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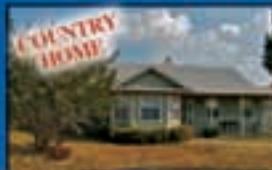
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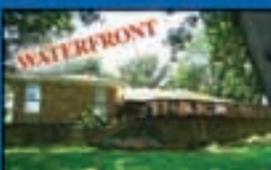
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Sydni Thomas
Editors/Proofreaders, Angel Morris
Pat Anthony . Teresa Maddison
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GRAPHICS AND DESIGN

Creative Director, Chris McCalla
Artists, Julie Carpenter . Martha Macias
Allee Brand . Cherie Chapman
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PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography Director, Jill Rose
Photographer, Amy Ramirez
Opaque Visuals

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On The Cover



Brooklynd and
Kitt Stevens love
having their very
own castle.

Photo by Amy Ramirez.

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Editor's Note

Oh, Happy Cooler Days!

We are summer survivors, dear readers. Football and Halloween are here along with cooler days and nights. Let us rejoice!

Everywhere I go across the county, I find neighbors who are just great and who are doing great things. I cherish your comments, especially the one I hear the most, "I learn so much from reading *CorsicanaNOW*. I look forward to getting it each month." As a career teacher, it just warms my heart to know that the boundaries of my classroom have grown. This is true cooperative learning since so many of the story leads come from you, the readers. We are truly lifelong learners and teachers. Thank you for your wonderful comments, leads and continued support!

Don't forget to check out "What's Happening NOW" on our Web site, www.nowmagazines.com. I hope to see you "Around Town."



Virginia

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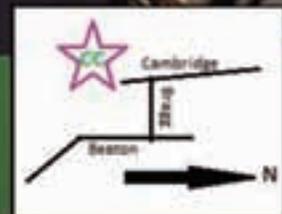
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Ancestral Voices

— By Randy Bigham

For more than 30 years, local residents researching their family trees have been a hop, skip and historical jump away from the support of the Navarro County Genealogical Society (NCGS), a 150-member body, whose officers and volunteers maintain an archival treasure trove housed at the Corsicana Public Library. “People can call us or e-mail us and we’ll work our little hearts out for them,” said Verna Bonner, NCGS’s vice president. “We’re here to guide our visitors, and we are as thrilled with their discoveries as they are.”

At a recent meeting held in the library’s Liz Gillispie Genealogy Department, board members discussed the society’s growth since its 1978 inception. Ines Waggoner, a charter member and a department volunteer for 28 years, recalled several who warned such an organization wouldn’t last long. “Well, we have sure proven them wrong!” she laughed. Others pointed out that the group has benefited from the popularity of the reality TV show, *Who Do You Think You Are?* in which celebrities like Emmitt Smith and Brooke Shields traced their lineage. “It has created a lot of new traffic here,” Verna admitted, stressing the behind-the-scenes work of locating information on forebears is more in-depth than demonstrated in the TV series. “But the anticipation and excitement are the same,” she qualified. “In fact, you never know from day to day what we’ll find. Some days we have our own *Who Do You Think You Are?*”

The department over which NCGS’ energetic staffers preside is located in an annex of the Corsicana Public Library, a wing comprising more than 22,000 catalogued items, from bound volumes of periodicals and rare books to vertical files containing wills, deeds, photos and other documents. Much of the material



“Finding nuggets from the past is like touching history.”



Pictured left to right: John Barron, editor; Christine Steele, treasurer; Verna Bonner, vice president; Mary Lea Murray, president; Dana Stubbs, volunteer.

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available for study has been donated by researchers. NCGS also received several boxes of unclaimed marriage records from the Navarro County Clerk's office.

Many other collections have been bequeathed to the group by private individuals, a largesse much appreciated by its board. NCGS President Mary Lea Murray, who has studied her family history for 20 years and has just completed a 300-page account of it, underscored the importance of preserving history for the benefit of future generations. "Every family needs what we call a 'gene-angel' to pass along information and photos," she said, adding that she recently performed the duty herself by presenting her grandson with a scrapbook of her own genealogical research. "Finding nuggets from the past is like touching history," Mary Lea said with a catch in her throat, "and handing them down is special. My grandson said it was the best gift he's ever gotten."

Verna emphasized that Mary Lea's emotion was shared by the society's membership. "We are passionate about what we do. And we all believe in 'gene-angels!'" said Dana Bell Stubbs, NCGS secretary, claiming the organization's volunteer spirit was what inspired her to join. Now she gives back the aid she received when first starting her project, an odyssey that gave her renewed pride in her family and in her country. "I have cousins fighting now in Afghanistan," Dana said. "So it broadened my perspective to find in my research that 14 ancestors fought in the Civil War, on both sides, and that I can trace my forefathers back to the American Revolution. Our fathers fought, our grandfathers fought, our great-grandfathers fought, and that gives me strength to face what may come."

Although a busy homemaker, Dana enjoys her volunteerism. "Helping people

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find their roots is rewarding for us here. We can't wait to let people know what we've found for them." John C. Barron, editor of the society's journal, *Leaves and Branches*, is also familiar with what he calls those "hallelujah" moments, when long-awaited research clues finally bear fruit. His own adventures in genealogy started when he helped his daughter with a high school project that took them both to the Texas State Library. "They told me it was open Saturdays," he grinned. "Little did I know that every Saturday for the next 25 years I'd be going to that library." Admittedly hooked, John said the experience also made an impression on his daughter who is now a librarian. Currently, John is completing research on the Corsicana Cotton Mill that operated from 1901 to 1968. So far, he has tracked down information on nearly 2,000 employees.

NCGS Communications Chair Barbara Shore had a similar unexpected encounter that inspired her to join the society and become a department volunteer at the library. A self-described "computer



nerd" and "gadget person," her research into her husband's family tree led her to share her expertise as an officer and spokesperson for the organization. "With every project you learn a new tip, find a new source and gain a new contact. It's exciting, and you just want to tell somebody about it. So guess what, that's what I've been doing!"

Barbara and fellow officers are the team to beat in their enthusiasm for and knowledge of the collection that makes up the library's Liz Gillispie Department (named for a prolific early advocate of NCGS). However, the nucleus of the archive originated in 1943 with one shelf

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of books from the Daughters of the American Revolution. The department was initially located in the library's present computer lab, but in 1999 it was transferred to the Collin Street annex. "What many may not realize is that the city of Corsicana is the owner of the genealogy collection," Verna specified. "And it has been a wonderful partnership. We're very grateful for the support."

In addition to local, regional and U.S. history indices, the archive includes family biographies and marriage certificates, as well as cemetery, probate, immigration and military records. There are even old Corsicana city directories, telephone directories and school annuals. Federal censuses from 1790 to 1930 are also on site, as are microfilm and Internet accessibility. Helpful Web sites free to library visitors include Ancestry.com, HeritageQuest.com and various online features available through the Texas State Library and Archives.



Ines Waggoner, a 28-year volunteer, holds a marriage license dated 1902.

"We concentrate primarily on Navarro County," Verna said, "but the collection is rich in state and national resources." Among the most popular local avenues of research provided are the on-site archive of the *Corsicana Daily Sun* and microfilmed newspapers from smaller towns in the county, like Dawson. "We are happy to welcome visitors," Verna continued. "We see 3,000 every year, in addition to phone and e-mail queries from all over the state and country."

As NCGS' self-styled "gene-angels" spread their research wings around library patrons, the collection continues to expand in size and reputation. "It's what we love to do," Verna said. "It's a calling." **NOW**



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Hear the LEOs

Roar

— By Virginia Riddle

“I was not the lion, but it fell to me to give the lion’s roar,” Winston Churchill, a former British prime minister once remarked. Not a born leader, Churchill stepped up to lead his country through some of its most trying times. In true Churchill style, some students who enrolled in Navarro College to study, have fun and make new friends also choose to step up to serve by joining the LEO Club. The members answer a call to serve the citizens of Corsicana and Navarro College. Rachel Ivie, a sophomore from nearby Dawson, is the 2011-12 president of the LEO Club. “I love to help people. Everything we do is helping someone. It’s a satisfying experience,” she said.

LEO is an acronym, which stands for the club’s motto — Leadership, Experience, Opportunity. Members, ages 12-28, are dedicated to making a difference in their community. An international organization, there are more than 138,000 LEO Club members in 5,522 clubs across 134 countries. To help LEOs, each club is sponsored by a local Lions Club. The Navarro College LEO Club, chartered in 1995, is sponsored and mentored by the Corsicana Sunset Lions Club.

Just as the lion makes his presence known by his roar, LEO Club members make their presence known through many acts of community service. A lion is a dedicated member of a community, and the LEO Club members want to serve and be a major part of the Corsicana and Navarro College communities.

Community projects and fundraisers are decided upon as a group and are as diverse as the members’ backgrounds and interests. Members can be seen working on selected weekends

picking up trash along their two mile Adopt-A-Highway on Texas Highway 31 from the campus to the west. Students give up their weekend trips home to gather trash!

Donated eyeglasses collected in local cooperating businesses are gathered and sent through the club's sponsoring Sunset Lion's Club to those in need. Adopt a Faculty Member and Magazines for Nursing Homes are two more examples of the community support given by the LEOs.

The LEO Club and the Lions Club offer members the opportunities to participate in international youth exchange programs and youth camps. The club participates in sending packages around the world in the Support the



Troops program. "White socks are a biggy," Rita Marie O'Brien, the club's faculty sponsor, said. Christmas cards are also sent to U.S. troops around the globe.

Every season of the year has a fundraiser and special event. During the fall semester, the LEOs host the Deer Hunters' BBQ Fundraiser and the Halloween Carnival, a true extravaganza. Producing the carnival takes leadership and a coordination of efforts between several participating groups. The Cook Center Planetarium provides a movie, while John Dawley and the John Deere students give hayrides. There are snacks, games and face-painting booths. About

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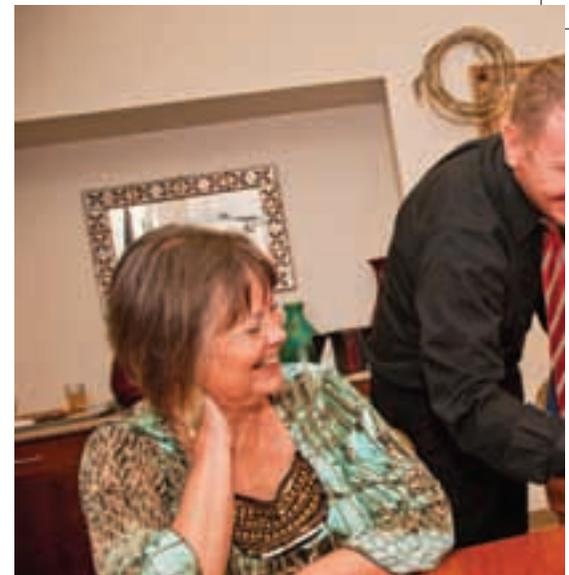
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800 people participated in the carnival last year. "We don't make any profit. The carnival is mainly about getting the community out to have fun," Rita said.

Christmas finds the LEOs adopting a boy and a girl from the Salvation Army's Angel Tree Project. This act of community service is done in memory of Jason Grier, a LEO member and Navarro College basketball player who was killed in a team bus accident. During the spring semester, members replenish school supplies for teachers just when supplies are traditionally running low. Throughout the year, members sell dog-shaped and bone-shaped cookies (for humans to eat)



to help support the Humane Society of Navarro County.

All of these many activities take time, coordination, leadership and a great sponsor. Rita, a professor of mathematics and computer science at Navarro, has served as faculty sponsor since 1998. She has been selected Sponsor of the Year twice. "The rewards are tenfold. I love watching the members grow and change while helping communities," Rita said. While time is a major challenge for the busy students and Rita, no one complains. "One of the reasons I am a sponsor is I am all business in my classes,



but as a sponsor, students get to know me personally. Their whole attitude changes because they find out that I am really very laid-back. The students get to see what education means to me, so they perform better in school, but the main reason to do anything is to get the students to be more successful,” Rita reflected.

The group meets every Tuesday at 5:15 p.m. in the Lone Star Room of the Navarro College cafeteria. On first and third Tuesdays, the Sunset Lions and LEOs have back-to-back and joint meetings. “They all get to see what each club does,” said Rita, who is the



immediate past president of the Lions Club. All Navarro students are invited to join. According to Rita, “All you need to be is a student with a desire to do community service.”

Work is not everything for these LEOs. They enjoy plenty of fun, food and fellowship. There are no meals for the dorm students on Sunday nights, so the LEOs help the United Christian Fellowship (UCF) host occasional Sunday-night dinners, followed by playing games and watching the big-screen TV. “I really like doing the dinners because everyone bonds,” Rachel said.



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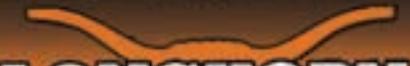
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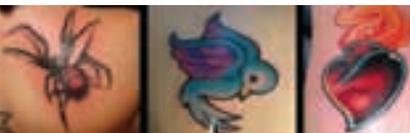
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- Jason Angelo Palos



The LEOs shop for food, cook and clean up. "All of them have a blast," Rita added. She enjoys teaching in the classroom but also loves teaching students the life skills they need to bring the dinners together successfully. The LEOs also work with Psi Beta National Honor Society. "The added resources and broader amount of people mean that we can help more people and have fellowship between the groups," Rita said.

The LEOs organize fundraisers, such as the Kiss the Bulldog Contest, to support their many activities. They use the funds and learn building skills so they can build ramps and fences for the elderly. This school year they have started tutoring kids at the Corsicana Boys & Girls Club. "We would like to have more building projects, so if you need a ramp built, please contact me," Rita said. "Students need these kinds of leadership experiences," she added.

Corsicana and Navarro College have meant much to the LEOs and Rita who stay so busy meeting the needs of others. "There's so much to do here," Rachel said. The results of all the LEOs' projects are evident. Most of the LEOs will not remain in Corsicana all their lives, but they can take pride in what they have accomplished. Rachel points out the real reason the LEOs work so hard, "It's home." **NOW**

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Dreams

Do Come True

— By Virginia Riddle



When Kitt Stevens was a little girl, she was entertained by her mother, Barbara's, stories. Kitt and her stepdad, John, would listen as Barbara told stories about playing hide-and-seek in her Grandmother Caroline's castle. Some little girls dream of growing up and becoming a princess living in a castle, but few ever actually see those dreams come true. After a long search, however, Kitt has created her own castle in Navarro County, where kids can still play hide-and-seek. "Between prayer and years of work, it's all coming together, slowly," Kitt revealed.

At Home With *Kitt Stevens*



Brooklynd and Kitt Stevens



The search for just the right property began while Kitt was living and working in Dallas. "I just kept praying about it while driving and driving," Kitt remembered. Her search in every direction out of Dallas, but south, had always ended without success. Undaunted, she continued to search. One night she promised herself that she would drive until midnight as far as she could on Interstate 45. Just as the witching hour was approaching and she was ready to turn around, Kitt spotted an old gin and school. "I thought, *Oh my gosh, there it is!*" Kitt said. That night was the beginning of a magical dream realized.

In the daylight, some of the magic was quickly replaced by reality. Built originally in 1933, the school had been

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closed since 1959 when consolidation with Blooming Grove ISD occurred. The building was converted into apartments only to be abandoned again. "There was not one window in it and no floor," Kitt recalled. An airplane had crashed through two stories and trash was everywhere. Mosquitoes, possums, fleas and owls that swooped and screeched through the halls inhabited the building. However, Kitt could see her castle in the strong brick walls that were still standing proudly. "People had tried to destroy something that was really pretty," she said. "I wanted to take something that had been abused and turn it into something beautiful."

Kitt purchased the property seven years ago but did not move into the first floor of the three-storied building until November 2010. Since then, much of the renovation has been done by Kitt, as

well as her son, Thomas, and his wife, Martha (LaLa), who now live nearby, and daughter, Brooklynd, a high school senior. Kitt owns and operates a backhoe and is a serious do-it-yourselfer. At first, Kitt, LaLa and Thomas were "roughing it" during what turned out to be a very cold winter. "We are a family through the good times and bad. We worked and then played games as a family, even though we were freezing! We could have gone somewhere warm, but we didn't," Kitt said. Hoping to eventually get the original fireplaces that serve each of the stories working, Kitt has since

installed a heating and air conditioning system that keeps the family and workers in a temperate climate. In spite of the cold, one of Kitt's best memories was Thanksgiving 2010 when the family gathered for a feast, performed music on the school's stage, and Brooklynd remarked, "I'm starting to like this place."

As with many older properties, Kitt and her crew have had their moments of unexplained events. A lampshade was found three rooms away from its original location, was picked up and returned,

only to have the action repeated three times. While working in the gin, Kitt saw the figure of a man she knew in an upstairs window. When she called him on the phone, he denied being there. "Things like that happen. You can't explain the events," Kitt said. A member of a Dallas Jewish church, Kitt brought out her Bible and told the suspected spirits, "This house belongs to



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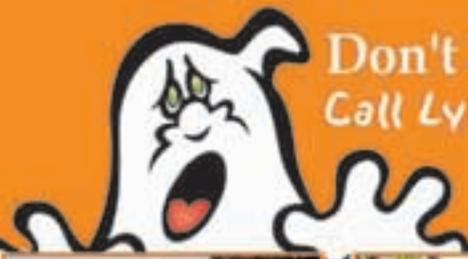


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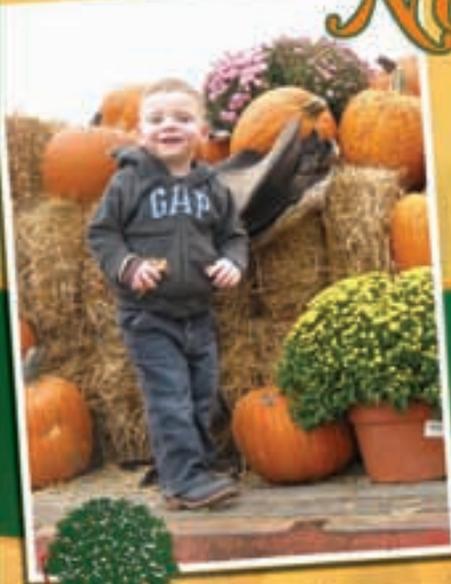
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God. He lives here.” She hasn’t had any spirited events happen since.

Kitt’s castle is easily spotted since the classical crenulations (saw tooth) atop its walls rise high above the Texas prairie. A front patio, with a fire pit and seating area, greets friends and family. A knock with the lion’s head on the curved front door gains entry to a foyer that adjoins two living areas. Cantilevered out from the second story is a balcony. The Star of David and mezuzah prayer hung on either side of the door keep the house blessed and safe, in the Jewish tradition.

Kitt and Brooklynd, who has had her art featured in shows in the Dallas area, have decorated the two living areas



and two bedrooms in royal shades of red, blue, gold and silver using metal throughout. Statuary and metal sculptures of dragons complete the castle theme. The oversized furniture is in keeping with the soaring ceilings and large, open rooms. Beautiful albino granite tile with Persian carpets now grace the floors.

Kitt shops frequently at area auctions, antique stores and estate sales. Mirrors in various sizes, some nearly floor to ceiling, give the castle a Palace of Versailles feeling. A collection of masquerade masks, a knight in metal armor on his steed, a skeleton dressed as a pirate and a safe



with a painted skull and swords are just some of Kitt's "castley" decorations. "If it doesn't look castley, I create it," she said.

The upstairs is still under renovation, but Kitt has already completed a dressing room full of colorful costumes on mannequins and in trunks. Plans have been drawn for a prayer room and formal dining room and kitchen.

Kitt can sit in her interior rope swing and watch sunsets from the old auditorium. It now houses the stage for performances, air hockey and foosball games for area children to come and play. "The kids come here and play and help me with the castle," Kitt said. They can also play hide-and-seek among the pretend "capsules" in the yard (metal from the gin) that have "fallen out of the sky."

No castle is complete without a moat, and Kitt is building hers. Future plans include installing more skylights, building a bridge over the moat, remodeling the gin and creating a pool and tennis courts. All this will take time, so the owls and a vulture named Egbert are safe in their gin home for now.

Kitt counts her neighbors and Mayor Johnny Pattison and his wife, Kattie among her friends and helpers. "Kitt is heart- and mind-set on redoing that school house. She doesn't back off of anything," Johnny, who attended the school and taught Kitt how to use the backhoe, remarked. For Kitt, Cinderella said it best: "If you keep on believing, the dream that you wish will come true." **NOW**

Editor's Note: Look for an announcement of a Halloween party in the Stevens' auditorium benefiting the children of the Embouse community.

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A Series of *Fortunate Events*

— By Sydni Thomas

Three major events occurred in Stephen Jones' life that landed him in Corsicana and in an up-and-coming Christian band with a growing fan base. It's a base where he has the opportunity to spread the Gospel and create relationships with students locally and across the nation.

The first event happened when Stephen was still in high school. After discovering each had musical talent, Stephen, electric guitarist; his cousin Kevin Jones, lead vocalist; and friends, Curtis Bastel, bass player, and Charlie Brooks, drummer formed a band. After high school their worship band officially formed as Reverchon and took its act to the road. The band began booking Disciple Now weekends at other churches and church camps in the summers across the country's southern states. When not traveling, they serve as the worship band for Stonegate Church in Midlothian, Texas, a church planted by their former youth minister, Rodney Hobbs. "We're best friends first and then band mates. We all have the same goal, and that's glorifying God through our musical performances," Stephen said.

The second event came as a surprise to Stephen and was one of the major turning points for Reverchon. The band's name and music began to spread among youth groups, and in 2009



they got a call from Centrifuge, a summer camp series hosted across the country by LifeWay Christian Resources for more than 30 years. Reverchon was invited to play for the camp at Mississippi College. Centrifuge organizers liked what they heard and invited them back as a contract band in 2010 for a camp at North Greenville University in South Carolina. This past summer, they headed back to Mississippi as the contract band for Mississippi College.

The third event occurred after a conversation with former associate youth pastor, Jason Brewer, about divorce and the forgiveness that needed to take



place. After the divorce of his parents, communication with Stephen's mother and her family stopped completely. It wasn't until he was an adult that he forgave his mother, and despite not having seen her in 10 years, was able to reconcile with her side of the family. Just a few months later, an aunt came back into his life. "She asked me if I'd be interested in a possible interim youth pastor position at her church, First Baptist Church of Corsicana (FBC Corsicana)," Stephen remembered.

After a few days of prayer and discussion with his wife, Stephen spoke



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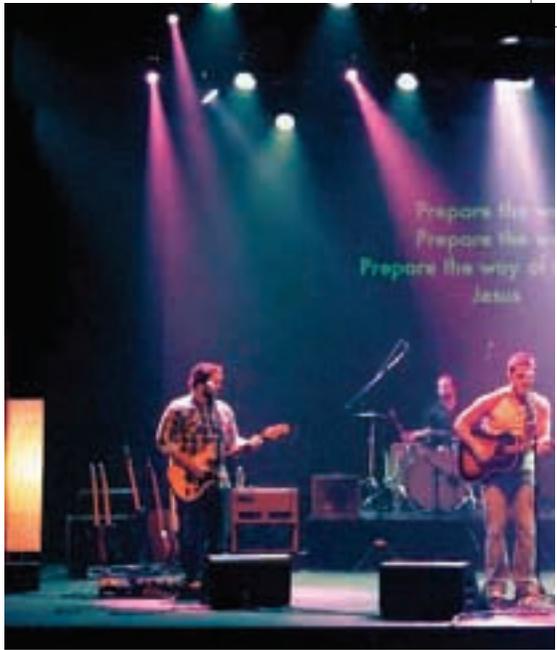
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with the search committee at FBC Corsicana. When he received the call offering him the job he jumped at the opportunity that God had placed before him. “Up to this point, I think God had been preparing me through working with student ministries and all of the summer camps — events we did as a band — for this opportunity,” Stephen said. “On paper, I’m not qualified for this job, but our interim pastor at FBC Corsicana, Joe Loughlin, told me something great. He said, ‘God does not call the qualified. He qualifies the called.’ I have a longing to serve Jesus and a passion to share my story and knowledge about His great love with students.”

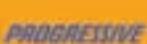
Stephen had been married only three months to his wife, Natalie, before they were packing up their apartment and moving to Corsicana. Natalie and Stephen had dated for eight years and during a three-week trip to Europe in 2008, Stephen surprised his high school sweetheart with a proposal at the top of the Eiffel Tower. They were married November 14, 2009, on the beaches of Cabo San Lucas. They were living in Mansfield when FBC Corsicana offered Stephen the job. Natalie wholeheartedly supported Stephen’s decision to take

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the position. "We moved away from all of Natalie's family and most of mine when I took this job," Stephen said. "She was so supportive when I had to make the decision to come here." The day before the move, their housing fell through, however, and Stephen's aunt graciously allowed them to move in for a few months. Eventually, they were able to find a home, and Stephen was offered a permanent position with the church in March 2011.

From Texas Ranger games to mission trips, Bible studies, weekend retreats and all the crazy activities in between, Stephen has created a place for local kids to come and feel welcome while giving them something to do. He undertook a complete makeover of their space in the church so they would have a place to call their own. He believes that God has given him a deep desire and unique abilities to reach out to students in Corsicana in order to relate the gospel on different levels. "God has called me to FBC Corsicana with a sense of urgency and purpose to love on these students here through showing the love of Christ," he said. "FBC Corsicana is an incredible church family, and I'm blessed to be a part of it."

Stephen is able to bring his band experience and musical skills into the ministry by helping organize and lead the youth band. Sometimes, he gets the opportunity to take his students with him when the band plays. "I get to see what both sides of the camp are like from the staff to hands-on with the students," Stephen said. "It's great to see the ministries intertwine and help each other out."

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To celebrate the release of its upcoming third album, Reverchon hosted a free concert at Corsicana's Palace Theatre. The new album, *Nothing Without You-EP*, celebrates the journey each band member has taken to get to this point. "We couldn't have made it without the ultimate sacrifice that Jesus made," Stephen said. Some fans drove more than two hours to worship with the band. "It was an incredible night," Stephen added. "We did have a great turnout considering how our fan base is not located in Corsicana."

Back when the band first started, Stephen would never have guessed that it would be where it is right now. At first, juggling the band and his new ministry at FBC Corsicana was somewhat difficult, but now they seamlessly work together. "We will keep on playing as a band for as long as God calls us to," Stephen said. "I'm blessed to work at a church with a staff and congregation that allow me to be a part of these ministries." **NOW** Visit www.reverchonband.com for more information.

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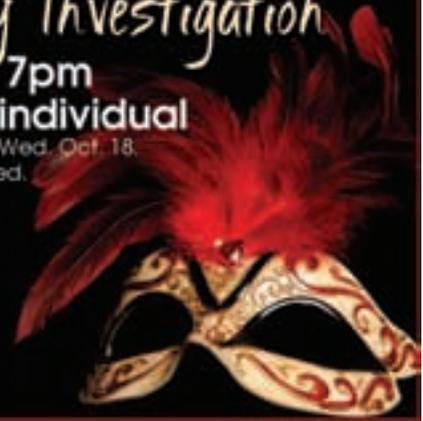
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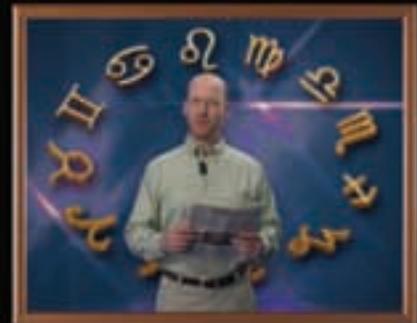


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Happy Trails

— By Randy Bigam

Two Navarro County women are hitting the road, not as entertainers but as fun-loving retirees anxious to leave mundane daily life behind for a weekend or two. Pals since elementary school, Donna Kay Lough and Monnie Haugh are a colorful pair. Giggling and completing each other's sentences, the perky, pretty blondes might be self-described "country girls," but anyone meeting them will see at a glance that they're "girly" country girls. Donna Kay and Monnie don't deny their passion for interior decorating, designer clothes and jewelry. "We do love a sale," Donna Kay chirped, "and we can shop hard!"



What sets them apart is their thirst for a good road trip, a time to break away from hearth and home (and husbands) to seek a little adventure on the highway. They're a spontaneous and fearless duo, a kind of real-life Thelma and Louise, only better dressed and minus the crime spree. "We just like to take off and do what we want," Monnie said. "And we do."

The women aren't alone on their adventures. They have made their wanderlust official by joining the travel club, Sisters on the Fly, famous for its caravan of vintage Winnebagos and Airstream trailers, fly-fishing contests,

horseback riding and fun and fellowship without a man in sight. "It's a female-only group," Donna Kay explained. "There are women of every background — housewives, businesswomen, veterans, nurses. We camp, we barbeque, and as the club's motto says, 'We have more fun than anyone.'" No husbands, boyfriends, kids or pets are allowed on these sojourns to state parks, campgrounds and private ranches around the country. There's time enough for them when mamma gets home.

"We first read about Sisters on the Fly



in *Country Living* magazine,” said Monnie, who lives in Dawson. “Then we saw it on TV on *The Country Reporter*, and we knew it was something we wanted to do.”

Donna Kay, from Pursley, added that they wasted no time buying a vintage travel trailer. “It was advertised for sale on KAND Radio’s *Talk Time*,” she remembered. “And we fell in love with it on the spot.” With trailer in tow, they joined Sisters on the Fly last December and have already enjoyed several outings to Round Top and La Grange. Being part



of the club has been a fulfilling exercise in broadening their lives, and though the women hardly look like avid campers, they are glad they took the opportunity to branch out.

Sisters on the Fly, in fact, started on the fly: two sisters in Montana, Maurrie Sussman and Becky Clarke, asked some girlfriends to go camping one day in 1999, and the experience was such a hit, they decided to turn it into a national organization that today includes 2,000 members who span in age from 21 to

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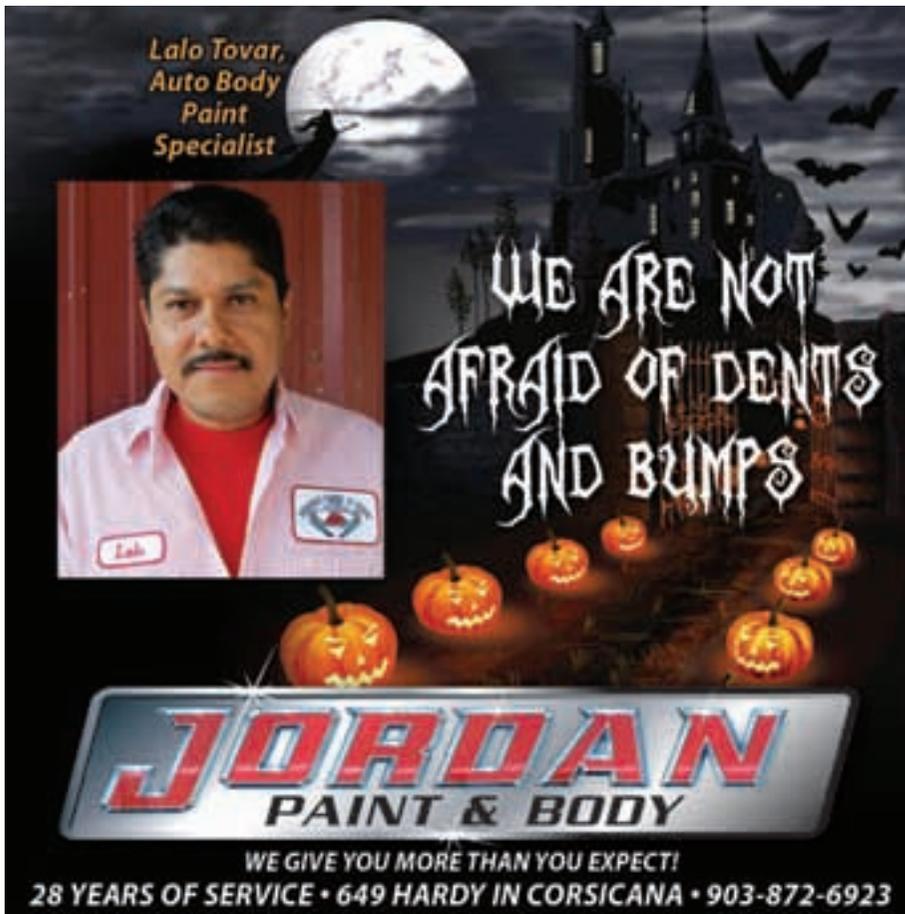
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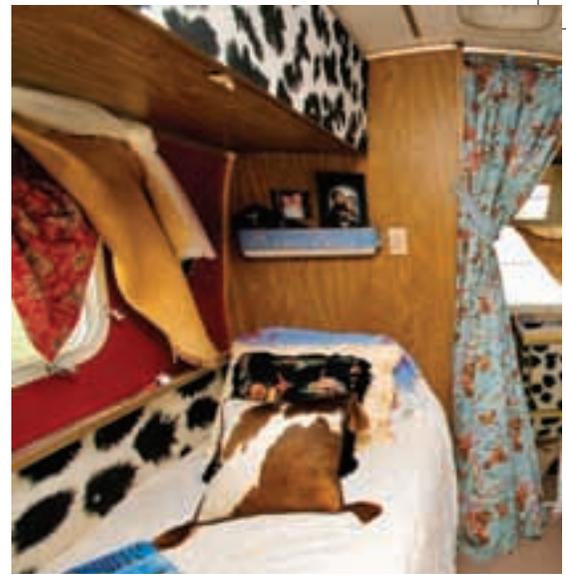


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88. Sisters on the Fly hosts excursions to Yosemite and Yellowstone, an annual “Homespun Hoedown” party, with craft-making seminars and training in fly-fishing, but the women-only travel troupe is best known for its members’ distinctive campers. Decorated inside and out in kitschy western style, the trailers all have names that echo the group’s lighthearted philosophy of “making girls out of women and being the age we think we are, not what our birthdays tell us.” Among the cutely-christened vehicles are “Belle on Wheels,” “Roam Sweet Home,” “Boss Lady,” “Sister Sioux” and “Miss B. Haven.”

Monnie and Donna Kay fit right in with their 1974 Argosy called “Cowgirl Bunkhouse” with “Giddy Up Nellie Belle” across the front and “Whoa Nellie Belle” in the back. They have spared no expense in outfitting it in requisite cowgirl style with a twist that reflects their own personalities. “We love decorating, so we did it all ourselves,” Donna Kay said. “But we had an artist do the painting on the outside. It’s been a fun project.” In addition to a mix of modern and period fabrics and accent pieces, the friends have applied other personal touches, such as the signatures they have inscribed with nail studs over their camper beds: “Maggie Myrle” and

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“Lillie Pearl,” named after mothers, mothers-in-law and grandmothers. “This way we have them with us,” Donna Kay said. “We’re sentimental about things.”

Family is important to the friends, but so is “me” space, and the pair make the most of their time away from routine responsibilities like cooking, housekeeping and babysitting for grandchildren. “Our families think what we do is great,” Monnie said. “And our husbands have deer hunting to keep them busy anyway.” Terry Lough and Frank Haugh are concerned about their wives being on their own but support the pastime they have chosen. “They just



make sure we have plenty of insurance!” Donna Kay laughed.

So far, none has been needed. The women have had to phone their hubbies on occasion to answer technical equipment questions like, “How does the thingamajig fit to the whatchamacallit?” But for the most part, Monnie and Donna Kay have mastered their independence. “That’s one of the things we’ve gotten out of this,” Donna Kay said. “It’s been liberating. Before we joined Sisters on the Fly, I had never changed a tire or pulled a trailer. But we’ve learned we can do things on our own.”

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Navarro County's road-savvy gals have just returned from a trip to West where they met up with 37 other women who came from as far away as Houston, San Antonio, Louisiana and Oklahoma. Monnie and Donna Kay said they participated in the campout without roughing it too much. They didn't even chip a nail. "A lot of members of Sisters on the Fly are in full camp mode, cooking out, coffeepot over the fire, the whole shot," Donna Kay confessed. "Well, our take on camping is this: we have a microwave and know where most of the restaurants are!"

But they enjoy the camaraderie of the other women wherever they go, whether it's West or Round Top, a favorite destination for antique hunters. "Everybody brings pot luck and sits around," Monnie said, "some in blow-up kiddie pools, some quilting or scrapbooking, and it's a hoot listening to everyone's stories." Their most exciting trips have been to Round Top to see the Marburger Farm Antique Show, a mammoth outdoor event featuring 350 dealers from all over the United States. "It's a shopper's dream, so we are right at home," Donna Kay admitted. "And there are always celebrities to see at the home decor shows there." They met decorator Rachel Ashwell, inventor of the "shabby chic" look, TV chef Curtis Stone and actress Tori Spelling, among others.

Monnie and Donna Kay are ready to hit Round Top again this fall, and may join a group heading to Arkansas. "We aren't brave enough to go out of state yet, but we want to," Monnie said. In the meantime, Donna Kay noted, "We're having a blast!" **NOW**

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Jennifer Richie, Nikki McCluney and
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Fashioning Winning Smiles

Making each patient feel comfortable, knowledgeable and relaxed is important to dentist, Joshua Haden.

— By Virginia Riddle

Patient care is important to Dr. Joshua Haden and his five-member staff. That care begins as each patient steps across the office threshold into a friendly, relaxed and laid-back atmosphere. “Our main focus is on delivering high-quality dentistry. We want patients to be able to say proudly, ‘That’s my dentist,’” Joshua said.

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A fifth-generation native of the Dresden/Blooming Grove

area, Joshua attended Navarro College prior to obtaining a degree in biology from The University of Texas at Tyler. A stint in the Army took Joshua to Walter Reed Army Medical Hospital, where he worked in biotechnology and performed vaccine research. He graduated with honors in 2003 from The University of Texas Dental Branch at Houston, where he was a member of Omicron Kappa Upsilon National Dental Honor Society (OKU). Joshua served a residency in the Army at Fort Benning, Georgia, where he was in the Advanced General Dentistry Program (AGD). As a member of the 4th Dental 10th Mountain Brigade, he served at Fort Polk, Louisiana.

The pull of home was too much for this Army dentist so just over three years ago, Joshua and his wife of 15 years, Laura,

Business **NOW**

returned with their three children, Kate, Claire and Nathan, to Blooming Grove, where the children attend school and Laura teaches. "My family is into cattle. I like being on the farm. It's very therapeutic out there," Joshua reflected. With a touch of the levity, which he uses in his practice to ease patients' nerves, he explained, "Laura lost a bet and had to marry me."

The Haden family is active in the Westhill Church of Christ, and in his spare time, Joshua relishes his role as dad. "My family is my hobby. I am enjoying my kids while they are still kids," he said.

Joshua is a member of the American Dental Association, the Academy of General Dentistry and currently serves as a delegate and president of the 6th District of the Texas Dental Association. He gives back to the community by supervising rotating dental students from A.T. Still University Dental School in Mesa, Arizona, at the Waco Family Medicine Residency Program. "I want

"We want patients to be able to say proudly, 'That's my dentist.'"

to give patients access to care," Joshua said. Joe T. Highnote, DDS, from whom Joshua bought the practice, fills in for him while he serves in Waco. "Dentists, as a whole, are in it together to provide complete [care for] dentistry needs for patients. We try to have camaraderie," Joshua stated. Continuing education requirements are met together, as well.

While some people avoid treatment they need due to a fear of dentists, Joshua and his staff strive to make patients relax. "We want to establish great relations with each patient. We are a practice with an aspect of business — it's never the reverse. We have the patient's best interest at heart," Joshua said. "We are not just meeting their dental needs; we are helping them in general with their lives and health." **NOW**

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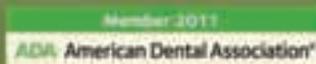
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Jonathan Martinez with his helper, Woody, entertains storyteller Lisa Miller during Corsicana Public Library's Storytime.



The Navarro County Healthcare Networking Group poses at the Twilight Home.



L. to R. Cliff Reeder, Anna Woodbury, Ursula Reeder and David Woodbury enjoy fun, food and fellowship at Navarro Regional Hospital's Senior Circle luncheon.



Cindy McCaslin, on the left, greets the Chris Wood family to her classroom during the Fannin Elementary School Open House.



C. David Eagle and Amy Young, instructors at Navarro College, plan for a great year during an in-service session.

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Top Causes of Death and Disability

Heart disease and stroke are among the nation's top causes of death and disability. Although, one disease affects the heart, and one affects the brain, these conditions actually have a lot in common.

A heart attack and a stroke are both results of vascular disease: conditions caused by a disorder or defect in the way blood is carried throughout the body. When either organ is deprived of blood — even temporarily — the lack of oxygen and nutrients causes tissue to begin to die.

The primary cause of either a heart attack or a stroke is a blocked blood vessel or artery. This happens when plaque — deposits of fat, cholesterol and other substances — builds up on the walls of arteries, narrowing the passageway for blood; or when a blood clot occurs. A blood clot happens when plaque breaks off and ruptures the wall of the artery. These clots can block the artery and prevent blood from reaching parts of the heart muscle or brain. The resulting damage depends, in part, on the area affected and amount of heart or brain tissue deprived of blood and oxygen.

Heart attack

Heart attack is the No. 1 cause of death in American adults, affecting more than 1.2 million individuals each year. When blood flow to the heart is limited and the heart is starved of oxygen, this condition is called ischemia. Complete interruption of blood flow causes cell death in heart tissue. This condition is known as myocardial infarction, or heart attack.

A heart attack can also occur when a coronary artery temporarily contracts or spasms, interrupting the flow of blood to the heart. The cause of these spasms is unknown, and they can affect both healthy blood vessels and those already narrowed by plaque deposits.

Stroke

Stroke is the third-leading cause of death in the United States and a leading cause of serious, long-term disability, affecting around 45 million people. Someone suffers a stroke every 40 seconds, on the average, and dies every 4 minutes.

There are three types of stroke: **ischemic** (involving a blocked artery), **hemorrhagic** (caused by bleeding into the brain) and a

transient ischemic attack (TIA), also known as a “mini stroke,” caused by a temporary interruption of blood flow. A TIA is a stroke-like attack that can happen when a blood clot clogs an artery, then dissolves or moves away. Although a TIA does not cause lasting damage, it indicates a higher risk of a future stroke and should be regarded as a warning sign. Depending on the area of the brain affected by the stroke, the body part or function controlled by that portion of the brain will be affected, too: speech, memory, vision, motor movements and even behavior or personality.

Risk factors and prevention

The best prevention plan to combat heart attack and stroke risk is a healthy lifestyle: avoid smoking, be physically active, maintain a healthy weight and make nutritious food choices. Preventing and controlling high blood pressure and high blood cholesterol also play a significant role in cardiovascular health.

Timing is critical with a heart attack or stroke: The amount of time that elapses between the onset of a heart attack or stroke and receipt of medical assistance determines the extent of damage to the heart or brain — and the loss of heart or brain function. If a heart attack or stroke is suspected, don't wait. Proceed to the nearest ER for help. Knowing the signs and symptoms of a heart attack and stroke, calling 9-1-1 immediately and getting to a hospital right away greatly increase the chances of surviving and limiting any permanent damage. **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 and facilitate conversations with your physician that will benefit your health.

Sources:

American Heart Association, www.heart.org
 National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, www.nhlbi.nih.gov
 WebMD, www.webmd.com
 Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, www.cdc.gov

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Women Must Focus on Retirement Income

— By *Lynda Housley*

Whether they are the breadwinner in their household or not, preparing for retirement should be extremely important to women. One item of planning that must be considered is the financial situation of the surviving spouse and what can be done to prepare for a potential shortfall.

Women survive their spouses more often than men. The Administration on Aging estimates that seven of 10 women will outlive their husbands¹, highlighting the need for retirement planning even more. Unfortunately, women are often at a disadvantage when it comes to resources available for retirement. The average woman spends nearly 15 years away from the workforce, while the average man will be away for 1.6 years. This translates into lower benefits from company pensions, 401(k) plans and Social Security.

Various estimates indicate expenses after the death of a husband will be 80 percent of what they had been when he was alive. Unfortunately, a widow's income may likely be much less than that. Of all elderly persons with income below the poverty level, over 70 percent are women.¹ More than half were much better off financially before their husbands died.

Less time in the workforce may also mean fewer women qualify for health benefits. This can put an even greater burden on their retirement income. It is imperative for women to start saving now for their retirement, which can be accomplished through several savings vehicles. It is equally important to protect your nest egg through adequate life insurance coverage and insurance options should your health care needs change. Adequate planning for retirement and surviving a spouse can be a deciding factor in living comfortably.

Taking the time to examine household finances and planning carefully will help to ensure there are adequate means of support for either spouse during the golden years. Talk to a qualified individual about your retirement needs to prepare for and enjoy a comfortable retirement. **NOW**

Source:

1. "Older Women." Administration on Aging, 2000.

Lynda Housley is a State Farm agent based in Corsicana.



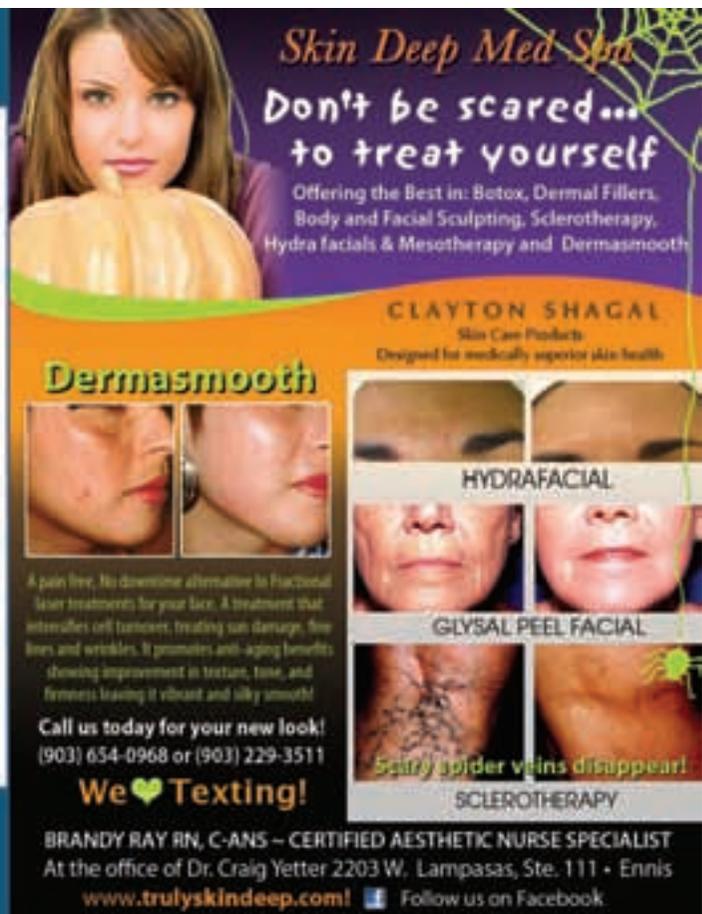
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Calendar

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October 1

The CFAHF '40s Hanger Dance & Dinner: Hanger doors open: 6:00 p.m.; dinner buffet opens: 6:45 p.m., Corsicana Municipal Airport, Hanger #6. Music is by The Corsicana Swing Orchestra and The New Andrews Sisters. Advanced tickets: \$35/per couple; \$20/per person. Call Sarah Farley at (903) 654-4847.

October 10

Business Women's Expo: 6:00-8:00 p.m., the Remington, 122 W. 3rd Avenue. Call Dana Collins at (903) 874-7800 or (903) 851-2965.

October 14

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

Black Light Pep Rally: 9:00 p.m., Special Events Center (SEC), Navarro College. Come join the National Championship Navarro College Cheerleaders as they cheer their NJCAA National Championship football team to a homecoming victory. Call 1-800-NAVARRO.

October 15

7th Annual Kerens Cotton Harvest Festival: 8:00 a.m., downtown Kerens. Chili cook-off, heritage market, photo contest. Local entertainment all day long, street

dance, arts and craft and food vendors, and 5K fun run/walk. Visit www.kerenscottonharvestfestival.com.

Charlotte's Web: 10:00 a.m., The Palace Theatre. Call (903) 874-7792 or e-mail corpapalace@sbcglobal.net.

Navarro College Homecoming Football Game: 3:00 p.m., Tiger Stadium, Corsicana High School. Call 1-800-NAVARRO.

October 15-31

Main Street's Great Pumpkin Patch: Mondays-Saturdays: 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.; Sundays: noon-4:00 p.m., Corsicana Visitors Center. Come buy your pumpkins. Proceeds benefit Corsicana Main Street projects. Call (903) 654-4850.

October 22

Main Street's Great Pumpkin Patch: 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., Corsicana Visitors Center. Pumpkin pancake breakfast, story time and decorating demonstrations. Call (903) 654-4850.

October 23

Deer Camp: The Musical: 3:00 p.m., The Palace Theatre. Tickets: \$12-\$25. Call (903) 874-7792 or visit http://www.cmientertainment.net/Deer_Camp.html.

October 29

Corsicana Newcomers' Club Annual Fall Fundraiser:

5:00 p.m., Corsicana Country Club. Attendees are encouraged to come in costume if they wish. Social hour to be followed by dinner, silent and live auctions and entertainment. Contact Marge Oslick at (903) 872-3508.

October 31

Spooky Story Time: 10:00 a.m., Corsicana Public Library. Call (903) 654-4851 or (903) 654-4874.

VOICE's Family Fun Fall Festival: 3:00-5:00 p.m., Bank of America parking lot across from the Corsicana Public Library. Free hot dogs, drinks, games face and hair painting, downtown trick-or-treating. Contact Gina Dieterichs at (903) 872-0180 or e-mail gdieterichs@voiceinc.org.

Navarro College LEO Club Halloween Carnival: 4:00-8:00 p.m., Cook Center. Games, hay rides, snacks, face painting and planetarium show for children of all ages. Costume party for three different age groups. Contact Rita Marie O'Brien at (903) 875-7510 or e-mail ritamarie.obrien@navarrocollege.edu.

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

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In The Kitchen With Carolyn Stovall

— By Virginia Riddle

As a soon-to-be graduate of cosmetology school, Carolyn Stovall cooked her first meal for fellow graduates. The meal was “such a disaster” one friend wrote in Carolyn’s cosmetology book, “Dear Carolyn, you would make a good wife to someone that does not like to eat.”

Carolyn, instead, married the love of her life, Ted Stovall, who loves to eat. So, in stepped Ted’s “Auntie,” Lena Crawford, who taught Carolyn how to cook. Now an award-winning cook at the Cotton Harvest Festival, Carolyn is passing her skills on to another generation. Granddaughter, Emily, has won grand champion in the Navarro County Youth Expo food division. “I love to do pretty desserts. They are more fun than regular cooking,” Carolyn said. **NOW**

Fresh Strawberry Pie

- 1 cup sugar
- 3 Tbsp. cornstarch
- 2/3 cup water
- 2 tsp. red food coloring
- 1 tsp. lemon juice
- 2 pints fresh strawberries, sliced
- 1 baked pie crust
- 1 pint whipping cream
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract

1. Combine sugar and cornstarch.
2. Mix in water; stir.
3. Cook on top of stove until mixture is thick and clear.
4. Add red food color and lemon juice.
5. Cool.

6. Add strawberries.
7. Pour mixture into pie crust.
8. Chill for an hour.
9. Whip cream with sugar and vanilla extract.
10. Top pie with whipped mixture and serve.

Auntie’s Layered Banana Pie

- 1 pie crust
- 5 bananas
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 cup pecans, finely chopped
- 1 small carton heavy whipping cream
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- Maraschino cherries

1. Bake pie crust according to baking instructions until golden brown.
2. Cover the bottom of the pie crust with a

- layer of sliced bananas.
3. Sprinkle sugar over bananas.
4. Sprinkle pecans over bananas.
5. Continue to layer bananas, sugar and pecans until crust is full.
6. Whip cream with 1/4 cup sugar and vanilla extract.
7. Spread on top of layered pie filling.
8. Decorate top of pie with cherries.
9. Chill at least one hour prior to serving.

Texas Pecan Pie

- 1 cup sugar
- 3 Tbsp. real butter
- 3 eggs, slightly beaten
- 1 cup Karo dark syrup
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 cup pecans, finely chopped
- 1 unbaked pie crust

1. Cream sugar and butter.
2. Add eggs, syrup, salt, vanilla extract and pecans; mix well.
3. Pour into pie crust.
4. Bake slowly at 300 F for about 40 minutes, until brown and firm around edges.

Banana-Pineapple Cake

- 3 cups flour
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 8-oz. can crushed pineapple with juice
- 1 1/2 cups cooking oil
- 3 eggs
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 4 bananas, diced

1. Preheat oven to 350 F
2. Grease and flour a tube pan.
3. Mix all ingredients well by hand. Do not use a mixer.
4. Pour mixture into pan,
5. Bake for 50-60 minutes.
6. Cool completely before removing cake from pan.

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