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March 2026
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Sandra Walters
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ON THE COVER

Join MansfieldNOW as we commemorate 20 years of sharing stories that recognize many people in this amazing city.



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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Wow! 20 years!

It seems like only yesterday that NOW Magazines was just an idea. Would it work? At that time, only the big cities had full-color magazines. In late 2003, I was considering whether a community magazine that was direct mailed into every home and business in the community would be sustainable. We launched our first magazine in Corsicana in March 2004, our second, *WaxahachieNOW Magazine*, in November of that year, followed by *EnnisNOW Magazine* in December and *MidlothianNOW Magazine* in August 2005. Then we launched again in March 2006, and *MansfieldNOW Magazine* was born. Now, here we are 20 years later!

The concept of providing good stories about good people and delivering free of charge to the readers in the community has proved to be a good one. This, along with providing our advertisers with the ability to reach all of these readers in a direct mail format for an affordable price has all culminated in the success of what is NOW Magazines, LLC.

Thank you to all! We appreciate our readers and the input you provide, and we couldn't exist without our wonderful and loyal advertisers who make this all possible.

And a big shout out to the NOW Magazines staff, including Community Editor Sandra Walters and Sales Representative Bryan Frye. They, along with General Manager Rick Hensley, Managing Editor Becky Walker, Creative Director Chris McCalla and the rest of the NOW family, work so hard each month to bring you *MansfieldNOW Magazine*.

Here's to the past 20 years! We all look forward to serving Mansfield for many years to come!

Connie Poirier



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"The whole team at Divine Touch Medical is awesome. The atmosphere is relaxed, the front desk and technician are very kind and professional. They have a welcoming demeanor and always willing to help. My visit with Olivia Ciccone PA-C was awesome. Her energy and genuine manner made the experience very pleasant." Valenta (Oct. '25)



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A cowboy wearing a tan hat and a red and white plaid shirt is riding a brown horse that is bucking. The cowboy has his arms outstretched and is holding a lasso. The background shows a crowd of spectators in bleachers.

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For 20 years, MansfieldNOW has captured the heartbeat of the community by sharing the stories of the people who shape it. Through two decades of growth and transformation, the common thread has remained clear: Mansfield is driven by people who care deeply about the community — from nonprofit leaders to educators, city leaders, athletes, pastors, veterans, artists, business owners, volunteers and everyday people. We have the pleasure of documenting, celebrating and amplifying those stories every step of the way.

“We’ve been operating a free clinic one day a week for two years now, but we’ve been in volunteered space. Our big, big accomplishment is that we purchased land about two months ago to build our own facility. It’s going to be called *The Caring Place*.” — Marsha Waddelow, member of the Mansfield Cares board, July 2006.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF GROWTH

— By Sandra Walters

When MansfieldNOW Magazine was delivered for the first time in 2006, the city’s population hovered around 49,000. Back then, Mansfield still had the feel of a small Texas town, fewer traffic lights, more open fields and long stretches of quiet roads connecting Fort Worth and Arlington. Today, those roads are lined with rooftops, restaurants and thriving businesses, serving a city that’s nearly doubled in size to more than 82,000 residents.

Two decades later, Mansfield’s story is one of remarkable transformation — from a farming community with deep roots to one of North Texas’ most vibrant, family-friendly cities. More than 125 years ago, Ralph Man and Julian Feild built a gristmill at the corner of Main and Broad streets. That single venture gave birth to the town we now call Mansfield. The city’s original name, “Mansfeild,” was eventually changed to the more widely used spelling because many people misspelled it as “field.” The mill grew into a neighborhood, the neighborhood into a town, and those muddy streets evolved into one of Texas’ oldest intact downtowns. There is a clear divide between old Mansfield and new Mansfield — between those who remember when Broad Street was a two-lane road and those who see it as a shortcut to Target.

Over time, Main Street has seen nearly everything — horse-drawn wagons, Saturday Farmer’s markets, Pickle Parade & Palooza, Geyer Commons, the rise of brick storefronts and the steady rhythm of community life. Today, Historic Downtown Mansfield is thriving once again, with local shops, restaurants and an emerging arts scene breathing new energy into its timeless charm, yet cherishing the history. That blend of nostalgia and progress is what defines the city today.

When Mansfield’s first Walmart Supercenter opened on Walnut Creek Drive, it symbolized a turning point, a sign that the small town was becoming a “real” city. Around it, strip malls sprang up, the air filled with the scent of new asphalt, and families poured in from across North Texas, drawn by great schools and a sense of community.

“I’m excited about life,” she said, overflowing with a positive energy second to none. “You have to be excited about your own life; who else will be if you’re not?” — Alma Pressley, homeowner, May 2009.

“I like to hang back in the beginning, find a pack to stay with and then try to move up,” Kaitlyn explained. Kristyn added, “I like to start faster than her. I try to stay more towards the front.” — Kaitlyn and Kristyn Williams, twins who competed in track at the state level for Timberview High School, May 2010.

“All of the money we make at the thrift store is given back to the Wesley Mission Center so that we can assist others. We operate on that money and donations.” — Jackie Stover, Feed the Kids for Summer volunteer, May 2011.



"How many get to do what I'm doing? I've worked my whole administrative career for this. I feel blessed and privileged knowing that the district has entrusted me with the Legacy High campus." — David Wright, first principal of Legacy High School, September 2007

"If you want to have happy kids and happy parents, you have to have happy teachers and staff. Teachers are so important. The teachers here work so hard. So does the staff, including the custodians." — Alma Martinez, principal of Mary Orr Elementary, who was later the namesake of Alma Martinez Intermediate School, November 2008.



"I minister to people by providing compassionate ministries, like teaching English, teaching the Bible and socializing them to the United States. The church is changing. We want to be at the center of that change. We are involved in ministry in a shifting paradigm, and the people who seek us out are looking for ministry that doesn't cause them pain, but brings happiness to their souls as humans." — David Chavez, pastor at First Methodist Church, July 2012.

"People ask me all sorts of question to try and make me break character. I have to know everything, because I won't break character." — Alex Mazieri, impersonator of Johnny Depp, February 2013.

"When we turned the corner on the float, some of us started crying. There were just thousands of people." — Amanda Kowalski, Co-founder of the Pickle Parade and a Pickle Queen, March 2014.



"I'm proud that, as a city employee, I can say I had a part in building a community. I enjoy that there is something new every day to work on and be involved with." — Belinda Willis, director of communications & marketing for the city of Mansfield, August 2015.

"Track is mental. It makes me stronger and tougher." — Jasmine Moore, who later competed in the 2024 Olympics, January 2016.



"We all had so much fun, and it was so heartwarming." — Keven Smith, Cowboy Keven's Rockin' Wrangler Rodeo, April 2017.



"The great thing about our museum and Mansfield is you can walk in the front door and spend a half hour getting a sense of history of the city, then walk out and see it." — Chris Ohan, president of Mansfield Historical Society, February 2018.

The Mansfield Independent School District mirrored that growth, opening new campuses nearly every year. In 2006, Vernon Newsom Stadium opened its gates, lighting up Friday nights with hometown pride. Mansfield Legacy High School followed in 2007, rising from the historic site of the Kow Bell Rodeo Arena, a nod to the city's roots and its red-and-black Bronco spirit. Then came Lake Ridge High School in 2013, built to welcome 2,500 more students as families continued to move in. To continue the legacy of excellence that has long defined the district, James Coble Middle School, Cora Spencer Elementary, Anna May Daulton Elementary, Ben Barber Innovation Academy, Charlene McKinzey Middle School, Jerry Knight STEM Academy, Brenda Norwood Elementary, Dr. Sarah K. Jandrucko Academy for Early Learners, and ALPHA Academy were developed to meet the needs of many in the community. MISD added world-class facilities by updating the Debbie Weems Natatorium and building the Dr. Jim Vaszauskas Center for the Performing Arts, which solidifies its reputation for excellence in academics, arts and athletics.

Also during this time, the 26-acre Town Park at 500 N. Main Street marked a new era in Mansfield's commitment to outdoor living. With playgrounds, walking trails and an amphitheater, it became the community's heartbeat, and this started the western trailhead for the city's planned linear trail system. This eventually linked neighborhoods across the city. From there, the list of parks grew fast: Walnut Creek Linear Trail (2007), Donald R. Barg Park (2011), Elmer W. Oliver Nature Park (2014), Lucretia and Gary Mills Park (2016),

Harold M. Bell Park (2020) and more. Each new addition reflected a city determined to balance rapid development with a high quality of life. Even Mansfield's four-legged residents got their own haven, the Mans Best Field Dog Park, which opened in 2020.

In addition, two decades ago, the opening of Methodist Mansfield Medical Center changed everything. It brought world-class care to local families and stood as a beacon of health, hope and healing. Around the same time, Mansfield Cares expanded its outreach by building a new facility and launched programs to help residents in need. This is a testament of the residents' compassion for their neighbors. As Mansfield's population and surrounding areas continued to surge, health care options grew. In 2020, Texas Health Resources opened a new campus off Heritage Parkway, ensuring that care was accessible in that area.

Mansfield now blends hometown warmth with suburban convenience. U.S. 287 and SH 360 are the town's primary highways. A portion of 360 was finished in 2018 and expanded in 2023. New construction, stylish residences and several family favorites like Hawaiian Falls, Big League Dreams and Fields at Station 63 can be found beside these freeways. These locations keep weekends jam-packed with competitions and memories and summers full of laughter. Once cutting through fields, highways now link schools, businesses and homes in an expanding network that supports Mansfield's growth while preserving its small-town essence.

From historic downtown to modern neighborhoods,

"If I can teach my kids to keep their little space of earth clean, maybe that will rub off on their friends and their friends and so on. If you take care of the planet, it will take care of you." — Leon Williams, board chairman of Keep Mansfield Beautiful Commission, April 2020.

"As an Indonesian Muslim woman, I can say something to Indonesians through social media to help them understand Americans. And I can say something to Americans to help them understand Indonesians." — Ratu Adil, artist, January 2021.

"Lisa and I were 22 years old, and we fell in love with the community, which wrapped their arms around us. They did not let us go, and we didn't let them go." — Mayor Michael Evans, June 2022.

"In October of 2022, we finalized the renovations. When a patron enters our doors, he or she will discover many new additions." — Yolanda Botello, Mansfield's director of library and historical studies, October 2023.

"I discovered running when I was 40. I simply needed a way to relieve stress and thought about the best way to achieve this. I have a friend who is a pastor, as well, and he runs, so I thought, I'm going to run, too." — Everette Pafford, 70-year-old marathon runner, June 2024.

“Once I started and people got more interested in me, I realized we can make a business out of this.” — Kinzie Wilson, drag racer, January 2019.



Mansfield’s growth hasn’t erased its roots — it’s strengthened them. The parks, schools and new families add another chapter to a story that began with a gristmill more than a century ago. As *MansfieldNOW Magazine* celebrates 20 years of chronicling this city’s history, from former Mayor David Cook to Mayor Michael Evans to everyday heroes, students, teachers, artists and business owners, we celebrate not just how much has changed, but how much remains: the sense of pride, community and promise that makes Mansfield, Mansfield. **NOW**

Editor’s Note: Special thanks to the Mansfield Historical Society for their contributions to this story.

Source:
1. <https://www.mansfieldtexas.gov/1381/Mansfield-the-Early-Years>.



“Being special needs parents wasn’t the journey we chose, but it’s one we embrace with love, strength and unwavering dedication. We may be small, but we are mighty.” — Jessica Hinojosa, president founder of Special Needs Moms of Mansfield, April 2025.

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TEXAS HEALTH RESOURCES ANNOUNCED AS NAMING RIGHTS SPONSOR OF MANSFIELD STADIUM

Texas Health Resources is expanding its commitment to community wellness through a long-term naming rights sponsorship for Mansfield Stadium. The agreement establishes Texas Health Mansfield Stadium as the official name of the new venue and reflects a shared commitment to health, wellness and community impact across the City of Mansfield and the surrounding region.

“Texas Health’s mission is to improve the health of the people in the communities we serve, and that includes supporting a community asset like the new Texas Health Mansfield Stadium,” said Eulanie Lashley, President and CEO, Texas Health Hospital Mansfield. “This facility will not only host events – it will serve as the central wellness hub

for the entire Mansfield community.”

As part of the agreement, Texas Health will serve as the stadium’s Official Health Partner. Texas Health, REV Entertainment, North Texas SC and the City of Mansfield will collaborate on initiatives designed to promote healthier lifestyles, including community programming and enhanced food and beverage offerings that emphasize more nutritious options. The sponsorship further reinforces the stadium’s role as a year-round community wellness hub, not just an entertainment venue.

“Texas Health is a trusted partner that shares Mansfield’s commitment to strengthening the health and well-being of our community,” said Michael

Evans, Mayor of the City of Mansfield. “This stadium is more than a sports venue, it’s a year-round gathering place that will bring families together, drive economic growth, and create new opportunities for community programming. We’re proud to welcome Texas Health as the naming rights sponsor as we move closer to opening day.”

Texas Health Mansfield Stadium will serve as the home of North Texas Soccer Club – the MLS NEXT Pro affiliate of FC Dallas – beginning this summer, with the team’s inaugural match at the venue scheduled for Saturday, July 4. Construction began in December 2024, with Perkins&Will serving as design architect and Moss Construction as the project’s contractor. Managed by REV Entertainment,



Conceptual Image of Mansfield Stadium



Project Partners at naming ceremony - Feb. 2026



the stadium will host a diverse lineup of sports and entertainment events, including youth soccer, international tournaments, concerts and more.

"We're proud to work with Texas Health, a trusted leader that shares our commitment to positively impacting the people of Mansfield and the broader North Texas community," said Sean Decker, President of REV Entertainment. "This naming rights sponsorship goes well beyond signage. Together, we're creating a venue that prioritizes wellness and community engagement as Texas Health Mansfield Stadium

comes to life."

Scheduled to open this summer, Texas Health Mansfield Stadium is among several DFW-area venues being evaluated by international teams as a potential Team Base Camp site for the FIFA World Cup 2026. The stadium reached a significant construction milestone in October with its Topping Out Ceremony. Recent construction progress includes:

- Completion of the east and west canopies, providing covered seating on both sides of the stadium.
- Concourse slabs poured,

making the stadium fully walkable.

•Field drainage, base and sub-grade complete and ready for installation of natural grass sod.

Scan the QR code below to stay informed on what's coming up at Texas Health Mansfield Stadium.



Mansfield City Council at naming ceremony - Feb. 2026



Simmons Wealth Management

Todd Simmons began his career as a public accountant, but it didn't take long for him to realize the demands of the profession were not a good fit for raising a family. Seeking better balance, he accepted a position as deputy director for the city of Shreveport. While the role supported his family's lifestyle, Todd felt drawn to more personal work, helping individuals better understand and manage their finances.



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He wanted to combine his passion for education with serving others.

That desire ultimately led him to become a financial advisor in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. In 2001, Todd and his wife, Rona, moved to Mansfield, a city that looked very different at the time. "There was only one high school, Mansfield High," Todd recalled. "Summit opened the next year, but today there are five high schools, and most of the people who live here now didn't live here then."

Rona teaches in Mansfield ISD, and both of their children, Alana and Nolan, graduated from Mansfield High. The family has long been active at Walnut Ridge Baptist Church, where Todd also teaches Sunday School. Watching Mansfield grow and change over the years deepened his connection to the community. Through his involvement as a resident, volunteer, church member and business owner, Todd became a familiar face throughout the city. Friends and family often encouraged him to

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consider public office. While the idea came up before, he never pursued it seriously until recently. This time, without announcing his intentions, he quietly entered the race and won.

In June 2025, Todd Simmons was elected to the Mansfield City Council, Place 5. The special election filled the unexpired term of a council member who had resigned to run for mayor. Todd now serves as an at-large council member through May 2027.

As a longtime resident who has spent decades serving on local boards and participating in civic initiatives, Todd's transition into elected office felt like a natural step. "I love Mansfield," Todd said simply, a sentiment reflected in both his public service and professional life.

Alongside his work on the City Council, Todd continues to serve the community through his business as president of Simmons Wealth Management. He takes a client-centered approach, beginning with in-depth conversations to understand each client's goals and priorities. "As an advisor, I help people pursue their financial goals by breaking things down to the basics, much like a teacher," Todd said. "Some people just need a little knowledge, while others need more hands-on guidance over time. I meet people where they are."

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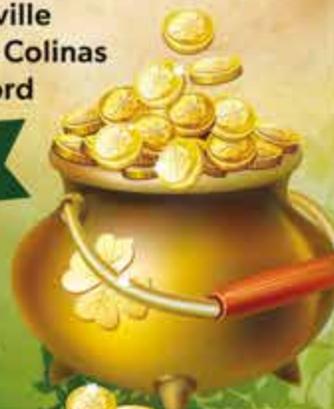
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"Coincidentally, a lot of people who are anxious about going to the dentist are also people who don't have good insurance. That's a bad combination. I have membership plans for patients without insurance, and really good discounts on implants and dentures. 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

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."

"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."

Serenity Advanced Dentistry has all the newest technology to make your experience convenient. "We have hospital-grade blood pressure machines, so we can do sedation. We also have intraoral scanners, so I can see inside your mouth, from every angle, before I ever go in for your procedure. We print dentures and place implants right here in the office. With our skills and strategies, most patients don't even feel our injections. We have TVs in every room to keep you entertained while we work. It's all about efficiency — working smarter, not harder. That's why I designed the floor plan of the office myself. And we're really big on sanitation and sterilization. It's important to maintain a sterile environment, which is why we're closed every Friday for deep cleaning the office and training."



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Zoomed In: Haisley and Jase Fowler

By Sandra Walters

Haisley and Jase Fowler have been riding go-karts since they were toddlers. Their mother, Harley, said, "Their father and I grew up surrounded by race cars and the thrill of racing, so sharing that passion with our children has created a special bond. Go-karting isn't just about speed for this family. It's about time together, laughter and passing down memories rooted in our childhood."

Their favorite time to bring out the karts is during the winter, when the ground is iced over, and the air feels crisp and exciting. On one of the recent snow days, their kids climbed in and out of their karts grinning, riding and declaring it, "the best day ever!"



David Ondieki looks at the snow from different angles.



Emori and Ilani Arceneaux are dressed well for the winter weather.



Hazel, Lyla and Wesley Hudson make special winter memories together.



Mikayla Fuller surrounds herself with snow.



Lindsey and Bextley Nave enjoy the snow as they hug.

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Zoomed In: Leia Miller and Friends

By Sandra Walters

The snow fell thick and quietly during the night, turning the neighborhood into a white playground. Simba, Carter and Leia ventured outside the next morning, bundled in puffy coats and colorful scarves. With plastic cups and spoons in hand, they were excited about their newest idea — snow cones made straight from the sky. “We scooped clean snow from the ground, packing it carefully into cups like expert chefs,” Leia said. “My friends and I ran inside for syrup, and soon bright red, blue and purple colors spilled over the snow. Laughter echoed as we compared flavors, arguing over which was best while our fingers turned various colors from the sweet treat.” Snow covered their boots and hats, but no one cared. That day was delightful and filled with uncomplicated joy.



Ellie Ancona is dressed quite stylish as she stands outside in the snow.



Izzy and Finnegan McCracken skate around the neighborhood.



Leighton Bagby reclines in the snow with a smile.



Emma Penney, Jemma Long, Maddie Penney, Chris Henne and Dylan Fagan huddle in front while Cooper Penney plays behind them.



Kodi, Huxleigh and Melanie Tanner celebrate winter as they lift up their hands.



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NOW MAGAZINE'S BEST OF ... THE FIRST YEAR

— By Sandra Walters

As we celebrate 20 years of CookingNOW, where friends and neighbors have swapped favorite family recipes for two decades, we're taking a little trip back to the beginning. These are some of the recipes we shared during our very first year, when the tables were full and the community spirit was just getting started. Take a look to see if any familiar names jump out at you. You might just discover an old favorite recipe — or a new one to try tonight. **NOW**

Shrimp Quiche

Provided by Gail Wilhelm for the April 2006 issue.

- 1 9-inch piecrust
- 2 Tbsp. onions, chopped
- 3 Tbsp. butter, unsalted
- 2 cups small shrimp, tails off and uncooked
- Salt, to taste
- Pepper, to taste
- 1/2 cup white wine
- 1 cup medium cream
- 1 Tbsp. tomato paste
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 1/2 cup Swiss cheese, grated

1. Bake the piecrust at 400 F for 8-9 minutes. Prick the bottom; return the piecrust to the oven for 2 more minutes. Remove from the oven; lower the temperature to 375 F.
2. In a skillet, sauté the onions in butter for

1 to 2 minutes until translucent. Add the shrimp, salt, pepper and wine, stirring gently. Cook for 2-3 minutes. Cool slightly.

3. Add the cream, tomato paste and eggs to a bowl: beat together. Combine with the shrimp mixture; stir. Pour into the crust; top with the cheese.

4. Set in the upper 1/3 of the oven. Bake for 25 minutes until puffed and golden.

Best Ever Pralines

Provided by Lynn Jones for the May 2006 issue.

- 2 cups sugar
- 1/2 cup light corn syrup
- 1 cup whipping cream
- 1 1/2 Tbsp. oleo
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 2 cups pecans, lightly toasted

1. In a saucepan, cook the sugar, corn syrup and whipping cream on medium heat until 234-240 F on a candy thermometer. Using a wooden spoon, stir continually. When it reaches soft ball stage, remove from heat; stir in the oleo, vanilla and salt.

2. Blend well; then allow the mixture to sit for 5 minutes. Add the pecans; continue to stir until it becomes thick and glossy. Place on waxed paper to cool. Makes approximately 40 bite-size pieces. Store in an airtight container.

Cinco de Mayo Bean Dip

Provided by Tonie Contreras for the June 2006 issue.

- Refried pinto beans
- 1 can diced Ro-Tel or 1 fresh tomato
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 1 bunch of green onions
- 1 cup shredded cheese

1. Mix the beans, tomatoes and onions until hot. Add the remaining ingredients.

You Name It

Provided by Kelsey David for the July 2006 issue.

Crust:

- 1 cup flour
- 1 stick oleo or butter
- 1 cup pecans, chopped

Cream Filling Layer:

- 1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese
- 1 cup powdered sugar

Cool Whip Layer:

- 2 cups Cool Whip (divided use)

Chocolate Filling Layer:

- 1 box chocolate instant pudding
- 1 box vanilla instant pudding
- 3 cups milk
- 2 HERSHEY'S Chocolate bars, shaved

1. For the crust: Heat the oven to 350 F. Mix the flour, oleo and pecans; put in an 8x8-inch glass pan. Bake for 20 minutes; let cool.

2. For the cream filling layer: Mix the cream cheese and powdered sugar in a bowl. Then, place the filling over the crust.

3. For the Cool Whip layer: Spread 1 cup of Cool Whip over the cream cheese filling.

4. For the chocolate filling layer: Mix the ingredients; spread over the Cool Whip layer. Layer one more cup of Cool Whip on top of the chocolate layer.

5. Top with the HERSHEY bar shavings.

Cuban Fajita Casserole

Provided by T.J. Planas for the September 2006 issue.

- 3 cups white rice
- 12 to 16 oz. fajita meat (steak, chicken, pork or combination)
- Olive oil or vegetable oil
- 6-8 flour tortillas
- 1 large can black beans
- 1/2 cup Monterrey Jack cheese
- 2-4 oz. sour cream

1. Cook the rice according to the package directions.

2. Slice the meat to appropriate size; put a little olive or vegetable oil in a skillet to brown the meat.

3. Tear the tortillas into small bite-sized pieces. Once the rice and meat are cooked, combine in a large saucepan. Add the beans, cheese and tortillas. Cook at medium temperature for 6-8 minutes until done. Make sure to stir frequently to avoid burning. Serve with sour cream.

Crossword - Sudoku Solutions

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9
L	E	A	F		S	P	O	R	E
10	I	V	O	R	11	E	I	L	E
13	N	A	R	Y	14	E	N	D	U
15	D	D	T		16	P	E	G	
18	Y	E	A	R	19	L	Y		20
					21	P	O	E	M
23	S	P	A	M		26	T	E	A
30	N	A	T		31	M	O	T	
33	U	N	T	R	34	U	E		35
36	G	A	I	E	T	Y		37	I
					38	M	C	G	E
									39
									T
									E
									N
									S

Easy

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

Medium

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

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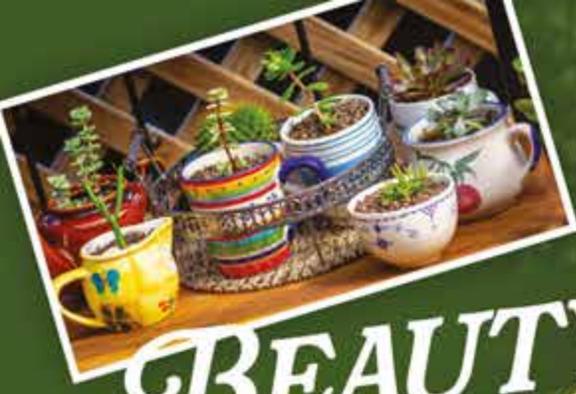
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BEAUTY IN REPURPOSING

— By Amber D. Browne



As springtime approaches, flowering plants, herbs, succulents and more will be lining store shelves. If you plan to get your hands dirty to showcase nature's beauty this spring, why not repurpose and reuse a few items as planters? With so many options to house various types of greenery, the sky's the limit.

Before picking out your favorite plants at a local provider, gather a variety of containers to use as planters. Plan a color scheme or different sizes to fit the space. When preparing for a planting session, purchase soil that drains well but retains moisture and nutrients. Grab a spade, some gardening gloves and a watering can. If you plan to kneel to plant, get a towel and fold it several times to provide a comfier spot to rest on the ground.

BASINS OR BOWLS

Gardeners can find basins and bowls made from a variety of materials including ceramic, metal or plastic that can be repurposed into indoor or outdoor planters. You might check local thrift stores or garage sales to find a few planters. This type of container is the perfect space for smaller plants, such as succulents or spider plants. Another option is herbs including lemon balm, spearmint or basil. If you plant edible vegetation, make sure the containers have holes for proper drainage to prevent root rot. You can use a drill to create holes in metal containers or a screwdriver to poke several holes in the bottom of plastic vessels.

Once you have planted your selections, you can set the basins or bowls on old metal chairs out by the pool, or display them on refurbished shelving on the porch. Remember to add a saucer or drainage tray under plants on outdoor shelves or under others that you bring indoors. Whatever you decide, the repurposed containers are sure to brighten any space.

RUBBER BOOTS AND SHOES

Rubber boots or shoes can add color to your outdoor garden. First, create drainage holes. Then, fill the containers with soil and flowering plants or other vegetation that will flourish outdoors. You could choose smaller plants to fit the tight spaces.

COFFEE MUGS AND TEA POTS

Old coffee mugs filled with succulents or herbs are a fun addition to a windowsill in the kitchen. You could use a collection of mugs from family vacations, or you might discover colorful tea pots at a thrift store, perfect for smaller plants. Aloe is a great choice for a mug or tea pot. It develops quickly with new growth sprouting every few weeks. Once the aloe gets larger, you can transplant it into a bigger vessel.

WAGONS AND WHEELBARROWS

Using an old wagon or a wheelbarrow as a planter provides a larger space to showcase your selection of vegetation. Make sure the plants and flowers you plan to add require the same amount of sunlight, and that the wagon or wheelbarrow has drainage holes. You will need more potting soil to fill the larger space. Start by placing a layer of soil on the bottom of the wagon or wheelbarrow. The soil should be at a level that leaves space for you to add more soil once your plants are added to the container.

Organize your potted plants on top of the layer of soil. Add more soil around the pots, pressing the soil down to compact it around potted plants. Once enough soil is added, remove the pots and take out the plants. Add the plants back to the holes left behind in the soil. Continue until all of the new plants have been added to the wagon or wheelbarrow. Add more soil, if necessary, and don't forget to water!

For any plant's care needs, read the instructions for how much and what type of sunlight is required daily, as well as watering instructions. These vary for each plant. A good rule of thumb is if the soil is dry to the touch, the plant needs to be watered. Added nutrients such as plant fertilizer, plant food or compost can help with growth.

To keep your plants thriving, make sure they have sufficient light, water and nutrients. You can refer back to the instructions included with your plant purchase or Google tips to keep your plants happy and healthy. **NOW**

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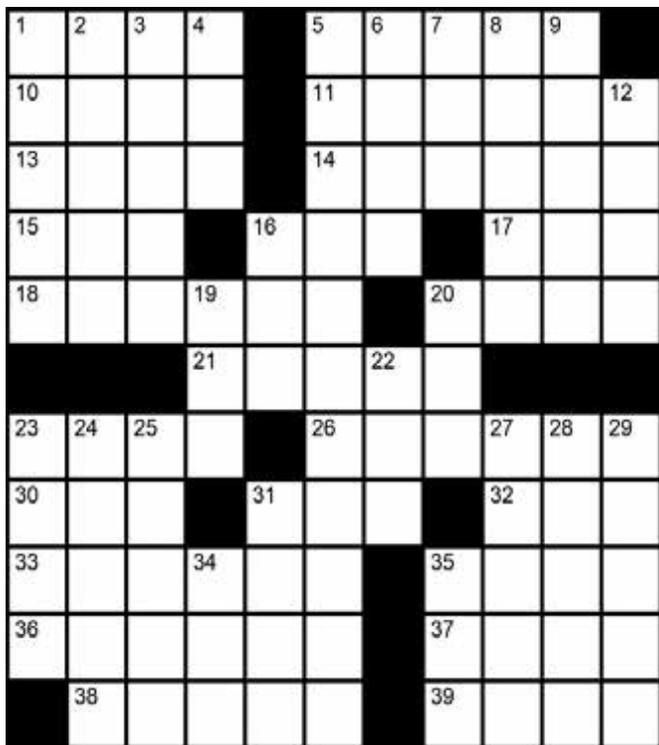
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Across

- 1 Book sheet
5 Future fungus
10 Playwright Novello
11 Space shuttle commander --- Collins
13 --- a one: zip
14 Hang in there
15 "Silent Spring" killer
16 Fastener
17 "'em!"
18 Per annum
20 Quick look
21 Mopes about rhyming stuff
23 Unwelcome messages
26 Joined together
30 --- Turner, rebellious slave
31 Bon --- (clever remark)
32 "Bobby Hockey"
33 False
35 "Battle Hymn of the Republic" author
36 Merrymaking
37 "It depends on what the meaning of the word ---" (Bill Clinton)
38 "Me and Bobby ---" (Kris Kristofferson)
39 "... two --- for a twenty?"

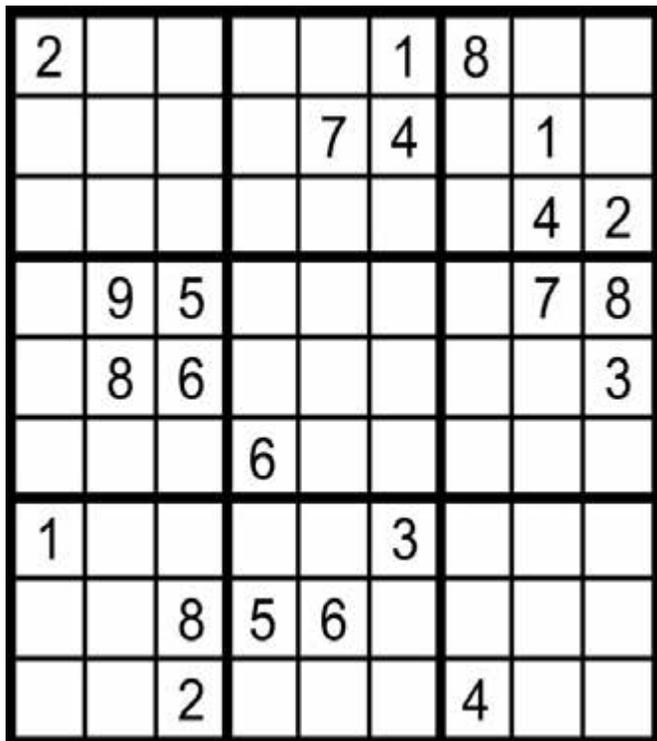
Down

- 1 Hop variety
2 Dodge
3 Big artery
4 Prepare scrapple, for example
5 Be on the same wavelength
6 Light ringing sound
7 --- Ironsides (the USS Constitution)
8 Put back into service
9 Strange and mysterious
12 Dracula's target
16 Group once led by Yasser Arafat
19 Rotational speed
20 Not-for-profit TV spot
22 Encountered
23 Cosy
24 Airline that flew Clippers
25 Overturned tacit old Greek dialect
27 Bullwinkle J, for example
28 General --- Rommel
29 Apparel
31 Silent
34 "Andy Capp" cartoonist --- Smythe
35 Strike

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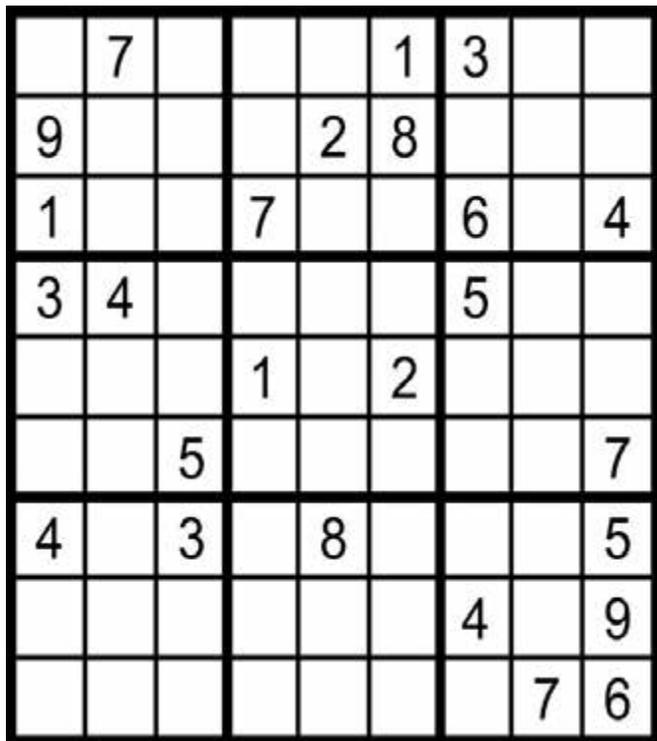
Sudoku Puzzle

Easy



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Medium



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