

# BurlesonNOW

M A G A Z I N E

FEBRUARY 2022

In the Kitchen With  
Leah Klavinski and  
Charly Winters

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt

Crossword/Sudoku

Featured Business:  
Lone Star Roofing

## Giving Hearts

Tom and Lynn Collett  
enjoy helping others  
in many ways

## I Adopted the World

Juanita Jewel Craft  
is an unsung giant

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Alan M. Taylor, II  
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I started Diet Solution because nothing else was working. I signed up at two different fitness clubs, and I even attempted the Keto diet. However, I didn't realize that accountability is what I needed. I gained 60 pounds while pregnant with my son. Within the next four years, I only lost 20 of those pounds. My weight gain caused me to slip into a depression while I was wedding-dress shopping. I was no longer confident and mentally battled with my weight daily. A family member mentioned Diet Solution, and I noticed she had lost a lot of weight herself. I decided to give it a try. I was given the freedom to be able to eat most of the food I enjoy, and if not, DSC was able to provide me with the proper substitution. Weekly check-ins were quick and easy! It was a great feeling to know that you were losing weight and inches! Within three month, not only did I lose all the weight I gained, but I even got down two pounds lower than what I was before getting pregnant with my son. The best news is I am still keeping it off! I love how people all around me notice my weight loss. It has brought out the confidence that I lost. I recommend DSC to anyone that wants to lose weight, no matter how many different diet programs you have tried!



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## ON THE COVER

*Tom and Lynn Collett serve as a fantastic example of love for each other and their community.*

**Photo by**  
Lori Baur.

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# EDITOR'S NOTE



*Lisa*

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*I always said ...*

We have a better chance of a white Valentine's Day than a white Christmas. While I enjoy the beauty of snowfall, I pray we don't have a repeat of 2021's snowmageddon. Once in a lifetime — plenty for this native Texas girl. Still, white fluff falling carries a sense of wonder, peace and stillness. If I learned anything last year, I learned to take nothing for granted and to appreciate what I have, regardless of how little or much.

Last fall, those truths became more evident as I drastically downsized. I'm not talking going from 3,000 square feet to 2,000. I'm talking about leaving over 1,500 square feet and planting myself in a tiny home. Insanity? Although some might wonder, family and friends encourage my craziness, which makes me feel better about my mental state. One thing's for certain, I employ the truths I learned during an unusual arctic week in an unprepared Texas.

When downsizing, you rid yourself of objects that have little or no value. Not an easy feat. Yet, the process released stress and a need for junk I acquired over decades. Will I remain in this small space the rest of my life? Perhaps. I suspect at some point, I'll revert to another home, a bit larger. In the meantime, I relish my miniature office area and fewer clothes. Interestingly, I still have more than enough. And short of a 2021 repeat, I'll treasure even flurries this year, and probably thank God it isn't a half foot.

*Enjoy February's fun!*

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*At the heart of Tom and Lynn Collett's marriage, giving to others never came up as a question. It simply grew alongside their decades of love for one another. Lynn's grandparents owned a laundromat, and at 3 years old, she met 5-year-old Tom. They became best friends. Both families moved to California by the time the children started kindergarten, and they lost touch. A future together didn't appear probable.*

Yet, in high school, they reconnected, and their friendship blossomed. Despite one teacher trying to dissuade them from getting married young, the couple said their vows just out of high school in 1970. Now, 51 years later, they still love each other. "I can't imagine life without her," Tom said.

The couple lived in Crowley for 16 years before moving to Burleson 20 years ago. "We love the community," they both agreed. "Burleson is a great place to live. We don't have a lot of friends far away, but we have many who live here."

After decades of marriage, Tom shared, "We've volunteered all our lives. Lynn's always been the quiet one, serving in silence."

While Tom served on boards, Lynn always acted as a caretaker, often unofficially and anonymously. "Growing up poor, seeing people who need stuff, if I have it, I'll give it," she admitted.

For 30 years, Lynn enjoyed a career in social work. Starting as a secretary, the HR director liked her and found a position for her in child welfare. Although brutal at times, she enjoyed meeting and helping people. Retirement grew boring quickly, so when an old friend called and asked her to work with him in the Venus ISD, she didn't hesitate. "That was 20 years ago," Tom said.

"I find so many opportunities to help," Lynn shared. "I like what I do and can't just sit at home. With the kids, life never gets dull." She always keeps snacks handy. Whenever she sees a child who lacks lunch money, a field trip paid for, a coat, shoes, glasses or other needs, she meets it. "I learned to buy trendy brand shoes at Academy. I can provide more that way." Besides meeting needs, Lynn also volunteers for dances and



# Giving Hearts

— By Lisa Bell





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other school events, and simply shows love and kindness to all the kids, not waiting for someone to seek help.

Tom said, "I'm in love with an angel, so I always agree."

He works as a security and safety consultant and COVID-19 compliance officer at a local company and attributes his heart for volunteering to Lynn. Both live intentionally giving to others. On a common day, they may buy food and treats for a homeless person and his or her dog. If they see someone broken down on the highway, they stop and help. Their porch contains a basket filled with snacks for delivery people. They don't wait for people to ask. Instead, when they see a need, if they can meet it, they do. Of course, they also enjoy volunteering with local organizations.

Throughout life, the couple stayed involved with their two daughters. When told they couldn't have children, they adopted a baby girl at 6 weeks old. Then, 13 months later, Lynn gave birth to a second daughter — their miracle baby. "Our kids embellished our lives," Tom said. "We didn't have a lot, but we gave a lot. You get a lot more from a smile than from a dollar bill."

During their girls' younger years, Tom and Lynn volunteered with all of their kids' activities. Lynn helped with scholarship programs and other needs and became a cheerleading instructor and softball director because her children wanted to participate. As parents, they encouraged them to pursue whatever they wanted, even allowing one daughter to play football until she reached middle school. Now





they have successful daughters and three grandsons, who learn about giving from the couple.

When asked about their secret for a lifetime of marriage, Lynn quipped, "Arguing."

Tom said, "Don't be afraid to talk. Listen well. Age taught me to listen better."

As Lynn endured many trials in life and now faces cancer, Tom wishes he could have born some of the trials she went through. If he could take those burdens in her place, he would. She assured he did bear them by being there for her through all of it. He drives her to Southwest Medical Center in Dallas, where she currently undergoes treatment as part of a clinical trial. An avid supporter, he makes sure she has what she needs.

In the meantime, neither slows down. They continue supporting each other and giving where they can. In the past, Tom and Lynn both created oil paintings. Tom also works with pen and ink, creating original drawings. Although they gave away many, some of Tom's artwork remains hanging throughout their home. Lynn made special mums for their daughters. Later, she made them for her grandsons' girlfriends. A gift of love, she created unique lighted masterpieces for the girls to enjoy. A crafter at heart, she also makes lighted square blocks. She looks forward to returning to a passion for scrapbooking.

Despite challenges, Tom and Lynn refuse to stop giving and loving. Their example proves lifelong marriages with giving hearts work. As they celebrate another year together, they plan on doing what they always have. While Lynn talks with her actions, Tom stands beside her, encouraging and helping along the way. **NOW**

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—TALES OF TEXAS—

# I ADOPTED THE WORLD

— By Adam Walker

*Names of civil rights leaders like Martin Luther King Jr, Malcolm X and John Lewis are known to everyone nationwide, young and old. But here in Texas, much of the progress toward equality was spearheaded by an unassuming woman in old South Dallas. Juanita Jewel Craft helped change the face of race relations in Dallas and beyond.*

Juanita Craft isn't the household name that the men are, but she should be. Born in 1902, in Round Rock, by 1925 Craft, as her friends called her, was living in Dallas. She earned a teaching certificate from Samuel Huston College, but worked as a maid at the Adolphus Hotel. In 1935, she joined the NAACP and found her life's work. As the membership chair of the Dallas branch, she hid the membership rolls to protect her fellow members from those who would have used the rolls to harass those fighting for change. She assisted in organizing 182 branches of the NAACP and worked hard to ensure that African-Americans paid their poll tax and secured their rights to vote. She herself had been the first African-American woman to vote in Dallas County. She was surrogate mother

to the young members of the Dallas branch, advising them on life choices and choosing the right brides and husbands, as they struggled to integrate lunch counters, schools and the State Fair. She would later be elected to the Dallas City Council for two terms.

Mrs. Craft owned a small house, on Warren St., near Fair Park, but she lived in the guest house out back, running the main house as a boarding house for young men who are leaders in today's NAACP. She welcomed important figures like MLK and LBJ to her house, when they came to talk to her about her work. But she also welcomed the neighbor kids. The girl who lived next door, named her daughter Juanita, for her, and called her Neet. "Mrs. Craft met a lot of people and had a lot of photographs. On one wall of her sitting room, she had a picture of herself with JFK standing behind her. On the opposite wall was a picture of Neet," Patricia Perez recalled.

Patricia was one of those youth who spent countless hours at the Craft house. "That was my house of power. You just felt it being around her. She showed us in word and deed. She was militant, but quiet. She knew what wasn't right and knew it could be changed. She had all these community connections, and she used them to enhance our lives. I felt empowered and special when I was with her."

Bob Lydia was one of those young men who received advice from Mrs. Craft. "I rented a room from her. She'd give

me and the other young guys advice on which girls to avoid. Craft was like a mother. She was also artistic. She'd buy wooden boxes and turn them into decoupage purses. She wouldn't accept any help making them, but she did take the leaves we'd bring her to use. She'd sit on her bed and put in all the screws and nails. She could sew anything. She kept a garden and canned and made jams and jellies. She was very frugal. She wanted to teach us young people how to behave and be respectful. If you wanted something done, all you had to do was sit down with her, and she'd figure out a way. She didn't have to scream and holler. I thought I was too young, but Craft decided I should be the first vice president for the Young Adult Council of the Dallas NAACP, and she made it happen."

In 1977, Mrs. Craft was interviewed for the Black Women's Oral History Project held at Harvard University. In the interview she discussed the hardships of growing up Black in the pre-Civil Rights era. Her mother died in 1935 from tuberculosis, because there was no state hospital for Black people. But she never let hardship stop her. And her reach extended far beyond South Dallas, or even Texas. She worked with Eleanor Roosevelt and other national leaders on important issues, and rallied support for Thurgood Marshall as he litigated cases eliminating whites-only primary elections and "separate but equal" education.

She was 73 when she was first elected to the Dallas City Council, where she served from 1975-1979. "When she won, she said, 'I showed 'em!' And a few other words," Bob Lydia remembered. She died in 1985, leaving behind a better Texas for all of us. Her house on Warren St. is now a Civil Rights museum. **NOW**

#### Sources:

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## Zoomed In: Mark Harding

By Lisa Bell

When Mark Harding learned Bailey Lake made the state trout stocking list, he didn't hesitate to head out to catch his favorite fish. Growing up in Colorado, he learned to love the flavor and excitement of trout fishing. Not without competition the day after the stocking, Mark waited patiently for a bite. "I think the water might be a little warm yet," he shared. "Trout like extremely cold water." An accident as a teenager left Mark's left arm paralyzed, but he takes it in stride. "I can still fish, so it's all good," he said with a broad smile. Texas State Parks and Wildlife Department stocks many area lakes and rivers between December and March. Having a local lake included makes people like Mark ecstatic.



When her favorite coffee shop closes early, Sasha Flowers takes her book to read at Mayor Vera Calvin Plaza.



Bud Humble proudly shares and signs his sci-fi novels.



The City Council breaks ground for Burleson's first splash pad.



Braving a chilly afternoon, Angela McGill visits with Madeline Sample and her son, Butch, in Old Town.



Dogs and people celebrate the coming of Burleson's first dog park.



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Tiffany Cox enjoys time outside with her sons, Andrew and Jacob, between frigid days.



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## Lone Star Roofing

— By Lisa Bell

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In 2008, Derek Scheler opened Lone Star Roofing. “I was in the wrong place at the wrong time,” he said with a chuckle. In reality, Derek happened to be with a buddy working in Weatherford. As they did a power washing job, clouds rolled in. They watched in astonishment as a tornado blew the roof off a nearby gas station. That event put an idea in Derek’s mind.

Knowing how to do roofing, he asked some people about roofing companies in Burleson. Seeing a need, he started the company. “A friend taught me about the insurance side of things, and we learned as we went,” Derek shared.



Lone Star Roofing offers roof repairs and replacement for most types of roofing. Tile, metal, shingles and slate all fit within their areas of expertise. They also install gutters and keep customers advised on the latest durable drainage system options.

As a diverse company, Derek owns several companies that complement Lone Star Roofing. He also has partnerships with foundation and plumbing repair companies, so he can provide recommendations for other work around homes or businesses alongside roofing. They serve both homes and commercial properties throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

While many roofing companies use various contractors to complete work, Derek prefers using the same crews. His sales and roofing crews started with him in 2008. “Many companies use unknown crews when they start growing,” Derek stated. “By using the same crews, my customers and I can count on warranties.” Lone Star Roofing also provides workers’ comp and insurance, which helps protect homeowners from the financial responsibility of an accident.

The office manager, Stephanie Stanley, said, "It's not about quantity. It's about quality." An employee for a little over a year, she takes care of many aspects of the back-end office work. "We have a tight-knit group," she added. Although family comprises many of the workers, they all enjoy getting together to bounce around ideas. "It's fun," Derek claimed. "Lots of us hang out outside of work."

**Lone Star Roofing offers roof repairs and replacement for most types of roofing. Tile, metal, shingles and slate all fit within their areas of expertise.**

Caleb, Derek's stepbrother, said, "We do everything we can to set ourselves apart." The length of time in business attests to their success and customer satisfaction. They also have trademarks with the state for developing improvements for metal roofing.

As a third generation native of Burleson, Derek has no plans to go anywhere. He supports many charitable organizations in the community, takes part in toy drives, supports the police and fire departments and sponsors multiple sports and other school groups as often as possible.

When faced with roofing decisions, Stephanie said, "Research any roofing company before doing business with them. Make sure they are legitimate."

Derek added, "Don't give a contractor a check up front. We don't ask for any money until materials are in the driveway, and our crew starts work." He also suggested not adding a cosmetic endorsement to insurance with metal roofs. "Don't let anyone talk you into that. It can negate coverage for a legitimate claim and end up costing much more than the savings from the endorsement."

Lone Star Roofing takes pride in their multitude of 5-star ratings on social media. They also have had a BBB A+ rating since 2010. They take both ratings seriously. Check their ad each month for savings. **NOW**



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# CookingNOW

## *In the Kitchen With*

### LEAH KLAVINSKI AND CHARLY WINTERS

— By Lisa Bell

Four years ago, Leah Klavinski moved across the street from Charly Winters. The girls, now 12 and 10, became inseparable from the day they met. “They are best friends who spend every second together,” said Jenny Klavinski, Leah’s mom. “Our families have become best friends.”

Both girls love spending time in the kitchen, preparing meals and baking — baking is their favorite. “We cook for ourselves, and sometimes we share with our families,” the girls said. Avid fans of *Nailed It* and *Sugar Rush*, they also enjoy inherited recipes. Charly said, “I inherited my great-grandmother’s pizza sauce recipe.”

Leah claimed, “I got my grandmother’s broccoli, rice and cheese casserole recipe.” When not cooking, both girls pursue arts and crafts, especially painting, and enjoying their friendship. **NOW**

### Banana Bread

**1/2 cup butter, melted**  
**1 cup sugar**  
**2 eggs**  
**1 tsp. vanilla**  
**1 1/2 cups flour**  
**1 tsp. baking soda**  
**1/2 tsp. salt**  
**1/2 cup sour cream**  
**2 bananas, sliced**

**1.** Preheat the oven to 350 F. Grease a 9x5-inch loaf pan.

**2.** In a large bowl, stir together the melted butter and sugar. Add the eggs and vanilla; mix well.

**3.** In a separate bowl, combine the flour, baking soda and salt; stir into the butter mixture until smooth.

**4.** Finally, fold in the sour cream and bananas. Spread evenly into the prepared pan.

**5.** Bake at 350 F for 60 minutes, or until a toothpick that’s inserted into the center comes out clean.

**6.** Cool loaf in the pan for 10 minutes before removing to a wire rack to cool completely.

### Brownies

**1 cup butter, melted**  
**2 cups white sugar**  
**1/2 cup cocoa powder**  
**1 tsp. vanilla extract**  
**4 eggs**  
**1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour**  
**1/2 tsp. baking powder**  
**1/2 tsp. salt**  
**1/2 cup walnut halves (optional)**

**1.** Preheat the oven to 350 F; grease a 9x13-inch pan.

**2.** Combine melted butter, sugar, cocoa powder, vanilla, eggs, flour, baking powder and salt.

**3.** Spread the batter into the prepared pan; decorate with walnut halves if desired.

**4.** Bake in the preheated oven for 20-30 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out with crumbs, not wet. Cool on a wire rack.

### Rainbow Cake

**1 box white cake mix**  
**1 1/4 cups water**

1/4 cup oil

3 egg whites, or 2 whole eggs

Food coloring: red, green, blue and yellow (Mix colors if you want orange and purple.)

Canned frosting

1. Heat the oven to 350 F. Grease and flour a springform pan.
2. In a large bowl, beat the cake mix, water, oil and eggs at a low speed until moistened. Beat for 2 minutes at medium speed.
3. Divide the batter evenly into bowls depending on the number of colors you are using. Stir food coloring into each bowl.
4. Pour the red batter into the prepared pan. Pour the next color into the middle of the red batter. Pour the third color into the middle of the second color. Continue adding batters into the middle of the previous color until all colors are in the pan.
5. Bake 30-40 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool completely, for about 1 hour.
6. Frost the cake with your choice of frosting.

## Egg Ramen

1 pkg. chicken flavored ramen noodles

1 egg

Garlic powder, to taste

Parmesan cheese, to taste

Salt, to taste

Pepper, to taste

1. Cook the ramen noodles per package directions. Strain out the water; keep the noodles in the pot.
2. Add the egg while the pot is still hot; mix the egg with the noodles. Add garlic powder, Parmesan cheese, salt and pepper.
3. Keep mixing until the egg is fully cooked.

## Italian Chicken Sausage and Orzo Soup

4 tsp. cooking oil

2 scallions, thinly sliced, separating whites from greens (divided use)

2 medium carrots, half lengthwise; cut crosswise into 1/4-inch-thick half-moons

2 cloves garlic, finely chopped

Salt, to taste

Pepper, to taste

1 lb. ground mild Italian chicken sausage

1 cup Orzo pasta

5 cups chicken stock

Parmesan cheese, shredded, to taste

1. Heat the oil in a large pot over medium-high heat; add the scallion whites, carrots and garlic.

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."  
1 Corinthians 13:4-7

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Rainbow Cake



2. Season with the salt and pepper; cook, stirring occasionally, until softened, 3-4 minutes.
3. Add the sausage; cook, breaking up the meat into pieces, until browned and cooked through (about 5 minutes).
4. Stir in the Orzo, chicken stock and more salt and pepper to taste.
5. Bring the soup to a boil; reduce to a simmer. Cook, stirring often, until the Orzo is al dente (8-9 minutes). *Note: If the soup gets too thick, add a splash of water.*
6. Serve in bowls; top with Parmesan cheese and scallion greens.

## Penne Pork Sausage Bolognese

- 12 oz. penne pasta
- 1 tsp. olive oil
- 2 carrots, diced into 1/4-inch pieces
- 2 yellow onions, diced
- 2 tsp. Italian seasoning
- Salt, to taste
- Pepper, to taste
- 18 oz. Italian pork sausage, removed from casing
- 2 Roma tomatoes, diced

- 3 oz. tomato paste
  - 1 1/2 cups chicken stock
  - 2 Tbsp. butter
  - 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese (divided use)
  - 1/2 oz. minced parsley (divided use)
1. Bring a medium pot of salted water to a boil; add penne pasta. Cook 9-11 minutes; drain and set aside.
  2. Heat the olive oil in a large pan over medium-high heat; add the carrots and onions; cook 6-8 minutes, stirring, until softened.
  3. Add the Italian seasoning, salt and pepper. Remove the veggies; set aside.
  4. Add the sausage to the pan; cook, breaking up the meat into pieces, 4-6 minutes until browned. Drain excess grease.
  5. Add the veggies and tomatoes; cook, stirring occasionally, 1-2 minutes until softened. Add more salt and pepper if desired.
  6. Add the tomato paste; stir until combined. Stir in the chicken stock; bring to a boil. Reduce to a low simmer.
  7. Cook 3-5 minutes, stirring occasionally, until the sauce thickens. Stir in drained pasta, butter, half the Parmesan cheese, and half the parsley.
  8. Divide food evenly between bowls; top with remaining cheese and remaining parsley.

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# What Should You Do With a Tax Refund?

Are you expecting a tax refund this year? If so, what will you do with it? Of course, the answer largely depends on the size of your refund. For the 2020 tax year, the average refund was about \$2,800, according to the Internal Revenue Service. But whether your refund this year will be about that size, smaller or larger, you can find ways to benefit from the money.

Here are some possibilities:

- **Contribute to your IRA.** You've got until April 18 to fully fund your IRA for the 2021 tax year. But if you've already reached the maximum for 2021, you could use some, or all, of your refund for your 2022 contribution. Assuming you did get around \$2,800, you'd be almost halfway to the \$6,000 annual contribution limit. (If you're 50 or older, you can contribute up to \$7,000.)

- **Invest in a 529 plan.** If you have children or grandchildren, you might want to invest your refund in a 529 education savings plan. A 529 plan's earnings can grow federal income-tax free, and withdrawals are federal income-tax free provided the money is used for qualified education expenses. If you invest in your own state's plan, you might get a tax deduction or credit. A 529 plan can be used to pay for college, vocational training and even some K-12 expenses in some states. Plus, if you name one child as a beneficiary, and that child's educational journey does not require the funds from a 529 plan, you may change the beneficiary to another eligible family member of the original beneficiary.

- **Add to the "cash" part of your portfolio.** It's generally a smart move to keep at least a portion of your overall investment portfolio in cash or cash equivalents, because the presence of cash can help you in two ways. First, since its value won't change, it can help cushion, at least to a degree, the effects of market volatility on your portfolio. And second, by having cash available, you'll be ready to take advantage of attractive investment opportunities when they arise.

- **Boost your emergency fund.** You could use your tax refund to start or supplement an emergency fund. Ideally, this fund should contain three to six months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account. (If you're already retired, you might need this fund to cover a full year's worth of expenses.) Without such a fund, you might be forced to dip into long-term investments to pay for costly housing or auto repairs or large medical bills.

- **Reduce your debt load.** It's not always easy to minimize your debt load, even if you're careful about your spending habits. But the lower your debt payments, the more money you'll have available to invest for your future. So, you may want to consider using some of your tax refund to pay off some debts, or at least reduce them, starting with those that carry the highest interest rates.

- **Donate to charity.** You could use part of your refund to donate to a charitable organization whose work you support. And if you itemize on your tax return, part of your gift may be deductible.

A tax refund is always nice to receive — and it's even better when you put the money to good use. **NOW**

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC. Lynn H. Bates is an Edward Jones representative based in Burleson.*

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# A TRUE GEM

— By Lisa Bell



*Hidden in the Hill Country, the town of Mason, Texas, might surprise you with more than you imagined from a population of under 2,500. Don't let its size fool you, though. Throughout the year, visit this hidden getaway for adventure or simply to relax and discover a host of gems within the county.*

In abundant deer country, avid hunters may already know about some treasures found in Mason. Located on the Llano River, the community loves visitors, but residents have no desire to become a smaller version of neighboring Fredericksburg. Content with the serenity of their town square, locals and visitors alike find plenty of entertainment without driving far. With several bed-and-breakfasts on the square, you might choose one of them and walk to multiple interesting places.

The square itself has a variety of shops, restaurants and wineries. The historic Willow Creek Café & Club and Gatling Gun Saloon & Grill are only two options, which also provide a robust nightlife on the square. Of course, if you drive a short distance, you can visit the original Cooper's Pit Bar-B-Q, established in 1953, or many other restaurants. Wine lovers may enjoy the ambience of Sandstone Cellars Winery, Art Gallery & Bar; sit outside at Robert Clay Vineyards or Parr Vineyards; or visit Murphy Creek Cellars or other nearby wineries and vineyards.

For another historic experience, visit the Odeon Theater. True to their heritage, the theater features first-run movies, concerts and other entertainment at admission and concession prices that take guests back in time. Check the Mason website for upcoming events at the magical theater.

History buffs can also enjoy learning about the area at the Mason Square Museum, Fort Mason and the beautiful Seaquist House, a Texas Landmark under restoration. At various times, the fort housed many great officers on both sides of the Civil War, including Robert E. Lee. Fort Mason proved a significant force in creating the town.

For lovers of the book and movie, *Old Yeller*, venture over to the Eckert Memorial Library, where a statue of the beloved yellow cur dog and his master, Travis, bring the story to life. Born in Mason, the author, Fred Gipson, captured the surrounding area in his novels. In the fall, the community hosts Old Yeller Day to commemorate both the author and the tale.

Inside the library, rotating exhibits feature local artists and information about area attractions. The interactive play area behind the library, Camp Discovery, makes a great place for children of all ages to stretch imaginations.

For the adventurous spirit, Mason offers camping, fishing and playing in the Llano River — or perhaps visiting the Eckert James River Bat Cave. Several ranches in the area also offer deer hunting. In months other than November-January, guests visit these ranches to hunt for Texas' state gem, the topaz. Usually found in streambeds, Texas topaz ranges from clear or brown to yellow, or sky blue. Known as the Topaz Capital of Texas, Mason County offers a unique experience in acquiring the treasured natural gem.

Check the city's community calendar for upcoming events, and take the short drive to this true beauty of Texas Hill Country. You may want to return often to enjoy all the area provides. **NOW**

*Editor's Note: Visit [www.masontxcoc.com](http://www.masontxcoc.com) for more information.*

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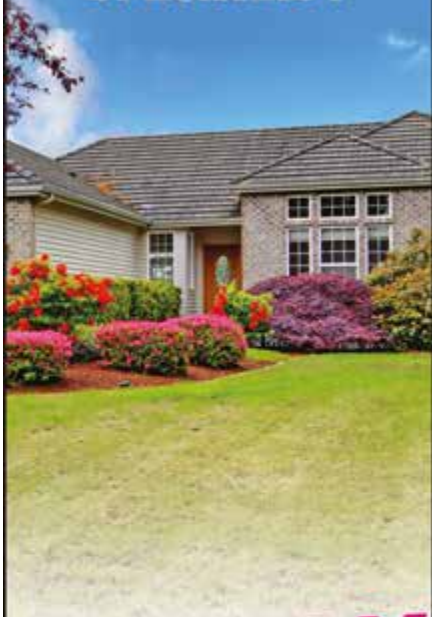
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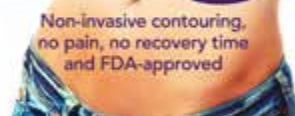
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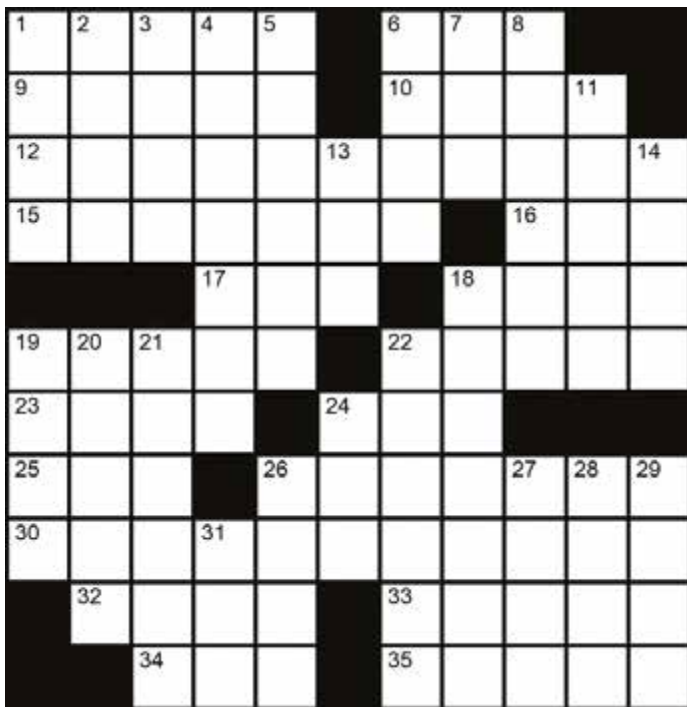
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## Across

- 1 Form
- 6 Most of the US Army holds this rank
- 9 "Stick close to your desks and never go ---, ..." (Gilbert and Sullivan, HMS Pinafore)
- 10 His 'n ---
- 12 Murder
- 15 That's ridiculous!
- 16 Reward for waiting
- 17 Reproduced without correction
- 18 Sushi wrap
- 19 What breadwinners bring home
- 22 Little ones are allegedly made of sugar and spice
- 23 Smoother
- 24 It sucks, in short
- 25 Recyclables container
- 26 Connecting
- 30 Classic jazz song - Amy Winehouse's last recording, with Tony Bennett
- 32 Contemptible individual
- 33 Julia Roberts has been one since 2010
- 34 Welkin
- 35 Extra map section

## Down

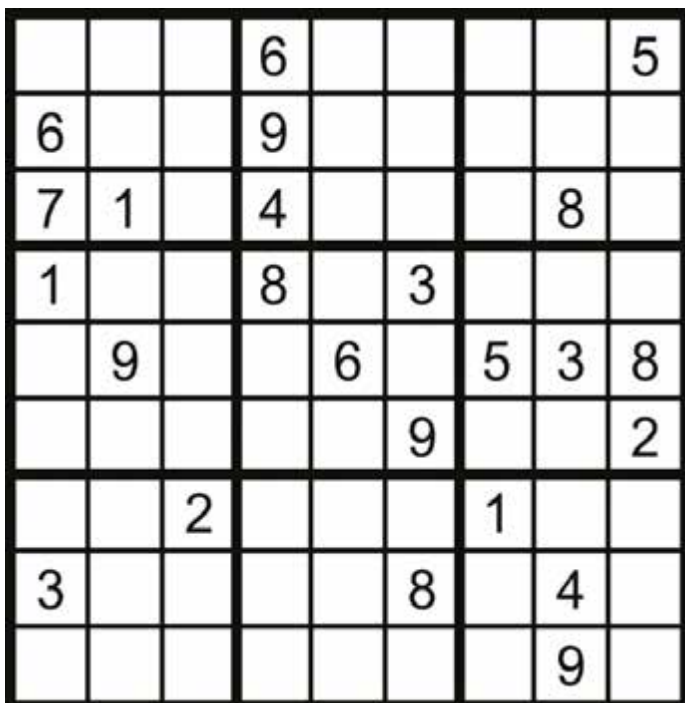
- 1 Male only
- 2 Render useless
- 3 Admin. aide
- 4 She played Snoop in "The Wire"
- 5 Start gently
- 6 Bilko's --- Silvers
- 7 Marshland
- 8 Meteorite pockmark
- 11 Hooch producer
- 13 Sort of fly
- 14 He played Dr. Foreman in "House"
- 18 Starts being effective
- 19 Crisp lettuce
- 20 Very funny
- 21 Buyable apartments
- 22 Female Indian Prime Minister
- 24 Rouge, rosé or blanc, on some menus
- 26 "The --- is a Tramp"
- 27 They are always charged
- 28 Au naturel
- 29 Surfeit
- 31 Jabber

Solutions on page ??

For online versions, visit [nowmagazines.com](http://nowmagazines.com)

# Sudoku Puzzle

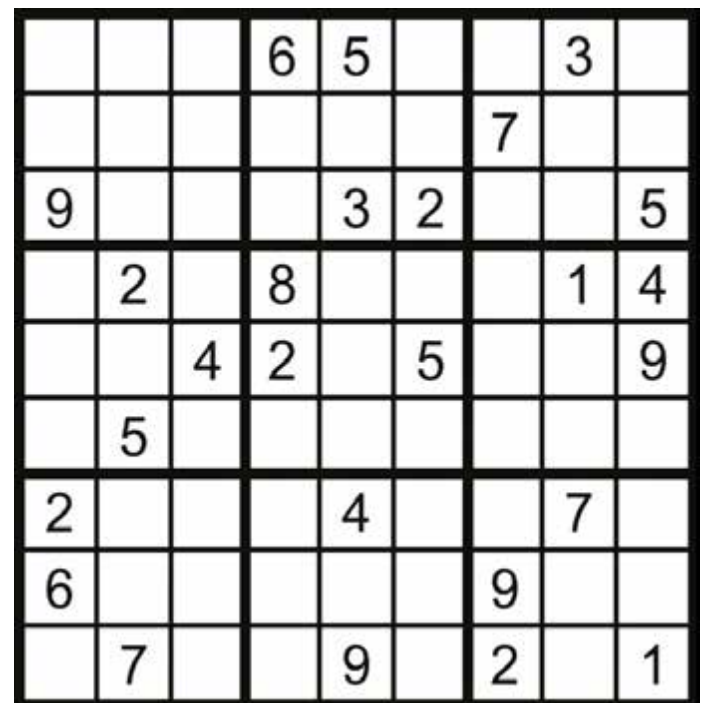
Easy



Crosswordsite.com Ltd

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Medium



Solutions on page ??

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2001860



## BurlesonNOW Scavenger Hunt



Find 5 hidden  
**Salmon**

in 5 different ads in this issue (not counting the one above). Email the page numbers and specific ads where they are found, plus your contact information and phone number, by February 15th. To ensure your Scavenger Hunt answers go in the drawing, you must use the

**Scavenger Hunt Email**

[scavenger.bur@nowmagazines.com](mailto:scavenger.bur@nowmagazines.com)

One entry per person.



**\$50 Cash Prize**

Courtesy of:

**NOW Magazines**

[scavenger.bur@nowmagazines.com](mailto:scavenger.bur@nowmagazines.com)

Winner must pick up their prize within 30 days of drawing.

Salmon were found on  
15, 18, 23, 26 & 30

January winner is:  
Lillie Johnston - \$50 Cash  
from NOW Magazines

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# HAPPY Valentine's Day

## FEBRUARY

Due to COVID-19, 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.

2/5

### Family Valentine Dance:

Dinner, dancing, photos and activities at The Royal Family Valentine's Dance. \$5/person pre-event; \$8/person day of.

4:00-6:00 p.m. or

6:30-8:30 p.m., BRiCk, 550 NW Summercrest Blvd.

Buy tickets online at [www.burlesontx.com/2291/Family-Valentine-Dance](http://www.burlesontx.com/2291/Family-Valentine-Dance).

2/12

### Sweets for Your Sweetie:

Learn to make six different chocolate-covered strawberries.

\$25 class includes demonstrations plus six strawberries to take home.

10:00-11:30 a.m.,

Russell Farm Art Center, 405 W. CR 714. Register online at [www.burlesontx.com/2288/Valentines-Sweets-for-Your-Sweetie](http://www.burlesontx.com/2288/Valentines-Sweets-for-Your-Sweetie).

2/17

### CityFest:

Last year's accomplishments and plans for 2022 with kids' activities. 4:30-7:30 p.m., BRiCk, 550 NW Summercrest Blvd.

For more information, visit [www.burlesontx.com](http://www.burlesontx.com).

2/18

### Narrative Quilts:

Red Chair Lecture with Barbara and Ernie McCraw, nationally recognized, award-winning quilter and a newcomer to the world of quilting. 7:00 p.m., Russell Farm, 405 W. CR 714. [www.burlesontx.com](http://www.burlesontx.com).

2/22

### Project U Leadership Conference:

Full-day leadership conference hosted by the city of Burleson Economic Development Corporation. Full conference:

\$122, includes lunch. 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., 317 W. Ellison St. [www.projectuburleson.com](http://www.projectuburleson.com).

## Saturdays

### Basic Hand Sewing:

Free class. Learn to stitch and color a heart-shaped pillow this month. 10:00 a.m.-noon, Burleson Public Library, 248 SW Johnson Rd. (817) 426-9212. Register online at [www.burlesontx.com/calendar.aspx](http://www.burlesontx.com/calendar.aspx).

*Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to [lisa.bell@nowmagazines.com](mailto:lisa.bell@nowmagazines.com).*

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# SCAVENGER HUNT WINNER!

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THIS MONTH'S FEATURED AGENT

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## Crossword - Sudoku Solutions

[illegible]

Easy

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

Medium

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



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