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Editorial Coordinator, Sandra Strong
Editorial Assistant, Beverly Shay
Writers, Randy Bigham . Nancy Fenton
Rick Herron . Lynda Housley
Shahzad Syed . Hope Teel
Editors/Proofreaders,
Pat Anthony . Pamela Parisi

GRAPHICS AND DESIGN

Creative Director, Chris McCalla
Artists, Julie Carpenter . Casey Henson
Martha Macias . Felipe Ruiz
Arlene Honza . Brande Morgan
Shannon Pfaff

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography Director, Jill Rose
Photographer, Opaque Visuals
Kevin Painter

ADVERTISING

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ON THE COVER



Christmas cheer is timeless.

Photo by Opaque Visuals.

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Editor's Note

Merry Christmas, Corsicana!

Let's all take the time to celebrate the beauty, true reason and spirit of this wonderful season by swinging our senses into high gear. Enjoy the lights, music, smells and tastes of cider and mincemeat pies, and feel the brisk chill of winter and the warmth of a friendly fire in the fireplace. I love experiencing the events of this holiday surrounded by children, who so easily return childlike wonder to my life.

This Christmas will be made even more special in my family due to the recent arrival of our fifth grandchild — but our first granddaughter — Sophia Renee or Sophie as she is called. Our daughter and son-in-law will make the journey to Texas with Sophie, so we can all celebrate her coming into our lives just as baby Jesus' birth so many years ago is being celebrated once again.

Virginia

Virginia Riddle
CorsicanaNOW Editor
virginia.riddle@nowmagazines.com
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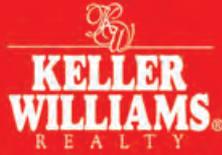
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PIONEER VILLAGE
CORSIKANA PARKS & RECREATION

of A SPAST

— By Virginia Riddle

Imaginations of young folks and the memories of older folks are “tweaked” into high gear when they step from the present into the past by passing through the gate into Corsicana’s Pioneer Village. And during the Christmas season, the village celebrates its past with Christmas flair and finery, thanks to the elfin decorating handiwork of Mildred ISD’s National Honor Society members and their sponsor, Missy Grantbam, who spend part of their Thanksgiving holiday with staple guns and ladders in the village. “I’m very proud of my kiddos,” Missy said.



Lacey Geddie, Tresa Bottoms and Stephanie Zamora help trim Pioneer Village for the holidays.



The students and Missy have worked their Christmas magic on the grounds of Pioneer Village for the past six years. “They are just super. They are ‘old hats’ and know exactly what to do,” Bobbie Young, the village’s curator, remarked.

Pioneer Village was conceived in 1958 out of the Navarro County Historical Society’s vision of developing a depository “for the county’s surviving historical structures, heirlooms, artifacts and other family

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treasures,” according to the group’s Web site. Located at 912 West Park Avenue, the village’s structures occupy land once visited by early settlers to this area as they watered their stock at a nearby watering hole, while sometimes finding the need to defend themselves against Indians who also wanted to use the water. The land is now part of the city of Corsicana’s Jester Park, so named after Beauford Jester of Corsicana who served as governor of Texas.

During the Christmas season, the village takes on a new spirit. The G.W. Grant Stage plays host to Santa Claus during the Christmas celebrations at the village. Christmas lights sparkle on the surrounding fences, while poinsettias line the walkways. Support beams on the buildings resemble candy canes, with their red wraps, and Christmas wreaths with their pine cones and ribbons are hung on doors throughout the village. Even the horseshoe above the blacksmith shop’s door sports a red bow. The Christmas tree is loaded with candy canes and ornaments appropriate to the season and earlier Christmases, such as rag doll ornaments. White fences are decorated with swags of garlands supporting big, bright red bows.

The structures are a mixture of actual buildings that have been moved from other parts of the county and authentic reproductions of buildings using logs and other materials gleaned from buildings that could not be saved and moved in whole. The park features: “Old Uncle Joe’s Cabin,” a slave cabin; the Lefty Frizzell Country Museum; a kitchen with its herb garden; the First National Bank Clock Tower; the Hartzell Store,

a general store dating from 1851-1900; a blacksmith's shop; a Texas dog-trot cabin; the Peace Officers' Museum; and an Indian trading post. The village also includes: a barn, the Redden Home, the McKie Playhouse, a tack shop and carriage house, Sam Robert's iron collection, the Navarro County Hall of Fame, a cotton mill and a working sundial. The village proudly displays the Texas State Historical Survey Committee Seal.

The village is a growing community. Soon it will add to its collection an old gas station complete with the old-fashioned pumps. This addition will also recognize the important role the oil and gas industry has played within Navarro County since the late 1800s, when Corsicana was an oil boom town.

Seven days a week, Bobbie, her part-time assistant, Sonja Vaughn, or a



volunteer are ready to greet visitors and provide a tour. "People from all over the United States and many foreign countries visit us," Bobbie said. "Some come solely for Lefty Frizzell." Frizzell gained fame as a country music singer and songwriter in the 1950s and was born in Corsicana. A statue of him is near his museum in the village. Visitors can easily see why other country musicians like Merle Haggard, Willie Nelson and Dwight Yoakam attribute some of their success to Frizzell's influence. Frizzell was honored with a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame and is a member of the Country Music Hall of Fame and the Rockabilly Hall of Fame.

People also come to research family ties, genealogy and stories through the village's city directories and seven volumes of history published by the historical society. Many artifacts are on display within appropriate buildings, but the visitor's center is host to even

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more data. There is a very large quilt and Victorian-era clothing collection, as well as textbooks from the days of one-room schools. Documents, maps, books and a generous photo collection are available for visitors to view.

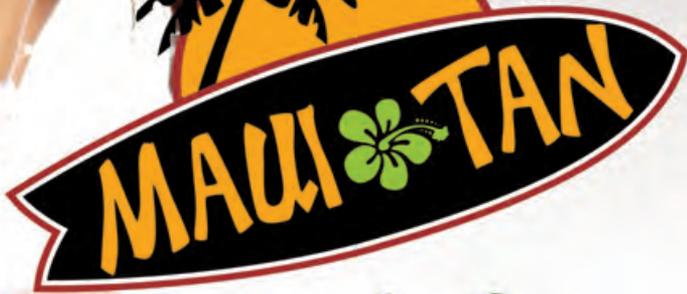
Besides hosting special events during the Christmas season, Pioneer Village is the place for kids to go each summer to experience life in olden times. Kids get to cook breakfast on a camp fire, churn butter and grind corn. An Indian storyteller spins his tales of days gone by. During the annual Derrick Days celebration, a Navarro County Hall of Fame inductee is honored. The village is also decorated for other holidays, such as Halloween.

Funding for Pioneer Village comes from grants, donations, entrance fees and hotel occupation funds received from the city of Corsicana. Sales of books and other items from the visitor's center also help fund the village. The monies have been focused on the buildings, while the city pays Bobbie and Sonja's salaries. There is a great need, however, for volunteers. "I would like to have an active docent program," Bobbie said. The need is urgent to find people with enough computer skills to scan photos and digitize documents. "Volunteers can be students, groups or individuals," Bobbie said. No professional training is necessary. Bobbie was attracted to the job through a love of history, which she shared with her husband, Bill.

Eunice Solis, president, and Fletcher Watts, vice-president, of Mildred's NHS cited the group's opportunity to be altogether while working on the Christmas decorations as a plus. Pioneer Village, however, is not their only project. Students volunteer throughout the area. "For a small school, we make a huge impact on the community," Fletcher said.

Thanks to the vision of the Navarro County Historical Society and the volunteer help provided by Missy and the students of Mildred ISD's NHS, Pioneer Village not only accomplishes its historical mission but is an attractive venue for area residents and visitors. As they stroll around into every nook and corner, guests can relive Navarro County's past and enjoy this Christmas while using the village as a great photo backdrop for Christmas memories that will be shared into the future. **NOW**

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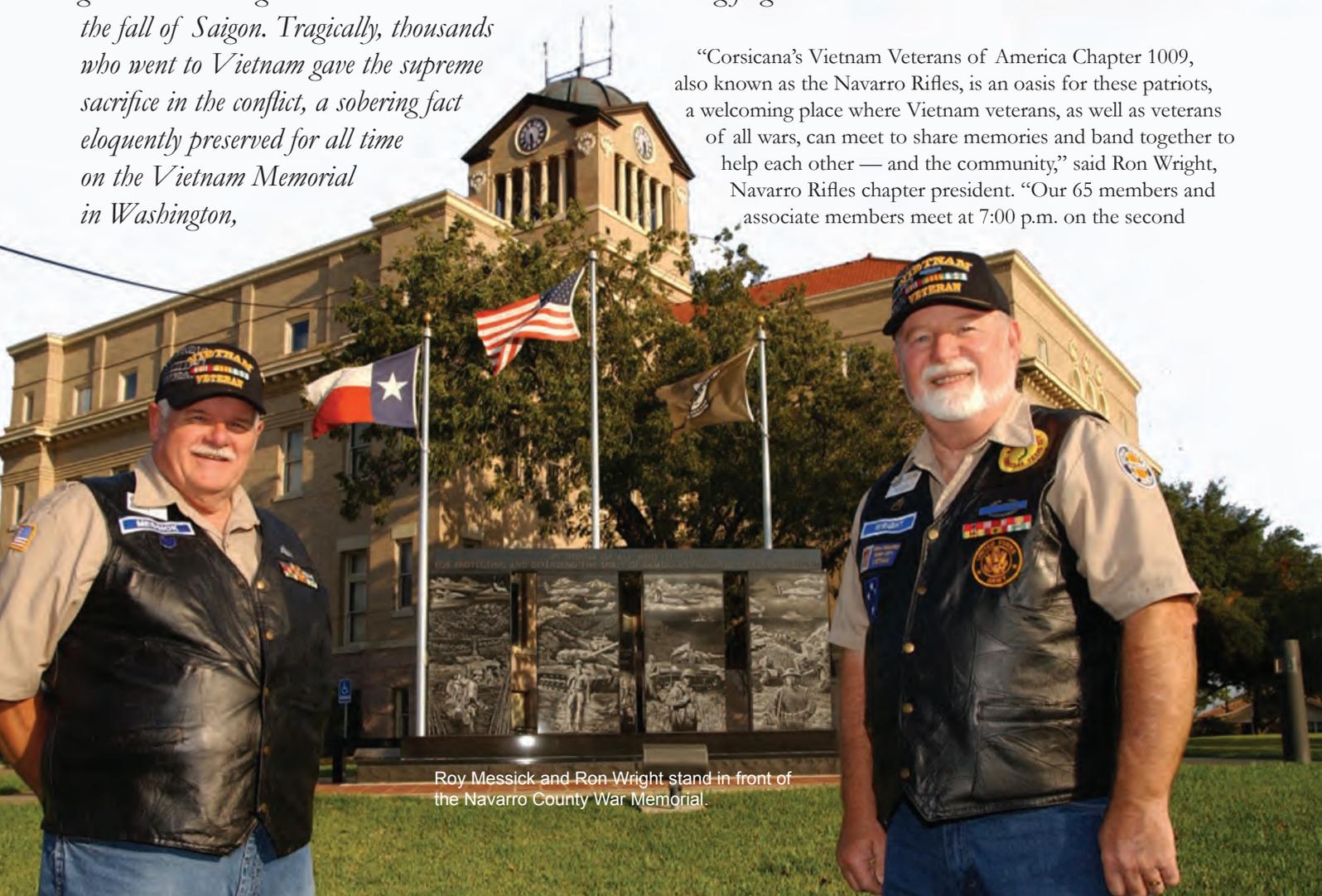
NEVER GIVE UP

— By Rick Herron

Between the years 1959 and 1975, America was involved in a military conflict known as the Vietnam War, a period that began with North Vietnam's first guerilla attacks against the South and ended with the fall of Saigon. Tragically, thousands who went to Vietnam gave the supreme sacrifice in the conflict, a sobering fact eloquently preserved for all time on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington,

D.C. Those lucky enough to survive returned home not only permanently changed from their horrific experiences, but also with an unshakeable feeling of being forgotten.

“Corsicana’s Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1009, also known as the Navarro Rifles, is an oasis for these patriots, a welcoming place where Vietnam veterans, as well as veterans of all wars, can meet to share memories and band together to help each other — and the community,” said Ron Wright, Navarro Rifles chapter president. “Our 65 members and associate members meet at 7:00 p.m. on the second



Roy Messick and Ron Wright stand in front of the Navarro County War Memorial.



Tuesday of each month at the Sirloin Stockade. We welcome anyone who'd like to attend." Ron, a Vietnam veteran of the Army and retired truck driver, lives in Corsicana with his wife.

Navarro Rifles, going on its sixth year of existence, was created after several area veterans decided there was a definite need for an organization where veterans could help other veterans and the community in which they lived. The Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) organization, of which Navarro Rifles is a part, is based in Maryland. The organization was founded in 1978



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as the only national Vietnam veterans organization congressionally chartered and exclusively dedicated to Vietnam-era veterans and their families, according to the VVA Web site.

With over 65,000 members and 650 chapters, it is organized as a not-for-profit corporation and is tax-exempt under Section 501(c) (19) of the Internal Revenue Service Code. Chapter



Back row: Kenneth Southard, Roy Messick and Gary Sparks. Front row: Linda Williams and Ron Wright.

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8:30 am Traditional

9:45 am Bible Fellowship

11:00 am Contemporary

documents provided to new members specify that membership in the chapter is open to U.S. Armed Forces veterans who served on active duty (other than training purposes) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975, or any duty location between August 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975. Veterans interested in membership must submit a copy of his or her DD Form 214, along with an application and dues. "We have a membership fee of \$20 a year or \$180 for a lifetime membership, depending on age," Ron said. In addition to members, the chapter's membership also welcomes associate members, such as husbands and wives of veterans.

An interesting fact about the chapter is that, along with the Stars and Stripes, the chapter also flies its own flag at meetings. "The flag depicts the VVA logo on the right surrounded by a laurel branch wreath and a bundle of rice stalks tied at the bottom with a strand of barbed wire," Ron explained. "The rice represents Southeast Asia, the laurel honors all who served in the war, the barbed wire is a reminder of American

prisoners of war and those missing in action, the yellow background is the main color of the Vietnam service ribbon and the 17 stars represent the 17 American campaigns fought in the war.”

“The chapter is actively involved in many fundraising events throughout the year,” said treasurer, Linda Williams, who along with her husband, Ken, are also longtime members of the Navarro Rifles Chapter.

“We always have a food booth at Derrick Days each year where you can find the best funnel cakes in the whole county,” Linda laughed. “We also sell raffle tickets for a new television, and every October we sell tickets to raffle off a hunting rifle,” she said, adding that she’s the only female member in the club, “so far, anyway!”

The raffles and fundraisers sponsored by the chapter through the years have enabled

the group to donate funds to many local entities, including the Eureka Fire Department, the Barry Volunteer Fire Department, Hope House and the Food Pantry. They also send much needed supplies to troops overseas.

Ken, a retired teacher and Army Vietnam vet, wrote the autobiographical book, *Blue Tigers*, in 2003 about his



experiences as an infantryman in the D Troop 3rd Squadron 17th Air Cavalry during the Vietnam War in 1967 and 1968. “It was my way of getting everything I experienced down on paper, which helped me work through my post-

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traumatic stress," he said, adding that the book title came from the regiment's nickname, "The Blue Tigers."

Chapter member and scholarship chairman, Roy Messick, an Air Force veteran in Vietnam between 1965 and 1967, and retired policeman, said that a lot of the vets who returned from battle came home largely unaware of the myriad of benefits available to them from the Veterans Administration. "Many of us didn't know that we had several sources of assistance available, such as the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion," he said. "Our chapter helps veterans get in touch with the right source, depending on what they need."

On Veterans Day each year, the chapter holds a ceremony honoring veterans of foreign wars, and they place flags on the gravesites of deceased veterans at Hamilton Beeman, Oakwood and Woodland cemeteries. Smaller cemeteries, such as Eureka, are handled by members who reside within those communities. "The Corsicana High School Junior ROTC and Cub Scouts help us put the flags out, and we really appreciate that," Ron said. "We meet at the Social Security office, split up the flags and off we go."

The group also cooks Christmas dinner for the National Guard Armory unit and their families as a way to say "thank you" for everything they do. "We do the cooking ourselves," Linda said. "We use a big mobile cooker, and the ladies bring all the fixings for the meal. Starting this year, the chapter plans to have a float in the annual Corsicana Christmas parade, too," Linda continued.

One of the many things the Navarro Rifles Chapter does for Corsicana is fund a yearly scholarship through raffles and fundraisers. "We award a \$500 scholarship to the winner of the essay competition, and any Navarro County senior who is a direct descendant of a veteran is eligible to compete," Ron said. "We awarded our first scholarship last May to Miriam Cobb, a homeschooled student."

Appropriately, the VVA Web site states that the organization's founding principle is: "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another." As long as the Navarro Rifles Chapter exists, that motto will always ring true. **NOW**



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— By Virginia Riddle



At Home With Lewis and

Bears and a bevy of Christmas pillows surround one pillow that says it all, “This House Believes In Santa.” Many different artistic interpretations of Santa can be found in Lewis and Carol Orr’s collection of Santa figures placed throughout their home. The couple’s kids and grandkids, as well as friends, know that the magic of Christmas abounds in this home. And it’s no Christmas wonder as to why. “My favorite part of Christmas, besides the tree, is the carols and music,” Carol remarked.

The Orrs share a special holiday memory with grandsons, Drew Denbow and Gabriel Gilfillan.

Lewis and Carol have been familiar faces around Corsicana and Navarro County since moving to the area in 1976 when Lewis became the Navarro College basketball coach, and Carol



Carol Orr

continued her career as a teacher and counselor in Corsicana ISD. They met while coaching and teaching at a Dallas ISD junior high and married in 1967. "I never anticipated, when marrying a coach, that we would be centered at Navarro College," Carol said.

"It was a great move for us. We have liked this community," Lewis added.

Until three years ago, Lewis and Carol lived on eight acres just outside of Corsicana in a large home with a pool that allowed Carol to teach swimming lessons to many area kids for years through the Orr Swim Center. The large home accommodated their family, which grew to include daughter, Tiffany Gilfillan, and her husband, Jim,

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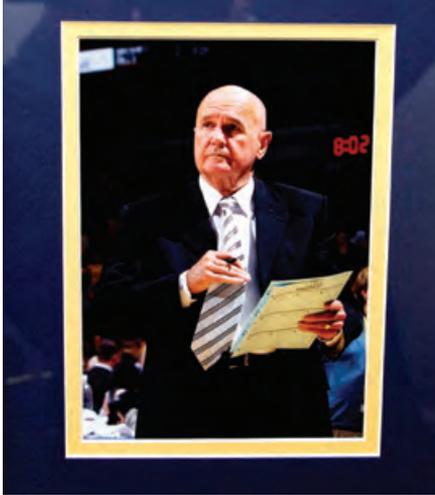
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with their three kids, Noah, Samuel and Gabriel; daughter, Tracey Denbow, and her husband, Don, with their three boys, Hunter, Trevor and Drew; and son, Daniel Orr, who lives in Austin. "We are very blessed that both girls married their high school sweethearts and stayed here. Lewis and Carol enjoy activities with their grandchildren. "We don't have an off season in our family," Carol remarked.

Three years ago, a desire to downsize and simplify their life led this couple to seek a home in town where Lewis would no longer have to spend time mowing the acreage. Their current three-bedroom, three-bath home located on a cul-de-

sac allows them to live near old friends and make new ones. The neighbors get together several times a year for block parties, and Lewis and Carol hosted the neighborhood Christmas party in 2011. "We liked this home when we saw it," Lewis said.

The cul-de-sac accommodates guest parking, when needed, and a beautifully landscaped yard is now maintained by a crew shared by neighbors. The decorative iron gate with its Christmas wreath opens to a front porch, which sports another wreath dripping of ribbons and poinsettias. A plaque welcomes visitors with this couple's philosophy, "My House is Your House." A Christmas bear, dressed in green velvet finery, greets visitors.

The hub of the home is the open living area. It opens into the enclosed garden room, which in turn opens to the backyard with its gazebo. The focal point is the white-paneled mantel festooned with stately stags, candles and garlands from which stockings are hung with care. A wreath hangs above the mantel, and poinsettias decorate the hearth. The Christmas tree, surrounded by



presents, stands alongside a china cabinet, displaying Christmas treasures. The tree is topped with a large bow from which ribbons fall through the garlands, lights and many ornaments. Poinsettias top the cabinet, which is flanked by festive red chairs and Tiffany and Tracey's wedding portraits. A secretary, on which Carol studied as a child, is the background for choir and altar boy figurines and a plate topped with bells. The tea set and a Santa tray frame favorite Christmas books on a white, cushioned coffee settee

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surrounded by comfortable seating. A wall clock from Lewis' family defines the relaxed elegance of the room.

The kitchen window is framed with garlands that also top the white cabinets. Part of Carol's collection of nutcracker figures stands guard on the granite countertop, while a manger scene



decorates the buffet. The dining table is set with a holiday-themed centerpiece and accompanying dining ware. Holiday meals are served, complete with Carol's suet pudding, an Old English recipe made with kidney suet. While Carol grew up with the dessert, she admits, "Guests are intrigued with it, but the family loves it!"

Another smaller dining table is set with a Christmas theme in the garden room, which also plays host to more of the nutcrackers. A wreath covers the door that opens to a gazebo and a yard large enough to accommodate a basketball hoop, of course.

The two bedrooms have beds with generous depths of pillows, St. Nick figures, candles and drapes of garlands across the headboards. Austin's *alma mater* is The University of Texas, and UT orange works well in his bedroom with a green Christmas theme, while the master bedroom is decorated in red hues. The accompanying baths and guest bath are decorated with small trees and Christmas themed hand towels.

Lewis and Carol have used a third mother-in-law bedroom as a home office for Lewis who, while retired from Navarro College, acts as a consultant to the Marquette University basketball team. Carol revealed, "This has been great for Lewis. He loves being with the players and coaches and has never had an office at home. Everything Lewis loves to do involves basketball." The office walls are decorated with



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sketches, paintings and honors reflecting Lewis' long and successful career as a coach and mentor to players and other coaches. A nutcracker stands sentry on his desk. When needed, the office can be converted into a guest bedroom.

Carol retired nearly two years ago to enjoy traveling with Lewis and the

team to different locales from Hawaii to the East Coast. "Traveling with Marquette is awesome. The coaches' wives and the entourage that travels with the team get to do a lot of things,"

Carol revealed. The couple has cruised to Alaska with friends, and Carol has toured Europe. Family members travel once a year to Raleigh, North Carolina, where they participate in the Gail Parkins Ovarian Cancer Awareness Walk in honor of Carol's sister, Gail, who died at age 56 from the disease. Carol's niece, Melanie, began the walk, which has grown to about 3,000 participants.

The couple hosts home meetings held by their church, Believers' Bible Church,



where Carol volunteers in the nursery. She is a core leader with the Community Bible Study and is a surrogate parent volunteer in CISD.

Lewis and Carol's home reflects their desire to keep the joy of Santa in Christmas, while remembering that the holiday is all about the birth of Jesus. Since their giving nature lasts year-round, Lewis and Carol enjoy sharing their home and lives with the family and friends they love in Corsicana. **NOW**

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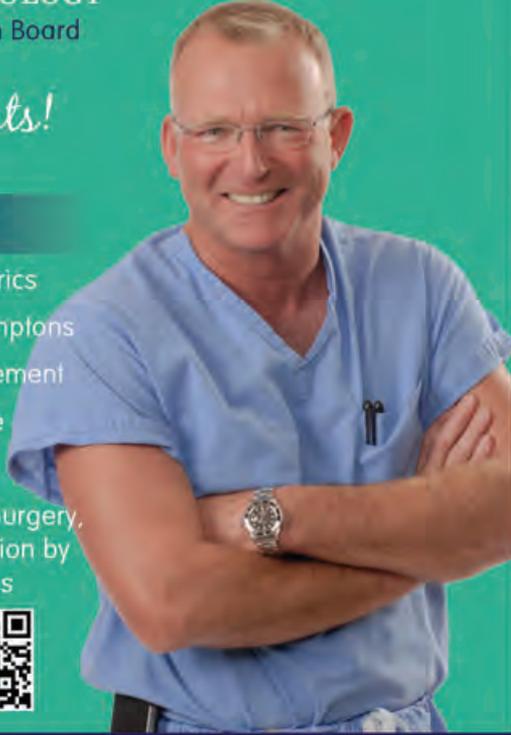
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— By Hope Teel

Donna Ingham realized she had a passion for art at a very young age, and she knew she wanted to pursue it. “When I was just a child, I always liked to draw. I wanted to take art lessons, but my parents couldn’t afford it, so I just did my own thing,” Donna stated. In the seventh grade, she entered an art contest with a crayon drawing on butcher paper that won first place. Her teacher was so



impressed by the drawing she gave it to Donna's mother, who kept it until the day of her passing.

This event stood out in Donna's mind as she reminisced about the past. "I won that little contest," she said. "It wasn't much, and I really don't even remember what it was, but I guess that helped spur me on to continue in art at that time."

Due to different circumstances and the expense of art supplies, Donna put her dream aside as she and her husband, Jon, reared their family and eventually opened an antique shop on 2nd Avenue. On Christmas Day in 2005, Jon surprised her with a brand new set of painting supplies. "He had talked about it, but I didn't know if he would really do it or not," Donna admitted. That is when Donna actually began to dabble in art again, this time with a nice new set of oil paints, brushes and canvases. "I always wanted to use oil paints to see if I liked them, but I just never had the time when our children were growing up, or the money," she noted.

Since then, oil paints have become her favorite medium, partially due to their conduciveness to color mixing, allowing her to create the perfect shades. This can be done with acrylic paints, but they dry much quicker than oils. "I can take as



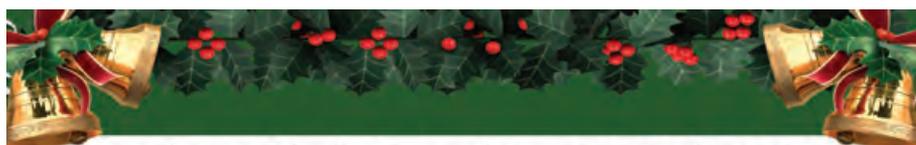
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much time as I want with oil paints," she said. "They don't dry on me." Donna's daughter, who also loves to paint and was an art teacher, prefers watercolors. Donna, however, stands firm in the fact that oil paints have continually been her favorite medium since she immersed herself into art. The creative gene seems to run in the Ingham family since Jon is also interested in art and in painting.

After receiving the painting supplies from Jon, Donna got started right away with her very first piece — a landscape barn scene she modeled after an old oil master. "I've always loved the oil masters, especially the ones with darker backgrounds, so I went by one of those to see if I could make it look like the original," she explained.

Her style has since evolved, and while she enjoys landscapes, her passion lies in portraits. In 2009, Donna attended a five-day workshop on portraits in Fredericksburg, Texas. It was conducted by William Schneider, a well-known artist from Chicago. This was only one of several workshops she has attended over the years. "I've really learned a lot," she added.

Donna is a member of the Corsicana Art League. She joined five years ago and has continually expanded her art horizons by attending monthly meetings held at the Corsicana Senior Citizens Center. At these meetings, different guest artists come to visit, giving their presentations and teaching the league's members about different techniques. Other times, the group watches movies or documentaries on various artists, as well as visiting art

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shows or museums in the area. Often, members enjoy just sitting around and discussing different ideas and what inspires them. "It's really a fun group," Donna stated. Occasionally, guest artists invite the members to paint along in lessons. During Christmas, members paint ornaments for senior citizens. Overall, Donna's experiences with the Corsicana Art League have been very beneficial in broadening her knowledge of art in its entirety.

On her own, Donna paints at home where she has set up a small studio in the sunroom with her painting supplies and a big easel her husband made for her several years ago. The natural light in the sunroom helps her create an optimal atmosphere for painting, although it can be difficult to find the time to paint, as she and her husband stay continually busy. "I am not one of those who can just sit down for a few minutes and work on something," she noted. "I like to be there for a while, so I had to learn to make my own time." On several occasions, Donna has sat down early in the morning to work on a painting and become so involved that it was 6:00 p.m. before she realized.

Donna's inspiration is found in many forms, and she never knows what may strike her enough to start something new. Her most recent painting was sparked rather sporadically after seeing another artist's picture of a fox. "I just loved the way the light was shining on it. I wanted to paint a fox. I really just never know what's going to pique my interest," Donna confessed.

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Her favorite works so far are two detailed portraits of her granddaughters she created a few years ago. "After I painted those, the girls seemed to really appreciate the fact that I did them," she said with a smile. "They kept talking about how much they looked like them, which really encouraged me at that point in time."

In addition to portraits of people, Donna also greatly enjoys painting pet portraits, "because they are just so much fun to do." She started with her own dog, but she has made portraits for quite a few friends and even for individuals who come into the antique shop. "I've had a lot of fun with those," Donna added. She got on a binge of painting chickens and roosters a while ago, receiving great reviews from family and friends. In fact, of the many she painted, she only has one left.

Over the years, Donna has created several wonderful pieces of artwork — portraits of people and animals, landscapes and abstract pieces. Many of her colorful paintings have been displayed in local venues. This brought a smile to her face. "I just count myself really fortunate that people have liked what I've done." **NOW**

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COURT VISION

— By Randy Bigham

It's been a year to remember for the boys and girls basketball teams at Kerens High School. Following a long winning streak, both teams competed at the UIL state level for the first time in the school's history. And the Bobcats' players and coaches have since won awards for the vision and skill set that brought them the long fought-for accomplishment.





Although neither team won their respective tournaments in Austin, the proud warriors in green, black and white returned to their hometown amid a fanfare befitting the state-ranked teams they have become. "Both teams had great send-offs and welcome homes," remembered boys basketball coach, Don Enis. "When we drove up after the games, there was a big sign for the bus to run through, and everybody was cheering, so it was really fun for everybody."

The girls basketball coach, Denise Lincoln, also recalled the excitement of coming home after her team's regional win and the state game. "What made those trips so special," she recounted, "was that the whole community was here waiting on us when we came back. It was awesome!"

The kudos didn't end there. On the boys' team, Tobyus Thomas, the junior forward who maintained a 14-point game in the regional final and averaged a double-double during the state run, was named MVP as well as All Golden Circle Player of the Year. "It was great going to the playoffs again and finally going to state," the quiet, 6-foot-2-inch star, now a senior, said with characteristic modesty. "It was exciting, and it's a big honor to be named player of the year out of all the good players there are. It's an achievement I'm proud of."

On the girls' team, Taylor Ames, the sophomore guard whose prowess led the LadyCats to their chance at state a week before the boys won regionals, was also named Player of the Year. "It was a lot

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of fun making it at regionals, because we beat the team that beat us the season before," Taylor, now a junior, admitted in a determined voice. "But not winning at state, even though we were glad to be there, just makes me want to work harder for my team."

The focused, yet passionate, approach of these star players has made their coaches proud. Don, named Coach of the Year in the wake of his team winning the regional competition that sent them to the state finals, expressed confidence in Tobyus as a leader.

"Tobyus has completely devoted himself to basketball," Don pointed out. "This past summer, he's been involved with the Amateur Athletic Union, traveling around, playing a couple of times a week, and really dedicating himself to it."

Denise has similar faith in Taylor as one of the LadyCats' most inspired, motivated players. "Taylor has been on varsity since she was a freshman, so she is seasoned," Denise said. "She is a great leader and really pushes the team. Taylor is one who will call me on the weekends during the summer to come to the gym and shoot. She always wants to keep her shot going."

But Taylor and Tobyus credit their coaches with much of the success they have enjoyed this season, and insist that with their continued direction, another big year is assured. "I love Coach Enis," Tobyus smiled. "We get along great. I've known him since I was in junior high. And he's not just a great coach. He's a great role model."

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Taylor has fond words for Denise, too. “Coach Lincoln and I are on the same page,” she said. “She helps me have a better understanding of the game, and that makes me a better player. And if I have a problem or something I need to discuss, I know I can come to her.”

For Don and Denise, coaching a top-flight team is a shared goal. In his sixth year with the Bobcats, Don has seen few teams as strong on the court or as respectful away from the game. Even with a recent regional realignment, the coaches are confident their players will give their best. “We feel really good about ourselves,” Don said. “We’ve lost a few good players, like Paul Williams, who was a key starter, but we plan to step it up a notch, especially since we are now in a much tougher region.” His boys are model players, but they are also model citizens, and he hears compliments regularly on how courteously and professionally members of his team handle themselves off the court.

Denise, in her 16th year at Kerens and in her eighth as head coach for the girls, also acknowledges the loss of seniors who were crucial players. But she has high hopes for another winning season. “We have mostly underclassmen this year, but we’ve played a lot of big games, so we have experience on our side,” she said. “Since we have moved regions, to get to state again we will have to beat Martins Mill, so we’re ready!” Denise also receives positive feedback on how well-mannered her team is: “Other coaches at tournaments will come up and tell me, ‘I



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While the boys and girls have graciousness in common, the key to the Bobcats’ success on the court differs between the teams. Don describes his winning strategy as “taking care of business in practice.” Preparation is all important, and special attention is given to time management and precision-oriented workouts and planning. “We have very thorough practices,” Don outlined. “If we cover all we need to in practice, we feel that, by the time we walk in the gym for the game, we’re completely prepared and ready to go.”

Denise’s formula for winning is based on a positive attitude. “I think for us, it’s about passion,” she said. “The girls’ hearts are in this. They want to win. So the determination to win is what gets us going.”

For the coaches of the Bobcats, it comes down to their own dedication to the work they love. The most fulfilling aspect of the job for Don is seeing hard work pay off, watching from courtside as all the moves his team practiced are carefully implemented. “Knowing the guys have listened and learned, and then taken it a step farther means a lot,” he confessed. “To watch that unfold is the most rewarding for me.”

Denise’s pride in her team is equally apparent. “Seeing these girls succeed as they have has been great,” she enthused. “I just tell them, ‘Push the ball, push the ball,’ and they deliver every time, because they know they can do it!” **NOW**



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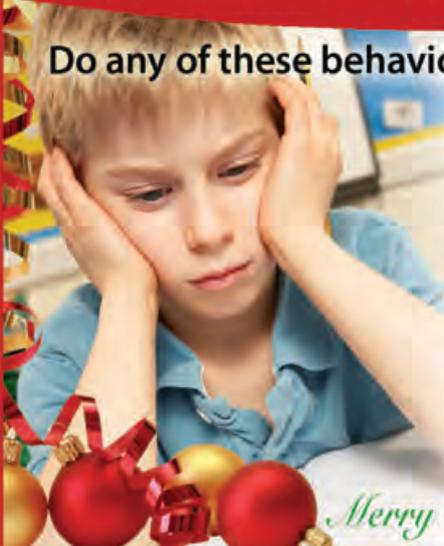
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to a school friend, Wendy Russell Reves, who had left Marshall to become one of New York's top models in the 1930s. At the time the editorial was written, Ms. Reves, living in France, was the widow of a wealthy publisher and art collector. Ms. Reves responded to her friend with a check for \$25,000 to help her childhood community have "its holiday wish." With that check as a start, members of the community eventually raised more than \$70,000 to start illuminating the town.

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Snowflake, the giant rocking horse, brings back memories for those who recall hours rocking back and forth as a child. In the Wonderland Village, Snowflake awaits all who want to relive those memories by rocking 12 feet in the sky!

A picture, it has been said, is worth a thousand words, but what is a picture inside a snow globe worth to friends and family? Measuring 16 feet wide, up to six people can have that unusual holiday photo to express their holiday happiness.

Until he prepares to leave for the North Pole, Santa, along with Mrs. Claus, welcomes children to his workshop. Each child can make their train, decorate a cookie and, of course, tell Santa all of their dreams and wishes.

To enjoy seeing the millions of lights that Marshall has, visitors can enjoy a light tour on the old English double decker bus. Decked out with its own lights, a tour guide welcomes each guest aboard to experience not only the brilliance of the community but to learn more about Marshall's 170-year history. Maps for drivers who want to do their own driving are provided in several locations throughout the Wonderland Village.

Several special events occur during the festival. Celebrity Chef, sponsored by Get Healthy Marshall, explores a healthy food menu. Participants can view the specialty foods as created by invited chefs and then actually enjoy them.

For artists or want-to-be artists, the Holiday Art Party is a fun-filled afternoon of painting one's own masterpiece. Even if you've never painted before, each person will finish with their own holiday masterpiece ready for display. Marshall is also becoming known for its resident artists, and during the festival local artists display their favorite holiday painting or other art form at the Visitors Center located at 301 N. Washington, in the Washington Square District. The art show is free and open daily during the festival. **NOW**

For a complete operating schedule, contact the Marshall Convention and Visitors Bureau at (903) 702-7777 or at www.VisitMarshallTexas.org. Photos by Ron Munden, EastTexasTowns.com.

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From left:

Bryson Morrison, Larry Morrison and Tim Young offer knowledgeable service to meet their customers' needs.



Homegrown Pride and Service

Customers are given fair prices and good, old-fashioned service at family-owned McKee True Value Hardware and Lumber.

— By Virginia Riddle

It's no wonder that customers feel right at home when they enter the door at McKee True Value Hardware and Lumber. Founded in 1936 by the McKee family with stores in nearby Malakoff and far away Missouri, Larry and Vicky Morrison have continued the family tradition since purchasing the store in 1991. Today, Larry's right-hand man is his son, Bryson Morrison, while the store's manager is Tim Young who is married to Cassie, a Morrison daughter. "I like our family business. It's fun to work with the boys," Larry said.

McKee prides itself as being the go-to home center for plumbing, electrical and paint, as well as being a full-service lumber company and True Value dealer. McKee's niche in the home building and renovation business is its ability to handle special

orders through the store's membership in the Guardian Builder Program. "We can get anything. Special orders don't upset us," Larry stated.

Larry, a native of Missouri, started his career in retail during his high school years. Following a stint in the Navy, he returned to retail. After learning the business at McKee in Missouri, he and Vicky brought their young family to Corsicana's store. Since that time, many of the store's long-term employees and loyal customers have become family. Customers have become accustomed to the familiar faces of Robert Sessions, yard foreman for over 30 years, and Janene Mueller, the store's secretary for 30-plus years. McKee's Corsicana store has 12 employees ready and knowledgeable to give individual service to satisfy each customer's needs.

The Morrison family gives back to the Navarro County community, which has not only become their home but which has supported them. When the opportunity came for Larry and Vicky to purchase the business, an individual from the community stepped forward with the financing. That act sealed the Morrisons' commitment to the community. The family members who are not working directly with the store are busy teaching the youth of the area. "We have teachers everywhere," Larry said proudly. Larry has served on the boards of the Corsicana Education Foundation, Camp Fire, the Corsicana YMCA and the Navarro Regional Hospital. "My dad gives a lot to this community," Bryson remarked.

Bryson is carrying on family tradition by serving on the boards of the Corsicana Chamber of Commerce and Corsicana YMCA and is the current chairman of the United Way campaign. He is also a

"A lot of things we do in this town wouldn't be happening without the people of Corsicana getting involved."

member of the Kiwanis Club. "We need to support our community, especially in a small town. A lot of things we do in this town wouldn't be happening without the people of Corsicana getting involved," Larry said. "This community has been good to us, so we like to give back."

The youngest members of the Morrison family can be occasionally found at McKee. With daughter, Jessica Holden; Bryson and wife, Gillian; and Tim and Cassie Young all living and working in the area, Larry and Vicky take joy in their five grandchildren. "I pick up the kids from school. They come down here, and I give them two quarters, and we go get a soda. It keeps us in touch," Larry said.

Larry sees a bright future for McKee and Corsicana. McKee's Web site, www.mckeelumberco.com, will help customers shop and stay in contact. "Homebuilding is kicking back up. We are one hour from Dallas and near Houston. This last year ended strong. I am very encouraged." **NOW**

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Hanna McCleary, Barbara Ralston and Kay Shaw show their support at the Navarro County Unit of the American Cancer Society's Wine and Cheese event.



L-R: Carla Scott, a nursing student at Navarro College, received a Jaynes Trust scholarship from Corsicana First United Methodist Church UMW members Belinda Taylor, Jan Warren and Jan Noblett. Tommy Stringer represented Navarro College.



Stephanie Ovalle and Shabara Dunbar serve up the treats at the Boys and Girls Club's 2012 Fall Festival.



Darlene Porter Holloway and Wanda Gillen enjoy visiting at the Navarro County Retired Teachers Association luncheon.



L-R: Casey Henson, Hope Teel, Christina Jones and Chris Stephens attend a spook-filled night at the Adolphus Hotel.



Sabrina, Cabryn and Cade Childress take a moment to pose while trick-or-treating in downtown Corsicana.



Melissa Stacy and Diana Castillo network at the Corsicana Area Chamber of Commerce and Cook Center's Business After Hours.



The Navarro College Career Expo 2012 brought Rob Sturgis to town to share his business expertise with area high school students.



Shea Tyner and Alena McFalls enjoy "top chef treats" at the James L. Collins Catholic School's Black and White Event.



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Estimate Your Retirement Income Needs

Have you been saving for retirement without a clear idea of how much money you'll need to live on? If so, estimating your retirement income should be an essential part of your saving strategy. A 2012 study by the Employee Benefit Research Institute found that only 42 percent of American workers said they have completed a retirement-needs calculation — the basic planning step that can help individuals determine how much money they may need in retirement and how much they will need to save to meet their retirement goal.

Plan to Maintain Your Standard of Living

Most retirees want to maintain their standard of living during retirement. To accomplish this, financial experts say you'll need between 70 and 80 percent of your preretirement income. So, for example, a couple earning \$60,000 per year would need between \$42,000 (\$60,000 x .70) and \$48,000 (\$60,000 x .80) each year during retirement.

Why less? Retirement typically triggers a number of changes in spending patterns. Your cost of living will change if you've paid off your mortgage and other loans, your children have finished college and moved away or you no longer have working- and business-related expenses. Plus, you'll no longer be contributing to retirement plans.

Of course, your specific situation will dictate the amount of money you'll need to live on. You may need more money than you anticipate. Health care costs have increased, and you could possibly use up a greater portion of your income than you planned to ensure your insurance needs are met. Also, you'll have more time to do the things you love, so you may spend significantly more on leisure activities, such as travel, entertainment and hobbies.

Consider Your Lifespan

In addition, you need to take into consideration how long you might live. People are generally in better health and living longer, more active lives than ever before. According to the Social Security Administration, a man reaching age 65 today can expect to live to 83 — a woman to 85. Those are only averages — one in 10 people will live past age 95.

With so many factors to consider, estimating retirement needs can be difficult. A retirement calculator is a good place to start. To see if you're on track, answer a few questions about your goals, how much you're saving now and your retirement income sources. **NOW**

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Colorectal Cancer: Screening Is the Key to Early Detection

— By *Shahzad Syed, M.D.*

Men and women approaching age 50 often shudder when their doctor informs them it's almost time for a screening colonoscopy. But regular screening, beginning at age 50, is the key to preventing colorectal cancer. The good news is that with early detection — through a colonoscopy — the survival rate dramatically increases.

What is a colonoscopy?

A colonoscopy is a procedure that allows a doctor, usually a gastroenterologist, to see inside the colon and rectum. Used as either a screening test or a diagnostic tool, it can help your doctor investigate early signs of cancer in the colon and rectum, as well as help diagnose the causes of unexplained changes in bowel habits such as abdominal pain, rectal bleeding and weight loss. While you're sedated, the doctor will insert a thin, long, flexible, lighted tube (a colonoscope) into your rectum and slowly guide it into your colon. The scope transmits an image of the inside of the colon onto a screen so the doctor can carefully examine the lining of the colon.

Most common risk factors?

Risk level for colon cancer varies according to age, gender, ethnic background and overall health and lifestyle. Factors that increase your risk level include:

- Being age 50 or older
- Being African-American
- Having certain digestive diseases, such as Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis or other inflammatory bowel disease

- Having a family or personal history of polyps or colorectal cancer
- Eating a high-fat diet
- Having type 2 (usually non-insulin dependent) diabetes

In addition, if you are physically inactive, obese or a smoker, you have a greater chance of developing colorectal cancer. Increasing your activity level may help reduce your risk.

How Often?

The American Cancer Society recommends that screening for colon cancer should begin at age 50 for both men and women who are of average risk for developing colorectal cancer. Your doctor can advise you about the right time to begin, as well as testing frequency, but industry guidelines suggest that a repeat screening be conducted every 10 years for adults with normal risk. People at higher risk of developing colorectal cancer may need to be tested earlier than age 50 and more frequently, as determined by your doctor. If you have questions about colonoscopy, contact your doctor. **NOW**

Remember that this information is not intended to replace the advice of your doctor, but rather to increase awareness and help equip patients with information to facilitate conversations with their physician.

*Shahzad Syed, M.D. • Gastroenterology • Medical Associates of Navarro County
Member of the medical staff at Navarro Regional Hospital*

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December 1

Jingle Bell Jog: 9:00 a.m., registration begins at 8:00 a.m., Corsicana YMCA. Have fun participating in this 5K run and 1 mile walk kick-off to the holiday season in Corsicana. There will be holiday music and a visit from Santa. For more information, call (903) 872-2412 or download the registration form at www.corsicanaymca.org.

Corsicana's Annual Parade of Lights Christmas Parade: 6:00 p.m. For more information and parade route, call (903) 654-4874.

December 1, 8, 15

"The Christmas Star" Saturdays, 1:30 p.m., Cook Center Planetarium. For a \$2 per person admission, viewers may enjoy this special holiday program which explores one of the most elusive astronomical riddles in history. For more information, call (903) 875-7596.

December 2-3

A Christmas Carol: 2:30 p.m., Warehouse Living Arts Center. Revisit a Christmas favorite about Ebenezer Scrooge who learns to embrace the true spirit of Christmas. For more information or reservations, call (903) 872-5421.

December 6

Navarro College Christmas Concert: 6:00 p.m., Dawson Auditorium. For more information, call (903) 875-7381.

December 7

Aaron Neville Quintet Christmas Tour: 7:30 p.m., The Palace Theatre. For more information or reservations, call (903) 874-7792 or e-mail corpallace@sbcglobal.net.

December 8

Breakfast with Santa and A Victorian Christmas Second Saturday Sidewalk Sale: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., downtown Corsicana. For more information, contact Cheryl Jordan at (903) 654-4852 or e-mail cjordan@ci.corsicana.tx.us.

December 11

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1009 meeting: 7:00 p.m., Sirloin Stockade, 2508 West 7th Ave. For more information, e-mail Ron Wright at rekwjj@hughes.net.

December 14

Navarro County Retired Teachers Association: 9:45 a.m., Northwest Apartments Activity Center. All retired school personnel are invited. For more information, e-mail pk2@airmail.net.

The Corsicana Newcomers Club meeting: 11:00 a.m., Kinsloe House. Zanada Schoppert will entertain the group with a medley of holiday favorites. For more information or confirmed reservations, contact Marge Oslick at (903) 872-3508.

Senior Circle Pot Luck Luncheon: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Navarro Regional Hospital. For more information, contact Connie Beal at (903) 654-6800.

December 15

Arts and Craft Fair: 9:00-6:00 p.m., Martin Luther King, Jr. Center. For more information, contact E. Burrell at (903) 874-2821.

December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: 5:00 p.m. Contemporary Service, 6:30 p.m. Traditional Service, Corsicana First United Methodist Church. For more information, call (903) 874-5656 or visit www.fumccorsicana.org.

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



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In The Kitchen With Delores “Lola” Flores

— By Virginia Riddle

Lola was “drafted” into cooking by her mother, Octavia Pinales, whom Lola said was a marvelous cook. The maternal cooking genes passed right on down to Lola’s daughter, Elizabeth “Izzy” Pannabecker, who is a chef in Waco. While Lola claims to have made many “burnt offerings” and “Frisbees” (homemade tortillas) for her husband, Johnny, friends tell a different story. They praise her tamales and hot sauce made from recipes that have been passed down through at least four generations of great cooks.

Nearly 30 family members will gather in Lola’s home for their holiday dinner, which will be a combination of their bicultural foods — turkey and dressing, enchiladas, hot sauce, beans and buñuelos. “Each time I fix one of my mother’s recipes, I get compliments,” Lola said. **NOW**

Pork Roast Tamales

1 pkg. corn shucks, corn silks removed
Filling:

1 small pork roast, shredded or finely chopped

2 Tbsp. ground cumin, or to taste

1 Tbsp. garlic, or to taste

2 Tbsp. salt, or to taste (divided use)

4 Tbsp. Gebhardt’s Chili Powder, or to taste (divided use)

Masa (dough):

6 cups masa harina, or buy prepared masa, ready to use

1 cup oil or fat skimmed from meat Pork roast broth

1. Rinse and soak corn shucks, until softened. Drain; set aside on a cookie sheet.
2. For Filling: Place pork roast in large pot or

Crock-Pot. Cover with water; cook until tender.

3. Drain broth; set aside for use in preparing the masa.

4. Add cumin, garlic, 1 Tbsp. salt and 3 Tbsp. chili powder; mix well.

5. For Masa: Place masa harina in large bowl; add 1 Tbsp. chili powder.

6. Mix thoroughly after adding oil; add broth, a little at a time, until a spreadable texture is achieved. Add 1 Tbsp. salt

7. To assemble: With a knife, spread the masa on half of the smooth side at the wide end of each shuck.

8. Place a small amount of filling on each shuck, until filled.

9. Fold over sides and one narrow end. Place each tamale with its open end standing up in a large pot.

10. When pot is filled with tamales, add

boiling water carefully so tamales are not disturbed. Simmer 45 minutes.

11. If the tamales’ masa is not firm or the shuck does not pull away from the masa easily, cook tamales longer. Cool before serving.

Octavia Pinales’ Hot Sauce

6-8 jalapeño peppers

1 15-oz. can diced tomatoes

1 large, fresh garlic clove

1/2 tsp. salt, or to taste

1. Roast peppers on hot griddle; turn until sides are blackened.

2. Remove peppers; cool.

3. Wearing rubber gloves, remove blackened skin with knife edge. Place peppers, tomatoes and garlic in blender or food processor and grate until desired consistency (smooth or chunky) is achieved.

4. Add salt and more tomatoes if too hot. For hotter sauce, omit tomatoes.

Buñuelos

3 cups all-purpose flour

1/4 tsp. baking powder

1 tsp. sugar

1 Tbsp. shortening

1 egg, beaten

2/3 cup warm water

Oil

Cinnamon and sugar

1. Mix first 3 ingredients.

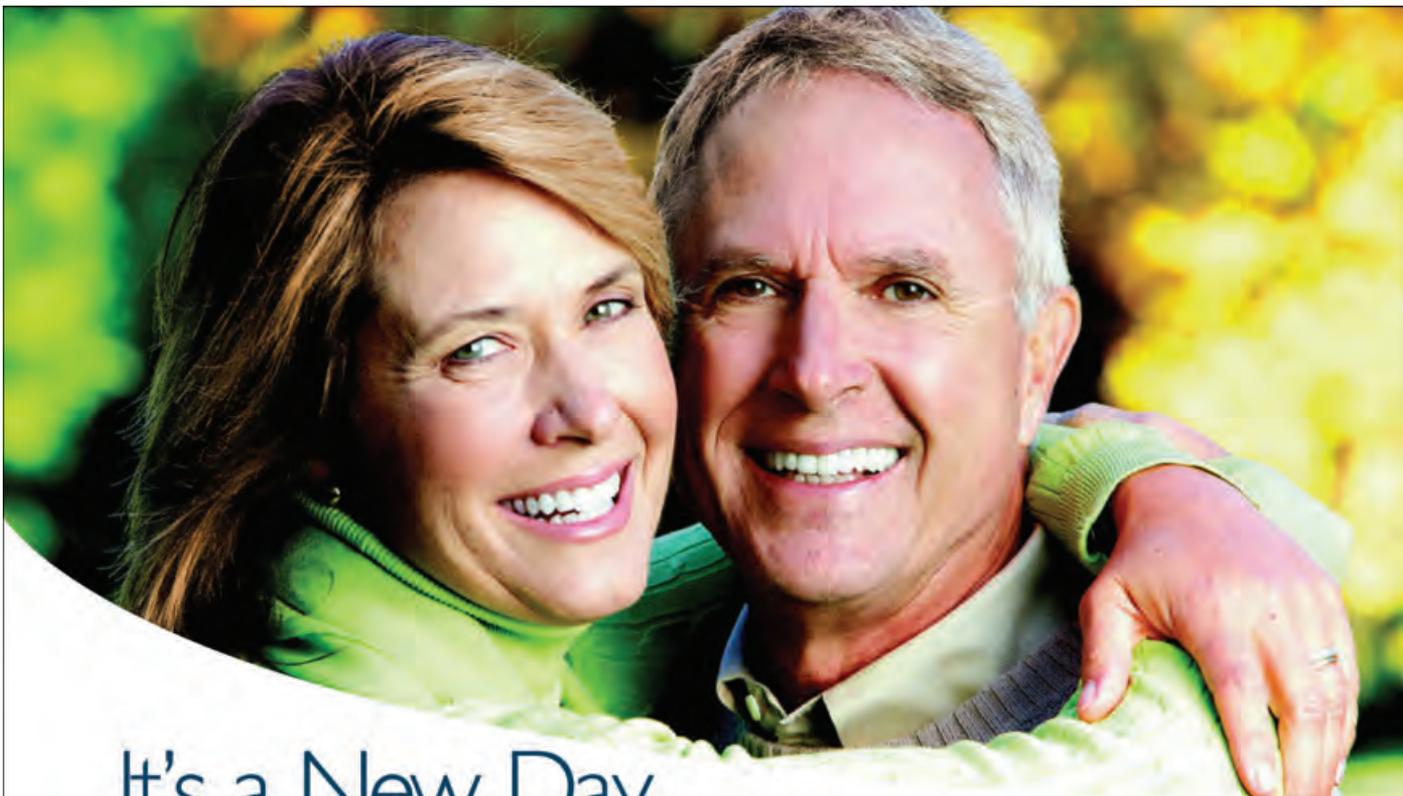
2. Add shortening and egg. Mixture will resemble coarse meal.

3. Add water; knead until dough is smooth. Divide dough into small balls; roll balls into thin circles.

4. Cut circles into 2-inch strips; drop into hot oil. Fry 10-12 seconds, or until golden.

5. Remove strips to paper towels; drain. Sprinkle with sugar and cinnamon. When cool, store in airtight container.

To view recipes from current and previous issues, visit www.nowmagazines.com.



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