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M A G A Z I N E

JANUARY 2025

Shooting for the Stars

Hard work and dedication
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Olympic dreams a reality



In the Kitchen With
David Huston

Also inside:
Scavenger Hunt

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ON THE COVER



Conner Prince's love for clay shooting led him to win an Olympic silver medal.

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EDITOR’S NOTE

Hooray for 2025!

Many people make a tradition out of coming up with New Year’s resolutions — goals they plan to keep all year in hopes of bettering themselves. Many people, myself included, drop these resolutions within the first month or so, usually because our goals are too extreme for our lifestyles. After all, who has time to work out at the gym seven days a week? And who wants to leave the warmth of their house and go outside to do things? Not me, that’s for sure!

Because of these abandoned resolutions, it’s incredibly easy to feel bad about ourselves. To combat this feeling of failure, I try to think of all of my accomplishments from the previous year. Sure, I never finished reading Jane Austen’s *Sense and Sensibility*, which has sat on my shelf for years. I did, however, read and enjoy many other books, some of which I’ve also been putting off reading. Maybe I only went to the gym a handful of times in 2024, but that’s more than I did in 2023. That doesn’t even cover all the things I got to do with my friends and family over the last 12 months. And it certainly doesn’t include all the people whose lives I’ve enjoyed learning about while writing for *BurlesonNOW*.

Like me, if you fell short of accomplishing your 2024 goals, please be kind to yourself and congratulate yourself for all the other things you were able to do this past year. And if you’re not a New Year’s resolution maker, well, you survived another year, which is an incredible feat. Go you! Go us!

Be easy on yourself this year!



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A male shooter, identified as Conner Prince, is shown in profile, aiming a shotgun. He is wearing a white USA team jersey with a USA flag patch, a dark blue baseball cap, and orange-tinted shooting glasses. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

SHOOTING FOR THE STARS

— By Emma McKay

“There’ve been many times where I’ve wanted to put the gun down and quit,” confessed Olympian Conner Prince. “Ultimately, I decided to keep going because it was my dream to go to the Olympics.” On August 3, the Burleson native made his city and his country proud by winning silver for Men’s Skeet at the Paris 2024 Olympics. “I’m glad I stuck with it and didn’t give up,” he said.

At the beginning of his freshman year at Centennial High School, Conner and his dad attended the Meet the Spartans orientation event and club fair. “We saw some of our friends at a booth for the Spartan Clay Target team. We went over there to talk to them,” Conner said. Conner never cared about playing sports, but the clay target team piqued his interest. “My dad and I thought it would be a fun little extra-curricular activity to get me involved in.”

Through clay shooting, he made some of his best friends, and he found something that brought out his competitive side. His drive to compete led him to winning state in San Antonio during his sophomore year. Upon meeting former USA shooting athlete Dustin Pery in his junior year, Conner set his sights on the Olympics.

“It’s a long, complicated process,” Conner said of qualifying for the Olympic Games. “The short version is you need to become a USA shooting member, and then start going to their selection matches.” In 2017, he attended his first match. Although he wasn’t selected that year, he continued training, so he could compete until he qualified.

After graduating in 2018, Conner’s parents encouraged him to pursue a degree. He attended Hill College before transferring to Tarleton State University’s online program, while also running his father’s machine shop and spending hours at the shooting range. “That’s almost three full time jobs! It’s a lot to balance. Luckily, I’ve got a very supportive family. I couldn’t have done it without them,” he beamed.

“Olympic trials came up for the 2020 games at the end of 2019. Part one was in Kerrville, Texas. Went there and shot that. Then we had part two in March 2020.” Conner came up short of qualifying. “I was still new to the sport, so it’s



kind of expected,” he explained. “As we started getting closer to 2024, I kept getting better and better and started to prove myself in the sport.”

He passed through part one of the 2024 Olympic trials in May 2023, tying with his coach. Conner spent the next 10 months training to compete in part two of the trials in March 2024. When the day came, Conner lined up with his fellow competitors to shoot 250 rounds, each one hoping to be one of the top six qualifiers, so they could transfer to the final round.

“While I compete, I don’t look at the score. I can only control how I’m going to shoot, so why focus on someone else?” he explained. “I knew I was out ahead, but I didn’t know by how much.” Upon finishing the last round, Conner learned that he and his coach scored so much higher than everyone else, they automatically made the

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team. “I remember hugging my dad and asking him, ‘Did I really just make the Olympic team?’ He said, ‘You did, buddy.’ It was a relieving feeling.”

In July, Conner traveled overseas to compete with his fellow Olympians. He didn’t go alone, though. His family and his friends, Eli and Mark, came to support him. “They kept the mood light. It was fun having them there,” Conner shared.

Between exploring the sights of France with his loved ones, Conner spent his time mentally preparing himself for his event. “It’s a mental sport, and it also comes down to very particular things: where I hold my gun, where I set my eyes, when I call for the target. It’s very precise.” Suddenly, the day of the Men’s Skeet match came, and all of Burleson tuned in to watch their athlete compete.

His favorite memory of the match was turning to his teammate, Vincent Hancock, after the final round and joyfully screaming at each other. “We were just so happy for each other,” Conner said. “The fact that he won gold made silver even cooler. I think my



silver made his gold cooler.” Before the games, he and Vincent had agreed they didn’t care how they placed, so long as they both won gold and silver. “The fact we did is remarkable. It’s a feeling that I’ll never forget.”

Conner appreciates the support from his dad, who initially encouraged him to pursue skeet shooting. “He’s probably my biggest influence.” He thanks his mom, whose advice helped him through challenging times. “At

one shoot a couple of years ago, I was shooting decently for the first 75 percent of it, then the last day came, and the wheels fell off. I was mentally losing it. I told my mom, ‘Let’s take a walk.’ We talked through everything. I didn’t know if I wanted to quit or not. She helped me decide that I wanted to keep going. I think if she wasn’t there that day, I would have put the gun down by now.”

Finally, Conner expresses his love for Burleson. “I never thought I could have this many people rallying around me. It’s super cool because people I’ve never seen before took time out of their day to watch me compete,” he gushed. “It’s awesome, and I’m so grateful for it.”

Since his win, Conner has graduated from TSU with a degree in manufacturing and industrial management and traveled to India to compete in the World Cup Final. Before the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles, Conner hopes to get a few more World Cup medals under his belt. “[My confidence] is at an all-time high right now. I want to prove to myself that I’m a force to be reckoned with.” **NOW**



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For Bakery



Zoomed In: Stephanie and Parks Brannon

By Emma McKay

Morgan's Ice Cream Owner Stephanie Brannon and her youngest kids, Parks and Everest (not pictured), enjoy collecting rocks around Burleson. Inspired by the viral trend, these rocks have been painted and hidden by individuals for the purpose of being found and rehidden. "We tried to paint them ourselves, but [Everest] didn't like that," Stephanie remarked. Her kids prefer the hide-and-seek challenge of it.

Once when searching with Stephanie's in-laws, the kids found the motherload of painted rocks by the Veterans Memorial. Due to this, Parks, Everest and their grandparents frequently went back to look for more. "My mother-in-law passed away in March," Stephanie said. "She was in the military, so my husband got her a memorial brick. Now, we'll go look for rocks by Gigi's brick."



Ally and Paul Ackel take in the sights and smells at Warren Park.



Daniel, Lisbeth and Pablo Son practice their soccer skills.



Jake Rose, Andrew Pele and James Rose serve up hot and fresh slices at Mama's Pizza.



The Alley Cats crew provides both indoor and outdoor entertainment for the Burleson community.



Amelia and Athena Finley picnic at Cindy Park.



Jax Smith hikes through the great outdoors.



Lance Alderson and his little dog, Bleu, take a stroll around Old Town.



The Johnson family spends the day enjoying the weather.

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BusinessNOW

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— By Emma McKay

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“Our business is family-owned and -operated,” said Lindsay Green, co-owner of Atlas Foundation Co, Inc. Atlas’ founder, Willard Murdock, Lindsay’s great-grandfather, started his career laying floors for Army barracks houses.

“While he was doing that, he realized there was no point in laying the floor in an unlevel building,” Kyler Ford, Lindsay’s cousin and equal business partner, explained. From there, ownership of Atlas passed down to their grandparents,



then their dads, Lonnie and Darrel Ford. As of this month, Kyler and Lindsay have taken ownership of the business. “[We have] put in countless hours talking, thinking and strategizing on how we can build on where the company’s at now, and where we can take it.

“Our primary service is foundation repair,” Kyler continued. In addition to foundation repair, Atlas provides pilings, foam injection and services that help prevent the need for foundation repair later down the line. The Atlas team prides themselves on their honesty, quality and integrity. With this mantra in mind, they strive to do what’s right for their customers. “If I think you can get by without any foundation repair, I might be losing a job, but I know for you as a homeowner, that is the right step to take. It’s a win when I let people know, ‘You don’t need foundation repair yet. We may be able to take preventative measures and still accomplish the same goal.’”

Atlas also emphasizes quality service. “We have a high standard of quality of work, so we have a high standard quality of material,” Kyler continued. “The workmanship that

goes into how we fix piers and beams is a lot different than other companies. We're more thorough. There's more craftsmanship with the woodwork and the way we install footings beneath the house. That way it has a better chance at having a long-term effect."

"We have a lifetime warranty," Lindsay said of their integrity. "All foundation companies offer them, but few stand behind them. When somebody calls and has a problem, we go back out. We stand behind our word."

Due to their field, Atlas works closely with plumbers. Recently, they acquired Cables Plumbing, a locally owned business that's been in Burleson for 25 years. This allows them to ensure the quality of work and pricing structure of both sides of a job. "Now we are plumbers and can service your house from start to finish," Kyler said. "We have a great resource that came with the plumbing company: our master plumber. He's been a master plumber for 20 years and a plumber for 30. He's got a wide range of knowledge."

"We have a high standard of quality of work, so we have a high standard quality of material."

Lindsay and Kyler have enjoyed working with their family over the past 20 years. "I think it goes back to the dynamic of our family. We don't take things too seriously. That comes directly from our great-grandfather, Willard Murdock," Kyler said. Their levity and complimentary personalities have allowed the family to have fun working together. "At the end of the day, we all have the same goal in mind, which is the success of the business." As their kids get older and the business grows, Lindsay and Kyler look forward to sharing the business with their own kids and teaching them the same work ethic they gained while working at Atlas in their teenage years. **NOW**

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IN THE KITCHEN WITH DAVID HUSTON

— By Emma McKay



David Huston’s cooking journey began at age 17 while working at a restaurant. He fell in love with the industry. “I apprenticed at the Hilton in Arlington through the Texas Chefs Association from 1984 to 1986 as a line cook, sous chef and, eventually, a certified executive chef.” From there, David went on to own The Home Chef Cooking School during the ‘90s. “I love teaching others to cook!” he said.

David’s favorite style of cooking is “Ranch House Cuisine.” “I worked for years at Hunter Brothers’ H3 Ranch in Fort Worth. But I spent many years in both New Mexico and Louisiana. Consequently, my love for the different cuisines makes up much of my culinary ‘repertoire.’” In addition to cooking, David enjoys playing bluegrass music on his mandolin and guitar. **NOW**

Collard Greens With Shallots and Garlic

- 1 lb. frozen or fresh collard greens, chopped
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 shallot, finely chopped
- Coarse kosher salt, to taste
- Black pepper, freshly ground, to taste

1. Bring a large pot of water to a boil. Add the collard greens; simmer for 8-10 minutes. Drain.
2. Heat the olive oil in the same pot over medium heat. Add the garlic and shallots; sauté for 1-2 minutes, or until golden brown and fragrant.
3. Add the greens; sauté 5 minutes, or until tender. Season with salt and pepper; serve warm.

Seafood Gumbo

- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 1 cup flour
- 3 qts. shellfish stock (If unavailable, use vegetable broth or chicken broth.)
- 2 cups onions, chopped
- 1 cup celery, chopped
- 1 cup bell pepper, chopped
- 1/4 cup garlic, diced
- 1/2 lb. andouille sausage, sliced
- 1 lb. claw crabmeat
- 2 cups green onions, sliced
- 1/2 cup parsley, chopped
- Salt, to taste
- Cayenne pepper, to taste
- Louisiana Brand Hot Sauce, to taste
- 1 lb. (35-count) shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1 lb. jumbo lump crabmeat
- 2 dozen shucked oysters, reserve liquid

1. In a 7-qt. cast-iron Dutch oven, heat the oil over medium-high heat.
2. Sprinkle in the flour. Using a wire whisk, stir constantly until a brown roux is achieved. Do not allow the roux to scorch. In a separate pot, heat the shellfish stock.
3. Once the roux is golden brown, add the onions, celery, bell pepper and garlic. Sauté approximately 3-5 minutes, or until the vegetables are wilted.
4. Add the andouille; blend well into the vegetable mixture. Sauté an additional 2-3 minutes.
5. Add the claw crabmeat; stir into the roux. This will begin to add a seafood flavor to the mixture.
6. Slowly add the hot shellfish stock, one ladle at a time, stirring constantly until all is incorporated. Bring to a low boil, reduce to simmer; cook approximately 30 minutes.
7. Add additional stock, if necessary, to retain volume. Add the green onions and

parsley. Season to taste using salt, cayenne pepper and Louisiana Brand Hot Sauce.

8. Fold the shrimp, lump crabmeat, oysters and reserved oyster liquid into the soup. Return to a low boil; cook approximately 5 minutes.

9. Adjust the seasonings; serve over cooked white rice.

Corn Bread Salad

- 2 pkgs. corn bread mix
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 pkg. ranch dressing mix
- 3 large tomatoes, seeded and chopped
- 1/2 cup sweet red bell pepper, chopped
- 1/2 cup green bell pepper, chopped
- 1 cup green onions, thinly sliced (divided use)
- 2 15-oz. cans dark red kidney beans, rinsed and drained
- 2 cups cheddar cheese, shredded
- 10 bacon strips, cooked and crumbled
- 3 1/2 cups frozen corn, thawed

- 1. Prepare the corn bread mix according to the package directions. Crumble, coarsely, when cool.
- 2. Mix the sour cream, mayonnaise and ranch dressing until blended. In a separate bowl, combine the tomatoes, peppers and 1/2 cup green onions.
- 3. In a 3-qt. glass trifle bowl, layer half of each: corn bread, beans, tomato mixture, cheese, bacon, corn and dressing mixture. Repeat layers. Top with the remaining green onions. Refrigerate for 3 hours.

To search for more great recipes from any of the 9 NOW Magazines publications, visit www.nowmagazines.com.



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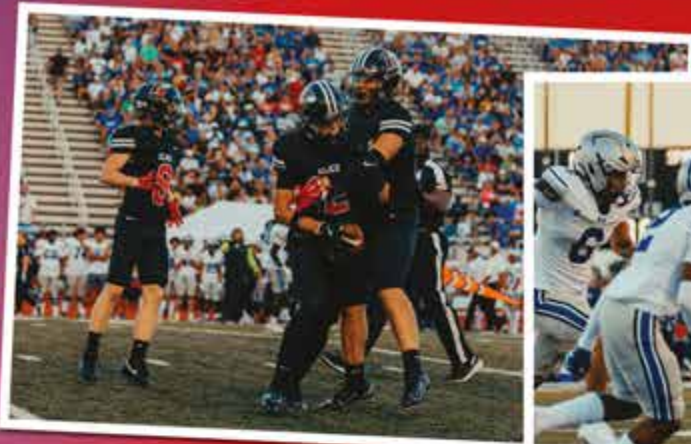
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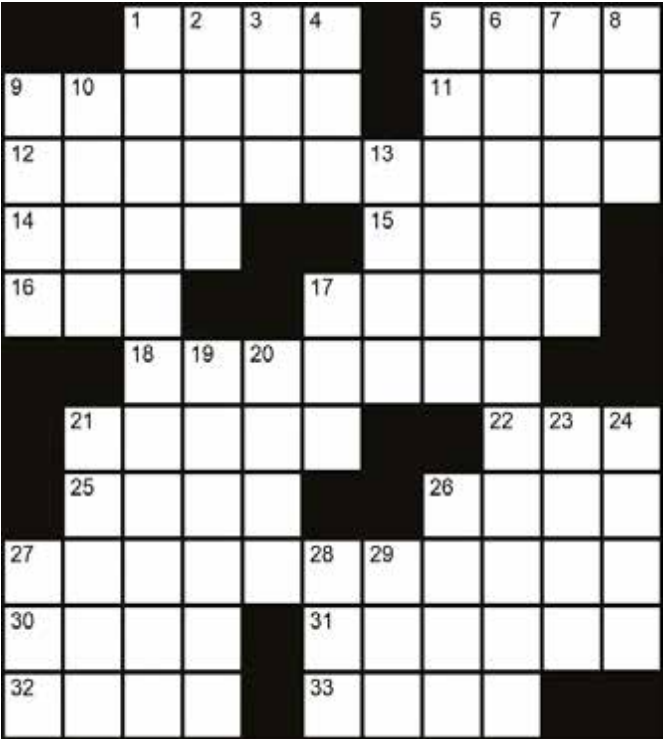
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Crossword Puzzle



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- Across**

 - 1 Took a dip
 - 5 "Trust ---" (Janet Jackson song)
 - 9 They raise the pitch
 - 11 Bok ---, Chinese cabbage
 - 12 Hill product
 - 14 Condo, for example
 - 15 "The Cannonball Run" star Reynolds
 - 16 Ft. Collins setting
 - 17 Track prelims
 - 18 Without being stated
 - 21 Title for a lady
- Down**

 - 22 Popeye's verb of being
 - 25 "... --- - Cold --- - is master of them all." (Kipling)
 - 26 Composer --- Bartók
 - 27 Drives immediately behind another racecar
 - 30 Oversupply
 - 31 Whoopee!
 - 32 "... of the D'Urbervilles"
 - 33 10 Down output
- Down**

 - 1 Mad guitarist played as one of twelve on high
 - 2 Formal legal document
 - 3 Brown delivery firm
 - 4 Ocean-height standard
 - 5 Real
 - 6 17th century European war
 - 7 Cheers
 - 8 Feminine half, in Chinese thinking
 - 9 Urban renewal target
 - 10 Cackleberry makers
 - 13 Assist
 - 17 "She Done --- Wrong" (Mae West movie)
- 19 Gets a little one a little later in life
 - 20 Metal containers
 - 21 Toulouse thousand
 - 23 Mrs. Alfred Hitchcock
 - 24 Hot Lips worked at one
 - 26 North Atlantic hazard
 - 27 U S M C noncom
 - 28 French alternative to "café"
 - 29 Bald patch patch?

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HAPPY *New Year* 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.

1/4

Saturday Morning Sketch Group:

Grab your creative gear and come draw, paint or just make art and connect in the relaxing, inspirational environment of Russell Farm. Follow along with the weekly theme or work on your own artsy project amidst other creatives. BYOS: Bring Your Own Supplies! Free espresso provided, or bring your favorite morning beverage/snacks. No sign up required. 9:00 a.m.-noon, Russell Farm Art Center, 405 W. County Road 714.

1/11

Magic Tree House Book Club:

We will be discussing *Dinosaurs Before Dark*, as well as doing fun activities based on it. Reading the book is not required but highly encouraged. This event is aimed at kids aged 6-8, but all ages are welcome. 2:00-3:00 p.m., Burleson Public Library, 248 SW Johnson Ave.

1/16

Winter Luncheon-Meet our Local Nonprofits:

Johnson County is a great community that is faithful to its nonprofits. Are you looking to donate to a nonprofit but not sure what is available? Join Burleson Chamber of Commerce for a meet-the-nonprofits luncheon and panel

discussion and get to know their mission. Admission: \$40. 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Pathway Church, 325 NW Renfro St. Register at business.burlesonchamber.com/events.

1/25

BTX Off Road Rally:


Cheer on your favorite young power wheels racer in Burleson's coolest race of the year! Racer age divisions: 3-4 or 5-7 years old. Registration fee: \$20 per vehicle. Begins at 8:00 a.m., Chisenhall Sports Complex, 500 Chisenhall Park Ln. For more information, visit burlesontx.com/events.

The Great Give Back:

Looking for a way to give back





or get involved? Learn about the charitable organizations in Burleson and Johnson County, how they help our residents and the different avenues available to give back to our community. 9:00-11:00 a.m., Burleson Public Library, 248 SW Johnson Ave. Agencies interested in participating can contact Amanda Cadenehead at (817) 426-9212 or acadenehead@burlesontx.com.

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




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