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ON THE COVER



Dr. Casey Brown, president of the Kiwanis Club of Mansfield, shares the group's passion.

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*Publisher, Connie Poirier
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*Managing Editor, Becky Walker
Mansfield Editor, Sandra Walters
Office Assistant, Kristin Bato
Writer, Emma McKay
Editors/Proofreaders, Rachel Rich
Virginia Riddle*

GRAPHICS AND DESIGN

*Creative Director, Chris McCalla
Artists, Kristin Bato . Martha Macias
London O'Connell . Anthony Sarmienta*

PHOTOGRAPHY

*Photography Director, Chris McCalla
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Subscriptions are available at the rate of \$35 per year or \$3.50 per issue. Subscriptions should be sent to: NOW Magazines, P.O. Box 1071, Waxahachie, TX 75168. For advertising rates or editorial correspondence, call (817) 477-0990 or visit www.nowmagazines.com.

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

EDITOR'S NOTE

Mansfield Family ...

As we embrace the month of April, designated as National Volunteer Month, let's take a moment to reflect on the vibrant spirit of volunteerism that thrives in Mansfield. It's a great time to express gratitude to volunteers who support different organizations in this area.

In my roles as both editor and resident of Mansfield, I've had the privilege of witnessing the incredible impact of various nonprofits that contribute to the well-being of this community. From churches, Mansfield Women's Club, Common Ground, I AM S.T.R.O.N.G., Mansfield Missions Center, Operation Teddy Bear, Mercy Street Kitchen, Harvesting International, Chiketa Cares Foundation, Kiwanis Club to Journey4ward, among others, the diversity of these initiatives is truly inspiring.

Volunteers play a pivotal role in bringing hope to this community through their selfless contributions. Whether it's sharing a sermon, collecting or donating backpacks, teaching social and leadership skills, providing food, caring for the homeless, expressing gratitude to first responders, tutoring, mentoring, offering health care services or celebrating the triumphs of cancer survivors, the impact of volunteers is immeasurable. You make a difference, and NOW Magazines extends sincere appreciation for all that you do.

This month, take the opportunity to thank the volunteers who positively influence people's lives for being an integral part of the Mansfield community. Their contributions and support make this city a better place for all!

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"This was my first visit to see Dr. Peters, and she was amazing. She was attentive, patient, a good listener and wanted to give top notch overall care. Her staff was friendly and professional. I just found my new PCP doctor! I highly recommend her." - Leah

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FIND A NEED AND FILL IT

— By Sandra Walters

The Kiwanis Club of Mansfield commemorated 50 years of service in October 2023. They are part of the larger Kiwanis International, a worldwide organization of volunteers committed to bettering the world one child and one community at a time. For all children to wake up in environments that nourish, believe in and support them so they can grow, they work to have a positive influence in communities all over the world. Their motto reads, “Serving children of the world.”

“I became a Key Club member in the '90s when I was in high school, and my daughters were Key Club members at Legacy High School,” said Dr. Casey Brown, president of the Kiwanis Club of Mansfield. “When my kids were in high school, I wanted to join. However, I waited until they graduated, and once they left for college, I joined. Bobby Quinten, current governor elect of the Texas Oklahoma District of Kiwanis International, reached out and provided meeting information. I texted my kids to let them know. ‘Excellent choice,’ one of my daughters responded.”

Kiwanis, Builders Club and Key Club are three organizations of the Kiwanis family. The middle school group is called Builders Club, and the high school group is Key Club. The Kiwanis Club consists of adult members who desire to give back to the organization and community.

“Currently, we have one intermediate school Builders Club, but we would love to have more. Recently, we helped Mary Orr Intermediate School Builders Club with a service project. We collected stuffed animals to supply first responders with a small

“I am honored to be a part of a club that works so hard for others. We have members who volunteer hundreds of hours of their time. It’s an honor to share about this group of dedicated people who give so much of themselves.”

token for children following traumatic events. We enjoyed supporting the Builders Club and a fellow nonprofit,” Dr. Brown said.

“There are six high schools in Mansfield Independent School District, which are represented by six Key Clubs. We are honored to sponsor the Key Clubs and partner in service activities. Also, we help send Key Club members to their District Convention each year.”

Weekly club meetings are facilitated by Kiwanians, and events serve as platforms for community engagement and networking. Members gather to share ideas, plan projects and discuss ways to address local needs. The sense of camaraderie and shared purpose within the Kiwanis Club not only

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strengthens individual clubs but also fosters a broader sense of community with Key Club members.

“Each month, at one of our weekly meetings, we recognize a Mansfield ISD student and teacher of the month,” Dr. Brown added.

The Kiwanis Club participates with other nonprofits that align with their mission of child-centered services. For example, they give generously to the Mansfield Mission Center Food Market. “One recent activity was building cake kits for the market, because we believe that celebrating birthdays is important. This can help families celebrate their children on special days even if they are having financial difficulties. We seek additional opportunities to contribute to the community,” Dr. Brown said.

During the winter, members of the Key Club and Kiwanians ring the bell for the Salvation Army Red Kettle campaign to raise funds and collect warm blankets for Harvesting in Mansfield. And to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Kiwanis Club of Mansfield, they collaborated with the community to conduct a book drive



project to supply the Mansfield Library with additional adolescent and children’s books. Many people contributed books in honor or in memory of a loved one, and at a recent Kiwanis meeting, Kiwanians and Key Club members had the opportunity to label the library books donated by the club.

The Kiwanis Club is always looking for ways to be a blessing to others through their community service projects. To continue to be a positive influence, they sponsor fundraisers to support the mission, such as a golf tournament, bingo at Dirty Job Brewing and the FaLaLa 5Kiwanis

fun run/walk, which raises money for Feed the Kids for Summer and to fund scholarships for MISD seniors. This year’s golf tournament will be held on May 15 at Mansfield National, with Methodist Mansfield Medical Center as title sponsor.

“I am honored to be a part of a club that works so hard for others. We have members who volunteer hundreds of hours of their time. It’s an honor to share about this group of dedicated people who give so much of themselves. The Kiwanis Club represents what my mother used to say, ‘Find a need and fill it.’ That’s precisely what Kiwanis does as a team, and we invite others to join us,” Dr. Brown concluded.

The distinctive aspect of the Kiwanis Club is its emphasis on youth leadership development. They offer opportunities for young people to develop leadership skills, engage in community service and build a sense of civic responsibility. These initiatives not only empower the youth, but also contribute to the long-term sustainability of the organization’s mission by nurturing the next generation of community leaders. **NOW**

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According to state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older cannot be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value, unless improvements are made to the home.

TAX FACTS

1. The **tax rate will not increase (for anyone) with approval** of the 2024 bond election.
2. The MISD **tax rate is the lowest it's been since 1992.**
3. The total **tax rate has decreased by 31¢** in the last four years.
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The kindergarten team of teachers at Annette Pery Elementary sport their 101 days of school gear.

Zoomed In: Giovanna and Abel Espirtu

By Sandra Walters

Giovanna and Abel Espirtu celebrated Operation Teddy's ribbon cutting while mingling with those in the community. "It's our mission to provide children with a teddy bear during times of fear, abandonment or anguish due to trauma. The presence of a stuffed animal can bring a child peace, comfort and feelings of safety. Simply holding or cuddling with a plush little creature can provide a sense of security," according to Giovanna.

During this event, Operation Teddy supplied first responders with stuffed animals to place in their vehicles. Their goal is to continue to furnish police officers, firefighters, sheriffs, social workers, homeless shelters, rescues from human trafficking and small children of fallen or disabled military veterans with teddy bears for years to come.



Officer Paul Carson takes a well-deserved retirement after 23 years of service.



The Timberview Girls Basketball Team celebrates its successful season.



Chelsie and Austen Aaron pose at the Mansfield Firefighters Ball 2024.



Anna DeSorgo enjoys her 80th birthday with her family.



Tianna Booker and her son, Maverick, head to the Sneaker Ball.

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Soarin' OVER TEXAS

— By Emma McKay

As the frost begins to melt and flowers bloom once again, humans and animals alike emerge from their shelters to bask in the warmth of the sun. After a long, harsh winter, spring brings about beautiful things to remind us that life is resilient. One of the joys that the April winds carry is the return of the Monarch butterfly.

Like birds, Monarchs migrate south to survive the winter months. These fragile creatures will spend months fluttering through the trees of Central Mexico, until eventually making the journey back north — a journey that only their great-grandchildren will see the conclusion of.

At the beginning of March, Monarchs begin their flight to Texas, where they find a suitable milkweed plant on which to lay the eggs of the first generation of offspring. As the overwintered Monarchs' flights end, the first generation continues the expedition to the Midwest and Northeastern states, spending their two to six weeks of life repopulating old breeding grounds. During the summer months, the second and third generations continue this cycle of growing, flying, breeding and dying. By August, the fourth and final generation of this months-long flight will embark on its southward journey.

Whereas its predecessors only lived a handful of weeks, so they might reproduce the next generations, the fourth generation goes into a reproductive diapause, meaning they will not mature and reproduce until the spring. Due to the energy this lack of breeding conserves and the cool overwintering climate slowing its metabolism, the fourth generation can live up to nine months, allowing the butterflies to see the next spring and begin the journey all over again.

Despite having never known their next of kin, Monarchs will take the same flight paths through the East Coast and the Midwest down through Texas and into central America. After years of research on the migratory patterns of the Monarch, biologists attribute this navigation instinct to the utilization of the sun and the Earth's magnetic field. By using both the sun as a compass and their own internal magnetic compasses, Monarchs can find their way in just about any weather. However, one innate habit of Monarchs stumps biologists to this day. Throughout their journey, they will roost in the same exact trees their ancestors did in previous years.

While the nectar of flowers is a great way to attract just about any sort of butterfly, if you are hoping to lure Monarchs into your garden this spring, be sure to plant lots of *asclepias*, otherwise known as milkweed. Milkweeds are poisonous plants, which contain cardiac glycosides.



Monarchs prefer to lay their eggs on the leaves of these plants. When the larvae ingest milkweed, the toxins will linger inside of them as they grow, making them poisonous and therefore protected against predators.

Antelope-horns milkweed (*asclepias asperula*) is a hardy plant that grows best in soils that allow drainage. Native to Texas, this species of milkweed can weather dry seasons gracefully, provided the occasional watering. Antelope-horns milkweed requires direct sunlight, so it might reach its full 2-foot height. This species of milkweed blooms from March to November, allowing passing Monarchs to drink its nectar when stopping to lay eggs. Despite its Texas-strong resilience, replanting already-grown antelope-horns can be tricky due to their brittle roots. For the best results, grow this type of milkweed from seeds.

Beloved by many Monarch enthusiasts, green milkweed (*asclepias viridis*), another Texas native, thrives in similar sunlight, varied soil and low-watering conditions to those preferred by its cousin, the antelope-horns milkweed. Unlike antelope-horns milkweed, green milkweed can reach up to 3 feet in height. It also sports larger leaves than other species of milkweed, gifting young caterpillars a feast as they grow.

If you neither have the space nor green thumb to maintain a butterfly garden, there is another way to attract this regal insect. Butterflies love the juice from old fruits. Place scraps of fruit — melon rinds,



strawberry tops, apple cores, spoiled peaches, etc. — outside, and watch as butterflies flock to your backyard.

Whether you plan on spotting Monarchs at a public park or attracting them to your own backyard, take a moment to enjoy their presence. Although their flights are fleeting, your time spent with them doesn't have to be. **NOW**

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CookingNOW In the Kitchen With MAXWELL BOWERS

— By Sandra Walters

“About three years ago, I began experimenting in the kitchen with my mom and discovered I love to cook, especially baking. As a family, traditionally, we sit down every night for dinner, so I’ve helped my mother make a lot of meals. This is what sparked my interest,” Maxwell Bowers said.

When he was 10 years old, his church group had a bake-off, and he chose to create chocolate chip cookies. Other children, ages 8 to 11, produced baked goods as well. “But to my surprise, I got first place! This gave me the confidence to keep baking,” he said. “So, I tweaked the original recipe to make it my own. The Maxwell’s Award-Winning Chocolate Chip Cookies are a hit at any event.” **NOW**

Maxwell’s Award-Winning Chocolate Chip Cookies

- 5 1/4 cups flour (divided use)**
- 1 tsp. baking soda**
- 1 tsp. salt**
- 1 cup softened butter, not melted**
- 3/4 cup brown sugar**
- 3/4 cup sugar**
- 2 eggs**

- 2 tsp. vanilla**
- 2 cups chocolate chips**

- 1.** Mix 2 1/4 cups of flour, baking soda and salt in a bowl; set aside.
- 2.** Cream together the butter, sugars, eggs and vanilla.
- 3.** Add the bowl of dry ingredients, along with the remaining flour, to the wet ingredients. Fold in the chocolate chips.
- 4.** Place dough balls onto a parchment-lined pan.

- 5.** Bake at 375 F for 8-12 minutes, until the edges are golden brown.

Amish Friendship Bread

- 3 cups flour (divided use)**
- 2 cups sugar (divided use)**
- 1 1/2 cups milk**
- 1 cup vegetable oil**
- 3 eggs**
- 1 tsp. vanilla**
- 1 1/2 tsp. baking powder**
- 2 tsp. cinnamon**
- 1/2 tsp. salt**
- 1 lg. box vanilla instant pudding mix**
- Cinnamon sugar, to taste (divided use)**

- 1.** Preheat oven to 325 F.
- 2.** In a large bowl, add 1 cup flour, 1 cup sugar, milk, oil, eggs and vanilla; mix.
- 3.** In a second bowl, add the remaining 2 cups flour, remaining 1 cup sugar, baking powder, cinnamon, salt and pudding mix.
- 4.** Grease 2 mini loaf pans. Sprinkle half of the cinnamon sugar mixture inside the pans.
- 5.** Combine the ingredients into one bowl.

6. Fill the pans 2/3 full; sprinkle the remaining cinnamon-sugar mixture on top.

7. Bake 45 minutes to 1 hour. Insert a toothpick in the center of the bread. If it comes out clean, it is ready to enjoy!

Grandma's Texas Chocolate Sheet Cake Recipe

Cake:

- 2 cups sugar
- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup water
- 1 cup butter
- 4 Tbsp. HERSHEY's Cocoa Powder
- 1 tsp. vinegar
- 1/2 cup milk
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. cinnamon

Frosting:

- 1/2 cup butter, melted
- 1 lb. powdered sugar
- 4 Tbsp. cocoa powder
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2-3 Tbsp. milk

1. For cake: Mix the sugar, flour, water, butter and cocoa powder in a large bowl.
2. In a small bowl, pour the vinegar into the milk.
3. Add the eggs, vanilla, milk mixture, baking soda and cinnamon to the large bowl; mix to combine.
4. Pour the batter into a greased and floured 11x17-inch pan. Bake at 375 F for 20 minutes.
5. For frosting: Mix the butter, sugar, cocoa powder, vanilla and milk.
6. Frost the cake while hot.

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

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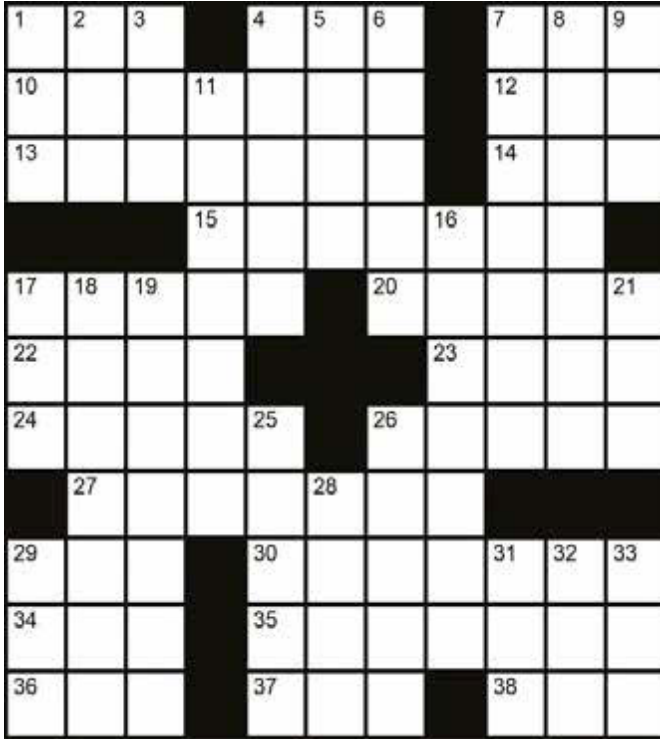
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Across

- 1 Bat wood
- 4 "... Roy" (Sir Walter Scott)
- 7 Prior night
- 10 William Faulkner novelette
- 12 Stat!
- 13 Souvenir
- 14 Be recumbent
- 15 Like the Baal Shem Tov
- 17 Challenger
- 20 "The Stepford Wives" author
- 22 Sch. of higher learning
- 23 Noted car collector
- 24 Art supporter?
- 26 Sudden pains
- 27 Flippant fellow
- 29 Automated performer of computer tasks
- 30 Way in
- 34 Indignation
- 35 Cared to restyle style
- 36 Uneven?
- 37 Scale divs.
- 38 In fourth grade, perhaps

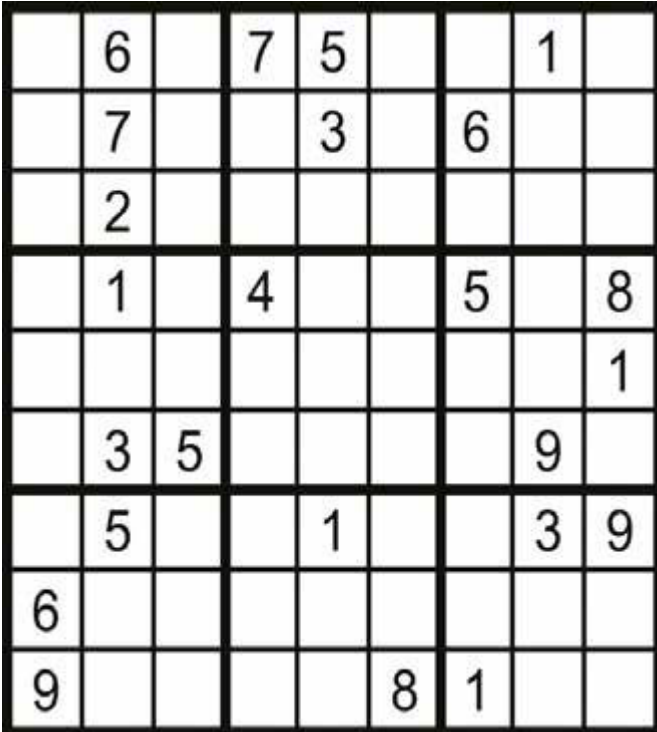
Down

- 1 Now, in textspeak
- 2 Yonder lass
- 3 Drape edge
- 4 Kidney-related
- 5 Mares and does eat them
- 6 Grill
- 7 Animate
- 8 Adjusting an organ
- 9 Animal you heard on the farm
- 11 Conducts oneself
- 16 Depressing word on an arrival board
- 17 Road in Reims
- 18 Briefly
- 19 Called upon
- 21 Figures
- 25 OK with the cops
- 26 Strokes on the green
- 28 Attire
- 29 Short life story
- 31 Moisten
- 32 Very skilled person
- 33 Hither and --

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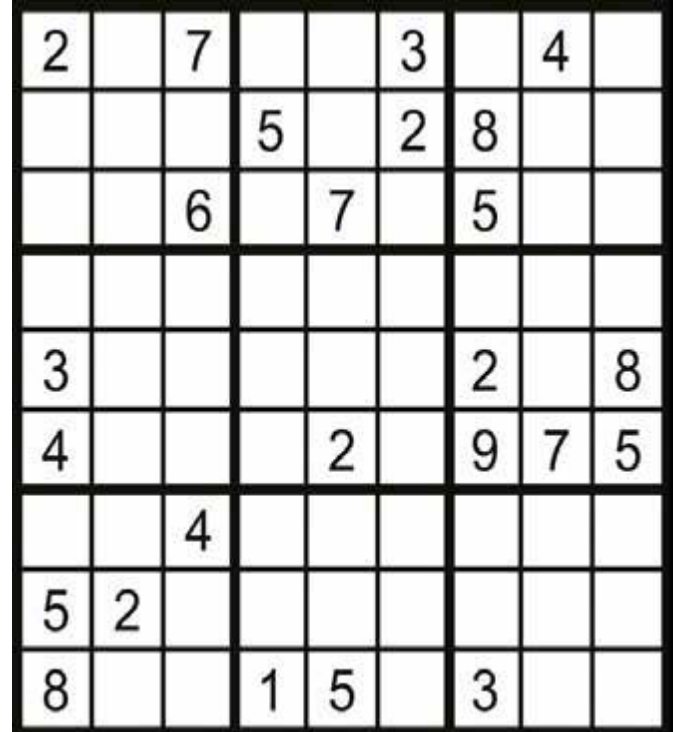
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Easy



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APRIL

4/6

Chunk Your Junk & Shred Day:

Free to Mansfield residents; proof of residency required. 8:00 a.m.-noon, Chris W. Burkett Service Center, 620 W. Wisteria St. For a list of acceptable items, visit <https://www.mansfieldtexas.gov/Calendar.aspx?EID=5755&month=4&year=2024&day=6&caIType=0>.

Pop-Up Art Gallery During Music Alley:

See original artwork and art installations created by local Mansfield artists at this pop-up gallery in a historic home right in the heart of Downtown Mansfield. Free. 4:00-10:00 p.m., 210 S. Main St.

4/6-4/8

Total Eclipse Weekend:

The best little free music and arts fest in Texas. Live music and dance, with street performers, artist vendors, hands-on activities, art competitions, food and more. This is leading up to the biggest celestial event of the century in DFW. Free. **Saturday:** 4:00-10:00 p.m.; **Sunday:** 5:00-9:00 p.m.; **Monday:** 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Historic Downtown Mansfield. For more information, visit <https://www.visitmansfieldtexas.com/event/415/texas-total-eclipse>.

4/7

M.Y. Space:

Presented by the Mansfield Youth Council, this event was created by teens for teens. An evening of music, art, food and games. Come hang out as we celebrate the Texas Total Eclipse weekend. Free. 5:00-9:00 p.m., The LOT Downtown, 110 S. Main St.

4/18

The Mansfield Historical Society Meeting:

The historical society invites members and those interested in local history to their quarterly meeting. The speaker will be O.K. Carter, author and former columnist for *The Fort Worth Star Telegram*. Free. 6:00 p.m., Man House Museum, 610 W. Broad Street. For more information, text (817) 692-6668.

4/20

Mansfield ISD Teacher Job Fair:

Campus and district representatives will be on-site for the fair which will be conducted in-person. Interested applicants should **register in advance** to reserve a spot. 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Dr. Jim Vaszauskas Center for the Performing Arts, 1110 W. Debbie Lane. For more info, visit <https://www.mansfieldisd.org/join-misd/job-fairs-recruiting/jobfair23>.

4/27

2024 Earth Day Mansfield Festival:

The city's annual celebration of Mother Earth will be full of fun and educational activities. As always, the festival will feature a wide range of earth-friendly activities including educational opportunities, a butterfly release, children's activities, music and entertainment, food vendors, natural product vendors and a painted rain barrel silent auction. Free. 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Chris W. Burkett Service Center, 620 S. Wisteria Street. For more information, call (817) 728-3610.

Just Sew With It:

Open Sew (18-plus). Do you have unfinished sewing projects that you just don't know what to do with? Use the supplied machines, and work with other crafters to bring your project to life during this drop-in class! Free. 1:00-3:00 p.m., Mansfield Library, 104 S. Wisteria St.

Second Tuesdays

Mansfield Garden Club Meeting:

Come grow with others learning about native and adaptive plants for North Texas from Sher Dunaway, a Tarrant County Master Gardener. 6:00-8:30 p.m., Chris W. Burkett Service Center, 620 S. Wisteria St. Sonya Bryant, (817) 266-4422.

Wednesdays

Listener's Story Time:

Children 3-6 years old, with a caregiver, can enjoy 30 minutes of books, songs and a craft. Fosters emergent literacy, reinforces group listening skills, creativity and allows children to interact with others. 10:30 a.m., Mansfield Public Library, 104 S. Wisteria St.

Second Wednesdays

Mansfield Lions Club Meetings:

We work closely with MISD to provide free vision testing and eyeglasses to students who need them. Noon-1:00 p.m., Mansfield Methodist Medical Center, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 2700 E. Broad St. RSVP to Karen Williams, president, (817) 729-4978.

Thursdays

Chess Club:

Learn how to play chess, or just brush up on your skills. All ages and levels welcome. Free. 6:00-7:30 p.m., Mansfield Public Library, 104 S. Wisteria St.

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

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