Mansfieldn

Making an mpact

Main and Alycen Phan pass their love of knowledge to the next generation

In the Kitchen With Reese Letson

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt

Crossword

Featured Business: Hair Loss Restoration Center

Postal CustomerECHM28 EDDW....



Martha, Midlothian, TX

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ON THE COVER



Man and Alycen Phan celebrate their history with the community.

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Sandra

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

EDITOR'S NOTE

Hello, Mansfield Family!

Wow ... time has passed so quickly. I can't believe we're almost halfway through 2025. As we welcome in the month of May, filled with emotion, meaning and milestones, the air is warmer, the days stretch longer and there's a renewed sense of energy everywhere you look. It's the season of growth — not just in nature, but in ourselves.

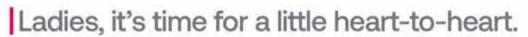
This month, we celebrate many things: the hard work of educators during Teacher Appreciation Week, the nurturing strength of mothers on Mother's Day, the sacrifices of service members on Memorial Day and the contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. These occasions remind us to honor dedication, resilience and love — the values that carry us forward in every season.

May also marks graduations and fresh starts. It's a time of crossing finish lines and stepping into new things. Whether you're turning a page, chasing a goal or simply trying to stay steady, this is your reminder: You're doing better than you think. Allow May to be a chance to breathe deeper, move with intention and reconnect with what matters. Celebrate the wins. Reach out to the people who lift you up. And if you're feeling stuck, know that every season of growth starts with stillness. Whatever this month holds for you — challenges, celebrations or quiet moments in between face it with heart. You're not behind. You're right on time.

Here's to new blooms, appreciating accomplishments and moving forward!







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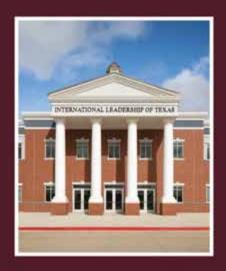




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The cultural, economic and social landscape of America has been profoundly shaped by the contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Recognizing their accomplishments and resilience in overcoming adversity is essential, as they have made lasting impacts in education, business, politics, science and the arts. Local educators Man and Alycen Phan are among those who found opportunities in the United States and have dedicated their lives to paying it forward.

"I escaped Vietnam with my grandfather and two aunts while my mother and father stayed behind," Man recalled. "My mom knew that letting me go was the only way for me to have a better future. Unfortunately, it was the last time I saw her alive."

"We were known as the 'boat people,' arriving in America in the late 1970s to seek refuge and escape communism," Alycen shared. "My first American home was in Virginia, where

my cousin's parents lived. It was Man's grandmother who convinced my mother to move to California. It was then that Man and I met. We have a photo of us at 6 years old, standing in front of a Christmas tree during our first holiday in America. His grandmother often joked about us getting married. At the time, marriage was the last thing on our minds!"

Adjusting to a new country was overwhelming. Vietnamese students were fully immersed in Englishlanguage schools. The English as a Second Language program made the transition even more challenging as it was really, "sink or swim." With few Vietnamese communities nearby, they struggled to communicate and adapt. Yet, through resilience and determination, they persevered.

"Children mocked my pronunciation, but we had no choice — we had to overcome," Alycen admitted. "Without resources, we became self-reliant. I learned English by watching Saturday morning cartoons. Over time, we assimilated and became fluent English speakers."

"I lived in East Los Angeles, so I learned to speak Spanish and adapted to the Hispanic culture while also learning English," Man said. "Excelling in school was expected, but I had no interest in attending college. Instead, I joined the Navy to give back to the country that had given so much to me."

After two years of service, Man realized his strong aptitude for mathematics, thanks to his grandfather's insistence on



mastering multiplication facts when he was little. He fondly recalled earning gold stars for his math skills, a source of pride that later inspired him to pursue a degree in finance.

"I knew I wanted to go to college. I attended UCLA and majored in English. I began teaching in South Central Los Angeles in 1996. I loved teaching students the writing process, empowering them to put their feelings and voices on paper, and guiding them through editing and revising to improve their work. Each year, I had about 150 students who affectionately called me 'gangster' because of the bond we shared," Alycen reflected. "I may have taught them English, but they taught me how to be a mom, to love and to serve in ways I never knew possible at 23 years old."

In 1999, after 20 years of separation, Man and Alycen reconnected at his grandmother's funeral. Man's grandmother's long-standing wish

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came true — they started dating and eventually married. Together, they built a family. Seeking a better environment in which to raise their kids, the Phans moved to Mansfield, Texas, in 2006. "Before I even started working in Mansfield ISD, we knew that we wanted our children to be in the district," Alycen said.

Shortly after they moved, Alycen applied for a teaching position at Icenhower Intermediate School. The principal initially hesitated, questioning whether Alycen could manage suburban students. However, after speaking with her previous principal, he was assured that her experience teaching middle school students in South Central L.A. provided more than the preparation she needed for the position. She was hired.

While Alycen taught, Man decided to obtain an alternative certification to become a math teacher. He became an effective educator, teaching both science and math before working as a math specialist at Wester Middle School for eight years. He later advanced to assistant principal at Legacy High School,



and now he serves as an assistant principal at Wester. "My greatest joy is serving the families, staff and students in a larger capacity." Man continued, "I am often asked to translate for Vietnamese staff and parents. I use my Spanish to speak with students. They get a kick out of how I can roll my words. It's the connections and relationships that matter most to me."

"I taught for 16 years," Alycen added. "I became an assistant principal, then a principal at Anna May Daulton Elementary. Now, I serve as the director of early learning. In one aspect of my role, I assist parents with enrolling their child into Pre-K. I understand the struggles many families face. I was once that student receiving free and reduced lunch and welfare. I was that student

who didn't speak the language. It's fulfilling for me to guide them through the challenges I once experienced.

"Our mothers were givers, so we must give back what God has given us," she continued. "My mom taught me, 'Ask not what this country can do for you, but what you can do for this country.' That quote profoundly impacted me. Being educators has been incredibly rewarding for both of us."

Alycen reflected on her first year as a principal, "I'll always remember a Vietnamese mother bringing her daughter to meet me, saying, 'See? You can do this. We can be leaders in this community.' Many of my Vietnamese students would bow, cross their hands over their chests respectfully, and call me 'Auntie,' while their parents referred to me as 'Chi' (older sister)."

Man and Alycen take great pride in their journey and their abilities to give back, knowing that their presence and perseverance have paved the way for future generations. "We pray that we can serve in a way that makes our parents proud. Ultimately, what we do is for the glory of God." NOW





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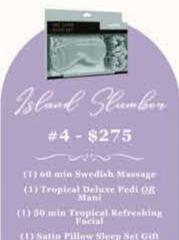
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ACCESS MANSFIELD

Current Projects, Current News

Mansfield Welcomes the Opening of the Wallace-Hall Art House

A new chapter begins for the historic 1878 Wallace-Hall House with the debut of the "Walls that Speak" exhibit.

This installation, curated by the City of Mansfield's Community Engagement (CE) team, features artists from Mansfield's Tournique' Art Collective and marks the newly launched Public Art program. This home is located at the corner of South Main and Kimball streets.

The Wallace-Hall Art House builds upon the success of the city's cultural incubator program, which began in fall 2022 in the nearby Farr Best Theater. This program has proven largely successful, providing an affordable home to 10-15 local arts organizations each season, filling the Farr Best with performing arts shows or classes for Mansfield residents and visitors to enjoy nearly every night. It dramatically increased attendance and

expanded community use of the space. Though due to the theater's size and traditional layout, the Farr Best is unsuitable for most visual arts programming.

After its purchase in December 2022, the Wallace-Hall House provided a new space with which to remedy this. During the 2024 Arts Week, the home served as a pop-up art gallery with over 39 artists displaying their work. Artists sold 31 pieces totaling over \$1,000 in sales over the four-day weekend.

Encouraged by this success, the CE team utilized the space as a temporary visual arts space. The house hosts regular gallery hours and will host a variety of visual art classes and provide studio rentals for local individual artists.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony took place on April 3. "Walls that Speak" will remain on display

through June 1. Gallery hours are from 4-8 p.m. Thursday and Friday, noon to 8 p.m. on Saturday, and noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday (excluding city holidays). Admission is free, and all works of art are available for purchase.

Looking ahead, the public can expect to see additional programs at the Wallace-Hall Art House, including classes, and paint and sip nights as well as monthly mixers like "Art After Dark." While the space is currently a temporary venue, the house is expected to eventually be relocated to the Geyer Commons project on East Broad Street.

Scan for more information about the Wallace-Hall Art House.











Mansfield Offers a Variety of Ways to Stay Connected

Whether you choose to learn about the goings-on of the city online through media or website, or you prefer to experience an in-person engagement opportunity, the City of Mansfield's Communications and Outreach (C&O)team has you covered.

The C&O team has created two new social campaigns to help you keep up with projects and happenings in the city. From public grounds workers planting tulips to a focus on highlighting the City Council's strategic priorities, "Mansfield Snap" provides behind-the-scenes quick, glimpses of city operations.

The new transportationfocused episodes of "Road Scholars" cover topics and projects like major road reconstructions to minor projects like pothole replacements. Both of these series are part of the city's commitment to providing accessible and transparent information, and can be found on the city's Facebook, Instagram, YouTube channels.

If social media isn't your C&0 space, recently relaunched the city's digital e-newsletter. This bimonthly release features a standard "What's New" update at the beginning of the month, including events and general information, and a projectspecific release mid-month. Sign up at MansfieldTexas. gov/NotifyMe.

Additionally, a series of micro events called Council Chat launched in March. Want an opportunity to visit with City Council Members? These informal chat sessions give you the chance to talk representatives to your in a casual setting. Make plans to join us June 12 at Java Lounge or on July 10 at McClendon Park West. Visit MansfieldTexas.gov/ CouncilChat for details.

Did you know we also have quarterly departmental magazine? This magazine is released as part of the second City Council meeting of the month following the quarter's The newest issue released on April 28 covers initiatives and programming completed during January March 2025. To check it out, visit MansfieldTexas. gov/quarterly.

Sign up for the city's e-newsletter.



Read the Mansfield Quarterly.





Join us for the next Council Chat! 8:30-10 am, Thursday, June 12 Java Lounge, 2731 FM 157



Around Town



Arquila Rivers and Yolanda Ramirez celebrate during a spring lunch.

BLAST BLAST

Antonio Young is DJing for Cook Children's Hospital.



The moms of Lake Ridge's baseball team decorate the locker room.

Zoomed In:

By Sandra Walters

Abby Rinzel and Allison Keng

Abby Rinzel and Allison Keng wanted a fun, active way to spend time with their little ones — so they started a walking group for moms. "My friend, Allison, and I launched it last month, and it's grown fast," Abby said. "We bring together moms and kids (ages 0–5) for a refreshing weekly walk."

The group meets at different parks each week, giving moms a chance to explore the outdoors, stay active and connect. Spot them around the community — a lively group of moms and strollers moving through parks and neighborhoods. Allison said, "Let's walk, talk and build a strong community together!"



The Ben Barber Culinary Art Team continues to compete at a high level.



Madeline Brass poses for a picture as she prepares to work in the cosmetology industry.



MarQ Clayton and Crystal Ray-Gayden wait for the talent show sponsored by From Prison to Purpose.



Danielle Pedigo and son enjoy the Pickle Parade with her mother, Debi Dixon.





BusinessNOW

Hair Loss Restoration Center

— By Sandra Walters

Hair Loss Restoration Center Owner: Lace Front Wig Doctors, LLC 200 S. 14th Street, Ste. 194 Midlothian, TX 76065 info@hairlossrc.com https://hairlossrestorationcenter.com/ (469) 612-3493

Hours: By Appointment Only Tuesday-Thursday: 10:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Third Saturday: 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Hair Loss Restoration Center was founded by Coach Resha to solve a problem that affects men and women. "My mother is a licensed cosmetologist, so my interest in hair developed early. We loved experimenting with different hairstyles, and I frequently changed my hairdos as an adult. When I was teaching, my students were intrigued by my different hairstyles because I changed my hair every week with wigs — they were thrilled to give their opinions. I enjoyed wearing wigs to create different looks that my naturally curly hair couldn't create," she admitted.

Because of her passion for hair, she discovered the struggles of people dealing with alopecia — the medical term for hair loss. Realizing that hair loss is more than just a cosmetic issue — it can be caused by medical, health or hormonal conditions — she decided to pursue a career in trichology. Trichology is the study of hair and scalp conditions. A trichologist specializes in informing and educating clients about hair loss and scalp issues. They also provide guidance with hair care and lifestyle factors that impact hair health. She pursued training in trichology to become a certified

professional and is currently working toward a Ph.D. in Natural Medicine and a Doctorate in Holistic Health.

"The key to managing hair loss is addressing it early. The self-confidence that comes from seeing a fuller head of hair can have a profound impact on a person's emotional well-being," she added. "The only certainty is that hair loss will continue to progress if left untreated. Our goal is to help people take control of their hair health before it's too late."

Coach Resha understands that a person's appearance affects their confidence and self-esteem. While hair loss may not be life-threatening, it can be an emotional and distressing experience. One of her primary goals is to educate clients, hairstylists and barbers about the causes of hair loss and the available solutions. She works closely with professionals in the hair and medical industries to provide the best possible outcomes for clients.

Hair Loss Restoration Center offers personalized therapy plans based on each client's needs. There is no "onesize-fits-all" solution to hair restoration. Instead, they take a holistic approach, addressing both internal and external factors that contribute to hair loss. By collaborating with barbers, cosmetologists and dermatologists to provide nonsurgical resources, they empower clients to take charge of their hair health.

She said, "Barbers and hairstylists play a vital role in identifying early signs of hair loss, making them ideal referral partners. Hair Loss Restoration Center offers consultations to assess hair loss concerns and provide tailored solutions. By raising awareness and offering practical interventions, we help individuals regain their confidence and improve their quality of life."

The center serves Midlothian, Texas, and surrounding areas, helping to restore hope and provide resources for individuals struggling with hair thinning and balding. Their hair practitioners and trichologists focus on the problems by offering resources and options to people who are having hair challenges. Whether through multi-therapeutic approaches, cranial prosthesis (medical wigs) or other nonsurgical restoration services, they aim to improve confidence and overall well-being. Set up a consultation today for solutions. NOW





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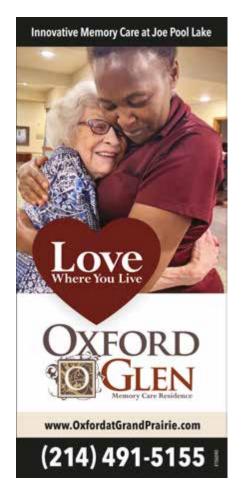
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- Virginia Woolf



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CookingNOW IN THE KITCHEN WITH REESE LETSON

— By Sandra Walters



"My creativity is stimulated by cooking, and my uncle encourages me to prepare a wide range of meals. He purchased numerous tools and cooking supplies for me. Aside from my mom, he is my biggest cheerleader, and I admire his culinary arts skills," Reese Letson said. "I plan to attend the Culinary Institute of America to earn a master's in culinary arts."

She aspires to open a fine dining establishment in Dallas in the future, along with perhaps a few more across the nation. "I'll make the entire menu from scratch, naming the dishes after family members according to their tastes," she said. One day, Reese hopes to have her restaurants awarded a Michelin star. Now

Sriracha Meatballs With Iasmine Rice

4 green onions

2 ginger root thumbs

I cup jasmine rice

1 1/2 cups water (approximately)

1 lb. ground beef

1/2 cup panko breadcrumbs

3 Tbsp. soy sauce

I tsp. salt

1 tsp. pepper

Cooking spray

Sauce:

4 Tbsp. mayonnaise

4 Tbsp. sour cream

4 tsp. honey

4 tsp. soy sauce

4 tsp. Sriracha

1. Preheat the oven to 425 F. Thinly slice the green onions, separating the whites from the greens; mince the whites. Peel and mince the ginger.

2. In a small pot, add the rice and about 1 1/2 cups of water; boil. Cover; reduce to low simmer. Cook the rice for 15-18 minutes, or until tender. Remove; keep covered until ready to serve.

3. In another large bowl, combine the beef, breadcrumbs, ginger, green onion whites, soy sauce, salt and pepper. Form into 20-24 1 1/2-inch meatballs.

4. Place the meatballs on a lightly oiled baking sheet; set on the middle rack of the oven. Cook for 14–16 minutes, or until the meatballs are cooked.

5. For sauce: In a large bowl, combine the mayonnaise, sour cream, honey, soy sauce and Sriracha; set aside.

6. Fluff the rice with a fork; season with salt and pepper to taste. Top the rice with the meatballs. Drizzle with the sauce; garnish with the remaining green onion greens for taste.

Creamy Italian Chicken

3 lg. chicken breasts, boneless and skinless

Salt, to taste

Pepper, to taste

6 Tbsp. all-purpose flour

2 Tbsp. olive oil

2 Tbsp. butter

2 Tbsp. minced garlic

1 cup chicken stock

I cup heavy cream

1 cup Parmesan cheese, grated

1 tsp. chili flakes

1/4 tsp. oregano

1/4 tsp. thyme

1/3 cup sun dried tomatoes, chopped

1. Slice the chicken breasts lengthwise into thin cutlets. Season with salt and pepper. Cover the chicken in flour; shake off excess.

the butter on medium heat, swirling the pan to coat evenly.

- **3.** Brown the chicken for 4-5 minutes on each side until completely cooked. Transfer to a plate, cover and set aside.
- **4.** Using the same skillet, sauté the garlic about 1 minute; add the chicken stock. Scrape the bits from the bottom of the pan with a wooden spoon.
- **5.** Reduce heat to medium-low; add the heavy cream. Stir the sauce for 1 minute. Add the Parmesan cheese; allow the sauce to simmer for a couple minutes. Season with chili flakes, oregano and thyme.
- **6.** Place the tomatoes in the sauce; season with salt and pepper to taste.
- **7.** Return the chicken; stir the sauce to evenly coat. Allow it to thicken before serving. Serve over pasta or rice for added flavor.

Whipped Cinnamon Pumpkin Bars

4 eggs, room temperature

1 2/3 cup granulated sugar

I cup vegetable oil

1 15-oz. can Libby's pumpkin

2 cups flour

1 tsp. baking soda

2 tsp. baking powder

2 tsp. ground cinnamon

I tsp. salt

Frosting:

2 cups heavy whipping cream I cup powdered sugar

2 tsp. vanilla extract

- **1.** Preheat the oven to 350 F. Grease a 9x 13-inch baking pan; set aside.
- **2.** In a large bowl, whisk the eggs, sugar, oil and pumpkin until combined.
- **3.** In a separate bowl, whisk the flour, baking soda, baking powder, cinnamon and salt until combined.
- **4.** Gradually stir the dry ingredients into the wet ingredients until combined. Pour into the prepared pan; spread evenly with a spatula.
- **5.** Bake for 30-35 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the middle comes out clean.
- **6.** While the bars bake, whisk the heavy whipping cream. Use a mixer to soften; add the powdered sugar and vanilla. Continue beating until stiff peaks form.
- **7.** Let the bars cool; use a spatula to cover them with frosting. Sprinkle cinnamon on top; serve cool.







Crossword Puzzle

	9	8	7	6	5		4	3	2	1
	t			\vdash	11		t	\vdash	T	10
14	T	\vdash	\vdash	T		13	\vdash	T	\vdash	12
	\vdash	17		T		16		t	\vdash	15
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	\vdash	H		22		H	H		21	
		H	H	Т	24		T	H		23
29	28	27		T		26		T	\vdash	25
	T		32	T	\vdash		31	T	T	30
	\vdash		34		\vdash			\vdash	33	
	-		36			\vdash		+	35	

Crosswordsite.com Ltd

Across

- 1 Wind-driven douds
- 5 Facebook's home Park
- 10 Without accompanimen
- 11 Understand finer mess
- 12 huice
- 15 A nickel short of a dollar
- 16 "I Guess ---Rather Be in Colorado* (John Denver)
- 17 It's about three-quarters of the Earth's surface
- 18 Had liabilities
- 20 Colorfulsounding name for a man?
- 21 Bud supporter
- 22 One-third of a 1970 Pearl Harbor movie

- 23 Exact double
- 24 Anger
- 25 Old card game
- 26 Easy-going airport?
- 27 "More info
- later*
- 30 Owned apartment
- 33 Sao ---, Brazil
- 34 Jane Austen's meddling matchmaker
- 35 The Memorial --- Kettering Cancer Center
- 36 Citrus peel. particularly when grated

- Down
 - 1 Citizen Kane's Rosebud, for example

E ---

was murdered in this month

5 Stuck fast

King*

8 Duty-free

hours?

13 Not us

9 Salsa brand

14 Mocking cry

19 Skin lump

20 Big bike

21 Pounces 22 Joni Mitchell's

yellow

23 Maintenance,

perhaps

was big and

6 Geraint's wife

(Tennyson)

7 Packers' group

in "Idylis of the

3 Stoic

- Spanish fellow 2 Health menace 26 Barry Manilow's
- showgirl 4 John Lennon 28 Mooches

24 Manor

reorganised a

29 "I -- a loss for words!"

drunken

- 31 Batman and Robin, for example
- 32 --- Percé (Northwest Americans)

Online versions and solutions available at www.nowmagazines.com. From our Homepage, click on the Features tab. Click on the Crossword-Sudoku tab. Click on a puzzle to view solutions.









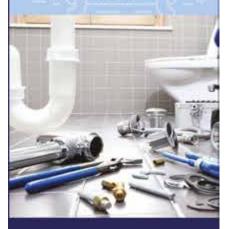


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5/3

General Election:

Vote for the mayor, council member places 1, 2 and 5 along with three seats on the Mansfield ISD Board of Trustees, places 3, 4 and 5. 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., Mansfield Voting Locations: Performing Arts Center, 1110 W. Debbie Lane; J.L. Boren Elementary School, 1401 Country Club Dr.; Vernon Newsom Stadium, 3700 E. Broad Street.

Mansfield Farm & Cottage Market Day:

Stock your pantries, visit the vendors, enjoy games and support small businesses! Every

Saturday morning. Cost: Varies based on items. 8:00 a.m.-noon. 703 E. Broad St.

5/10

Monarch Festival:

Celebrate the Monarch Butterfly. Activities will include games, crafts, nature walks, a butterfly house and more. All ages. Free. 9:00 a.m.-noon, Oliver Nature Park, 1650 Matlock Road.

Historic Downtown Mansfield Car Show:

During Historic Preservation Month, the Historic Downtown Mansfield Car Show will celebrate its automotive heritage. The goal is to showcase historic buildings and the types of cars that would have been seen around downtown from the past to the present. Cost: Free. 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Main St.

Annual Spring Style Show:

The Mansfield Women's Club is hosting its fundraiser.
Cost: \$50. 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Style Show and raffle tickets available at www.mansfieldwomensclub.org. For details: Kathleen Powers, (817) 932-2329.

5/17

Sleeping Beauty:

Presented by Lake Ridge High School. From the beautiful Aurora to the wicked Maleficent and, of course, the heroic prince, each moment of the performance will leave you spellbound. Cost: \$5. 2:00-4:00 p.m., Lake Ridge High School, 101 Day Miar Rd.

5/23-5/24

Friends of the Library Book Sale:

10:00 a.m.-5:00 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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