. Voyles Park, 210 Hudson Oaks Dr., Hudson Oaks. hudsonoaks.com.

12/7

21st Annual Holiday Memorial Service:

The Plowman family and staff at Galbreath Pickard Funeral Chapel invite you to bring an ornament to place on the memorial tree to honor a loved one. 3:00 p.m., Galbreath Pickard Funeral Chapel, 913 N. Elm St. Space is limited. Please RSVP at (817) 594-2747 or galbreathpickard.com.

12/8

G.F. Handel's Messiah:

Presented by Weatherford College and performed by the Parker County Community Choir. 7:00 p.m., 225 College Park Dr. Contact director Rick Rainey at rrainey@wc.edu for details.

12/13

Weatherford Breakfast With Santa:

The entire family can enjoy breakfast, Santa photos, crafts and more at this event hosted by CASA-Hope for Children and sponsored by Mineral Wells Walmart. Free. 9:00-11:00 a.m., Parker County Attorney's Office, 101 N. Main St. casahopeforchildren.org.

Candlelight Tour of Homes:

The Parker County Heritage Society returns with the 42nd annual Tour of Homes. Visit

historical locations where history comes to life. Tickets: \$20 for adults; \$12 for children 12 and under. 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., locations vary. parkercountyheritagesociety.com.

Winter Wonderland:

Join this family-friendly event featuring vendors, bounce houses, food trucks and more. Free. 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., The Shops at Willow Park and The District at Willow Park, 210 Shops Blvd., Willow Park. theshopsatwillowpark.com/winter-wonderland.

Christmas at the Castle:

View decorations during a free tour and shop vendors. 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Pythian Home, 1825 E. Bankhead Dr. pythianhome.org.

Through 12/31

Pathway of Lights:

Walk through the park to experience the lights and holiday displays. Free. 5:30-9:00 p.m., Heritage Park Amphitheater, 503 Santa Fe Dr. experienceweatherford.com.

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

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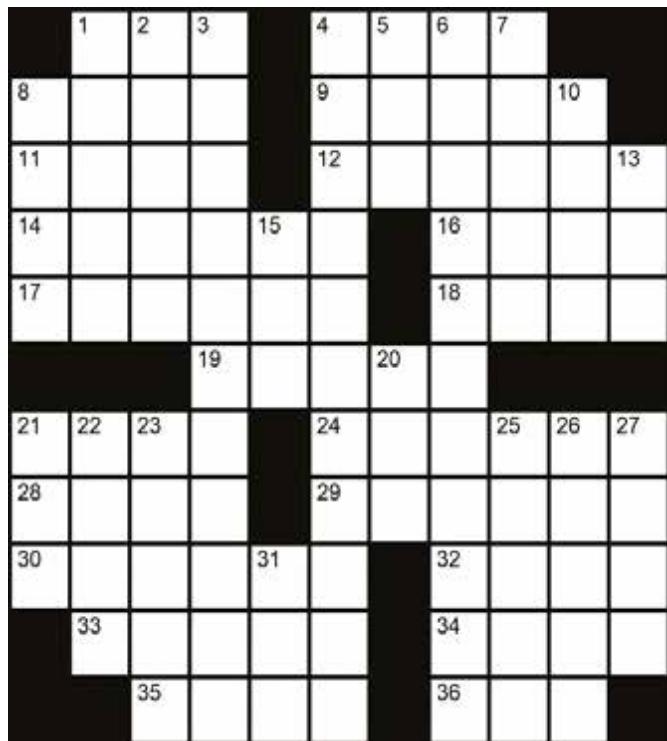
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heroine
Elizabeth ---
14 Acquire
16 Hi or 'bye in
Italy
17 Where Dorothy
was blown
away
18 Quick sharp
bark
19 Monica
Lewinsky's
former friend
Linda ---

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 "Olly Olly ---
free"
33 It has a World
Series, like
baseball
34 Kind of wave
35 Tom clothing
36 "--- a
Heartache"
(Bonnie Tyler
song)

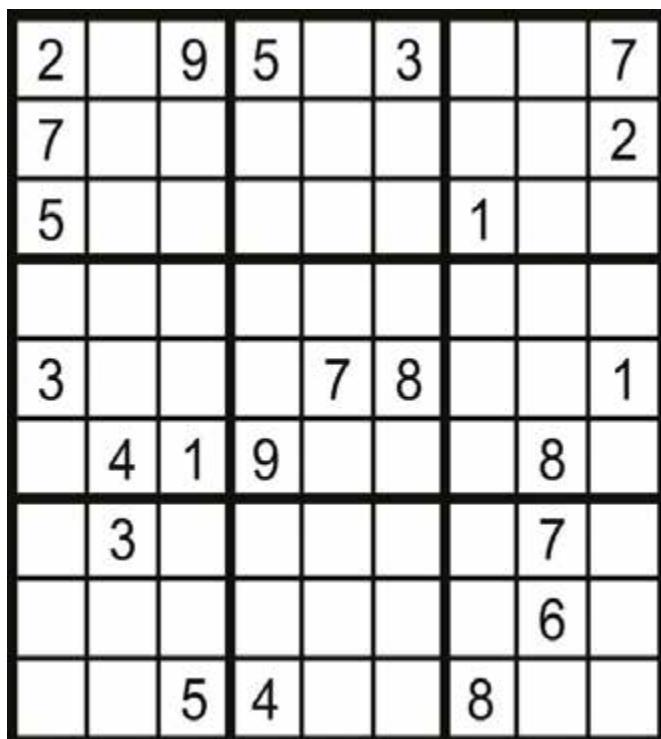
1 Girl Scout
cookie
2 "He's --- fool"
3 1980s Soviet
policy of
reconstruction
4 Distributing
tasty bribes
gets home
helps
5 "You --- it to
yourself"
6 Nosy pelican
flapped about
in the House
7 Orange
Sesame Street
room-mate
8 Charging
station
10 Distribute
cards
13 Beat
15 Ingot

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"

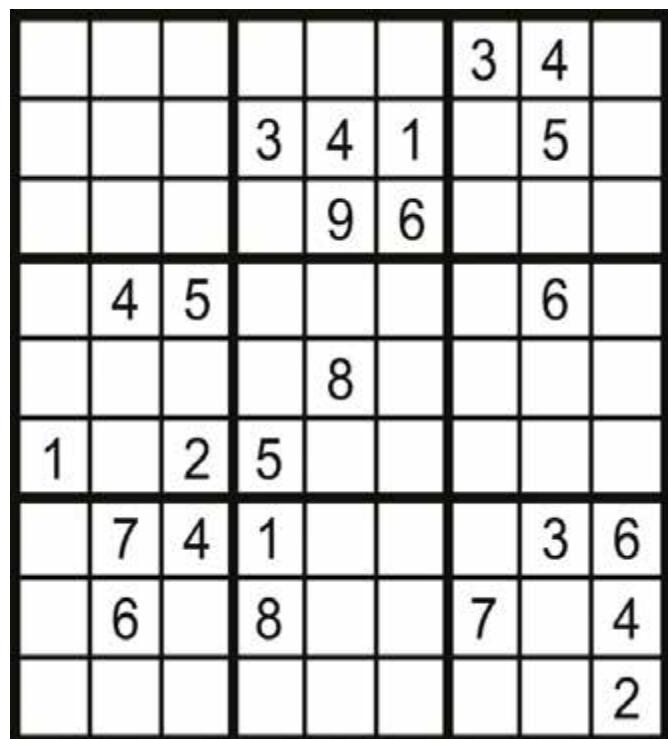
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Sudoku Puzzle

Easy



Medium



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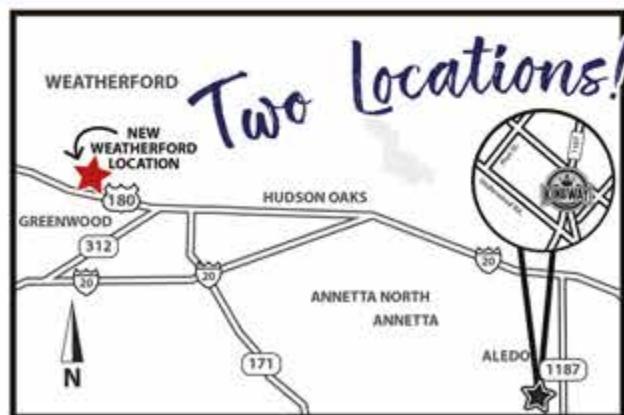


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