

WaxahachieNOW

MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 2026



Winter 2026 Fashion Trends for Women

Neutral colors and sleek styles take center stage this year

The Perfect Cup

Living Herstory

The Ellis County Woman's Building is preserving the past and celebrating the present

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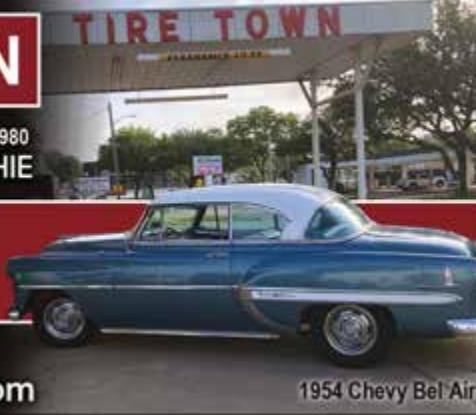
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Adam Walker
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The Ellis County Woman's Building has a vibrant past, present and future.



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Living Herstory

— By Adam Walker

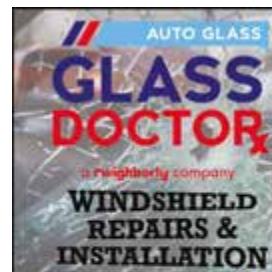
The women of Ellis County had a problem. This was rural farming country, and when they accompanied their menfolk into town on market days, they had nowhere to hang out while their husbands haggled over the price of cotton, wheat and other crops. Quincy Davis Getzendaner, the second wife of W.H. Getzendaner, saw this problem and decided to do something about it. She had inherited the Davis family homestead and decided to donate that property at the corners of Jefferson and Monroe. In February of 1926, the Ellis County Woman's Building opened to serve a real need.

Local women gathered there to wait with their children, while their men were in town. Newly formed clubs and organizations held their meetings there. It became a focal point of the social life of local women. “In 1927, a group from Denton came down to see our building before they made plans to build their own,” Kathleen Bowen, vice-chair of the board, informed. “When you look into the history, you start uncovering how this isn’t just a building. It’s a community asset.”

“Because of Kathleen’s work, we’ll be able to leave a well-documented history of the Woman’s Building for the future,” Hanna McCleary, the current chair of the board, explained. Together with Susan Rominger, the building’s steward, and the rest of the board, they work hard to coordinate with the city



“Because of Kathleen’s work, we’ll be able to leave a well-documented history of the Woman’s Building for the future.”



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and county and ensure that the building is well preserved and continues to serve the needs of the whole community, not just its women.

Mrs. Getzendaner donated the land to the city, but it was up to the women to fund the building. "The women's clubs of this county raised the money to build this facility, through the generosity of the community," Kathleen informed.

"They had to have complete funding," Susan added. "There could be no debt. The architect they hired designed quite a few historic houses in town, so you'll recognize some of the architecture if you've been on the home tours. The building was designed more like a home, not like an institutional building, so people would feel comfortable hosting events here."

The building serves as home for 12 local clubs, each of which contribute to helping the building continue its mission of serving the community. "The board consists of the mayor of Waxahachie, the city manager, a judge, the Ellis County attorney and nine women — four from Waxahachie, four from Ellis County and the chair of the board," Hanna explained.

"We host voting here for national, state and local elections; Ellis County Art Association events; 13 club meetings; financial planning seminars; DAR meetings; 50th anniversary parties; weddings; showers; funerals; kids' birthday parties; day care graduations; music and dance recitals," Susan informed. "Anyone can rent the building, but we're usually booked far in advance. Some of our regular groups



are already booked for next year!"

Despite its long history, there is still confusion among the public about what this building is. "We get a lot of bagged clothes dropped off by people who think this is a women's shelter," Susan explained.

The building has recently undergone extensive repairs to the roof, foundation and grounds. To get ready for the 100th anniversary celebration scheduled for February 11, they have updated the building's kitchen and done repairs to the rooms. A couple of dead trees had to be removed, and Susan still hopes the huge painting of the Alamo, which was once the largest painting of that building in existence, can get a new frame. "We're the current caretakers, but 100 years of women have kept the lights on," Susan informed. "In all the 16 years that I've been working here as the steward, I've only had to keep three deposits, because the people who rent this facility really do take care of it."

"This is a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark, which means it is a very historically and architecturally significant structure," Kathleen added. "People respect the history of the building."

"We're ready for the next 100 years," Hanna added. "It's important that we continue to have strong and dedicated people on the board just as we have for the last century. The celebration will be from 2:00 to 4:00, but we'll have a little ceremony at 2:30. The public is invited to join us."

"We're trying to leave a legacy for the next 100 years," Susan said, "for the next generation of service-minded women." **NOW**



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WINTER 2026

FASHION TRENDS

FOR WOMEN

— By Amber D. Browne

As seasons change, so do fashion styles. New trends emerge to incorporate with favorites of the past, and popular color choices combine with classics. The winter 2026 season allows all generations of women to integrate current fashion front-runners into their wardrobes.

The new year brings bold styles featuring silhouettes of volume and elongated lines. Puffy bomber jackets, which can be worn for warmth or as a top according to Dallas fashion blogger, Heather Anderson, are all the rage this winter. “I love this trend because it feels modern, confident and very fashion-forward, but it’s also incredibly flattering,” Heather shared in an article, *8 Fashion Trends That Look Expensive But Aren’t (2026 Style Guide)*. She suggests zipping up the jacket and slightly tucking it under for a more streamlined silhouette.

Another trend this winter is popping the collar of the jacket. Some designs include their own stand collar for a sophisticated look. Basic black leather jackets are a must-have. Utility jackets paired with wide-leg cargo pants popped up throughout winter 2026 collections, according to the *Marie Claire* article, *The Best Winter 2026 Fashion Trends Are Both Weatherproof and Party-Proof*.

Although wide-leg pants are trending, the skinny jeans look continues to hold space in the fashion world providing a slim-fitting silhouette. In 2026, high-waisted wide-leg pants, leggings and ankle-length pants in black or dark neutral colors pair well with tucked-in or waist-length tops. Maxi dresses are also must-haves and can be layered with neutral jackets. Dress up the look with knee-high boots or wear ballet flats or skinny sneakers for a more casual feel.

Scarves are making a comeback this winter, according to the *Marie Claire* article. “It’s not just a winter add-on or afterthought,” the article stated. “Just as a great coat can be the whole look, the right scarf can offer enough drama and intrigue to be the grounding factor of an outfit.” Ivory faux fur stoles, skinny scarves and tops with built-in shawls are some examples of this winter’s women fashion accessories.

Trending shoes include slimmer boot silhouettes. According to the article *Winter 2026 Fashion Trends: Simple, Stylish Updates for Your Wardrobe* on jolynnesheane.com, boots are a foundation to most winter wardrobes. The article suggests this winter, the style shifts from a chunkier, heavier boot to boots with “cleaner lines, sleeker profiles and a more refined overall shape.” Almond-shaped or softly rounded toes and low or block heels are popular in ankle boots and knee-high styles. The article continued, “Decorative buckles, cutouts, and other extra details aren’t as prominent this year; the most modern boots feel streamlined and minimal.” Ballet flats, pointed-toe heels, leather lace-up shoes and skinny sneakers are also in style this winter.

Sherpa is a popular texture this season for vests and accents in shoes and boots. “It adds warmth and texture without overwhelming your outfit, which makes it an easy trend to incorporate even if you prefer a more understated vibe,” according to the jolynnesheane.com article. Additional trending textures include organic cotton, velvet and faux fur.

Now onto color. The Pantone Color of the Year 2026 is PANTONE 11-4201 Cloud Dancer. According to pantone.com, this shade of white “serves as a symbol of calming influence in a society rediscovering the value of quiet reflection. A billowy white imbued with serenity, PANTONE 11-4201 Cloud Dancer encourages true relaxation and focus, allowing the mind to wander and creativity to breathe, making room for innovation.” This light, neutral shade allows





other colors of pastels and deeper hues to hold the spotlight. Other color trends this winter are deep navy blue as an alternative to black, camel brown, teal, powder pink, pale pistachio and winter citrus, according to the *Marie Claire* article.

As fashion trends come and go, tried and true styles can last a lifetime. Essentials to incorporate into any woman's wardrobe this winter include a puffy bomber jacket, black leather jacket, scarves, ballet flats and sleek, almond-shaped ankle boots. Think about incorporating neutral colors when shopping for winter clothing this year. Incorporating some newer favorites into the closet this season can create a fresh and sophisticated wardrobe. **NOW**

Sources:

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Zoomed In: Addielyn Noland

By Adam Walker

On a recent dreary, rainy afternoon, Addielyn Noland was hanging out in one of the upstairs meeting rooms at Paper Leaves. "I love reading books, so this is a great place to relax and look at books," she said. "I'm a senior at Global High School, and I'm so ready to graduate. It's nice to just chill." Her phone and half-finished drink spoke to her commitment to taking it easy for a while.

"Today, I was thinking about buying a plant. I was looking at the succulents," she admitted. "They have some really pretty ones. And it's really hard to kill a succulent." The upstairs plant shop had plenty of the hardy, colorful plants in all manner of fanciful shapes and shades to choose from. Hopefully, she found what she wanted.



Jofrank Sierra starts the new year off with some chin-ups at The Lord's Gym.



Shelbi and Levi Simon stop by the library for Little Learners.



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Waxahachie residents celebrate Noon Year's Eve with some mocktails and fireworks from Sydney, Australia.



The Kalkwarf family, Stacy, Kashton, Kelly, Delaney and Zayden, celebrate a snow-free winter day in the park after moving here from Minnesota.



Madison Smith greets moviegoers with a smile at Hookey.



Todd Gardner and Melanie Hutton take Wrangler and Cherokee for some exercise and social time at Wags-a-Hachie Dog Park.

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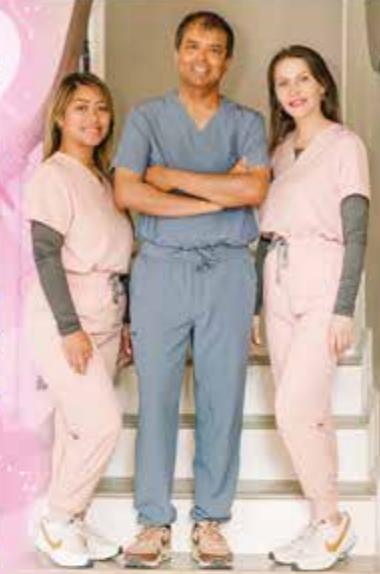
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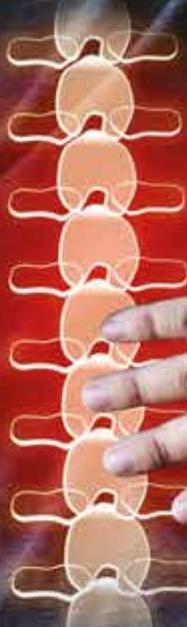
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The PERFECT Cup

— By Emma McKay

With the hustle and bustle of American work culture, it's no wonder coffee is the choice drink of many professionals. Despite the rush to begin their mornings, some people enjoy turning coffee brewing into a relaxing ritual. One way people uniquely craft their cups is through roasting their own coffee beans. While roasting beans isn't a hobby for the faint of heart, it can be a fun and excellent way to learn more about your drink.



GATHERING SUPPLIES

Choosing your unroasted green beans can be overwhelming, especially if you don't have a real preference for the country of origin. Unfortunately, unless you know someone who grows their own coffee, chances are you are going to have to buy green coffee beans online. When sourcing your beans, buy smaller quantities or find a roasting group to trade or split your beans with. This allows you to try a larger variety of beans, so you can find your favorite.

The most common appliances to use when roasting beans are ovens, skillets, popcorn makers or specialty coffee roasters. Although most people have ovens and skillets readily available, they are not recommended for beginners. Roasting beans this way requires a level of skill that someone new to the hobby won't possess. Instead, use a popcorn maker. Not only do they automatically stir the beans, allowing for an even roast, but they are a budget-friendly alternative to specialty roasters.

FINDING YOUR WORKSPACE

Roasting beans emits large quantities of smoke, so don't do it in a confined space. Before you set up your workstation, locate a well-ventilated area on your property such as an open garage, a back porch or a room with an exterior fan. If you are planning on using a stovetop or oven, open the kitchen windows, and don't be afraid to use your ventilator fan.

ROASTING THE BEAN

Bean roasting occurs in stages. The first stage has been coined as the yellowing stage, after the shade the green beans turn as moisture begins to leave them. During this stage, the beans will steam and emit a grassy smell. When the beans start to brown and the smell of the steam becomes more fragrant, you'll know that the second stage is fast approaching.

A sharp cracking noise three to five minutes after you began roasting marks the transition into the second stage, aptly called "the first crack." When a bean cracks, the sugars inside it will caramelize and the moisture that has been trapped inside of it starts to escape. Once the beans have cracked, you can stop roasting and enjoy your batch of light roast beans, or you can allow the beans to continue caramelizing. After this stage, the roasting all depends on your taste preferences.

A second and even louder round of cracking occurs at the third stage. During this "second crack," shards of the beans may go flying about. This minor explosion occurs when all the water in the bean has finally evaporated. As the sugars in the bean continue to break down, you'll get a bitter, medium roast coffee. If you prefer a bolder taste, let the beans continue to darken and the sugars burn away, to create a dark roast. As soon as you've reached the roast level you like, immediately remove the beans from the heat source, or they will continue to cook.

STORING

Unfortunately, you can't throw the beans into a grinder and then use them to make coffee as soon as they are roasted. Once your beans have cooled to room temperature, remove the chaff (coffee bean husk) and seal them in an airtight container. Store the container in a cool, dark place for at least three days before grinding them to use in your favorite brewing method.

If the roast doesn't turn out the way you wanted the first time, don't be discouraged. Finding your favorite flavor takes trial and error. Through experimentation, you will learn to make your perfect cup of coffee. [Now](#)

Sources:

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4. Owen, Thompson. (2022, July 22). How to Roast Your Own Coffee. *Sweet Maria's Coffee Library*. <https://library.sweetmarias.com/how-to-roast-your-own-coffee>.



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Slovak Potica

CookingNOW IN THE KITCHEN WITH RHIANNON JONES

— By Adam Walker

Rhiannon Jones is a self-taught cook. "My Grandpa Matejcak was a first-generation Slovak-American, but I didn't get any recipes passed down from my Slovakian great-grandparents. So I've spent years trying to recreate the *potica* we always had, based on found recipes and memory." While living in the Bay Area, she incorporated Asian and Mexican influences into her cooking. "Indian and Thai are my comfort foods. I love the adventure of trying new spices and combinations. I'm always chasing that next combination that makes me say wow, experimenting with using traditionally savory herbs and spices, such as rosemary, in desserts, and infusing baked goods and frostings with tea. I teach a class called Spice Odyssey, on outside-the-box cooking at Sims Library." **NOW**

Slovak Potica

Dough:

2 envelopes dry active yeast
1/4 cup warm water
1 cup milk
1/2 cup butter
1/4 cup sugar
1 tsp. salt
3 large eggs, beaten
5 cups flour (plus extra if needed)

Filling:

2 cups walnut pieces
1/3 cup milk
1/2 cup sugar
1/3 cup light brown sugar
1 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
1 Tbsp. butter (plus 1 1/2 Tbsp. for melting)
1 tsp. lemon juice
1 large egg white

I. For the dough: Combine the yeast and

warm water; let sit 5-10 minutes until bubbling and foamy.

- 2.** Meanwhile, heat the milk until small bubbles form at the edge. Stir in the butter, sugar and salt until dissolved; let cool. Add the yeast mixture and eggs; combine well.
- 3.** In a large bowl combine the flour with the milk mixture. Turn out onto a floured board, and knead until smooth and elastic. Add more flour, as needed, if the dough is too sticky to handle.
- 4.** Grease a clean, large bowl with butter. Place the dough in the bowl; cover with a damp cloth. Let rise in a warm place about 90 minutes or until at least doubled in size.
- 5. For the filling:** Grind the walnuts in a food processor until very fine, almost a paste.
- 6.** Pour the milk into a 2-qt. saucepan; place over low heat. Heat until bubbles form at the edge. Remove from the heat; stir in the walnuts and remaining ingredients.
- 7.** Return the filling to the heat; cook, stirring often, until it thickens and comes to a boil. Remove from the heat; let cool.
- 8.** Heat the oven to 350 F.
- 9.** Roll the dough on a floured cloth as thin as you can, until you have a large rectangle approximately 36x60 inches. It should be basically see-through.
- 10.** Warm the filling if completely cooled, to make it easier to spread. Spread the filling in a thin, even layer over the rolled dough, extending all the way to the edges.
- 11.** Tightly roll the dough, starting on the long edge, like a jelly roll. Pinch the edge to seal. Cut into 5 loaves, approximately 12 inches in length. (Loaves do not get a second rise.)
- 12.** Melt 1 1/2 Tbsp. butter in a 9x13-inch pan. Roll the cut loaves in the butter to coat.
- 13.** Bake at 350 F for 15 minutes. Reduce the temperature to 325 F (without opening the oven); continue baking 45 minutes to 1 hour, until golden brown. Let cool before cutting.

Grandma Janet Werner's Rhubarb Custard Pie

1 piecrust
3-4 cups rhubarb, chopped
2 eggs, beaten
2 Tbsp. flour
1 cup sugar
Pinch salt
1 to 1 1/2 cups milk
1/2 tsp. vanilla
Cinnamon, to taste

- 1.** In a piecrust, add the rhubarb. Mix the remaining ingredients, except the cinnamon, and pour over the rhubarb. Sprinkle a light dusting of cinnamon over the top.
- 2.** Bake at 425 F for 10 minutes. Reduce the heat to 350 F and continue baking until it tests done with a knife near the center. Allow to cool.

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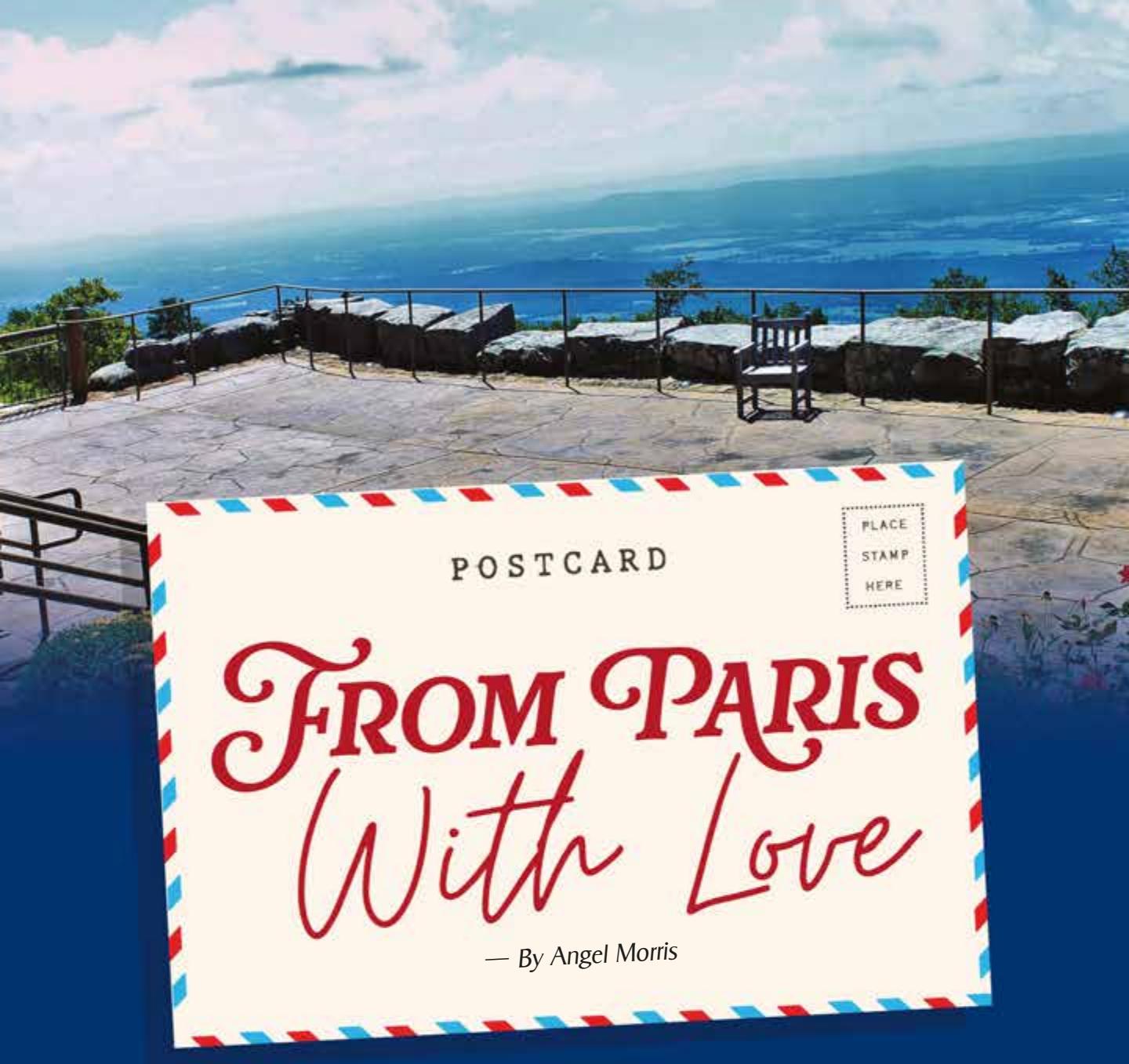
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Like Texas, Arkansas is one of 26 U.S. states that include a town named for the capital of France. Located in the northwest of the state, Paris, Arkansas, is situated at the base of Mount Magazine. The rural town in Logan County is home to about 3,700 residents who enjoy its lush landscapes and assorted industries.

Logan County's coal mining history began in the 1800s, and Paris pays tribute to that with its Coal Miners Memorial. Along with photos and tributes dedicated to local miners, the museum features a functioning blacksmith shop, which provides tours upon request.

Mount Magazine is the highest point in the state and is home to Mount Magazine State Park, where visitors can horseback ride and hike trails or cycle paved bike lanes including the

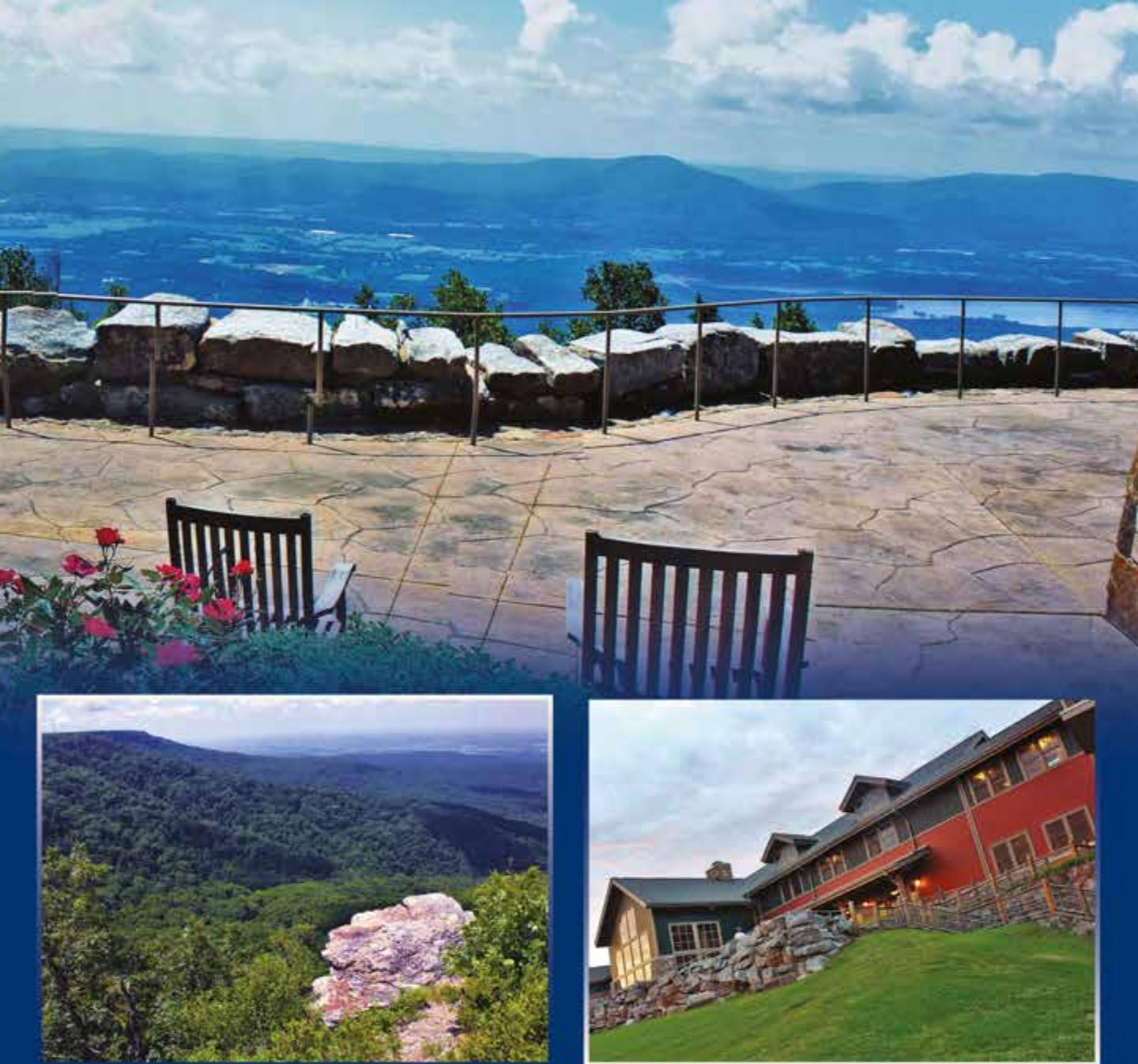
Huckleberry Mountain Horse Trail and the Will Apple's Road Trail. Several lakes offer free fishing and swimming.

Backpacking, rock climbing, hang gliding and ATV riding are among other park activities. When deciding on a visit date, consider the month of June, when the park hosts the annual Mount Magazine International Butterfly Festival.

The state's official butterfly, the Diana fritillary, is almost exclusively found in the region. Park goers can also be on the lookout for bobcat, black bear, coyote and whitetail deer, among other wildlife.

Consider booking a stay at the multimillion-dollar Lodge at Mount Magazine, built in 2006. Besides its business and conference centers, the lodge offers a fitness center, gift shop, pool and Southern cuisine from its eatery, the Skycrest Restaurant. Sixty guest rooms are available in this rustic facility, featuring panoramic views overseeing Blue Mountain Lake in the distance and the Petit Jean River Valley nearby.

For more quaint lodging, visitors might consider the Paris Bed & Bath, a two-bedroom cottage housing four guests. From the centrally located home, one can visit the Love Lock



Fence outside Eiffel Tower Park, where you can place a lock featuring your name and the name of your loved one, then throw away the key in the Eiffel Tower fountain.

To experience deeper waters, visitors can explore the Petit Jean River, the largest river flowing entirely within Arkansas River Valley's natural division. Rising in the western Arkansas Ouachita Mountains, it flows about 113 miles eastward into the Arkansas River at Petit Jean State Park. The river is a well-known attraction in the state, particularly among canoeists.

While antique shops, boutiques and restaurants attract visitors year-round, in spring and summer, Paris' historic downtown features a farmers market on the square Tuesdays and Thursdays. The first Saturday in May brings the Spring Time in Paris Festival, while the first Saturday in October features the Frontier Day Festival. Many amateur and professional bicycling and motorcycling events are scheduled throughout the year, too.

If traveling at Christmastime, the state's Trail of Holiday Lights is a delightful way to ring in the season. An official tree lighting kicks off the event, when some 100,000

twinkling lights shine over more than two dozen themed trees decorated by local organizations. A parade initiates the festivities, where Santa remains on hand for photo ops weekdays throughout Trail dates.

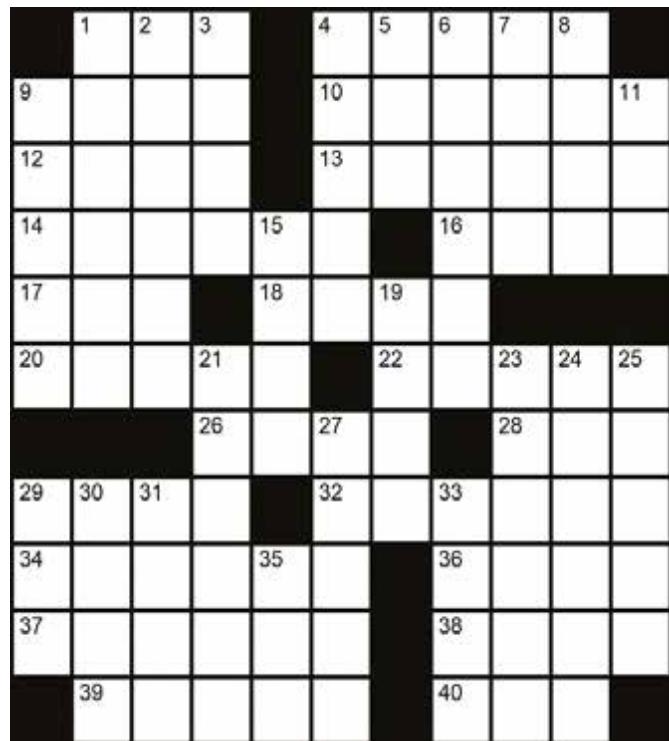
No visit to Paris, Arkansas, is complete without a stop at the family-owned and -operated Prestonrose Farm and Brewing Co. A small batch artisan brewery located on a certified organic farm opens on select evenings to provide guests with a locally sourced, unique farm menu.

Last but not least, you'll want to snap photos at the city's 25-foot-tall Eiffel Tower before calling your trip complete. From outdoor adventures to downhome events, Paris, Arkansas, offers a lot to love without having to cross the Atlantic. **NOW**

Sources:

1. arkansas.com/paris.
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3. encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/petit-jean-river-6252/.

Crossword Puzzle



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Across

1 Subject of "Take Me Home, Country Roads" (John Denver)
 4 Mature
 9 Yoko Ono's son
 10 Dry up
 12 Saber handle
 13 Third sign of the zodiac
 14 Instead
 16 "... and make it snappy!"
 17 Sum charged
 18 Peruse
 20 "... Remember" (Song from "The Fantasticks")
 21
 26
 27
 28
 32
 33
 34
 36
 37
 38
 39
 40

22 Hat he tweaked for a British Prime Minister
 26 "Got it!"
 28 Auto club, up north
 29 Bridge, in Bordeaux
 30 Fishing vessels
 31 Schools
 36 "The Outcasts of Poker Flat" reporter --- Lane
 37 Uncivilized
 38 Enticement to a trout
 39 China brand
 40 "Count me in!"

Down

1 "Mad Men" creator Matthew ---
 2 Depression between hills
 3 Against
 4 Dispute
 5 Owing
 6 Like a teenager's bed?
 7 "Daily Planet" reporter --- Lane
 8 Albacore, for example
 9 Loose dress
 11 Apex
 15 Greek love god
 19 "Attention please ..."
 21 Venetian art master
 23 Gather
 24 Skater all over the place for willing participants
 25 Careless speed
 27 Hudson automobile replaced by the Terraplane
 29 Points
 30 Spoken
 31 Congregational part of a church
 33 With skill
 35 Save the Children, for example

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Sudoku Puzzle

Easy

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

Medium

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

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newest techniques and technology. I'm also a native Spanish speaker. I grew up speaking both languages. Our YouTube videos explaining procedures are available in both English and Spanish."

Dr. Allala is proud of the service they provide at Serenity Advanced Dentistry. "I think we give five-star service. And I know my staff is five-star. We know what works and what doesn't. I know it sounds corny, but this is my life's work. Most of my staff have been with me for years, at different locations around DFW, before I came to Cedar Hill. I met Mariela seven years ago, in Pleasant Grove. It was my first job out of school. Racine has been with me four years, and Jazmine three years, both in Red Oak. Our newest team member is Jessica. She found us three months ago when she emailed me looking for an opportunity to shadow a dentist."

Serenity Advanced Dentistry

If you are an adult who is afraid of going to the dentist, or even just a little extra anxious, Serenity Advanced Dentistry may be just what you are looking for. "We do a lot of sedation dentistry, mostly for adults," Dr. Allala explained. "It's kind of my niche. Many adults may have some pretty serious anxiety about going to the dentist. They may not even seek care. They'd rather be in pain. I provide a place to take care of these people. When patients elect to get treatment, we lower the statistics of people living in pain. I like being able to contribute to improving people's lives."

"Coincidentally, a lot of people who are anxious about going to the dentist are also people who don't have good insurance. That's a bad combination. I have membership plans for patients without insurance, and really good discounts on implants and dentures. A membership might not be necessary if you only need one simple procedure, but if you need sedation and a lot of work, it really pays for itself."

Dr. Allala is a graduate of the Texas A&M School of Dentistry. "When I started there, it was still Baylor. My diploma has both names on it," she recalled. "I specialize in oral surgery, and we're really good at it. I'm nothing without my team. We do everything in dentistry. I like being well rounded. I enjoy being an overachiever, so I'm constantly taking continuing education, keeping up with all the

"I LIKE BEING WELL ROUNDED. I ENJOY BEING AN OVERACHIEVER, SO I'M CONSTANTLY TAKING CONTINUING EDUCATION, KEEPING UP WITH ALL THE NEWEST TECHNIQUES AND TECHNOLOGY."

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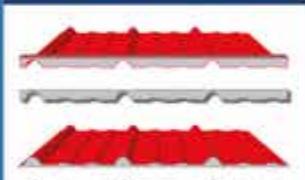


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