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M A G A Z I N E

JANUARY 2024



On Competitive Ground

Kelbi Coleman shares her softball experience at Brock High School

In the Kitchen With Nancy McVean

Also inside:
Scavenger Hunt

Crossword/Sudoku

Featured Business:
Uncle Monty's Pizza



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ON THE COVER



Kelbi Coleman has occupied roles both on and off the field.

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published monthly and individually mailed
free of charge to homes and businesses in
the Weatherford and Aledo ZIP codes.*

*Subscriptions are available at the
rate of \$35 per year or \$3.50 per issue.
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EDITOR'S NOTE



Amber

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Happy New Year!

As 2024 gets underway, I reflect on the experiences of 2023 and look ahead to the new year. I have multiple resolutions on my list, and I cannot wait to embark on the journey to attain them. If you have some New Year's resolutions in mind, I suggest listing them in numerical order and keeping track of your successes throughout the coming months. At the end of the year, you can look back at your records and determine if you made progress, met or surpassed your goals.

Each January, I enjoy reading a friend's Facebook post of her list of 10 goals from the previous year and how she fared with each. She does not always meet them, but by tracking the goals throughout the year, she can see her progress. She often reaches her goals, but sometimes, the resolution might carry over to the next year for completion.

Regardless, she takes time to reflect and write down her thoughts about each goal on the previous year's list, how she feels about the outcome and what she could do differently to see success in the new year. Whether your New Year's resolutions include reading more, traveling more, paying off a debt or something else, I hope you can do what is necessary to see it to fruition.

As you are pondering your goals for 2024, keep in mind that *WeatherfordNOW* is always looking for community members to feature in the magazine. Do you or someone you know have a story to tell or a few recipes to share? If so, please reach out to me with suggestions.

To a prosperous 2024!

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Some experiences are forever engrained in the psyche. For Weatherford resident Kelbi Coleman, one such moment came while batting as a freshman with Texas A&M University during the Women's College World Series. It was then that she made her first plate appearance at the USA Softball Hall of Fame Stadium in Oklahoma City. "I was the last out and ended our run, but it was still awesome that I got to hit against UCLA on the big stage that every girl who plays softball dreams of being at," Kelbi recalled. Her passion for the sport continued for several years at A&M, and now she shares that passion with the younger generation as assistant varsity softball coach at Brock High School.

Softball has been a priority for Kelbi since the age of 4 when she first mentioned to her parents that she wanted to play "the girl's sport of baseball." Little League was the program of choice in Richmond near Houston where Kelbi lived at the time. At the age of 6, she made the 8U All-Star team. At 7, her parents registered her for a travel team tryout. She made the 10U team. Playing with older girls helped her game. "I didn't really think about them being two years older than me or three years older than me," she said, "because I did it my whole life."

While playing on an 18U team in eighth grade, Kelbi began receiving calls from recruiters. "It helped me with the game because I could play with them, and, obviously, it helped me get recruited. It also matured me because I was around older girls."

Kelbi committed to Texas A&M as a freshman and moved to East Bernard, where her high school team took several trips to state tournaments. She graduated in 2016 and started her college softball career at A&M that fall. Although her original position of third base introduced her to the university, she moved into the outfield during her time there. "It was my dream that I accomplished in life, so it was super surreal being part of the 12th Man. It was everything I dreamed of since I was 7 years old."

Playing a team sport not only provided an opportunity for Kelbi to make lifelong friends, it kept her physically active. Her time at A&M was not without physical challenges. Kelbi tore the

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— By Amber D. Browne

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ulnar collateral ligament (UCL) in her elbow. "I worked all summer and in off-season rehab training my elbow to get strong again, so I could play my senior year, only for it to get cut short in March because of COVID."

Graduation day came in May of 2020, and it appeared Kelbi's softball career would end. However, a plea to the coach for permission to return as a Super Senior landed Kelbi back on the field. "I begged her, if there is a chance that I can come back and play, let me have my last year because I worked my butt off to get my elbow back to where it should be. And, she let me."

With a degree in journalism, Kelbi started a second major in agriculture leadership and completed the alternative teacher certification program through Texas Teachers of Tomorrow. After her Super Senior year at A&M, she left College Station and returned to her hometown of East Bernard to coach beside her former high school coach, Christine Sheets.

A year later, her husband, Hunter Coleman, received a job offer in real estate development in Weatherford, so Kelbi began her job search in Parker County. She stumbled upon a coaching position at Brock High School. "I was like, 'Hey, I know them.' They were at state when I was in high school." She was offered the position for the 2022-2023 school year. "I love this place. It's awesome. It reminds me a lot of my hometown," Kelbi said. "I like that everybody has the mentality that we want to win. We're going to work hard every single day because at Brock, we have champions."

With a new head coach, Taylor Willmer, and Kelbi as the new assistant coach for the 2023 season, Brock's varsity softball team won second in



district. They lost in the first round of the playoffs, but Kelbi has high hopes for this season. "I think we've made good strides in the program," she said. "I am excited to see how year two will be."

Kelbi encourages her players to push themselves in the sport, so they will reach their fullest potential. After a good hit, the players know Kelbi has a gummy waiting for them in the dugout as a reward. "I'm like their biggest cheerleader. I'm also really hard on them, but they know I'm going to be there to celebrate the little wins."

Being part of a team takes trust and selflessness. "Everybody has to be all in, all on board, or your team is never going to be successful," Kelbi said. In addition to coaching the varsity softball team at Brock, Kelbi teaches integrated physics and chemistry and coaches volleyball at Brock Junior High School.

She and her husband are expecting a new addition to the family in May — a baby boy. "I've been pretty lazy with that, but there are some times at softball practice I get out there and try to compete with the girls." Although she no longer plays a team sport, Kelbi's competitive side often shows itself. Her husband played baseball at Texas A&M, so he also has a competitive personality. "Everything we do, even if it's like, 'Look how many grapes I can catch in my mouth,' that's just us in a nutshell. Just the competitive aspect of it."

As the softball season gets underway this spring, Kelbi will share her competitive attitude with the players and encourage them to give it their all. She will continue to push them to do their best because that is what they should expect from themselves. She shared, "Don't ever sell yourself short in anything." **NOW**

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Uncle Monty's Pizza

— By Amber D. Browne

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A new restaurant concept from the owners of the popular and award-winning Flavor on 51 in Weatherford is now serving guests some unique pizza creations. Uncle Monty's Pizza opened in a food trailer featuring eye-catching, purple pepperoni pizza slices adjacent to Flavor on 51 in the fall of 2023. Owners of both concepts, Rebecca Schiller and husband, Jonathan, created Uncle Monty's to provide locals with a much-needed pizza option.



Uncle Monty's customers can enjoy their meals inside the new indoor dining area at Flavor on 51, as well as on the exterior patio. Pick-up, delivery and catering options are also available. "We've had such good success out here," Rebecca said, "that we decided, why don't we do a pizza place? I think people are excited to have delivery out here and some good pizza."

It is a simple process to order your favorite pie at Uncle Monty's Pizza. Guests just need to follow four steps. First, pick a size — personal or large. Next, choose the sauce. "We're going to champion some different sauces. Of course, you can get your regular pizza, but we have sauces like a tomatillo pesto sauce and some unique things like that," Jonathan explained. Step three is to add toppings, such as your favorite meats and veggies. The final step? Guests can add specialty sides, appetizers, desserts and drinks.

Instead of creating a personalized pizza, guests can opt for a classic pizza or specialty pie from the menu. The Uncle Monty features salsa, a Mexican cheese blend, smoked pork, chicken, onions, fresh jalapeños or hatch chiles and a

Sriracha mayo drizzle. Another specialty pizza option includes the appropriately titled Fungus Amongus, which is topped with caramelized mushrooms, roasted shallots and a mushroom-infused oil drizzle. Rebecca developed the menu while incorporating ideas from Jonathan. They sampled a variety of pizzas and are now sharing some of their favorite flavors.

Uncle Monty’s customers can enjoy their meals inside the new indoor dining area at Flavor on 51, as well as on the exterior patio. Pick-up, delivery and catering options are also available.

The Uncle Monty’s Pizza menu might evolve as guests share their favorites with the Schillers, just as Flavor on 51’s menu transformed since opening in the spring of 2021. “The community wrote this menu. We just kept taking feedback,” Jonathan said. The food at Flavor on 51 speaks for itself, with a number of awards from Taste of Parker County 2022 and 2023 including last year’s first place accolades for Best Mom and Pop, Judge’s Favorite and Best Overall.

On more than one occasion, diners have shared with the Schillers that their Flavor on 51 meal was the best thing they had ever eaten. “When you get people saying that to you, why would you not want to keep doing that? It is very rewarding,” Jonathan said. “If you like Flavor on 51, check out what we’ve got now. We’ve already made a great name for ourselves.”

The Schillers plan to open more Uncle Monty’s Pizza locations in the future. For now, they will focus their energy and excitement on creating buzz about the Weatherford spot. Uncle Monty, the Puggle wearing a captain’s hat in the business logo, is the couple’s late pup. The Schillers thought it was time to bring him back to life, so he is now the pizza concept’s favorite mascot.

“We want to have something a little bit unique, but of course, you can get the regular, classic pizzas,” Rebecca said. “The college kid that’s on a budget can get a pizza, and then we’re going to have some crazy specialty stuff, too. We will have something for everybody.” **NOW**



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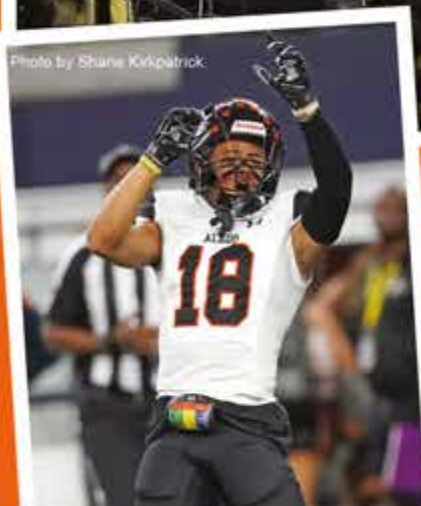


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Zoomed In:
The Brown Family

By Amber D. Browne

On New Year's Eve 2022, *WeatherfordNOW* photographer, Sarah Brown, and her husband, T.W., set a family goal to hike 100 miles in 2023. "The caveat was that our son, Mac, had to be in his hiking backpack for it to count," Sarah explained. Their hikes throughout 2023 have included visits to nearly a dozen Texas state parks, three national parks and trails in the local area. Within the year, they exceeded their goal.

Hiking and spending time in nature have been priorities for the couple since they started dating. Sarah even gifted T.W. with a child carrier hiking backpack to announce her pregnancy with their son. "My son is quickly growing out of his hiking backpack, and it breaks my heart. This year will hold a large space in our hearts."



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These Aledo High School seniors celebrate the holiday season at Christmas Tyme in Aledo.



Weatherford ISD students donate toys for the annual Stuff the Bus event.



Danica, Robert and Maxxon Olgin do a little holiday shopping with Janie Sancillo at Christmas on the Square.



Texas Rangers pitcher, Cody Bradford, is honored alongside his wife, Madi, during a ceremony celebrating the former Aledo High School baseball player.



Khala Hart and her son, Jack, pick up festive poinsettias for the holiday season.

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A photograph of Nancy McVean, an older woman with short grey hair, smiling and holding a large blue bowl filled with a colorful salad of broccoli, tomatoes, and other vegetables. She is wearing a blue hoodie. The background is a blurred autumn scene with trees and foliage in shades of yellow and orange.

CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With

NANCY McVEAN

— By Amber D. Browne

For Nancy McVean, vegetables are a way of life. “I always wanted to feel good, look good and live a long, healthy life,” Nancy shared. However, it was another reason that started her vegetarian journey. She met a man who was a vegetarian, and he convinced her to run a marathon. She trained daily and started incorporating meatless dishes into her lifestyle. “That was it — vegetarian diet became my diet.”

With a variety of meat substitutions, pastas, breads, cheeses and other options available, a vegetarian diet can be exciting. “The stores are full of products that have nothing to do with meat,” Nancy said. “No one said you have to give up all that good stuff.”

Nancy’s tip to someone on the fence about a vegetarian lifestyle? “Try it. You might like it!” **NOW**

Smoothie

1 large orange, peeled and cut into bite-size pieces
1 apple, cut into bite-size pieces
1 banana, cut into bite-size pieces
1/2 12-oz. bag frozen Brussels sprouts
Handful of fresh spinach
1/8 cup or 6-7 walnut halves
Pinch or 2-3 shakes cinnamon

1 Tbsp. turmeric powder
1 Tbsp. collagen powder
1 Tbsp. hemp hearts powder
1 Tbsp. high-protein powder
Cherry or blueberry juice, to taste
Beet juice, to taste

1. In a large blender, add the orange and the next 10 ingredients.
2. Add the cherry or blueberry juice and

the beet juice in equal parts until the blender is 3/4 of the way full. Blend together until combined.

3. Pour over granola or high-protein cereal or have a glass to lift energy.

Dublin Sandwich

2 eggs
1/2 tsp. garlic herb or lemon pepper seasoning
1 croissant
2 slices American cheese
1/2 avocado, sliced
1 cup fresh spinach

1. Crack the eggs into a small bowl; whisk.
2. In a nonstick skillet on medium heat, add the eggs and garlic herb or lemon pepper seasoning. Stir occasionally until cooked, about 3 minutes.
3. Slice and open the croissant to assemble the sandwich. Add a slice of American cheese to each piece. Add the eggs to one side. Top with avocado and fresh spinach; add the other slice of croissant on top. Cut the sandwich into two and serve.

Breakfast Omelet

- 2-3 eggs
- 1/2 tsp. garlic herb or lemon pepper seasoning
- Broccoli, chopped, to taste
- Carrots, chopped, to taste
- Cauliflower, chopped, to taste
- Onions, chopped, to taste
- Asparagus, chopped, to taste
- Mushrooms, chopped, to taste
- 1/4 cup cheddar cheese, shredded

1. In a medium-size bowl, whisk together all of the ingredients until combined.

2. Pour the mixture into a nonstick skillet on medium heat. Cook until the eggs are done and the cheese is melted.

Vegetarian Chili or Chili Sauce

- 3 4-oz. cans of sliced mushrooms (divided use)
- 1 15.25-oz. can your choice of cannellini beans, pinto beans, red kidney beans or lima beans
- 1 16-oz. bag Trader Joe’s Mélange à Trois Bell Peppers
- 2 15.25-oz. cans corn
- 1 16-oz. bag your choice of collard, spinach, turnip or mustard greens
- 2 14.5-oz. cans unsalted tomatoes
- 1 Tbsp. onion powder
- 1 Tbsp. chili lime seasoning
- 1 Tbsp. basil
- 1 Tbsp. thyme
- 1 Tbsp. Italian seasoning
- 1 Tbsp. chili powder
- 1 Tbsp. Trader Joe’s Barbecue Seasoning
- 1 tsp. lemon pepper
- 1 tsp. black pepper
- 1 tsp. white pepper
- 2 Tbsp. Date Lady Sweet Chili Sauce

1. Pour one can of the mushrooms, including the juice, into a blender. Add the can of beans; blend well.

2. Drain and rinse the other two cans of mushrooms. Add them to the blender; blend well. Add the remaining ingredients; blend until it reaches your desired texture.

Veggie Lasagna

- Lasagna:
- 2 tsp. olive oil
 - 1 16-oz. box lasagna noodles
 - 1 cup onion, chopped
 - 1 Tbsp. garlic, chopped
 - 1/2 tsp. red pepper flakes
 - 2 medium zucchini, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
 - 2 yellow squash, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
 - 1 12-oz. jar roasted red peppers, drained and cut into 1/2-inch pieces

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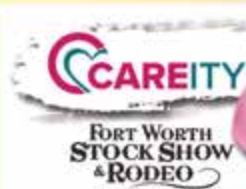





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Topping:
1 16-oz. carton cottage cheese
2 oz. ricotta cheese
2/3 cup Parmesan cheese
8 oz. mozzarella cheese
2 cups cheddar cheese, shredded
Salt, to taste
Pepper, to taste

1. For lasagna: Preheat the oven to 300 F. Bring a large pot of water to a boil. Add the olive oil to the water. Add 14 lasagna

noodles; cook according to the package directions. Once cooked, drain the noodles.
2. In a large skillet on medium heat, add the onions and the remaining lasagna ingredients. Cook until the desired texture, about 5-6 minutes.
3. To assemble the lasagna, add one layer of pasta to a 9x13-inch baking dish. Add a layer of vegetables. Repeat layers until all the ingredients are used.
4. For topping: In a large bowl, add all the ingredients; combine well. Top the

assembled lasagna with the cheese mixture. Bake at 300 F until the top is browned, about 30 minutes.

Green Salad

1/4 cup broccoli, chopped
1/4 cup cauliflower, chopped
1/4 cup carrots, chopped
1/4 cup spinach
1 cup lettuce of your choice

1. In a bowl, combine all the ingredients. Top with ranch or your favorite dressing.
2. Serve with rolls, special crackers or chips.



Breakfast Omelet

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Fashion Faves

OF 2024

— By Emma McKay

For many people, personal fashion can be challenging. It's hard to find clothes that make you look and feel good. The fear of your style choices making you stand out in an unpleasant way can be a beast of its own. Due to fashion's cyclical nature, you might already have this winter's trends in your wardrobe.

Burgundy is "in" again this season, which is good news for Aggies fans, whose closets are filled with burgundy's sister shade. This rich, warm color is perfect for the brutal Texas winter. There is no wrong way to wear solid-colored clothing. You could rock an entire outfit of burgundy pieces or add a splash of it here and there to tie the whole look together. To save a bit of money and closet space, try accessorizing with burgundy. Find a good, solid-colored burgundy coat, and you can make any outfit in season.

In a move that harkens back to the retro-futurism art style, metallic silver is having its moment in the wardrobes of fashion icons. Whether it be a shining polyester dress or

reflective chunky shoes, this trend is reminiscent of decades-old depictions of what the 2020s *might* look like. While silver is a solid color like burgundy, silver works best as the focal point of an outfit. If you are going to wear silver pants, don't pair them with a silver top, otherwise you might come across as a droid from *Star Wars*. Instead, pair it with a black, dusty rose or soft cream blouse. Silver shoes can be a fun way to make any casual or swanky outfit a bit more out of this world.

Classic prints such as polka-dot and plaid are back. Like with silver clothes, a general rule of thumb for printed fabric is to make it the centerpiece of the outfit. Pairing a polka dot blouse with a plaid skirt could unintentionally turn a casual outfit into a loud eye sore. Instead, the other elements of the ensemble should be solid colors that complement the printed fabric. That way, the eye will naturally gravitate toward the patterned piece, instead of getting lost in the noise. You could even pair your polka dot blouse with your silver heels or pull the burgundy look in with a plaid skirt to double your fashion points.

It's common knowledge in the fashion world that former style trends tend to cycle back into the mainstream eventually. This fashion season pulls items from several different decades back into people's closets.

Strolling in from the 1950s are the classic A-line and swing dresses. With their fitted bodices and flared skirts, these dresses are perfect for those who want to show off their form while still having fun twirling on the dance floor. Accessorize this look with a timeless strand of pearls or a peacoat for warmth.

Dust off the shoulder pads because exaggerated shoulders from the 1980s are officially back. Whether paired with a nice top and slacks or a T-shirt and jeans, a padded blazer makes nearly any outfit board meeting ready.

Double denim is the epitome of recycled fashions. Double denim has had a resurgence in popularity every decade since the 1970s. If you wish to pull this bold look off, you must be willing to commit. Your look should consist of either the same shade of denim or completely contrasting shades — think navy and white.

Oftentimes, it's the accessories that make the outfit shine. This winter, professional neckties and bold neckerchiefs can add the final touches to your outfit. While nothing beats the traditional black tie or a neckerchief in the same shade as your blouse, if you want your outfit to pop, try playing with opposing colors. You can even pull in patterned materials if you want your accessory to be your outfit's centerpiece.

Fashion works as a way of expressing oneself. It can be used to make one fit in or stand out in the crowd. Sometimes, it can be tricky figuring out how to make it work for you, but through constant study and willingness to experiment, you can master the art of fashion. **NOW**

Sources:

1. Agnew, C., & Gervais, E. (2023, August 14). The Top Fashion Trends for Fall-Winter 2023-2024. *Elle Canada*. <https://www.ellecanada.com/fashion/trends/the-top-fashion-trends-for-fall-winter-2023-2024>.
2. Barlow, L. [The Style Insider]. (2023, August 18). 10 Wearable Fashion Trends That Will Be HUGE In 2024 [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=06gGPohnay0>.
3. Salessy, H. (2023, September 25). 18 fashion trends to know for Fall/Winter 2023-2024. *Vogue France*. <https://www.vogue.fr/fashion/galerie/fashion-week-trends-fall-winter-2023-2024>.
4. (2021, March). How to Style Double Denim. Levi's. <https://www.levi.com/IT/en/blog/article/how-to-style-double-denim>.



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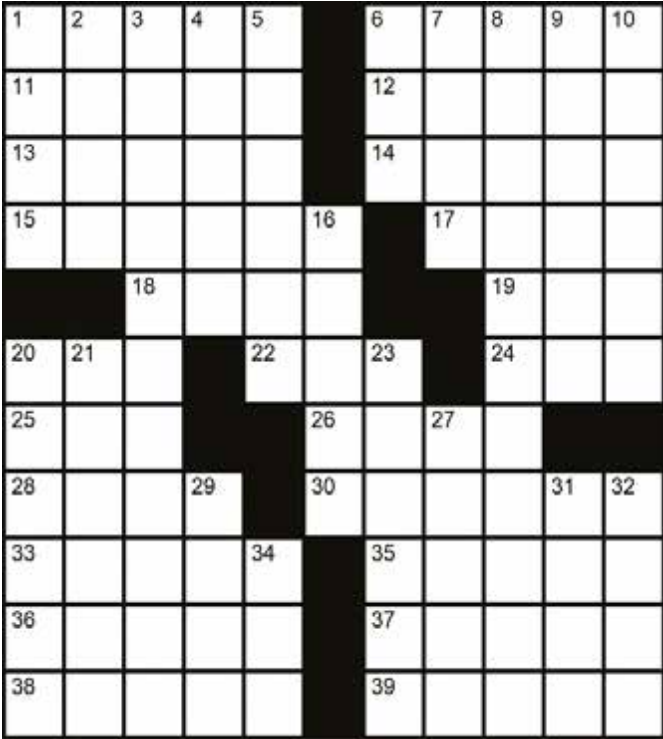
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Debbie Hume

Crossword Puzzle



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Across

- 1 Territory marker
- 6 Indisputable data
- 11 General meaning
- 12 Alert
- 13 These choristers can be male or female
- 14 Annapurna locale
- 15 "The Lion King" baddies
- 17 Plunge head-first
- 18 Lab product in "Breaking Bad"
- 19 Involuntary muscular contraction

Down

- 20 Immerse
- 22 Destroy
- 24 G M T minus 4h
- 25 Bard's before
- 26 Turn at dice
- 28 Political patronage
- 30 Tranquil
- 33 Broadcasting
- 35 Stand
- 36 Name
- 37 Turned off
- 38 Perfume
- 39 Without emotion
- 1 Six-sided state
- 2 Depend
- 3 Meet painter, surreally prone to excess
- 4 Nary a soul
- 5 Not genuine and usually inferior
- 6 Geisha's prop
- 7 Impressed
- 8 Governmental seat, usually
- 9 Alamo commander
- 10 Choose
- 16 Acute
- 20 Train stations
- 21 Humorously sarcastic
- 23 Samuel Goldwyn's homeland
- 27 It happens every birthday
- 29 Ceramicist's furnace
- 31 Image of a deity
- 32 Repudiate
- 34 Soak in liquid

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

Medium

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

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1/8

American Red Cross Blood Drive:

Visit the library and help save a life. Noon-6:00 p.m., Weatherford Public Library, 1014 Charles St. Must make an appointment at www.redcrossblood.org and/or call 1-800-REDCROSS.

1/11

Author Talk and Book Signing:

Mumentous author Amy J. Schultz shares her book about Texas homecoming mums. Tour the Mumentous Traveling Exhibit through 1/23. 6:30-8:00 p.m., Doss Heritage and Culture Center, 1400 Texas Dr. dosscenter.org.

1/13

New Year Truck Fest 2024:

Free admission for spectators to check out trucks at the event sponsored by RP Elite Motors & Marine. 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Heritage Park, 317 Santa Fe Dr. rpelitemotors.com.

1/18

Coffee Connects:

Monthly networking event to help grow your business. 8:30-9:30 a.m., The Full Cup, 922 S. Main St. weatherford-chamber.com.

1/22

Weatherford Art Association Meeting:

Pamela Summers, longtime juror for Main Street Arts Festival, will provide tips and tricks to get accepted to juried art shows. 6:00-7:45 p.m., 60+ Senior Center, 1225 Holland Lake Dr. weatherfordart.com.

1/23

Stock Show Goes Pink Day:

Half of rodeo ticket and general ground admission sales at the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo will benefit Careity Foundation. 8:00 a.m.-10:30 p.m., 3400 Burnett Tandy Dr., Fort Worth. fwssr.com.

1/26-2/11

The Tin Woman:

Live stage play presented by TOTS. **Fridays and Saturdays:** 8:00 p.m.; **Sundays:** 2:00 p.m., Theatre Off the Square, 114 N. Denton St. Get tickets and more information at theatreoffthesquare.org. (817) 341-8687.

1/27

22nd Annual Parker County Bridal Fair:

Meet with dozens of wedding and event vendors. Free admission and door prizes. Noon-4:00 p.m., Doss Heritage and Culture Center, 1400

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Fridays

American Legion Post 163 Dinner:

Dinner served for nominal fee. Proceeds support local veterans. Post opens: 5:00 p.m.; dinner: 6:00 p.m., 200 Cartwright Park Rd. Email for menu and more info at alpost163@gmail.com.

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Weatherford First Monday Trade Days:

Event held Friday-Sunday prior to the first Monday of the month. Browse vendors offering unique items. 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., First Monday Trade Days Grounds, 200 Santa Fe Dr. www.weatherfordtx.gov.

Mondays

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Second Thursdays

LEGO Club:

Children ages 8-12 can build with LEGOs and enjoy related activities. 4:00-5:00 p.m., Weatherford Public Library, 1014 Charles St. (817) 598-4207 or weatherfordtx.gov/142/Library.

Gardeners' Club of Parker County Monthly Meeting:

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:

Come early to socialize: 6:15 p.m.; meeting begins: 6:45 p.m., Lakeshore Drive Baptist Church, 200 Lakeshore Drive, Hudson Oaks. quiltersguildofparkercounty.org.

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