

MansfieldNOW

M A G A Z I N E

FEBRUARY 2022

Riding Rhymesters

Cowboy poets
preserve an artform
birthed around a
campfire

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt

Crossword/Sudoku

Featured Business:
The Retreat Senior Living

Fascinated by the Arts

Christopher Bryant
shares his journey
of creativity with
Mansfield

In the Kitchen With
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Lydia Laman

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- **FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE** - have been very deliberate in our efforts to develop a fiscally sustainable plan for current and future developments in Mansfield. These decisions will lead to lower taxes for our residents and businesses.
- **POLICE AND FIRE** - ensured that Mansfield's first responders have the facilities and equipment they need to continue making Mansfield one of the safest cities in the nation.
- **CITY & MISD PARTNERSHIPS** - have been strategic in our efforts to protect properties in our City that will play a critical role in the fiscal sustainability of our City and School District. Partnerships are essential!
- **MANSFIELD BUSINESSES FIRST** - Initiated the "Mansfield First" Business Initiative for businesses owned by Mansfield Residents and Women and Minority owned Enterprises.
- **VETERANS** - Partnered with the "Mansfield Veterans Memorial Foundation" to champion the cause for building our city's own Veterans Memorial.
- Fought for the well-being of our residents locally, statewide, and nationally to ensure that our citizens are the priority no matter who they are, **not red or blue** but **MANSFIELD STRONG!**

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Editors/Proofreaders, Lisa Bell . Rachel Rich . Virginia Riddle
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GRAPHICS AND DESIGN

*Creative Director, Chris McCalla | Artists, Kristin Bato . Beth Davis
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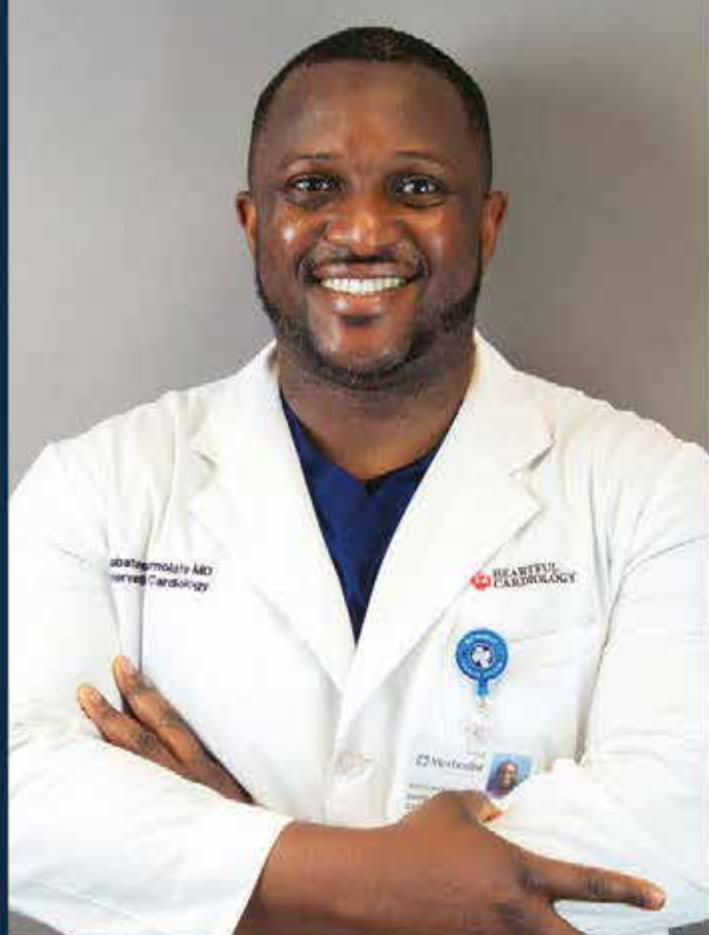
ON THE COVER

*The president of Mansfield
Commission for the Arts
exceeds his childhood
dreams.*

Photo by
Lori Baur.

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Sandra

Sandra Walters
MansfieldNOW Editor
sandra.walters@nowmagazines.com
(682) 554-1743

Dear Mansfield Family,

A resident sent me a sweet message a few weeks ago. "It's wonderful to see you as the editor representing our community. I noticed all voices are being heard in this magazine," she wrote.

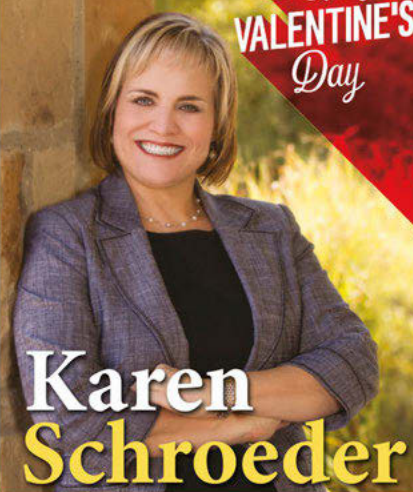
"I am honored to be in this position. *MansfieldNOW's* publisher, general manager and managing editor do a fantastic job of ensuring the publication reflects the people of Mansfield," I replied.

As an African-American person and educator, diversity and inclusion are extremely important to me. I feel blessed to benefit from the fight of my ancestors. It is during these times that I consider where I work, attend church, live and appreciate my village. In the past, I told my children to imagine life without friends who didn't look like them. I remember how disturbed they would become. That is a difficult task for this area because there are so many amazing cultures.

I've had the privilege of teaching children from all over the world as an ESL teacher in MISD, and everybody has a unique story and culture. Many schools have an international night program that celebrates all the cultures represented in their school. The community celebrates with food, arts, music, fashion shows, dance and literature. When everyone is celebrated and appreciated, everybody is happy! No one wants to be left out.

It excites me to write about the beautiful people in Mansfield!

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FASCINATED BY THE ARTS

— By Sandra Walters

“My love for art started early,” Christopher Bryant said. “I’ve been drawing since I was 3 years old, and my passion never changed. My parents taught me to follow my heart, so I majored in graphic design to learn the business side of art.”

Hailing from North Carolina, he always wanted to travel and expand his horizons. “I desired to try something new upon graduating from high school,” he explained. “I wasn’t sure where I’d attend college, but I recall having a dream one night. I saw these massive praying hands in my dream, not sure of what that meant. I continued with life, and it all became clear when I began touring college campuses to select a college. The enormous hands revealed themselves in real life. I immediately knew Oral Roberts University was the ideal school for me when I saw the huge bronze praying hands in front of the school. I earned two bachelor’s degrees, one in studio design and the other in graphic design. After graduation, I had no idea where I would work,” he continued.

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According to Christopher, finding a job was difficult in 2009. Due to the employment crisis, more than 15 million people were unemployed. He became a teacher and spent three years in the classroom. Then, he decided to take a chance and move to the DFW area, believing that he would be able to secure work in graphic or studio design. He submitted his application and résumé for several jobs online and relocated to Fort Worth seeking employment while applying for a position at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History. He also planned to meet the person who would be interviewing the potential candidates, so Chris dressed professionally, drove to the location and prepared to meet the person who would be conducting the interviews.

"When I arrived, I realized the building was under construction, and only construction workers were going inside. I joined them in line, and someone gave me a hard hat. I kept walking in the same direction as the other men. When I entered, I inquired about seeing the person in charge of hiring. They pointed me in the direction of her office. Ecstatic to meet her, I strolled in with confidence," he recalled.

"I walked into her office and introduced myself. She began asking me questions. 'First, how did you get in? We're under construction. ... But tell me about yourself.' I started with how I moved from North Carolina because of the opportunity of possibly getting this job. We continued to talk, and as she ended the conversation, she said, 'I'll get back with you.' Eventually, my interview was scheduled. I interviewed and got the job! Later, she said, 'You stood out





because I wasn't even supposed to be there that day. I had 300 applications and résumés on my desk, and after meeting you, I went through the stack and pulled yours out and put it on top," Christopher mentioned.

So he began his journey in the arts field. "I worked there until I had a new opportunity to advance to the Mansfield ISD Center for Performing Arts, which opened eight years ago.

"I did graphic designs and learned how to assist with the operation of the events in that building. I absolutely enjoyed my position. Soon after, I moved my family to the area. My wife brought our kids to many of the events. She's a life-saver," he admitted.

Christopher said he gets to do what he does because of his supportive family and, recently, he became the president of the Mansfield Commission for the Arts. He has been a member at large for many years. "I just like serving," he said. "It doesn't really matter how I contribute. Everyone on the board wants to see the arts in the city advance. We all work together, so it really doesn't matter who has the 'president' title. We created a Cultural Arts Master Plan and envisioned Mansfield being a destination station for the arts. It's the perfect location because this city is between Dallas and Fort Worth. However, we want to keep our small-town feel.

"I see art in everything," he continued. "You see this cup? The art in making this cup is what I see. As I look at that display, all I see is art. There is operational art, which is business art. Art isn't just paintings and drawings on canvas. That's one element of art. Music, performing and visual arts are all different forms of art.

"The complexity is vast," he concluded. "We want to develop more opportunities for people in Mansfield to thrive in all areas of the arts." **NOW**

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— By Sally Fuller

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ABOUT RIDING THE RANGE, ABOUT COWBOYS' LIVES.
IF YOU THINK THEY'RE NOT ARTISTS, READ ON, MY FRIEND!
YOU MAY HAVE CHANGED YOUR MIND BY THE END.

The word cowboy doesn't conjure images of a great literary mind raptly pondering the meaning of life, hunkered over a polished table in a book-lined library, but cowboy poetry has more in common with other literary genres than one might think. Like the plays of William Shakespeare, cowboy poetry is to be heard, not read, and loses more than a little something on paper. It's the art of oral tradition. It's passing knowledge, cultural understanding, history and some tall tales from generation to generation sans the necessity of paper and ink, commodities in short supply on the cattle drives where the art was born.

Today's poets, whose day-to-day grammar and pronunciation may be impeccable, adopt a persona-

transforming twang and vocabulary as they perform. Listeners quickly forget the poet is a local business owner or professional, as the rhymester slips into character to deliver lines such as, "That's Mr. Chambers' creek you're acrossin'. Keep them critters amovin', you don't want him to come abossin'." Rhymester is the ideal term because one hallmark of cowboy poetry is that it rhymes, since rhyme and rhythm make memorization easier.

Contrary to what Western film genre sometimes portrays, cowboys of old, just as those today, were not unschooled ruffians. Many of those who first recited cowboy poetry probably had read, or at least heard, the verse of literary greats such as Tennyson, Browning and Longfellow, and fashioned their poems accordingly.

Cowboy poetry began around campfires where drovers, cooks and trail bosses gathered each night during the cattle drives of the late 19th century. The heyday of cattle drives lasted only from 1866 until the mid-1880s when the spread of rail transportation and the advent of refrigeration made them mostly unnecessary. Yet the image of the leather-faced cowboys, who rode the dusty trails atop their faithful horses, seems eternally branded into the psyche of Texans and non-Texans alike. Much of our fascination with the cowboy life stems from stories that originated in poems recited about the

courageous, or sometimes dastardly, men who made their livings pushing herds of cows along unmarked dirt paths to markets north of the Red River.

Cowboy poetry is not just about history. Today, there is as much recited about current “cowboying” as old. The medium allows those whose lives, livelihoods and lifestyles are still connected inextricably to land and livestock to metaphorically gather around the campfire in camaraderie, as well as gives those who may have never mounted a horse a tiny taste of chuck wagon life.

Cowboy poets choose their words with the same exactitude as a painter chooses colors to elicit the desired response from listeners. Therefore, the effective use of cowboy lingo is a must in a good cowboy poem. For those without firsthand experience on the range, constructing a poem can involve hours, even days, of research, poring over history books or anecdotal chronicles.

Today’s cowboy poets don’t gather around campfires to recite. Most gatherings occur in arenas or community buildings, where attendees often number in the thousands. In Texas, the largest cowboy poet gathering happens every winter in Alpine on the campus of Sul Ross State University. This year, that gathering will meet February 18-19. Other gatherings around the state include Fort Worth, La Grange and Fredericksburg, and there are scores throughout the Western states. **NOW**

Editor’s Note: To learn more about cowboy poetry visit <https://lonestarcowboypoe.com>.

Sources:

1. “Thaddeus and Nathan” written and recited by David G. Smith of Waxahachie, TX, for the Oct. 15, 2016, commemoration of the Shawnee Cattle Trail historical marker dedicated to the drovers and cattle who passed through Ellis County, TX.
2. On the Trail of Cowboy Poetry, David Stanley, Westminster College, New Wilmington, PA; retrieved at <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5742241922482e19cfdae448/t/581cf408d2b85747b9cfff91/1478292536142/DaveStanley-2004-OnTheTrail.pdf>
3. texasalmanac.com/topics/agriculture/cattle-drives-started-earnest-after-civil-war



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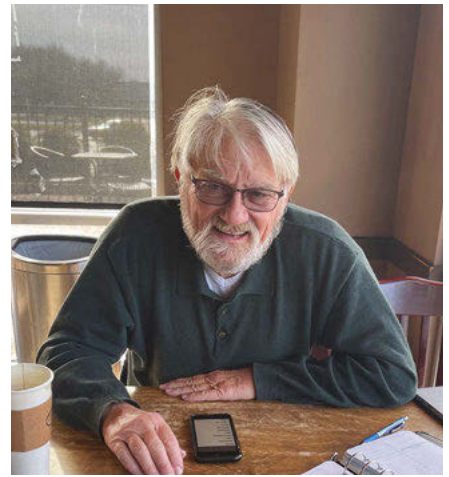
By Sandra Walters

Donna Norwood O'Brian celebrated 32 years as an educator with friends and family at her retirement party. While visitors arrived to congratulate Donna on this important day, she reflected on her contributions to the Mansfield community as a teacher, administrator and area superintendent. When individuals walked inside the Rachel Howell Great Hall at MISD Administration Complex for the celebration, many memories were awakened.

"I could not have asked for a better career in a better district. Thanks to all of the students, parents, community members, teachers, staff, Department of Instruction, administrators and board members who joined me in the journey," Donna stated. "Every job in education became my favorite job because of all of you!"



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BusinessNOW

The Retreat Senior Living

— By Sandra Walters

The Retreat Senior Living

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“This is a family business that began with a tragic event,” Julie DeBaun explained. “At the age of 36, Rodney DeBaun was informed he only had six months to live after contracting viral cardiomyopathy. He lost 80 percent of his heart’s function, so he needed a heart. He didn’t have enough time to get on the waiting list, since he had been given a short amount of time to survive. There was no time to go through the process, so he sold everything he owned, determined to spend his final days with his family. He shared this difficult information with his 9- and 11-year-old sons. Eventually, Rodney said he prayed, ‘God if you leave me here, I’ll spend my life where you need me.’”



As Rodney stayed home, friends reached out once they learned about his situation. While they checked on him, one of his friends desired to help him find a heart. He was uncertain of how he could help, but the urge to do something was strong.

One day, this friend introduced him to Lucky Bramlett. A few weeks later, Lucky lost his grandson, David Nicklas. Knowing Rodney’s condition, Lucky and his family wanted Rodney to have David’s heart because David was an organ donor. Rodney was unsure of how to feel about the offer, since David had died in a motorcycle accident at the age of 22. Ultimately, however, he accepted their generous offer.

“This was a one-of-a-kind situation, since people couldn’t give a heart to a specific person at that time,” Julie said. “Doctors told him it wouldn’t be a good fit and discouraged him, but when they got the heart, they discovered it was a perfect match. My father-in-law wasn’t sure how he was going to repay for being able to continue with life. That was 28 years ago, and he has been able to watch his children and grandchildren grow up.”

In honor of David Nicklas, Rodney created the David Nicklas Organ Donor Awareness Foundation to create funds and free housing opportunities for people who need assistance as they go through the organ transplant process. They provide lodging in the Dallas-Fort Worth area for transplant patients who otherwise might be ineligible for a transplant due to their geographical location. If an individual needs to move to the DFW area to receive a transplant, the foundation offers free housing during that time.

"We are The Resort You Call Home — a relaxing, revitalizing home getaway."

"Rodney is fulfilling his promise, and the Nicklases are family to us," Julie said. "Recently, the foundation built The Retreat Senior Living. This is resort-style housing designed as a fun, upbeat community with independent senior citizens. My grandmother lives here, and Rodney's mother lives here as well. When guests venture inside The Retreat, they will notice we have a variety of floor plans for one and two-bedroom apartments. We are The Resort You Call Home — a relaxing, revitalizing home getaway."

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, residents are welcome to bring family and friends to chef-prepared breakfasts. On Thursdays, the residents lead a game night, and the theater room is packed on the weekends during college football. The staff encourages the residents to mingle with one another. Residents can take advantage of the activities at the fitness center, which is complete with comprehensive fitness machines. An instructor conducts water aerobics three times a week in an indoor heated pool, and there are walking and jogging trails to be enjoyed, too. If you're looking for an upscale senior living facility, reach out to Julie and schedule a personalized visit. **NOW**

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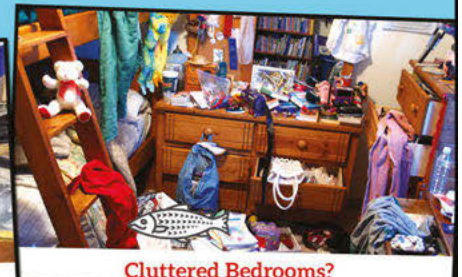
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CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With

VENESSA AND LYDIA LAMAN

— By Sandra Walters



Venessa Laman enjoys making tacos, tortillas and fresh salsa. “My Hispanic grandmother taught me how to make Mexican food, and I’ve loved baking for as long as I can remember. I took some classes to learn to decorate cakes, so I could make my daughter’s first birthday cake. And as soon as Lydia was able to reach the counter, she began helping me in the kitchen,” Venessa said.

“My 15-year-old daughter, who is currently taking culinary classes at Lake Ridge, is now a partner in my baking business,” Venessa said. “She created her own signature style. Her specialty is cakecicle. It’s like a cake pop but shaped like a popsicle. I am thrilled to share this cooking legacy with my kids.” **NOW**

Vanilla Cupcakes

Cupcakes:

- 1 cup salted butter, room temperature**
- 1 1/2 cups sugar**
- 2 tsp. vanilla**
- 4 eggs, room temperature**
- 1 1/2 cups cake flour**
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour**
- 1 tsp. baking powder**
- 1 cup milk**

Icing:

- 1 cup unsalted butter, softened**
- 5 cups powdered sugar**

- 1/4 cup milk**
- 2 tsp. vanilla**

- 1. For cupcakes:** Preheat the oven to 350 F. Line a cupcake pan with cupcake liners.
- 2.** Mix together the butter and sugar until fluffy; add the vanilla. Add the eggs one at a time until well combined.
- 3.** In a separate bowl, combine the flours and baking powder. Alternately add the flour mixture and the milk to the sugar mixture until combined. Fill the cupcake liners 2/3 full with the batter.
- 4.** Bake for 15-18 minutes; cool before icing.
- 5. For icing:** Beat the butter with an electric

mixer on medium until fluffy. Alternately add the powdered sugar and milk until the icing is light and fluffy. Add the vanilla until combined.

- 6.** Scoop the icing into a pastry bag with a pastry tip, or cut about 1/2 inch off of the tip and pipe onto cooled cupcakes.

Apple Cake With Caramel Glaze

Cake:

- Baking spray**
- 1 cup granulated sugar**
- 1 cup light brown sugar**
- 1 1/2 cups vegetable oil**
- 3 eggs**
- 3 cups all-purpose flour**
- 1 tsp. baking soda**
- 2 tsp. cinnamon**
- 1/2 tsp. salt**
- 5 granny smith apples cored, peeled and cut into 1/2-inch pieces**
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract**

Caramel Glaze:

- 4 Tbsp. butter**
- 1/2 cup light brown sugar**

Pinch of salt

1/2 cup heavy cream

Toothpick

1. *For cake:* Preheat the oven to 325 F. Spray a 9x13-inch casserole dish with baking spray. Beat both sugars and oil in a mixing bowl. Slowly add the eggs, one at a time.

2. In a separate bowl, combine the flour, baking soda, cinnamon and salt. Gradually add the flour mixture to the sugar mixture. Once well blended, add the apples and vanilla. Pour the batter into the prepared pan.

3. Bake for 50-75 minutes or until the center is clean when a toothpick is inserted. Let cool while making the glaze.

4. *For glaze:* Melt the butter in a small saucepan over low heat. Stir in the sugar and salt; cook on low heat for 2-3 minutes. Add the cream; bring to a boil for 2 minutes, stirring constantly.

5. Poke holes in the cake with a toothpick; pour the glaze over the cake.

Bruschetta Stuffed Chicken

1 can Italian style diced tomatoes undrained

1 cup mozzarella cheese, shredded (divided use)

1/4 cup basil, chopped

1 pkg. chicken stuffing mix

2 lbs. boneless skinless chicken breast

1/3 cup Italian dressing

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F. Combine the tomatoes with liquid, 1/2 cup cheese, basil and dry stuffing mix together until combined.

2. Place the chicken into a large freezer bag; pound the chicken to 1/4- to 1/2-inch thin with a meat mallet.

3. Place the chicken on a large cutting board; spread stuffing mixture on top. Roll up the chicken as tightly as possible, beginning with the narrow end. Place seam side down in a 13x9-inch casserole dish; drizzle with the Italian dressing.

4. Bake for 40 minutes; remove from the oven. Sprinkle with remaining cheese. Bake until the chicken is thoroughly cooked and the cheese is melted.

Crab Cakes

1 lb. crabmeat

1/3 cup Ritz crackers, crushed

3 green onions, finely chopped

1/2 cup bell pepper, finely chopped

1/4 cup mayonnaise

1 egg

1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce

1 tsp. dry mustard

1/2 lemon, juiced



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1/4 tsp. garlic powder
 1 tsp. salt
 Dash cayenne pepper
 Flour, for dusting
 1/2 cup peanut oil
 Favorite dipping sauce, for serving

1. In a large bowl, mix all the ingredients, except for the flour, peanut oil and dipping sauce. Shape into patties; dust with flour.
 2. Heat the oil in a large skillet over medium heat. When hot, carefully place the crab cakes in the pan in batches; fry until browned for 4-5 minutes. Carefully flip the crab cakes; fry on the other side until golden brown for 4 minutes. Serve warm with preferred sauce.

Coconut Blueberry Cheesecake Bars

Crust:

1 stick butter
 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
 3/4 cup graham crackers, crushed
 1/2 cup sweetened coconut flakes
 1/4 cup pecans, ground or crushed
 1/4 cup sugar

Cheesecake Filling:

2 8-oz. pkgs. cream cheese, softened

1 cup sugar
 4 eggs
 1 Tbsp. milk
 1 tsp. vanilla
 2 cup fresh blueberries

1. *For crust:* Preheat the oven to 350 F. Grease a 13x9-inch casserole baking pan, set aside.
 2. In a small pan, heat the butter over medium heat until it starts to lightly brown; remove from heat.
 3. In a medium bowl, stir together the flour, graham cracker crumbs, coconut flakes,

pecans and sugar. Stir in the browned butter. Evenly press the mixture onto the bottom of the prepared pan; bake 8-10 minutes, or until lightly browned.

4. *For cheesecake filling:* In a large mixing bowl, combine the cream cheese and sugar. Slowly add the eggs, milk and vanilla; beat until combined. Pour the filling over the hot crust; sprinkle with blueberries.

5. Bake 18-20 minutes, or until the center appears set. Cool in the pan on a rack. Cover and refrigerate. Once cool, cut into bars. You can store this in the refrigerator, covered, for up to a week.



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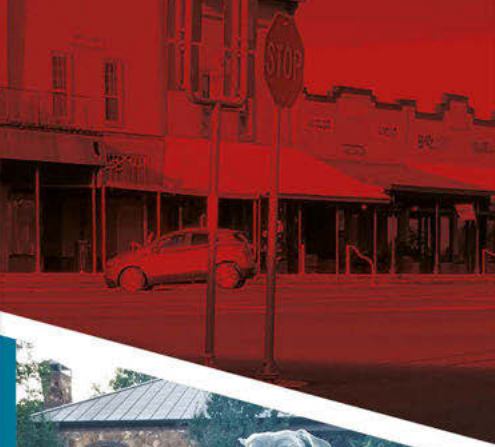
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A TRUE GEM

— 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**

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To ensure your Scavenger Hunt
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People have traditionally seen Social Security benefits as the foundation of their retirement planning programs. The Social Security contributions deducted from workers' paychecks have, in effect, served as a government-enforced retirement savings plan. However, the Social Security system is under increasing strain. Better health care and longer life spans have resulted in an increasing number of people drawing Social Security benefits. As the baby boom generation (those born between 1946 and 1964) has begun to retire, even greater demands are being placed on the system. According to the Social Security Administration, in 1950, there were 16.5 active workers to support each person receiving Social Security benefits. In 2021, there were only 2.7 workers supporting each Social Security beneficiary. And it is projected that there will be only 2.3 active workers to support each Social Security beneficiary by 2035.

Although Social Security payments are typically adjusted for inflation, your own income and expenses may rise at a faster pace. And you might have to wait longer than you anticipated to qualify for full benefits. Full benefits used to be available after

you reached age 65. But since 2003, the age to qualify for full benefits has been increasing on a graduated scale based on year of birth. By 2027, the age to qualify for full Social Security benefits will have increased to age 67, where it is currently scheduled to remain.

That means you may have to wait longer to qualify for full Social Security benefits to start replacing a smaller percentage of your pre-retirement income. When calculating the income you will have in retirement, you might recognize that Social Security benefits may play a more limited role. Some financial professionals suggest ignoring Social Security altogether when developing a retirement income plan. You can view your statement online by visiting www.ssa.gov/myaccount and creating your own personal Social Security account on the Social Security website. **NOW**

The information in this article is not intended as tax, legal, investment or retirement advice or recommendations, and it may not be relied on for the purpose of avoiding any federal tax penalties. You are encouraged to seek guidance from an independent tax or legal professional. The content is derived from sources believed to be accurate. Neither the information presented, nor any opinion expressed, constitutes a solicitation for the purchase or sale of any security.

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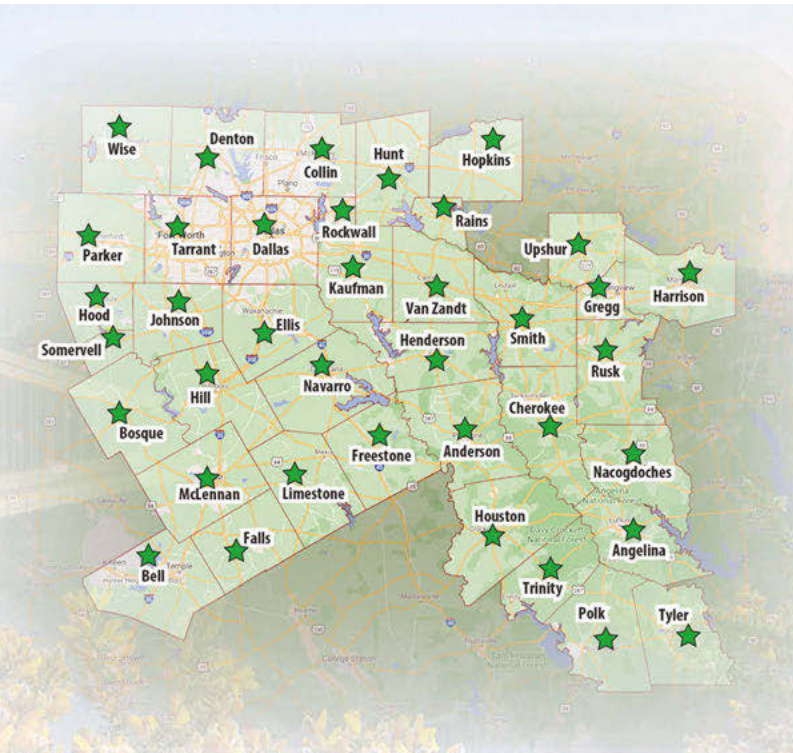
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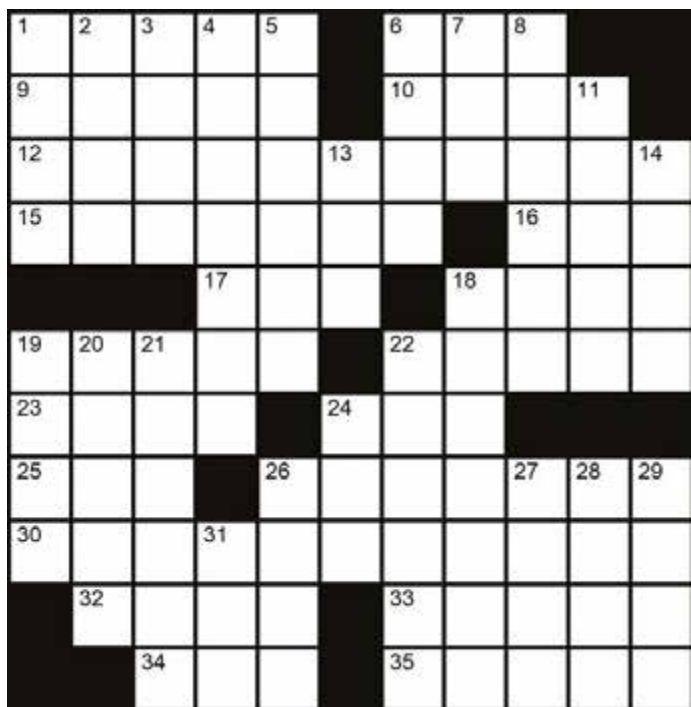
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Crossword Puzzle



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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 44

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Easy

Medium

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

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

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Solutions on page 44

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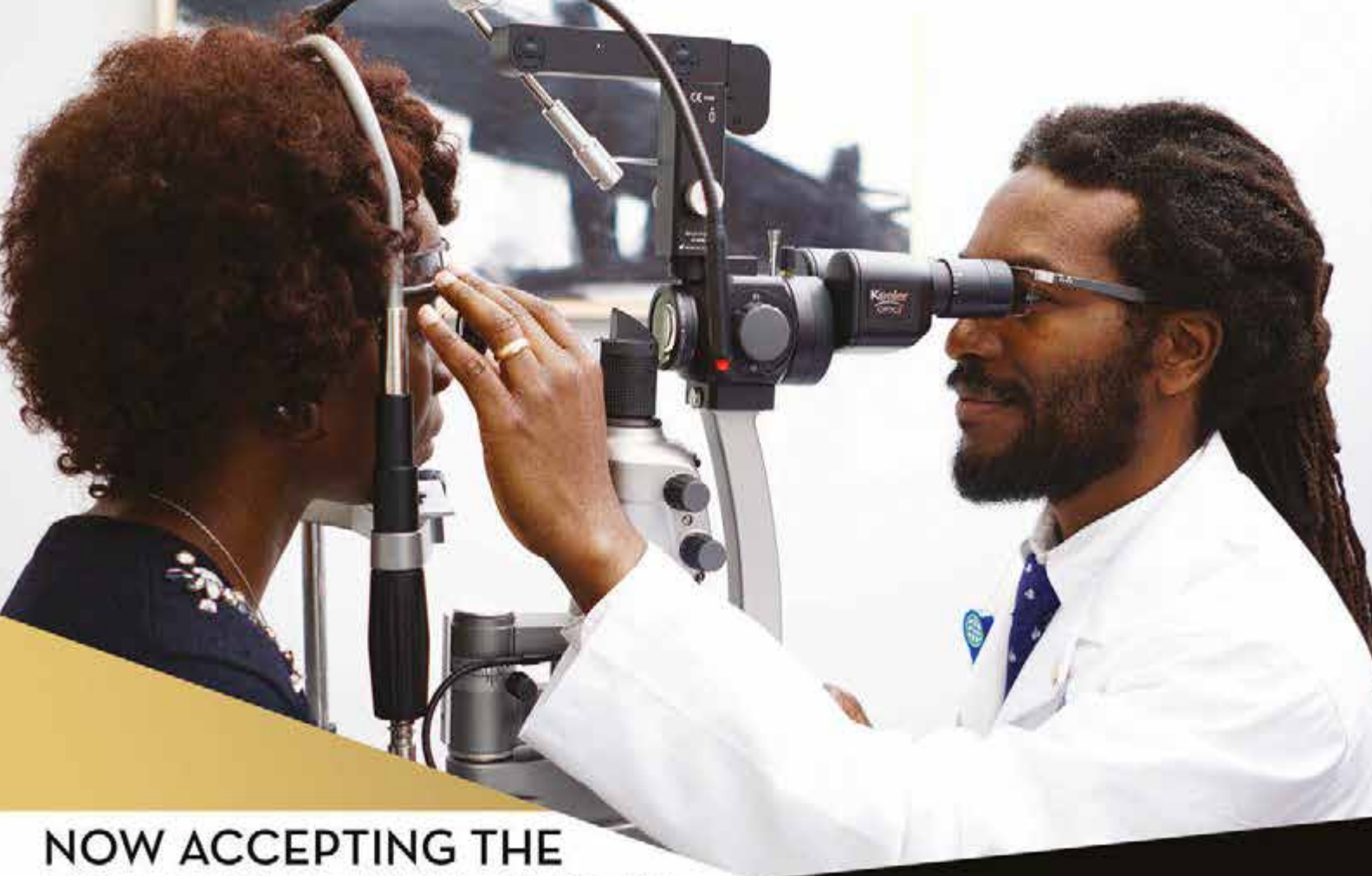
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FEBRUARY

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.

2/4-2/5

Sweat:

Filled with warm humor and tremendous heart, *Sweat* by Lynn Nottage tells the story of a group of friends who have spent their lives sharing drinks, secrets and laughs while working together on the factory floor, but when layoffs occur, the friends find themselves fighting to stay afloat. \$22-\$25. 7:30-10:00 p.m., Farr Best Theater, 109 N. Main St.

2/5

We Are All Connected:

Stories of African-American Heritage with Oba William King. \$22-\$25. 2:00-3:30 p.m., Farr Best Theater, 109 N. Main St.

2/8

Smart Driver (55Y-plus):

This is a defensive driving class designed for persons over 50. Learn techniques to be a safer driver. Get that discount on your insurance. \$25. 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Mansfield Activities Center, 106 S. Wisteria St.

2/12

An Evening of Piano Artistry and Poetry:

Pianist Eldred Marshall performs works centered on Negro folksong, Negro spirituals and virtuoso showmanship. Featured composers: Florence Price, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor and Ludwig van

Beethoven. \$22-\$25. 7:30-9:00 p.m., Farr Best Theater, 109 N. Main St.

2/15

Destination Success 2022:

College/Career Readiness Event. The event is open to all MISD students grades 8-12 and their parents and will include topics such as: College Prep, Paying for College and College Student Panel. Free but ticket required. Doors open: 5:00 p.m., Mansfield ISD Center for the Performing Arts, 1110 W. Debbie Ln. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/destination-success-2022-free-collegecareer-readiness-event-tickets-199221736577?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>.

2/25-2/26

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe:

This new dramatization of C.S. Lewis' classic faithfully recreates the magic and mystery of Aslan, his struggle with the White Witch and the adventures of four children. \$11:50-\$15:50. **Friday:** 7:00 p.m.; **Saturday:** 2:00 p.m., Willie Pigg Auditorium, 1520 N. Walnut Creek Dr.

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



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Crossword - Sudoku Solutions

1	S	2	H	3	A	4	P	5	E	6	P	7	F	8	C
9	T	O	S	E	A	10	H	E	R	11	S				
12	A	S	S	A	S	13	S	I	N	A	T	14	E		
15	G	E	T	R	E	A	L			16	T	I	P		
						17	S	I	C		18	K	E	L	P
19	B	A	C	O	N					22	G	I	R	L	S
23	I	R	O	N						24	V	A	C		
25	B	I	N			26	L	I	N	K	27	I	N	28	G
30	B	O	D	Y	A	N	D	S	O	U	L				
						32	T	O	A	D					
						34	S	K	Y						
										35	I	N	S	E	T

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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