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JANUARY 2023

Destiny of Bulls

A champion rider,
Scott Mendes' defining
moment led to more

In the Kitchen With
Melissa Carroll

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt

Crossword/Sudoku

Featured Business:
Big Burger

Postal Customer

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ON THE COVER



Bull Riding Hall of Fame inductee, Scott Mendes, shares his story.

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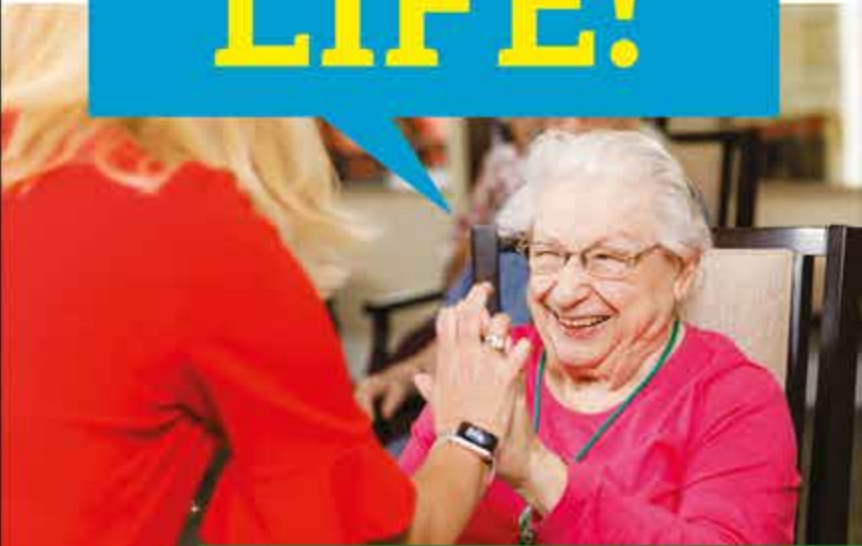
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EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to 2023!

Back in October 2022, I visited Hawaii with my oldest daughter's family. One morning, as everyone got ready to venture out for the day, I walked into the kitchen to discover my 2-year-old grandson with his face covered in chocolate. I still don't know how he reached the chocolate-covered macadamia nuts at the back of the counter, but he loved them, and it showed. At first, he put on the innocent, "What?" face. As I grabbed my phone for a snapshot, he broke into a mischievous grin. Yes, I cleaned his face, but it made me think. How many times do I see a "mess" and react in anger instead of embracing the moment and making it a memory?

What will this new year bring? I have no idea, and much of it lies beyond my control, anyway. I know I can react to any situation in horror or anger, or I can embrace the moment and take a snapshot. What this year brings depends on how I face it. Easier said than done. Life happens, circumstances change, and the unexpected hits us head-on. And any of those can be positive or leave us with a mountain to climb.

As we turn the calendar, it feels almost like a fresh start. Not sure how that works. Life doesn't halt then restart simply because the calendar says 2023 instead of 2022. Still, we look forward with a fresh perspective, and, hopefully, we decide to snap that picture and find the best in every situation.

Happy New Year!



Lisa

Lisa Bell
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DESTINY OF BULLS

— By Lisa Bell

Born on the Fourth of July, Scott Mendes said, “I’m a cowboy to the bone. It’s in my blood.” Looking back, he enjoyed a wonderful career. “My goal was to become a world champion bull rider. In my 20s, I was on top of the game.” But one defining moment changed his view on bull riding and life, leaving him with a question. Now, how do I give back?

Scott literally learned to play football on the streets of downtown Fort Worth, following the Dallas Cowboys and wanting to be like Walt Garrison, because he participated in the same sports Scott loved — football and rodeo. At the ripe age of 4 or 5, he mounted his first calf. After his parents divorced, he lived with his mom in Fort Worth. Without the time or space for bulls, she took him to a Christian ranch in Granbury, where he developed skills and experienced a positive influence for life.

Moving to Reno to live with his dad during middle school, he worked on his father’s ranch. “Ranch work exposes character. It doesn’t build it,” he shared. Approaching his freshman year, he told his

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dad he wanted to play football, which required extra time at school for practices and games. "Dad said he needed me on the ranch, but I knew life for me included boxing, football or bull riding — none of which are good for the head," Scott added. A smaller, hard-headed guy, he chose bull riding and rode his first bull at 14 during a junior rodeo.

In 1985 and 1986, Scott won state championships as a 16- and 17-year-old. He grew to understand the meaning of gaining the world but losing the soul, surrounded by beer, alcohol and tobacco. Under tremendous stress, he headed to the national high school finals his senior year and suffered a nervous breakdown. Still, at 18, he handed his diploma to his father and left home for the rodeo life.

Scott returned to bull riding in 1989 and never looked back. During the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in 1994, Scott sat on the back of a bull, waiting his turn to ride while watching his friend, Brent Thurman, in the arena. Brent died when the bull he rode stepped on him, leaving Scott with his defining moment.

"I grew up knowing about faith. My grandfather was a nationally known evangelist. Many referred to him as the Texas Billy Graham," he admitted. "At that moment, watching Brent, I knew God would say to me, 'Depart from me. I never knew you.' I accepted Jesus for real." The decision changed his perspective. "It's not about the gold buckle. It's about being a role model."

At his friend's funeral, Scott met Angel and married her soon after. Although he continued riding bulls and still wanted to win the championship, he also wanted to live by principle with integrity, no compromise and always above board. He eventually became a chaplain for Fellowship of Christian Athletes, which gave him an opportunity to meet many of the Dallas Cowboys he grew up viewing as heroes and role models.

In 1997, he won the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association Bull Riding World Championship. Achieving his goal opened doors for the young cowboy. Appearing in several movies as an actor, Scott also became a producer. Following his last ride in 2005, Scott and Angel founded Western Harvest

Ministries. He also founded the CTB Pro Bull Riding League and opened the Western Harvest Ranch.

With the desire to give back, Scott works with young bull riders. "Rodeo is an adrenaline junky sport," he declared. "This game is dangerous. You can have fun and ride bulls, but make sure you do it the right way and for the right purpose." The camps and events they provide through their ministry teach bull riding skills, but they also encourage character and help young men love God more than the world. They also offer Bible studies and other events.

"I don't get press because of the Jesus stuff. I go to rodeos as a FCA chaplain, and I want to use my success as a bull rider for the Lord," he stated. "Bull riding requires discipline. It's about conquering the beast, but the bull isn't the beast. We all fight with God's best and God's divine." Through ministry, Scott teaches skills, but challenges the riders to address inner beasts such as lust, pride, fear and bitterness with God's help. He guides the kids to look at the roots of personal beasts and refuse to conform to or compromise with the world.

Scott and Angel have three children. Kaden serves in the military and participates in the Military Cowboy Rodeo Association. His daughter, Jorden, at 19 wants to pursue music and cosmetology. The youngest, Kolten, simply loves being outdoors. Scott's family often travels with him.

Besides continuing in ministry, Scott currently has a film project about his life in progress. He hopes to see *Conquering the Beast* released sometime next year. Inventor of two apps, Rodeo Judge for rodeo kids and Riding on Course Bible app, he also has other interactive apps in the works.

Despite his busy life, Scott loves being at home on the ranch as often as possible and looks forward to a bright future, continuing to influence the lives of kids and western families. As a 2022 Bull Riding Hall of Fame inductee and visionary, he wants to serve as an ambassador who makes the sport of rodeo better than when he found it. He sees it as part of his destiny — a destiny he admits chose him through bulls. **NOW**

Editor's Note: For more information, visit www.scottmendes.com.

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— By Lisa Bell

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In February 2011, Patrick Terry opened Big Burger in Hudson Oaks. A family-friendly restaurant, they serve most orders within 10 minutes, but they make everything fresh when ordered. “We focus on good, fresh food. Real, cooked food in quick, casual dining,” Patrick shared. “We always use fresh meat and produce, including fresh French fries and sweet potato fries.” The difference gives them pride in the quality of the food they serve.

Patrick worked in the restaurant industry for most of his life. As a teenager, he worked in a restaurant that belonged to his parents’ friends, experiencing every conceivable position to learn the business. Later, as a manager for 13 years at a



chain restaurant, he saw a tendency to switch to reheating frozen foods rather than making everything from scratch.

Although corporate America taught him valuable skills, he also observed ways to create something better. Wanting to serve authentic food to customers, he looked for opportunities to open a restaurant. When he found the spot for Big Burger, he opened his place and never looked back. Even during the pandemic, they continued thriving. With a small dining area, the switch to curbside and drive-thru didn’t affect them as much as some places. Patrick welcomes having customers back for dining inside, though.

While most of their orders consist of burgers, they also offer salads, sandwiches and wraps, plus a kid’s menu and non-burgers. Besides regular French fries, they serve sweet potato fries and onion rings, among other items. The burgers on their menu, all named after Texas cities, include unordinary varieties, making Big Burger a unique place to try various flavor combinations. From the Texas Original to Austin Shrooms, or Laredo Jalapeño to Terlingua Chili, they feature burgers to suit all tastes.

They take pride in serving special brioche buns made only for them, but they also offer wheat wraps and gluten-free options. In addition, Big Burger provides ground beef, ground turkey and grilled chicken to fit customers' tastes and dietary preferences.

"Service is in my nature. I'm good at taking care of people," Patrick said. "It's all I've ever really done." During the pandemic, he often personally delivered food within a specific radius of the restaurant. Now, he uses Door Dash and Uber Delivery to meet his customers' needs. With everything back to normal, Patrick expressed gratitude for the local community. "We love the people in East Parker County. They are awesome and very supportive of small businesses," he stated. "We have many regular customers who are extremely loyal."

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As always, Patrick continues supporting local organizations such as Center of Hope and others, schools and Cub Scouts. Often, Big Burger hosts days where they give back 10 percent to the selected entity. Living in Weatherford since 2003, Patrick and his family enjoy giving back to their community.

As a family-owned and -operated business, Patrick trusts his employees to run Big Burger when he can't be there. But that doesn't stop him from spending time in the restaurant, where he might chat with customers and employees. Even the non-biological staff members feel like family to him.

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Zoomed In: Laine Michelle

By Lisa Bell

With a background in painting, Laine Michelle became a graphic artist. She created the cover art for the movie *Washington's Armor*. In her spare time, she's working on a commissioned portrait of the historic saga. But after an internship, Laine became a staff member at Capernaum Studios. "I loved the internship. Ever since, I can't stay away," she revealed. "I feel good about what we do with live events, using that money to go toward *Washington's Armor* Volume 2. I'm honored, humbled and glad to be part of the journey."

Laine shared they will have a live event on President's Day, and she looks forward to it alongside everyone involved. She added, "Everyone is there for the community. Lots of going on."



At 17 months old, Sutton Weaver has a blast chasing a ball.



The Peterson family enjoys a trip to downtown Weatherford at Christmastime.



Santa Hank and his human helpers love showering Golden Reward Sanctuary with gifts.



Ellen Legvold enjoys coffee at The Full Cup with her father, Milan Hiven, visiting from Chicago three months before his 99th birthday.



Sisters, Mary VanZile and Margaret Avery, demonstrate the proper way to set a holiday table.



Randy Cutshell and Donna Dickenson, photographer and assistant at Jerry's, offer kisses or candy.



New to Aledo, Kelly Wyche and sons, Wiley and Barrett, join the community at the 22nd Christmas Tyme in Aledo.



Mrs. Claus takes care of business while waiting for Santa.



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CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With

MELISSA CARROLL

— By Lisa Bell

Married at 19, Melissa Carroll learned cooking from necessity. She doesn't remember her mother and grandmother "teaching" her, but she watched and inherited recipes. "My daughter, Abby, would tell you it's my love language," Melissa divulged. Although she enjoys a sense of accomplishment, she shared, "The truth of the matter is I enjoy the people who come together over food. It's the fellowship." Early in adulthood, single college friends showed up for spaghetti and chocolate-chip cookies, birthing Sunday family dinners.

Never fearing failure, Melissa said, "I don't give up. One day, I will master everything I work on. Those disasters make the best stories. My children remember them all." As their families grow, she hopes they continue making memories in the kitchen, cooking together and spending time with those they love. **NOW**

Baked Squash

2 lbs. yellow squash
1 15-oz. jar Cheez Whiz
Salt, to taste
Pepper, to taste
2 eggs
1 medium onion, chopped

1 4-oz. can chopped green chilies
1 10.5-oz. can cream of celery soup

1. Wash and cut the squash. Cook for 15 minutes; drain.
2. Place the Cheez Whiz into the bottom of a baking dish; layer in the squash. Add salt and pepper to taste.

3. Beat the eggs slightly; add the onions and chilies. Pour the egg mixture over the squash. Pour the soup over the top. Bake at 350 F for 30 minutes.

Edwina's Apple Pie

Pie:

6 cups Granny Smith apples, peeled, cored and sliced
3/4 cup sugar
1/4 cup flour
1 tsp. cinnamon
1/4 tsp. salt
2 prepared, unbaked piecrusts
3-4 Tbsp. butter

Topping:

1/4 cup butter
1/2 cup brown sugar
2 Tbsp. half-and-half
1/2 cup pecans, chopped

1. For pie: Mix all the ingredients together, except the butter; place the mixture in the bottom crust. Dot the mixture with the

2. Bake at 350 F for 50-55 minutes.

4. Bake at 350 F for another 5 minutes, or until the syrup is bubbly.

Cake:

2 cups flour
2 cups sugar
1/4 tsp. salt
2 sticks butter
4 Tbsp. cocoa
1 cup boiling water
1/2 cup buttermilk
2 whole eggs, beaten
1 tsp. baking soda
Dash of cinnamon
2 tsp. vanilla

lcing:

1 stick butter
4 heaping Tbsp. cocoa
1 tsp. vanilla
1-2 lbs. powdered sugar, to consistency
Milk, to preferred consistency
1/2 cup pecans, chopped (optional)

- 1. For cake:** Preheat the oven to 350 F. Grease and flour a sheet pan or glass casserole dish.
- 2.** In a mixing bowl, combine the flour, sugar and salt.
- 3.** In a saucepan, melt the butter; add the cocoa and stir. Add the hot water; allow the mixture to boil for about 30 seconds. Remove from heat; pour over the flour mixture.
- 4.** Add the buttermilk, eggs, baking soda, cinnamon and vanilla; mix well. Bake for about 20 minutes, or until done.
- 5. For icing:** Melt the butter; add the cocoa and vanilla. Add the sugar and milk alternately until you reach the desired consistency and sweetness.
- 6.** Fold in the pecans, if desired; spread the icing on top of the cake.

Recipe easily doubles.

4-6 cups sliced peaches (fresh or frozen)
2 cups sugar (divided use)
Juice of 1 lemon
1 stick butter
1 cup flour
1 cup milk
1/4 tsp. salt
2 tsp. baking powder
Cinnamon, to taste

1. Pour the peaches into a large bowl. Add 1 cup of sugar and the lemon juice.
2. Melt the butter in a 9x13-inch pan.



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Edwina's Apple Pie

3. In a separate bowl, mix the flour, remaining sugar, milk, salt and baking powder. Pour the batter on top of the melted butter. *Do not mix.*
4. Add the peaches. *Do not mix.*
5. Sprinkle the cinnamon over the top of the peaches. Bake at 350 F for 1 hour.

Limoncello

- 10 lemons
- 1 750-ml. bottle vodka
- 3 1/2 cups water
- 2 1/2 cups sugar

1. Using a veggie peeler, remove the peel from the lemons in long strips. (I use the lemons for lemon bars). Try to get the white pith off.
2. Place the lemon peels in a 2-quart pitcher. Pour the vodka over the peels; cover. Steep the vodka and peels for 4 days at room temperature.
3. Stir the water and sugar in a large saucepan over medium heat until the sugar dissolves, about 5 minutes. Cool completely.
4. Pour the sugar syrup into the vodka mixture. Cover; let stand overnight at room temperature.
5. Strain the mixture through a mesh strainer;

discard the peels. Transfer the liquid into a bottle and refrigerate. It lasts for 1 month.

Corn Casserole

- 1 box Jiffy cornbread mix
- 1 14.75-oz. can cream style corn
- 1 15.25-oz. whole kernel corn
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 4-oz. can green chilies
- 1/2 stick melted butter

1. In a large bowl, add all the ingredients. Mix well.
2. Pour the mixture into a greased baking dish. Bake at 350 F for 20-30 minutes until golden brown.

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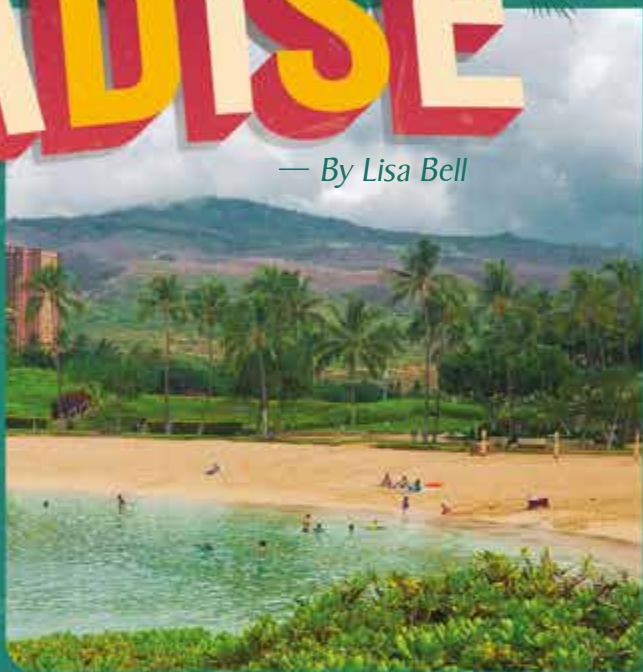
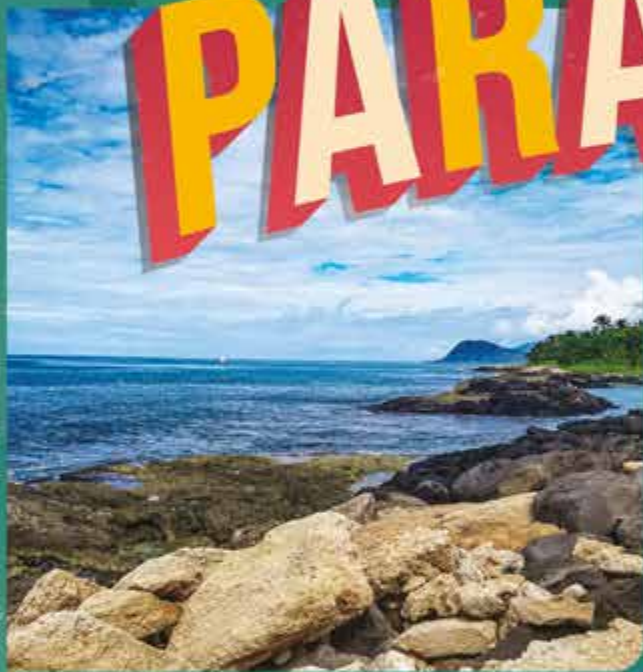
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Moments in PARADISE

— By Lisa Bell



A wonderful place to visit anytime of the year, the colder months in Texas might be the perfect time to escape to O‘ahu, Hawaii. One of the big four islands, O‘ahu, “The Heart of Hawaii,” offers a variety of activities. Of course, lying on the beach sipping a mai tai ranks high on the list of many visitors. Whether relaxing or ready to explore, with so many options, consider taking more than a week to get plenty of beach time alongside experiencing all the island offers.

From the renowned Waikiki beach to the North Shore for surfers, O‘ahu’s beaches in places like Ko Olina don’t disappoint. Many include lagoons where gentler waves allow for splashing in the ocean and snorkeling without having waves crash too hard. Although the beaches are public, private entities and resorts rent cabanas and chairs, and these beaches tend toward fewer crowds. For truly secluded beaches, you might need a local to point you in the right direction.

With blue water and waves crashing against rocks, don’t miss the sun rising or setting from the beach, while spectacular colors fill the sky. Or hop aboard one of the many chartered boats for a romantic sunset cruise. During early mornings, you might catch an exercise class or people walking or jogging beside the ocean. To satisfy your more adventurous side, try a hike

to the iconic volcano crater, Lē‘ahi, or one of the tropical mountain trails.

While many people seek the Polynesian Gardens, you might also want to visit places such as the Honolulu Botanical Gardens, the Waimea Falls Park and Dole Plantation. Throughout the island, enjoy bright flora and a variety of birds, and chickens run as free as any fowl. Every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday, the Hawaiian Railway Society Sugar Cane Train runs from Ewa to Kahe Point, with a stop at Ko Olina for those who want to purchase ice cream. The fun two-hour trip includes a bit of sugar cane history.

Be sure to plan a day at Pearl Harbor, taking several hours to tour the museums and visitor's center. As you walk through the recounted timeline, let your imagination take you to December 7, 1941. A surreal atmosphere of beauty mixed with sorrow covers Pearl Harbor, and few leave untouched by the experience.

For those who love city life, both Honolulu and Waikiki offer scores of shopping opportunities, restaurants and vibrant night life. But don't neglect the outskirts, where smaller communities provide a taste of Hawaiian cuisine and culture. And don't forget to book a luau for an unforgettable evening of food and a colorful presentation of multiple cultures and entertaining dancers.

Those who love shopping and souvenirs may want to stop by Aloha Stadium Swap Meet and Marketplace. Every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday since 1979, families gather to share cultural diversity with pride. Over 400 vendors, crafters and artists provide a wide selection of clothing, jewelry, Hawaiian souvenirs and exclusive art. Visit with local artisans and leave with more than you expected for your money. Go early, and wear comfortable shoes.

With so much to see on O‘ahu, you may not get to do everything in one trip. And that doesn't include the other seven largest islands that represent the 137 Hawaiian Islands. Plan your trip in advance, and consider taking an extra bag for the flight home. **NOW**

For more information, visit www.hawaii-guide.com.

Photos by Lisa Bell.

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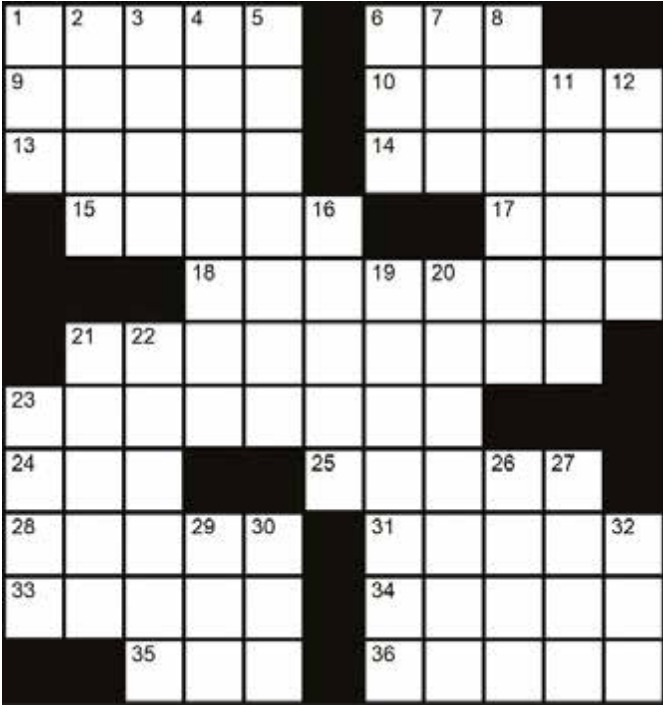


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Crossword Puzzle



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- Across**

 - 1 Mediterranean island
 - 6 To be unwell
 - 9 Beginning of a clarification
 - 10 Trial printing impression
 - 13 Priestess in "The Pearl Fishers"
 - 14 Portuguese saint
 - 15 Arrests
 - 17 Bachelor's last words?
 - 18 Went around
 - 21 Warlike woman
 - 23 Talk radio staple
 - 24 It replaced the Pan-American Union
 - 25 Diminish
 - 28 Wall recess
 - 31 Dogma
 - 33 Oversalivate
 - 34 Overused
 - 35 Grp. with panda logo
 - 36 Lake Placid's county
- Down**

 - 1 Artillery angular measure
 - 2 So be it
 - 3 Metal bikini wearer
 - 4 Afghanistan faction
 - 5 Study critically
 - 6 Computer prog
 - 7 "The Ballad of --- Hayes" (Peter La Farge)
 - 8 "Little Women" author --- May Alcott
 - 11 Ancient
 - 12 Every living thing needs it
 - 16 Plunder
 - 19 "The Kids Are All Right" actress --- Bening
 - 20 Chekhov trio
 - 21 "--- past a freckle"
 - 22 --- mule, a cocktail
 - 23 Doctor Who's Amy
 - 26 "Les Etats----"
 - 27 Safe
 - 29 Modus operandi
 - 30 "Lord of the Rings" character
 - 32 Country singer Ritter

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Sudoku Puzzle

Easy

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

Medium

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

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JANUARY

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.

1/1

Holiday in the Park Pathway of Lights:

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1/1-1/13

Atrium Member Exhibition Show:

Weatherford Art Association Members have an exciting array of artwork for sale during this show. Visitor parking at top of lot. Free admission. **Monday-Friday:** 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., UNT Health Science Center, 3500 Camp Bowie Blvd. Fort Worth, TX 76107. www.weatherfordart.com.

1/9

American Red Cross Blood Drive:

Visit the library and help save a life. Schedule time online. 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Weatherford Public Library, 1014 Charles St. www.redcrossblood.org.

1/24

Smartphones Basics Class:

Offered by Goodwill computer classes. Free, but registration required. 2:00 p.m., Weatherford Public Library,

1014 Charles St.

www.weatherfordtx.gov/142/Library. Registration: (817) 598-4207.

1/28

21st Annual Parker County Bridal Fair:

Meet dozens of vendors and enjoy specials and door prizes. Free admission and parking. Noon-5:00 p.m., Doss Heritage and Cultural Center, 1400 Texas Dr. www.pcbf.weebly.com.

1/31

Microsoft Office Basics Class:

Hosted by the library and Goodwill Computer Classes. Registration required. 2:00 p.m., Weatherford Public Library, 1014 Charles St. Registration: (817) 598-4207. www.weatherfordtx.gov/142/Library.

Weekend Prior to First Mondays

Weatherford First Monday Trade Days:

Event held on Friday-Sunday prior to the first Monday.

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Mondays

Aledo Farmers Market:

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**Second
Mondays**

Teen Legion:

Teen Legion is a program for seventh-graders through high school. Each event offers crafts and activities for teens. 4:00 p.m., Weatherford Public Library, 1014 Charles St. www.weatherfordtx.gov/142/Library.

**Tuesdays and
Thursdays**

Storytime at the Library:

Toddlers enjoy books and activities on **Tuesdays** and preschoolers on **Thursdays**. 10:30 a.m., Weatherford Public Library Reading Pavilion, 1014 Charles Street. www.weatherfordtx.gov/142/Library.

First Tuesdays

Artistic Expressions:

Adult crafts. Free. No reservations required. Materials available on first come, first served basis. 6:00 p.m., Weatherford Public Library,

1014 Charles St.

www.weatherfordtx.gov/142/Library.

**Second
Thursdays**

Gardeners' Club of Parker County:

Each meeting includes a speaker with information relative to gardening in Parker County. 10:00 a.m., St. Francis Church, 117 Ranch House Rd., Willow Park. (817) 919-6280.

Third Thursdays

Quilter's Guild of Parker County:

Meeting in-person and on Zoom. Come early to socialize. 6:45 p.m., Lakeshore Drive Baptist Church, 200 Lakeshore Drive, Hudson Oaks. www.quiltersguildofparkercounty.org.

Second Fridays

Parker County Women's and Newcomers Club:

Social hour, club shop, a special program and lunch. \$11. Social hour: 9:30 a.m.; meeting: 10:30 a.m., FUMC Family Life Center, 301 S. Main St. Reservation: Bea Cochran (817) 723-1054. www.pcwnc.org.

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



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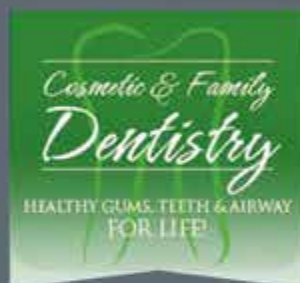


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