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MAY 2012

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On The Cover



Corsicana's history comes alive through its Oakwood Cemetery.

Photo by Amy Ramirez.

Contents

May 2012 • Volume 9, Issue 5



8 A Moment of Remembrance

Norman and Dana Stubbs work to document the lives of the famous and infamous buried in Oakwood Cemetery.

14 Only the Best

For the Lady Texans, rules of the game apply to life, too.

20 Making Musical Memories

At Home With Tex and Mary Schutz.

28 Mission Minded

Navarro County children are among those benefiting from the Foster Grandparents Program.



36 Life's Canvas

Lucy Williams takes life as it comes and paints it.

42 BusinessNOW

46 Around TownNOW

48 HealthNOW

50 FinanceNOW

52 CookingNOW

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Editor's Note

Happy May Day, Corsicana!

This month is my favorite month of the year for many reasons. As the mother of four and grandmother of five, I love Mother's Day. This month is special because my mother and father, who was a colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves, taught my sisters and me to remember all who have died in the service of our country on Memorial Day. May is also Teacher Appreciation Month. Let's all remember the important lessons that we have learned from our teachers and mothers.

May Day dances around the maypole when I was in elementary school are long gone, but students and teachers in school today still get a great case of spring fever while anticipating the winding down of the school year. Congratulations to our graduates as each of you move forward with your plans for the future!



Virginia

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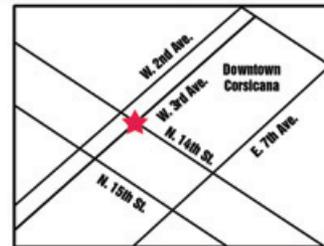
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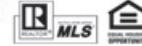


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I can point to many positive improvements inside the Sheriff's Department, many of which I have been a part of, but I maintain there is still room for improvement. I know that as a constituent, you demand and deserve accountability for your tax dollars that support the law enforcement efforts in Navarro County. As a Captain with years of command level experience, I intend to look for new ways to create efficiency in personnel use and productivity. I have spent my entire law enforcement career serving the citizens of Navarro County, your comfort and safety in the community have been, and will continue to be of paramount importance to me. I believe we need to focus on the basics of being more service oriented and attentive to the needs of our community. I pledge that we will continue to be aggressive in narcotics enforcement within our community and always work to make Navarro County a safer place to live, work and raise our families. I will strive: to enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Navarro County through teamwork and mutual cooperation between the community and the Sheriff's Department; to provide the most qualified, well-trained and educated officers in the county; to preserve the peace, enforce the law and ensure secure prisoner facilities, thus providing a safe environment for all the citizens of Navarro County. I am asking for your VOTE in the May 29th primary and for your continued support as we go forward to the general election in November.

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A Moment of Remembrance

— By Virginia Riddle

Memorial Day weekend traditionally heralds the beginning of summer with its picnics, baseball games, camps and school vacation that's just over the horizon. Family and friends gather for fun and fellowship with cookouts and trips to the spray parks, swimming pools or Lake Richland Chambers. Nestled amongst the hustle and bustle of activities on this holiday weekend is a quiet, beautiful place in Corsicana. Oakwood Cemetery, with its tall American flag, is the site of many veterans' graves where, on this weekend, smaller flags are placed in honor of their service to their country. "Oakwood is a beautiful cemetery. There are so many stories to tell from the graves," Dana Stubbs said.

Dana, director of the Liz Gillispie Genealogy Department of the Corsicana Public Library, along with her husband, Norman, love to tell the stories of those buried within the rolling terrain of the cemetery. "I have always been interested in history and genealogy," Norman said. "As a child, I asked my momma about a tricycle that was in a case in the cemetery." His mother explained that a child was buried there.

Dana's interest in genealogy was sparked when the couple started dating. "I asked Norman what CSA stood for," she remembered. She learned that CSA stands for Confederate States of America. Since that time, the couple has cultivated a shared interest in history by taking vacations to visit cemeteries

across the nation and attend Civil War reenactments.

Norman, a sixth-generation paper hanger and painter with a family business dating to the 1890s in Corsicana, has family members buried in Oakwood Cemetery, along with Dana's ancestors who settled in Navarro County in 1858. "I love history. I started reading about Cynthia Ann Parker when I was young and 'in the way' in my grandfather's antique store," Dana said. "I was hooked on history."

Grave markers in the cemetery rarely tell the whole story. While Oakwood Cemetery has historical markers for notables such as Texas Governor Beauford Jester and Elizabeth Glover, the Mother of Confederate

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Reunions, most markers invite further research. Dana and Norman have committed themselves to that task. “The cemetery means a lot to me,” Norman said. With research and documentation, which the couple is continuing to do, more historical markers may be erected and stories can be shared on such Web sites as <http://rootsweb.ancestry.com>. Such information is valuable to people searching for their own roots and branches of their family trees.

Owned and maintained by the city of Corsicana, Oakwood Cemetery’s first burial dates to the pre-Civil War year of 1851. Re-internments of remains from earlier Catholic and Methodist cemeteries located nearby were some of the first burials in Oakwood.

Among the graves are many who have died in service of their country. Memorial Day traces its roots to the Civil War days when women from the South decorated graves of both Union and Confederate fallen soldiers. The day was first officially observed May 5, 1868, when General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, placed flowers on graves of Union and Confederate soldiers buried in Arlington Cemetery. The date became a federal three-day holiday with passage of the National Holiday Act of 1971. While the intent was to honor veterans who had paid the ultimate sacrifice, many families pay their respects during the holiday weekend to those veterans who served but survived to return home and contribute further to their communities.

“There is someone buried in Oakwood from every war except the Revolutionary War,” Norman said. There are over 500 Confederate Army veterans including two generals. Confederate Airman Pvt. Adolphus E. Morse, the last man who went up in a

“Oakwood is a beautiful cemetery. There are so many stories to tell from the graves.”

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balloon (aeronaut), is buried in Oakwood. Another interesting story surrounds Confederate Colonel Albert Miller Lea, a graduate of West Point Military Academy, who later settled in Corsicana and is buried in Oakwood. He paid, as a parent, the ultimate sacrifice. He was at the Battle of Galveston when his son, Edward Lea, a Union officer, died in his arms.

Among the many veterans' graves that will bear flags on Memorial Day are Lt. Frank Benson, James P. Lumpkin, Arthur D. McKinney, Jr., Lt. Alfred Marion



Gibson and Dana's relative, Zane Christie. Lt. Benson was not killed in action but died like many wartime veterans of disease (pneumonia) in 1917, at age 25, while in training. James P. Lumpkin died at age 30 in France on Armistice Day 1918. Pilot "Sonny" McKinney

was killed in 1945 at age 24 while piloting his plane, which was hit by enemy ack-ack (anti-aircraft fire). He hit his target but went down in water off Formosa (Taiwan). His body was not recovered. Another pilot whose remains were not recovered was Lt. Gibson, who at age 28, died piloting his F-86 when it exploded and crashed into the Mediterranean Sea off the shores of Libya. Staff Sgt. Christie was killed at age 22 in Vietnam in 1970.



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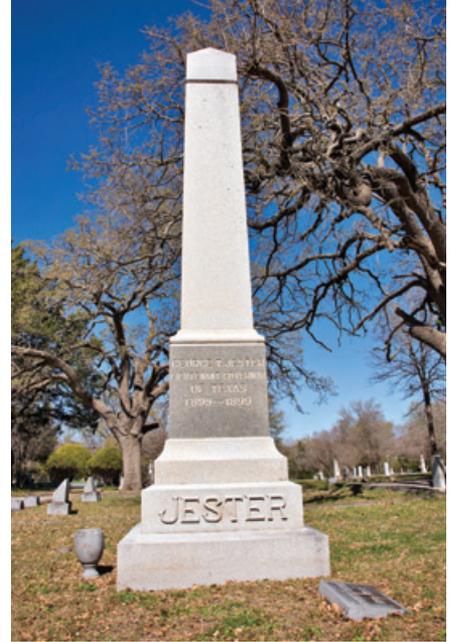
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Some veterans' lives were cut short due to physical complications resulting from their service. One such case was that of Cliff Pagano, who served as an intelligence officer in Alaska during the Korean War and Cold War Era. Fluent in Russian, he aspired to be an astronaut in spite of injuries sustained when he had thrown himself on a grenade. He died at age 42 in 1962.

History of all sorts is recorded in the epitaphs of Oakwood Cemetery. Joel Trimble, composer of the "CHS Fight Song," is buried in Oakwood along with coaches and players from former championship CHS teams. Graves of Navarro County's founders, movers and shakers, the famous, not so famous and infamous can be found among the rolling hills.

Among the infamous are several "ladies-of-the-night." "Corsicana was a pretty wild town. We were one of two towns in Texas that had licensed red-light districts. The other town was Galveston," Dana revealed.

Norman and Dana will continue to enjoy their shared hobbies of visiting cemeteries to find ancestors, Hood's Brigade and Navarro Rifles veterans and stories. Along the way, they also study the Old West. "We like stories about outlaws and scalwags," Norman said.

"For me, it's all about preservation," Dana added.

On Memorial Day, Norman and Dana will pause, as all Americans are asked to do at 3:00 p.m. local time, for a National Moment of Remembrance. It's a moment of silence to remember and honor the fallen. **NOW**



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Only the Best

— By Rick Herron

On Sunday afternoons starting in March each year, anyone in listening distance to the Optimist Softball Complex at Nature Park is sure to hear a series of loud pops. That distinctive sound of a bat connecting to a softball is a welcome sign, reminding everyone that summer is well on its way.

Chances are very good those sounds come from the Lady Texans girls' select softball team as they practice for their next tournament. The team's coaches — Kris Matthews, Kevin Ward, Troy Reid and Coby White — each bring unique perspectives and history to the practices.

"We were asked to coach the 10 and under softball team in Dawson back in 2006, and back then, none of us knew all that much about softball," Kris remembered. Through a variety of factors that included attending tournaments, watching softball games on television and a good dose of pure tenacity, all four men quickly became educated in the nuances of what makes a successful, winning girls' softball team.

"I knew a little bit about the sport, as we had all coached a Dawson team, so when the idea to form a girls' select softball team was mentioned in 2007, we met with the parents and decided to go ahead and form the team," Kris said.

After that, the coaches continued to learn more about the game of softball from a variety of sources. "We picked other coaches' brains, watched other teams play and paid close



attention to how they did certain things compared to how we do them,” Kevin explained. “We started picking up tips from each tournament and, along with watching videos of games, we are continually learning new drills and techniques to teach the girls.”

It was a winning combination, apparently, as Kris recounted that the Lady Texans took fourth, fifth and first in their first three tournaments, an admirable record by anyone’s standards. “Team success is determined by several factors, I think. The parents are great and do so much for the team, always with a wonderful attitude, and the other coaches are fantastic,” Kris said. “And we couldn’t do this without my wife and Kevin’s sister, Kami Ward-Matthews.” In addition to tournament fees, the parents transport the girls to and from practice and tournaments, as well as help with fundraisers that pay for uniforms and equipment.

While each team has its own unique characteristics, the game itself is earmarked with some basic tenants shared by all members. For example, pitches are always performed “windmill” style, always underhanded, and the bats used by most teams are composite with smaller barrels, which make them significantly lighter than regular baseball bats.



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L to R: Kris Matthews, Kevin W...

The 12-girl Lady Texans team practices from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Sundays at the 24.5 acre park, located at 2200 Oak Valley Road. According to the city of Corsicana Web site, part of the park is leased to the Girls Softball League Association, a very successful city program.

By all indications, 2012 will be a busy year for the team. "We began to attend tournaments in April and will continue our weekly practices and tourneys all the way through the middle of December," Kris said. Tournaments generally host 20 or more teams, and the Lady Texans are especially excited about the "Triple Crown" tournament that starts June 1.

"The parents are a fantastic part of the success of the team. We would have a hard time without their financial help and willingness to take the girls to and from practice and tournaments," Kris shared.

Kevin said weekly practices follow a similar sequence of events. "We start with drills at each station, with the goal being repetition, repetition, repetition,



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ard, Coby White and Troy Reid.

as repetition creates muscle memories in each player. We want the girls, who range in age from 14 to 16, to work on their



mental state while they are tired. They need to make themselves focus no matter how tired they feel," he said.

Kris agreed. "We tell them to play during practice as if they are in a real game. By the time they are done with practice, they have usually given 110 percent of themselves." During practice, Troy and Coby work with the girls on their hitting. It isn't unusual in fast pitch softball to see the pitcher throw the ball at speeds that average around 60 miles per hour.

Three of the girls on the Lady Texans team live in Navarro County, while the rest live an average of one to three hours away from Corsicana, some as far away as Dublin and Stephenville. With no hesitation about living that far away and



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continually attending each week's practice, dedication and a love of the game are evidently a hallmark of the team.

While winning a tournament is always great, using weekly practices and attending tourneys to prepare the girls for higher education, as well as life, is a goal each coach shares. "Yes, the tournaments are fun, but what we really want to do is get the girls interested in participating in college sports and the scholarship opportunities that go hand-in-hand with that," Kevin said.

"We've got kids being looked at by colleges, which is the real payment we get for coaching the team," Kris said. "Along with fostering in them a love of the game, we get the kids into 'select,' which keeps them out of trouble." According to softball vernacular, the word "select" is a category used to describe the top softball players in an area.

The coaches also help the girls create résumés, which they hand out at colleges. "You want them to have all the opportunities and scholarships possible," he said, noting that thanks to such efforts, the girls are regularly recruited by colleges throughout the country.

"In 2007, nobody knew what select was," Troy said. "We've watched softball grow as a sport to where it is probably the biggest girl's sport out there today, and the Lady Texans is a perfect representation of how great the sport can be."

All the coaches agreed that the girls are learning so much more than how to play a good game of softball. "Out there on the field, attending weekly practices and competing in tournaments, they are learning invaluable life rules such as discipline, respect and sportsmanship," Kris stated.

Each coach has a focused interest in making sure the girls on the Lady Texans team have every opportunity for success in and out of the game. Kevin summed it up this way. "As their coaches, we sort of become their extended family, and we want only the best for each one of them." **NOW**

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Making Musical Memories

— By Virginia Riddle

This story begins with the U.S. Air Force stationing a musically talented boy from Texas in Nebraska. Later, a girl from Nebraska went to a music festival with a hometown boyfriend. That's how Tex Schutz met Mary Neal. Since that fateful meeting, the couple and musical duo, who have been married for 32 years, have performed their own brand of "silly, sassy and serious" country music across America and other countries. "It's been a good ride," Tex said.

Tex, a native of West Texas, earned his nickname while in the service. "The name was just kind of hung on me. Mary didn't even know what my real name was," Tex joked.

"I learned it was Richard when we bought our marriage license," Mary joked. The couple settled into life in Nebraska, where Tex worked for 35 years for Goodyear Tire and Rubber, and Mary was a promotions director for a public television station and worked for a magazine. However, music was always part of their life.

During those years, Tex, who plays the mandolin, guitar, banjo, bass Dobro guitar and fiddle by ear, taught Mary how to play the bass and guitar. "I've fooled a lot of people who think



I am a great player,” Tex said. Their love of music led Tex and Mary to build a park in Nebraska where they held musical events. Through the park, the couple met many friends and fellow musicians. One friend from Iowa, who would

help at the park, became a truck driver and moved to Texas. Tex and Mary came to visit him and “things just kind of evolved,” leading them to move to Navarro County.

Tex and Mary traded their traditional jobs for musical life on the road. “We have had five RVs in our career,” Tex

At Home With Tex & Mary Schutz

said. “We were gypsies doing 150-180 shows a year.” Their music has taken them to nearly all 50 states, Morocco, Canada, Mexico, New Zealand and Europe. Except for vacation time when Tex and Mary would visit friends and relatives or enjoy the sea breezes of Caribbean islands, the couple lived in

their RV, which they park across the road from their current home. “We were going to eventually build a cabin, but when this home became available, we just couldn’t pass it up,” Mary said.

Tex and Mary moved into their home in March 2010, stayed for two weeks, went to Greece, and then went on the road for the summer. Whether in the house or RV, Sketti, the couple’s cat, is at home. “This is where the kitty lives, and



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we get to hang around. Sketti is our kid. That tail never stops,” Mary said. “She is a traveling kitty cat.”

Their home is nestled within pine and hardwood trees in a country setting near Lake Richland Chambers. A sign welcomes all to the home. “It is very adequate and basic, but homey. We are very happy here,” Tex said.

Visitors are made comfortable in the den, kitchen and dining great room with its soaring ceilings and relaxing seating.

Art and Mary’s photography, enclosed in framework made by Tex, grace the walls and reflect the couple’s many travels. A grandfather clock that Tex’s dad built stands against one wall. “It fell apart when dad died,” Tex said. Tex used his woodworking talents and rebuilt the clock, which now keeps excellent time. The bright kitchen has navy blue and grey countertops, wood cabinets with red accent pieces. A sign in the kitchen reflects the couples’ musical interests

by stating, “Music expresses what words cannot.” The couple dines at the breakfast bar or in the dining room with its bay window.

Mary’s photography also graces the master bedroom. “I worked my way through college with my photography,” Mary said. The couple combined their shared skills in the making of their headboard. Mary sewed and Tex did the woodwork, and the result is a one-of-a-kind headboard that coordinates with

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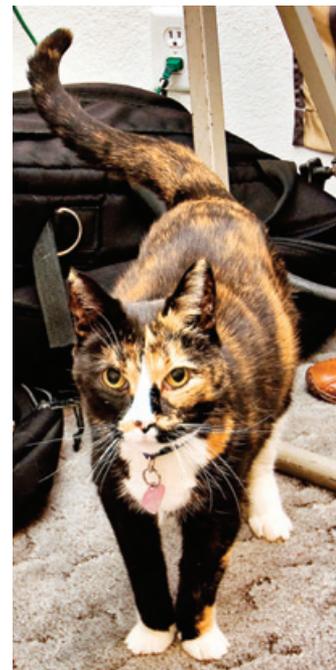




Mary's other creations, the coverlet and drapes. The couple loves the huge walk-in closet and master bath. Mary exclaimed, "The master bath is almost as big as the motor home!" A batik wall hanging from the Caribbean and a framed glass hummingbird decorate the bath. "I'm a closet designer," Mary said.

Two bedrooms and a bath complete the mother-in-law portion of the home. The studio bedroom houses the couple's many instruments and mixing/recording equipment. "We are what you would call guitar poor," Mary laughed. Tex made a fiddle, which is hung on the wall beside a quilt made for and presented to the couple by a friend, Judy Keel, actor Howard Keel's wife. The couple's awards are hung with pride — Mid-America Music Hall of Fame (1993), Gatesville (Texas) Country Music Hall of Fame (2012), Producer of the Year, Songwriters of the Year, Best Duo and Tex's individual awards for his playing and singing in several categories.

Mary's office occupies the other bedroom. From this headquarters, she operates the family business appropriately titled Miles of Memories. An ouzo bottle and



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dream catcher (made with shells) from Greece, clocks set in CST and New Zealand time zones and a globe remind her of international travels. A picture from Mary's collection titled "Aegean Blues," of *The Star Clipper*, on which they sailed while vacationing, reminds her of the time when Tex was asked to perform impromptu and had to borrow a guitar from staff.

The guest bath, dressed in cool aqua green and white, reflects Mary's love of the Caribbean. Water colors of the islands are hung in the bath and Mary's office. In nearly all of the home's rooms, Mary has arrangements of orchids.

A covered deck is the scene of jam sessions and fish fries,

when friends and neighbors (pickers and grinners) come to play and eat. "About once a month, we host a party which goes outside," Mary said. "We love this deck."

"This lake is great for fishing, and we love to fish," Tex added.

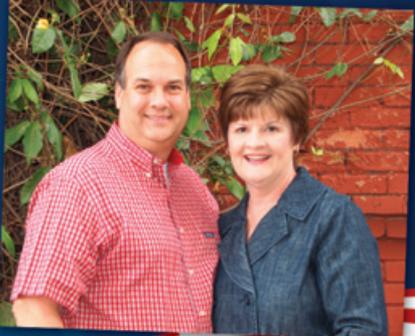
Overnight guests are welcomed in the RV, which remains parked nearby. "We are traveling less and helping out kids more by encouraging them to do any kind of music," Mary said. "Four out of five people in our audiences have gray hair, and the fifth one has no hair at all," she added. The couple is also writing. Tex is writing songs, and Mary is beginning work on her second book about, what else? A traveling cat! While having made many musical memories, this multitalented couple is focusing on the future while enjoying more time in their home without wheels. **NOW**

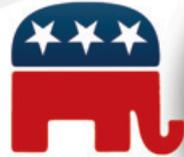


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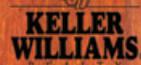
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— By Rick Herron

History has proven, time and time again, that grandparents have an undeniably positive role in the rearing, care and nurturing of children. Ask any grown-up what their best memories of childhood are, and there will often be at least one wistful recollection of a warm and loving time spent with grandpa and grandma.

For Sarah Roberts, Shirley Ellison, Emma Gray and Gerald Gray, the time they get to spend each week as volunteers in the Foster Grandparents Program not only enhances the life of each child with whom they come in contact but also brings countless benefits to the lives of every volunteer grandparent. Sarah, a volunteer for seven years, works with children at Corsicana Head Start.



“This program has literally become my entire life,” Sarah confessed. “I work with four kids, and to hear them call me ‘Granny Sarah’ is an indescribable joy.”

The Foster Grandparents Program began in 1967 as a part of the Older Americans Act of 1965, according to Director Larry Lynch, who has been at the helm of the Mexia-based program since 2003. It is funded through a federal grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service under the Senior Corps umbrella.

“It all began as part of the national equal opportunity movement that started gaining momentum in the ‘60s,” Larry said. “There are programs like ours in every state now, with 17 programs currently active in Texas. Our program serves children and seniors in Limestone, Freestone, Navarro and Bell counties. The Corsicana program currently has approximately 20 volunteers who serve children at the Boys & Girls Club, Two Dimensions Preparatory Academy Charter School, Head Start, Mosaic Day Habilitation Center, Mary Peterson’s Child Care Center and the Corsicana Public Library,” Larry said, adding that the more volunteers he can bring on board, the greater the number of kids who can benefit from the program.

To be a foster grandparent, volunteers must be 55 years of age or older, have an annual income that falls within federal



From left to right: Shirley Ellison and Sarah Roberts find fulfillment by volunteering with the foster Grandparents Program.

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From left to right: Mary Batts and Pat Swett, administrative assistant.

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guidelines and be willing and able to volunteer with children on an average of 20 hours per week. Larry added that volunteers must also be “mentally and physically able to love and encourage an at-risk child for four hours per day.”

“We work with a wide range of children, such as those who are handicapped or those with parents who, for whatever reason, are not continually present. Basically, anything that disadvantages or could possibly endanger a child enables them to have a foster grandparent,” Larry explained.

Larry obtained his associate degree in child development from McLennan Community College in 1996. In 2000, he received his Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences from The University of Texas at Tyler, where he would later get his Master of Science in human resources development in 2003. “All my degrees were obtained from night classes I took while working at the Mexia State School (now the Mexia State Supported Living Center),” he said. Earning his master’s enabled him to direct the Foster Grandparents Program, which he’s done



ever since. Now 65, an age when many people choose to retire, he shows no signs of stopping or slowing down.

"I love what I do. Directing the program is so much more than just a job. It's more of a mission," he said. "It's a 50-50 thing because there are equal benefits to both the grandparents and the kids." According to the official program description, the rewards that seniors participating in the program enjoy are hugs and kisses, unconditional love, the opportunity to socialize with others and, perhaps most important, the opportunity to feel needed and useful.

For Shirley, Sarah's daughter and a foster grandparent herself since 2010, the program is an ideal means by which to "connect the generations" by bringing youth and the elderly together. "Lots of kids don't know what a grandparent is, so it's a chance for me to work with these kids. It helps them

and makes me feel useful," she said. "It's also a chance to be a role model, as well



Gerald Gray & Emma Gray.

as be someone who can help them grow as individuals."

Emma found out about the Foster Grandparents Program seven years ago through word of mouth. "My cousin was working at Mary Peterson's Child Care Center and told me about the program. I applied and am so very, very grateful to her to this day for opening that door for me," she said. "When the kids come up

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to you years later and say, 'I remember you,' it means so much to me."

Emma's son, Gerald, has also been with the program for almost a year. "I told him about the program and encouraged him to become a volunteer, because he's so good with children," Emma said.

"My mother encouraged me to get involved," Gerald admitted. "After hurting my back, I took early retirement, and would go with mom and watch her work with the kids at the child care center. I joined the program and now work with kids at the Two Dimensions Preparatory Academy Charter School five days a week. Working with the Foster Grandparents Program has given me a level of fulfillment I had not known before and an opportunity to meet different people and cultures."

Sarah agreed. "I think I've spent more time with these kids than with my own grandkids," she laughed.

"There is no color or race in their eyes," Shirley said. "They don't see that, and we work with all races. They just love you."

Each volunteer undergoes a state background check, a federal fingerprint background check, and each is run through the National Sex Offender registry before being assigned to a child. Volunteers with the Foster Grandparents Program get an hourly stipend of \$2.65, as well as a free daily hot meal, travel reimbursement, insurance, annual physical examinations and 40 hours of orientation and training. "New volunteers to the program are assigned a mentor for the first week of service to ensure an easy transition into their new role and environment," Larry explained.

Once a month, Larry gets all the volunteers together for an in-service at Lake Mexia, where they meet for four hours at Camp Rip Recreational Center. Larry's hope is that, with the recruitment of additional volunteers, his program will be able to add the Corsicana Independent School District to the current roster of entities they serve. "We want more volunteers," he said. "For every child we reach, there's a 100 more we could help." **NOW**

Editor's Note: For more information, call Larry Lynch at (254) 562-1326 or his administrative assistant, Patricia Swett, at (254) 562-1336.

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Life's Canvas

— By Randy Bigham

To think is to paint for one Navarro County woman whose still life canvases, landscapes and portraits have earned her local fame among collectors and fellow artists. Lucy Williams' pictures of flowers rival in popularity her studies of barnyard fowl — "my chickens" she calls them — but their creator loves them all. "I can't help but paint," she said. "It's what I do. And all the subjects mean something to me." A roadside stream in summer, an autumn field, a snow-strewn valley — all are scenes Lucy recreates in oil, recording their seasonal charm for posterity with a flick of a brush and a flash of genius.





Originally from North Dakota by way of Montana, Lucy now calls Kerens home. With husband, Neal, who is proud of his talented wife, Lucy enjoys her work, setting out under blue skies with paint in hand to commit to canvas what pastoral vistas she may find. Country lanes yield many a prospect, and to judge by her treatment of flora and fauna, animals and a few people, she passes up few opportunities to absorb and document nature's beauty.

Although she first painted in her early 20s, she wasn't bit by the artistic bug until about 20 years ago when the mountains and wildlife of Montana inspired her. Daughters, Kim and Stacy, were growing up and she had more leisure time on her hands. Lucy took an art class with Neal and afterwards painted meadows and various still life subjects to hone her craft. One of her more ambitious early projects was a large landscape of the Bitterroot River in Montana, which remains a sentimental favorite. When Neal transferred with his U.S. Forest Service job to Texas, Lucy made the most of her new home in the Lone Star State, joining the Outdoor Painters Society, while making many new friends across Navarro County.

Today, Lucy has won a number of awards for her paintings, which hang in homes and businesses everywhere, from Kinsloe House in Corsicana to a Catholic bishop's office in Puerto Rico. "So, I'm international now!" she laughed. The works her customers have commissioned



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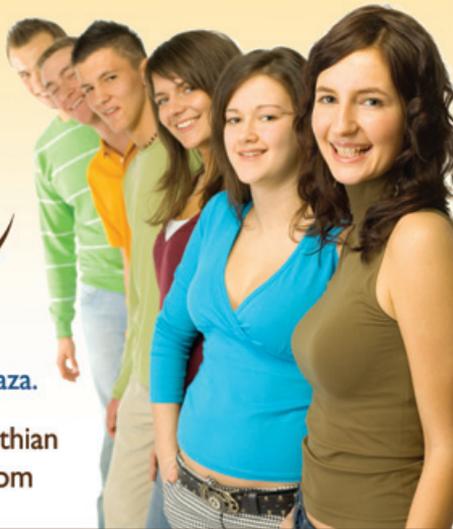
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are varied in subject, but united in style and color. “I love color and more and more my work is impressionistic,” she said. “I try to paint every day to keep the creative juices flowing, and I get together regularly with other artists



to paint and just enjoy each other’s company.” Lucy’s most recognizable paintings are of flowers — especially roses, although she admires bluebonnets and other wildflowers. “I love to go out and find some great spot to paint,” she said. “Around Bazette and along FM 636 there are some nice patches of flowers, particularly bluebonnets.”

Yet Lucy has become noted for her bright pictures of that eminent denizen of the farmyard — the rooster. Deeply textured swaths of color mark these works. The yellow and red head of a bobbing bird dominates her portrait of *A Proud Rooster*, and although it’s a soft focus portrayal, the play of light she has achieved is exquisite, even to the blue-black, fluttering tail feathers. Lucy’s impressionistic streak is similarly seen in

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the still life *Roses in Sunshine*, where great, puffy blossoms spill over a wicker hand basket. *Roses and Fruit* captures another summery scene of freshly picked blooms in a glass carafe surrounded by a lemon, a lime and a watermelon. In addition to her signature roosters and flowers, Lucy likes to paint cats, and there are several examples of her feline sitters, framed and unframed, in her home.

Lucy is motivated in her work as much by the people around her as by nature and animals, and her art provides a release from routine. It also is a way for her to express her love of life. She and Neal have both suffered from cancer, and while they are doing well now, keeping involved in the community and with pastime pursuits has enabled them to thrive. "We are active in our church," Lucy said. "And while I do my thing, painting with friends in Corsicana, Neal plays music at local venues. So we stay busy." Lucy is also a longtime member of the Corsicana Art League, which sponsors a National Juried Art Show each fall and a membership showcase in the spring every year. At the 2007 juried show in Clifton, Lucy's entry sold within 30 minutes of the event's opening.

"It was one of my chicken paintings," she said. "It was called *Henny Penny* and the collector who bought it loved it so much I was able to sell her one of my rooster paintings." Lucy enjoys her work with the League, especially in assisting Barbara Jones, a well-known local art teacher and a representative for the

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group. "I joined when I first came to Texas and have been active ever since," Lucy said. "I took watercolor classes from Barbara, too, and now I help her out in her studio and at meetings, taking her place sometimes when she is away."

Founded in 1976, the League is funded through dues, gifts, grants and profits from public programs and showings. Meetings are held monthly and demonstrations from local artists like Barbara and Lucy are highlights. Special workshops and painting sessions are regularly scheduled, and Lucy shares teaching duties with Barbara for these events as well. "Teaching is rewarding," Lucy said, "and you also learn when you teach." Corsicana Art League exhibits are displayed at the Warehouse Living Arts Theatre and Gallery. Lucy's latest picture on view there was *Flowers for the Soul*, her entry in the 2011 National Juried Art Show.

Along with the Corsicana Art League, Lucy is also a member of the Cedar Creek Art Club in Mabank and divides her time between painting with her friends there and demonstrating her technique for students on Fridays at Barbara's studio in Corsicana. Lucy's pictures usually measure about 11 inches by 14 inches and are featured unframed. She admits to enjoying having locals acquire her pieces. "I love it when a friend at church or from one of the art clubs goes home with one of my pictures," she said. "It's more special that way." **NOW**

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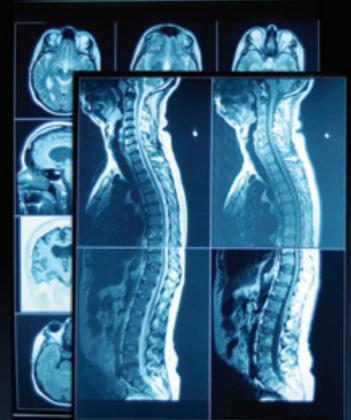
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Living Life Well

The Hand in Hand Hospice staff is dedicated to turning the end of life into an important time of living for patients, their family and friends.

— By Virginia Riddle

Since 2005, Michelle Shaw, R.N., owner and administrator of Hand in Hand Hospice, and the staff of 16 have taken whatever time and care is necessary to enable their hospice patients to live life to their fullest, with dignity and respect. “Our staff is so great. Being a smaller company, we have that ability to do what is best for the patient,” Michelle said.

Michelle was motivated to enter the world of hospice care through her own experience with her dad, who was well cared for by hospice in nearby Malakoff. Already a graduate of Navarro College’s nursing program, with experience as a surgical nurse at Methodist Dallas Medical Center and director of nursing for long-term care and rehabilitation facilities, Michelle found herself thinking, *This is what I want to do. I want to make a difference.*

Hand in Hand Hospice serves patients who reside in Anderson, Ellis, Freestone, Henderson, Hill, Limestone and Navarro counties. Hospice care may begin when the patient receives a diagnosis of a life-limiting illness. Services include, but are not limited to: pain management and symptom relief, nurse visits and assistance with daily activities based on the needs of each patient.

Honoring and respecting core values and the wishes of patients and their families is very important. The customs and traditions that are practiced in different religions and cultures are respected and honored by staff members. Hand in Hand Hospice is dedicated to affirming life and dignity, neither hastening nor postponing death, while helping patients and their families find

meaningful ways of saying goodbye. Patients are encouraged to get out and enjoy community events, including the recent showing of the movie *White Christmas* at the Palace Theatre, sponsored by Hand in Hand Hospice. "Everyone got popcorn, juice and a present. It meant a lot to families," Michelle said. An annual memorial service is hosted by Hand in Hand. "It's a really wonderful thing to do. Families filled Westside Baptist Church last year," Michelle remembered.

Staff goes the extra mile by being sensitive to the special needs of each patient and their family members. Hand in Hand Hospice provides bereavement care for family members following the death of a loved one for 14 months. A chaplain,

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social worker, therapists, RNs, LVNs and CNAs join the two medical doctors/directors in caring for patients. "We have to be very flexible in the time we spend in a patient's home," Michelle said. "We do whatever the family and patient need done." That may be going grocery shopping; fixing a favorite chocolate pudding; washing dishes; or arranging with a church's help for a patient to move to a newer, more comfortable home, as the staff did when they saw that a patient was living in substandard conditions.

A member of the Corsicana Chamber of Commerce and the Texas & New Mexico Hospice Organization, and voted Best In Corsicana, Hand in Hand Hospice exemplifies the words of Dame Cicely Saunders, who founded the first modern hospice in England in 1968, "You matter because you are you. You matter to the last moment of your life, and we will do all we can, not only to help you die peacefully, but also to live until you die." **NOW**

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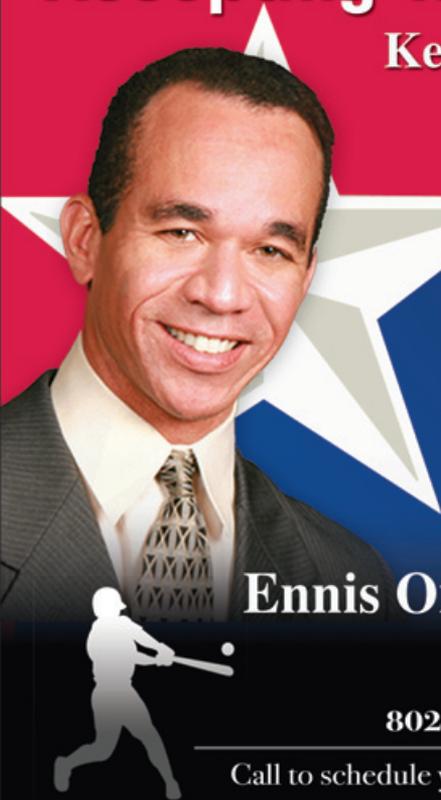
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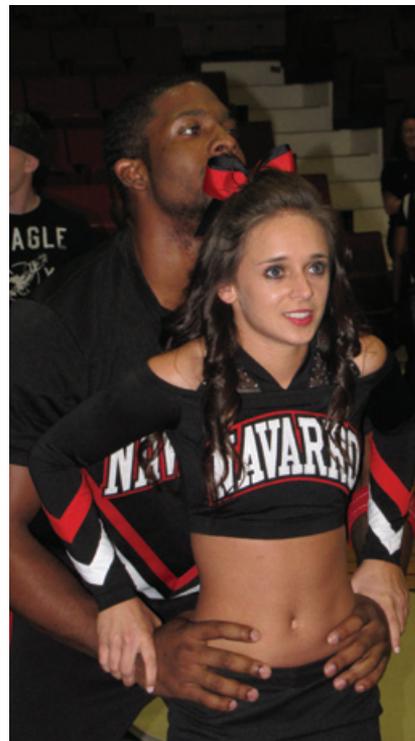




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“Bobby Vickery is a strong conservative who will bring practical commonsense principles to the Texas House. Voters can count on Bobby Vickery to oppose new taxes, reduce Texans tax burden, and demand greater accountability for how our money is spent in Austin”.

Michael Quinn Sullivan, President of Texans for Fiscal Responsibility.

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Living With Diabetes

Good habits are key to diabetes management.

More than 23.6 million people in the United States have diabetes, according to the American Diabetes Association. Because diabetes increases the risk of other serious, chronic conditions and terminal diseases, it's critical to make a commitment to healthier habits to delay the onset of the long-term effects of diabetes and related diseases.

People with diabetes are susceptible to a host of health issues, including gum disease, pregnancy complications and a weakened immune system, making them more susceptible to illnesses like pneumonia or the flu. Other complications can include: kidney disease, cardiovascular disease, eye problems and nerve damage.

Your Diabetes Care

Diabetes is a complex condition to manage, so your doctor will probably involve other professionals in your care: a nutritionist or dietitian and other specialists such as, an eye doctor, an endocrinologist (a doctor who specializes in hormonal disorders), a podiatrist (a foot doctor), a dentist, a nurse educator with a specialty in diabetes and possibly, an exercise trainer. If you're a diabetic, you should see your doctor every four to six months (if your treatment involves oral medication or diet) — or every three to four months (if you're receiving insulin shots).

Whether your diabetes diagnosis is recent or you have had diabetes for years, diabetes management begins with controlling your blood sugar. Keeping blood sugar near normal helps reduce risks for diabetes complications. A healthy diet, regular exercise and weight maintenance are imperative.

You should test your blood sugar regularly at home, and your doctor will check it during scheduled exams. Your doctor will provide guidance on how often and when to check your blood sugar level and will recommend a target level based on your health history and treatment plan. If you cannot control your blood sugar with diet and exercise alone, your doctor may prescribe medication or insulin injections. **NOW**

Sources:

- American Diabetes Association, www.diabetes.org.
- National Heart, Lung & Blood Institute, www.nhlbi.nih.gov.
- American Association of Family Physicians, www.aafp.org.

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 and facilitate conversations with your physician that will benefit your health.

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Retirement Planning — Nearing Retirement

— By *Lynda Housley*

Most people have an ideal retirement age in their head. Perhaps you hope to retire early and travel the world, or stop working right at age 65 — for years, the traditional retirement age. Or maybe you're nearing your 60s, or even your 70s, with no desire to slow down.

Essentially, the decision when to retire is yours. And it's one you should consider carefully and base on a number of factors, such as your retirement savings, when you'll begin collecting Social Security, your plans for retirement and your health.

Do I Have Enough Money?

Whether you've been stashing away money since the beginning of your career, or started a retirement fund a little later than you intended, you're likely wondering if you have enough savings to stop working. Financial experts estimate that you'll need between 70 and 80 percent of your pre-retirement income to maintain your standard of living. Yes, less than 100 percent, because hopefully you've paid off your mortgage and other installment loans, aren't carrying a heavy load of credit card debt, and no longer have costs associated with children, such as child care or college tuition. Plus, you'll no longer be saving for retirement.

To determine your post-retirement income, you may want to start with a thorough examination of all the resources you're planning to use during retirement. These might include a combination of funds from Social Security, your pension, a 401(k), an IRA, mutual funds, stocks and bonds, annuities and savings accounts.

Be sure you know how much you can expect from Social Security. Knowing the amount of your benefits is essential if you're planning to rely on them during retirement. Remember: You can start receiving Social Security benefits at age 62, but you'll receive more money each month if you wait until your U.S. government-deemed full retirement age. Your benefits will continue to increase the longer you wait to file, up until age 70.

Am I on Track?

Now that you're aware of your resources, calculate your retirement income to see if you're

on track. If you're unhappy with the results, you can try making some small changes to boost your retirement savings these last few years, such as increasing your savings as much as you can, making sure you're contributing enough to your employer-sponsored plan to receive the full match, and contributing the maximum to your IRA. Remember, you can make "catch-up" contributions if you're over 50, which are additional contributions to your IRA.

You may also consider tightening your budget to increase your savings. At the same time, to make your post-retirement budget lower, work to pay off credit card debt and your mortgage.

Should I Reevaluate My Investments?

Now may be a good time to conduct an asset allocation analysis to compare how your assets are invested in stocks, bonds and cash. Since you're nearing retirement, you need to consider the risk of your portfolios. You may want to seek a combination of investments that are more conservative, because you have a shorter time frame to compensate for the inevitable fluctuations of the market.

You also might consider investing part of your retirement savings into an annuity. Annuities are often offered by insurance companies, which make a series of payments to you in exchange for a single premium or series of premiums. These payments can continue for a defined length of time or an indefinite period, such as your lifetime. Deferred annuities begin at a set time in the future and help you accumulate money for future use.

Should I Readjust My Plan?

If you fear that the amount in your retirement fund won't be enough to get you through the rest of your life, you may want to adjust your timeline. Retiring a few years later will give you more time to save, and more time for your savings to grow. **NOW**

Lynda Housley is a State Farm agent based in Corsicana.



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May 1-12

Western Artists of America 8th Annual Show & Sale: **Monday-Friday**, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; **Saturday**, noon-4:00 p.m., The Pearce Museum. Tickets: adults/\$6; seniors/\$5; children/\$3. Call (903) 875-7642.

May 1-26

Sky Quest, The Cowboy Astronomer and Galaxies:
Saturdays at 2:00, 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. respectively, Cook Center Planetarium. Call (903) 874-1211 or 1-800-988-5317.

May 4

Cinco de Mayo luncheon fundraiser: 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Mary Peterson Child Care Center, 1103 East Collin Avenue. Takeout only. Call (903) 874-7091.

May 5

"Music Fest" Relay for Life: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Lakeside United Methodist Church, FM 416 at Lake Richland Chambers. Admission: free. Food booths and fun benefiting Navarro and Freestone counties Relay for Life. E-mail lakecarole@windstream.net.

May 6

Kinsloe House May First Luncheon: 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. It's a Fiesta! The luncheon is open to the public. Reservations required by **May 3** at 3:00 p.m. Price per plate/\$13, tax and gratuity included. Contact Jeani Wilkinson at (903) 229-5787 or

Kinsloe House at (903) 874-5791.

May 11

Navarro County Retired Teachers Association meeting and luncheon: 11:00 a.m., Northwest Apartments Community Center. Retired school employees are invited to attend. Please make reservations by **May 8**. Contact Theresa Shugart (903) 872-7903.

Senior Circle Pot Luck Luncheon: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Navarro Regional Hospital. Bring a salad, vegetable, casserole or dessert. Bingo follows the luncheon. Call (903) 872-5411.

Community Spray Park and Burnet Spray Park open for the summer season. Contact Sharla Allen at (903) 654-4874.

May 12

14th Annual Corsicana Airsho: Gates open at 9:30 a.m., Corsicana Municipal Airport. Cost: \$5/person; \$10/car; veterans, military personnel and families/free. Visit www.coyotesquadron.org.

May 12-13

Corsicana Bike Race: Downtown Corsicana. Call Sharla Allen at (903) 654-4874.

May 18

2012 Relay for Life of Navarro County: 7:00 p.m.-7:00 a.m., Navarro College. Visit our Web site at www.relayforlife.org.

May 24

Corsicana Newcomers Club luncheon: 11:00 a.m., Kinsloe House. Contact Marge Oslick at (903) 872-3508.

Plastic Musik: 7:30 p.m., The Palace Theatre. This performance group uses traditional percussion techniques, along with all-plastic instruments to produce familiar melodies. Call (903) 874-7792.

May 25-27

National Polka Festival: Ennis. Features authentic cuisine, sounds and costumes of Czech and Slovak heritage, parade, live bands, arts and crafts. Call (972) 878-4748 or visit our Web site at www.nationalpolkafestival.com.

May 31

PAL Luncheon: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Cook Center. Bring a covered dish or dessert. Contact Misty Holloway at (903) 874-1211.

June 2

Hayseed Opry: 6:30-7:30 p.m., Fullerton Garity Park. Contact Sharla Allen at (903) 654-4874.

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 Lisa and Ryan Dillman

— *By Virginia Riddle*

On Mother's Day, Lisa Dillman can look forward to breakfast in bed before getting ready for church. Her son, Ryan, usually fixes eggs, toast and fruit for her. Dad, Mark, and son, Andrew, also have their cooking specialties. "Dad is a George Forman griller," Ryan revealed.

After seeing the movie *Julie & Julia*, Ryan was inspired to make beef bourguignon. "We didn't eat until late that night," he laughed. Ryan also fixed a Valentine's Day lunch for his parents and served the spaghetti meal on a beautifully set table with flowers and candles. "We like traditional family recipes," Lisa said. She is compiling a scrapbook of family recipes and photos of those special times when family and friends get together to cook and eat. **NOW**

Peppernuts

3/4 cup shortening
2 cups sugar
1 egg
1 cup dark corn syrup
1/2 tsp. anise oil
1 tsp. baking soda
3 tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. cloves
1 tsp. nutmeg
6-7 cups flour (stiff dough required)
1 cup buttermilk
Optional: nuts and/or candied fruit, chopped

1. Cream shortening, sugar, egg, corn syrup and anise oil.
2. Mix dry ingredients.
3. Add dry ingredients and buttermilk alternately, until stiff.
4. Add nuts and fruit, as desired. Chill dough in freezer.
5. Roll in long rolls 1 inch in diameter. Slice and bake 10-12 minutes at 350 F. *Note: Dough can be wrapped in wax paper and stored in freezer until ready to bake.*

FUMC Methodist Bread

1 cup shortening

1 cup sugar
3 tsp. salt
4 cups water (divided use)
2 pkg. yeast
1 cup Kellogg's All-Bran Cereal
10-11 cups flour

1. Melt shortening, sugar and salt in two cups boiling water. Set aside to cool.
2. Dissolve yeast in 1 cup of lukewarm water. Add to the shortening mixture when cooled. Add a fourth cup of cold water to help the cooling process.
3. Add the cereal and flour to make a stiff dough.
4. Place in a large greased container for rising process.
5. When doubled in bulk, divide dough into 5 balls. Knead to make 5 loaves.
6. Place in pans. Let rise again until doubled in bulk. Bake at 375 F for 20 minutes. Reduce heat to 325 F. Bake for 20 additional minutes.

Shepherd's Pie

Base:

1 lb. lean ground beef or turkey
1 egg
3/4 cup bread crumbs
2 tsp. steak seasoning
1 10 1/2-oz. can cream of mushroom soup

Topping:

4 potatoes, peeled and diced
1/4 cup butter, softened
1 cup milk
Salt and pepper, to taste
1/4 lb. regular or low-fat cheddar cheese, shredded

1. Mix first 4 base ingredients. Press into a deep dish pie plate.
2. Bake in oven at 350 F for 15-20 minutes or in microwave for 3-5 minutes until meat is browned. Top with soup.
3. Make mashed potato topping with first four topping ingredients.
4. Frost meat and soup mixture with mashed potato topping.
5. Add layer of cheddar cheese.
6. Return to oven for 15-25 minutes or microwave for 3-5 minutes. Bake until cheese is melted.

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

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