CorsicanaNOW

NOVEMBER 2023 Shooting Par or Better In its second season, the Kerens HS golf team played at state 2023 Holiday Shopping Guide In the Kitchen With Bralyn Cantu Also inside: Scavenger Hunt Crossword Featured Business: A&M Electrical Services LLC

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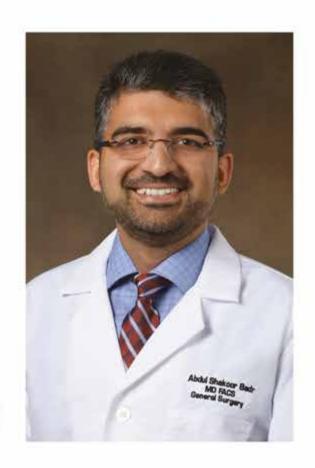
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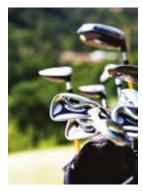
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ON THE COVER



The Kerens High School golfers are swinging toward another state run.

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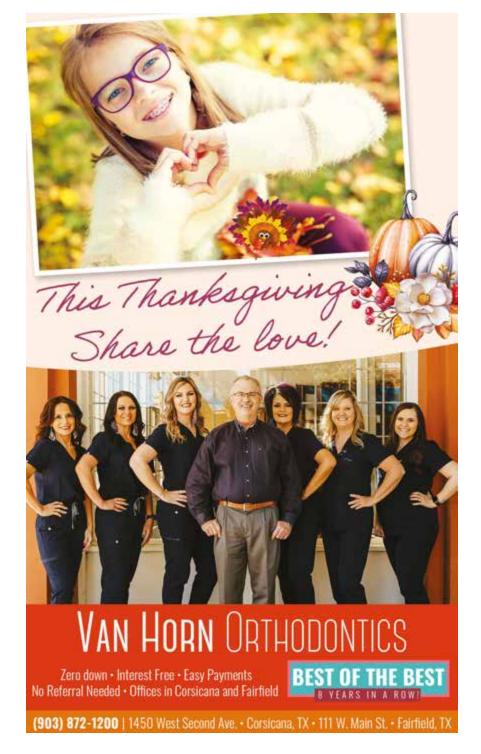
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EDITOR'S NOTE

Practicing gratitude!

This fall weather has found me camping with friends. One of the joys of immersing oneself in nature is watching that habitat's creatures. While camping on Galveston Beach, we watched the birds diving while fishing in the gulf waves beyond our camper doors and their feathery cousins walking stealthily as they fished in the salt marshes on the back side of our campground. I didn't know that during those five days, back home, Mother Nature was playing a merry trick on me.

Upon my return, when I unlocked and opened my back door, I observed a snake crawling out of a hall closet. It observed me, too, and quickly made a U-turn back into the closet. It's hard to feel gratitude at that moment, but I did find silver linings. I had left my dogs in the SUV with the doors open, so they weren't there to get bitten, and most of all, the snake had been curious enough about the sound of the key in the lock to come out and show itself. It wouldn't surprise me in the middle of the night!

Nice as it seemed to be, the snake didn't need to house-sit my habitat any longer. I blocked off the door to contain it, got my dogs secured safely and retrieved my snake removal items and garb: muck boots, long BBQ tongs and a thick genealogy book. I cracked the door and waited quietly. The snake came out and did a happy dance for me before I approached and dropped the book on its tail. I grabbed it behind the head with the tongs, and it was quickly back out in the pasture nursing a little bit of a sore tail, while I exhaled a sigh of relief and gratitude!

Have an amazing Thanksgiving!





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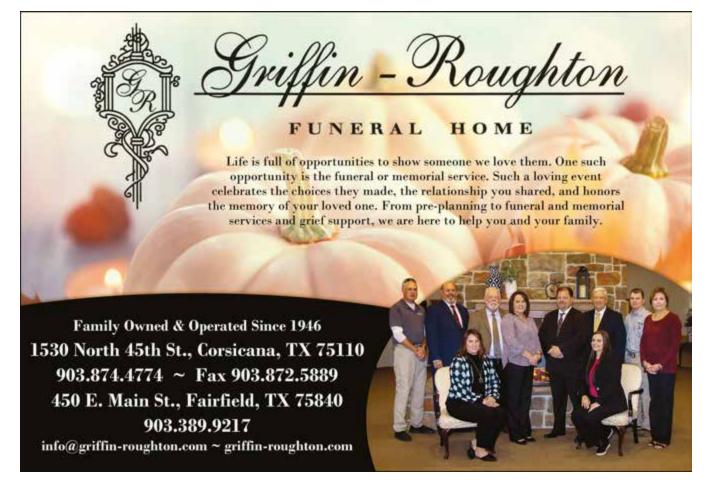
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SHOOTING PA

The sun's up, and it's time to tee up. The morning dew has burned off the greens and fairways when Kerens ISD Superintendent Martin Brumit and the Kerens HS golf team take to the links. Their success during the team's second year, despite odds set against them, is measured by the competition wins last year, which enabled the team to play at the Class 2A state level. The 2022-2023 team was comprised of Alex Cobbs, Andrew Conklin, Danny Conklin, Kannon Ritchie and Krayton Ritchie. All were juniors except Danny, a graduating senior, so the team has high expectations as they begin counting each stroke toward the hole in its 2023-2024 season. "At state last spring, it seemed nearly everyone playing, except us, were seniors, and now we're a team of upper classmen," Mr. Brumit said.



ROBBETTER - By Virginia Riddle

"I got into this business to work with kids, but being superintendent distances me from them," Mr. Brumit said. "I started playing golf in college and then coached sports for 15 years until I had kids of my own. Being the team's coach gives me the opportunity to get back with great young men."

Twins, Kannon and Krayton, had some experience, since they have been hitting golf balls in their grandfather's pasture since about preschool age. Kannon stated, "Our grandfather got us into golf, and we've stuck with it. Then the team started my freshman year. I like being out on the course with friends while enjoying the moment, and I like the competition with my brother. It's difficult to stay calm when emotions are

getting me." His most memorable moment came in besting the regional competition for a run at state.

Mr. Brumit agreed, "At regionals, we finished the round and thought we were in fourth place, one place out of going to state. We went to lunch, came back, and found out we had won by two strokes. The looks on the kids' faces are my best moment."

Andy hadn't played golf until the "team got me playing three years ago," he said. "However, I've been playing baseball for eight years. I like golf because you're playing against yourself even though you are playing on a team. And in both sports, I like being with friends." As with many golfers,







he finds the mental side of playing challenging, "I work on consistency and my short game, too," he added. Playing at the state level was special for Andy for another reason. "The last night of play was my birthday!" he revealed.

"Most of our team members hadn't played 18 holes until their first competition," Mr. Brumit explained. "They also play on the Kerens HS baseball team, and both sports are in competition during the spring. It takes a day or two for them to adjust to the difference in swings in the two sports." Another challenge is time, both for the players and their coach. "We don't get a lot of practice time because of our busy schedules," Mr. Brumit admitted. "Even so, the players have to learn to control their mental and emotional states by learning to leave one shot and go to the next."

Managing their academic studies while playing two spring sports is also challenging. "The kids, teachers and all the staff work together for every student's success," Mr. Brumit stated. "The kids are held accountable for achievement in both academics and sports. They understand that." Family members were justifiably proud and supportive of their student athletes: Kannon and Kravton's parents are Kristi and Todd Ritchie. Alex's father is Tyrone Cobbs, and Andrew and Danny Conklin's mother is Lorena Wallace.

Mr. Brumit grew up in Emory, Texas, and graduated from Mesquite High School. He furthered his education at West Texas A&M University and North Texas State University (now University of North Texas). "I've coached at 5 and 6A schools, but my wife, Wendy, and

I wanted to raise our kids in a small town. We moved to Kerens for my job in 2018, and I enjoy the leadership role, responsibility and working with students and adults. The community's great, and the faculty, staff and kids are great. Everyone's treated my family like we were here from the get-go."

The community and school celebrated the golf team's run to state, even though spring is a busy time of year. "We were in both golf and baseball playoffs last year. The school held a walk through to cheer the golf team onward before we left to play that week. Sunday was practice day, and then rounds were played Monday-Tuesday," Mr. Brumit recalled.



Jack Nicklaus, a golf professional, stated, "A kid grows up a lot faster on the golf course. Golf teaches you how to behave." Another way of saying that is that golf builds integrity by choosing to do what's right when no one is looking. It's a game of overcoming frustration, failure and having to think ahead — skills that are helpful in adulthood. "For us, knowing you're one of the last 12 teams in 2A playing was a neat thing for the kids, me and their parents," Mr. Brumit recalled. "The second day of play at state was rough. I reminded them that just being at state is special." Having a superintendent step up to coach a sport that kids will have the opportunity to play throughout their lives is unusual and pretty special, too. **NOW**







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- By Virginia Riddle

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An unexpected flicker of lights, a thrown electrical circuit or a lightning strike to one's home during a storm are all worrying signs to a homeowner that a call to Master Electrician Aaron Wham might be wise. "Don't wait for your electrical problems to turn into a hazard," Aaron said. "We complete every job efficiently, professionally and with attention to detail."

Aaron and his team also handle installing electrical systems for new construction builds; installing light fixtures, ceiling fans and generators; and providing electrical upgrades

to older properties. He works in both residential and commercial properties. His wife, Misty Wham, serves as the company's office manager. "We're going to provide our customers with quality work and be dependable, punctual and clean up after the work is completed," she added. "We stand behind our work."

Aaron has been an electrician since he was 19 years old, but he worked full time for other companies while earning his master's license. In 2016, he started fulfilling his dream of owning his own company, and this year, he and Misty took the plunge to become full time in their own business. Aaron, the master electrician, heads a team comprised of a journeyman and two apprentices. The "A" and "M" in the business' name has nothing to do with that Aggie school down south. It's Aaron and Misty's first initials in their given names.

A&M Electrical services residential and commercial customers in Navarro, Ellis, Kaufman, Dallas, Henderson, Freestone and Limestone counties. The business accepts all major credit cards, cash and checks as payment. It is a member of Corsicana & Navarro County Chamber of

Commerce and is overseen by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

As parents of five children, Aaron and Misty value the time management that owning their own business allows. "We work a lot of hours, but we can often be flexible and be there for family," Misty said. Two sons work in the business alongside Aaron, training as apprentices. Electrical work also runs in Misty's extended family. "Both my parents are electricians, and my two brothers are electricians," she shared.

"WE COMPLETE EVERY JOB EFFICIENTLY, **PROFESSIONALLY** AND WITH ATTENTION TO DETAIL."

"It's been challenging starting a business in this economy," Misty explained. "Inflation, the supply chain and people still not working are problems we're having to overcome, but there's probably never an easy time. However, one of the reasons Aaron went into this career choice is that he's very guizzical. He needs and loves puzzles and challenges to solve. It's his personality."

A native of Oklahoma, Aaron transferred on the job to Dallas, where he met Misty through mutual friends. Misty was born in Tennessee but raised in Texas. "We're basically homebodies, but we do like to travel, so we take two family vacations a year — one at Christmas and one during the summer," Misty stated. "We live in the country and have eight dogs, cows, chickens, a donkey and geese. We like out-ofdoors type trips because we enjoy kayaking, camping and ATVs."

A&M Electrical Services hosts a blog with weekly postings. "We have articles on safety issues and more," Aaron shared, "Let us know at www. aandmelectricalservices.com/blog what topic you, the reader and/or customer, would like to know about, and we'll try to answer your questions, concerns or curiosity." NOW

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2023 Holiday Shopping Guide

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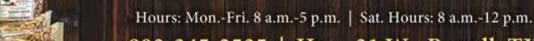
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2023 Holiday Shopping Guide A quick look at the gift items and discounts available locally.





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Around Town



Danielle Pillans and her daughter,

host Strut Down Beaton.



daughter, Elaine, first runner-up for CHS

reigning Jr. Miss Texas Addie Burke,



Proud dad, Eric Myers, escorts his Homecoming Queen 2023.

Zoomed In: **Anna Wise**

Learning to lead and eventually become a dentist are Anna Wise's goals. A fifth grade student at Collins Intermediate, Anna worked toward her leadership goal last summer while attending Education in Action's Lone Star Leadership Academy in the Metroplex. Nominated by her former principal at Carroll Elementary, Tim Betts, Anna attended week-long classes and field trips to important sites. "My favorite group activity was trying to write with a string while using no hands, and my favorite individual activity was the zip line," Anna recalled. "My favorite leadership skill was using motivation to help other people."

Anna enjoys swimming and ballet lessons. "My favorite thing about Corsicana is the downtown Christmas tree," she added. Her proud mom is Vesta Wise, who has already enrolled Anna in the fifth-sixth grade leadership academy in Austin.



Scout Troop 258 presented a new American flag to replace Navy Vietnam veteran, Charlie Horton, and his wife, Reva's, retired flag.



Twilight Home's Emily Lawhon and Kerens Care Center's Debra Green, RN, greet visitors to the Senior Wellness Expo.

By Virginia Riddle



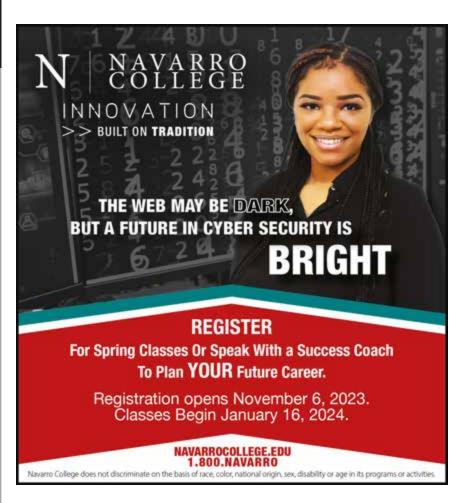
DAR members Katharine Hable, Mary Ann McColpin and Kay Hable, aided by Captain Joe Hill, welcome Corsicana AirSho military veterans from all branches of service.



Carol Byrd and Valorie Mattice draw winners' names at the Corsicana Newcomers Club luncheon.



Richard and Gail Smoot. Navarro County Retired Teachers Association members, deliver the group's donated books to Blooming Grove and Frost ISD first-graders.







By age 6, Bralyn Cantu's mother had introduced her to cooking, which would become Bralyn's vocation. "After I graduated from Dawson ISD, I earned my AAS in culinary arts from TSTC," Bralyn said. "I'm thankful my mom pushed me to my limits, and my family loves me enough to continue encouraging me. I'm currently the Corsicana Steakhouse sous chef, and I look forward to owning my own business."

Her Hispanic family roots influence Bralyn's cooking, but her mom's casseroles and pasta dishes and her sister's healthy choices are also part of Bralyn's repertoire. "My memaw was always making tortillas and soups, and I grew up eating mostly Tex-Mex cuisine," Bralyn recalled. "I love the Lord and my family. My Highpoint Church family also loves my food. It gives me joy to see people gather around a delicious meal."

Fideo

- 4 Tbsp. olive oil (divided use)
- 2 7-oz. bags Pagasa fideo noodles
- I lb. chicken breast or boneless pork chops
- 1 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 2 large russet or golden potatoes, peeled and diced
- 1/4 white onion, diced Garlic, to taste (optional)
- 2 cups water (Additional may be added for desired consistency.)
- 1 1.4-oz. packet Sazon Goya Seasoning
- **1.** In a large cast-iron skillet, heat 2 Tbsp. olive oil; add the fideo pasta.
- **2.** Toast the pasta, stirring constantly, for about 2-3 minutes. Remove the pasta from

the skillet; set aside.

- **3.** In the same skillet, add another Tbsp. oil; heat before adding the chicken, salt and pepper. Cook the chicken for 5-8 minutes.
- **4.** Add the potatoes, onions and garlic; cook for an additional 5 minutes.
- **5.** Add the water and seasoning; cover. Cook for 10 minutes before returning the pasta to the skillet.
- **6.** Cover; cook for 7-8 minutes for a thinner stew or for 10 minutes for a thicker stew.

Chicken Piccata

- 1 1/2 lbs. skinless chicken breast halves
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 tsp. kosher salt
- 1 pinch black pepper
- 3 Tbsp. Parmesan cheese, finely grated
- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 4 Tbsp. butter (divided use)
- 1/2 cup chicken stock or dry white wine
- 2 Tbsp. fresh lemon juice
- 1/4 cup capers, drained
- 2 Tbsp. parsley, chopped

- **I.** Slice the chicken halves horizontally, butterflying them open. If needed to achieve a 1/4-inch thickness, put the pieces between two pieces of plastic wrap and pound them with a meat hammer.
- **2.** In a bowl, mix the flour, salt, pepper and Parmesan. Rinse the chicken in water. Dredge each chicken piece thoroughly in the flour mixture until well coated.
- **3.** In a large skillet, heat the olive oil and 2 Tbsp. of butter on medium-high heat. Add half of the chicken; don't crowd the pan. Brown each piece well for about 3 minutes per side. Remove the chicken to a plate; brown the remaining chicken. Remove that half; set the breasts on a rack over a roasting pan to warm at 225 F in the oven while making the sauce.
- **4.** In a large saucepan, add the stock/ wine, lemon juice and capers. Simmer until the sauce has been reduced by half. Use a spatula to scrape up the brown bits. Whisk in the remaining 2 Tbsp. of butter.
- **5.** Serve immediately by plating the chicken; pour the sauce over the chicken. Sprinkle with parsley.

Lomo Saltado

2 Tbsp. vegetable oil (divided use)
1 lb. sirloin steak, cut into strips
Salt, to taste
Black pepper, to taste
1/2 red onion, sliced
1 medium tomato, sliced
2 garlic cloves, minced
1 Tbsp. Aji Amarillo paste
2 Tbsp. soy sauce
1 Tbsp. white vinegar
1 Tbsp. fresh cilantro, chopped
White rice, cooked according to

package directions (optional)

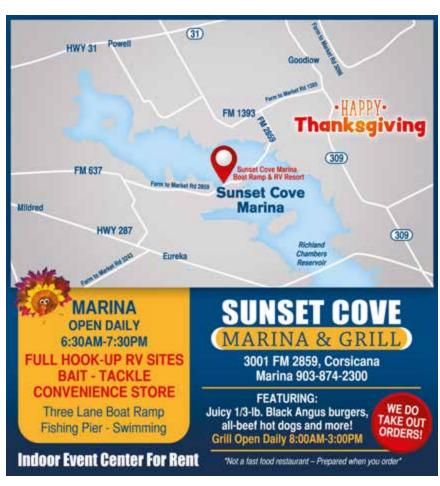
- **I.** In a large pan, heat 1 Tbsp. of oil over high heat. Add the steak; season with salt and pepper. Cook for about 5-6 minutes, until the steak is browned; remove the steak from the pan.
- **2.** In the same pan, heat the remaining oil; add the onions. Cook for about 5 minutes, until the onions are softened and browned. Add the tomatoes, garlic and Aji Amarillo paste; cook for another 5-7 minutes, until the tomatoes have released some juices but are still intact.
- **3.** Add the soy sauce and vinegar; stir. Let the mixture cool for 1 minute.
- **4.** Add the steak and cilantro; toss gently to coat the steak in the sauce. Serve with rice.

Orange Cake

Cake:

2-3 oranges Butter, as needed for pan 250 g. (2 cups) almond meal or







all-purpose flour, additional flour needed for pan

6 eggs

225 g. (1 1/8 cups) caster sugar or granulated sugar

1 tsp. vanilla extract

I tsp. baking powder

Icing sugar, to taste

Glaze:

Zest and juice of 1 orange 1 Tbsp. caster sugar or granulated sugar

1. For the cake: In a large saucepan, add

water and the whole oranges; bring to a boil. Lower the temperature to simmer for 40 minutes. Remove the oranges; rinse briefly under cold water.

- **2.** With a vegetable peeler, peel off the orange skin. Reserve the skin; discard the seeds and white pith.
- **3.** In a blender, puree the oranges and the skin; set aside.
- **4.** Melt enough butter to butter and flour a Bundt pan; preheat the oven to 350 F.
- **5.** In a large bowl, whisk the eggs and sugar well; add the vanilla extract. Stir in the almond meal or flour and baking powder.

Add the pureed oranges/skin; mix well.

- **6.** Pour the mixture into the prepared pan; bake for 30 minutes. If the top is already browned, cover it loosely with foil; bake for an additional 20 minutes.
- **7.** Remove the cake from the oven; let it cool in the pan.
- **8.** For the glaze: In a small pan, add the orange juice and zest. Add the sugar; bring the mixture to a simmer for a few minutes until it thickens slightly.
- **9.** Top the cake with a dusting of icing sugar and the glaze.













EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC OF

Christmas in McKinney

As the holiday season approaches, McKinney, Texas, transforms into a winter wonderland that captivates visitors and locals alike. Known for its small-town charm and festive spirit, McKinney offers a plethora of holiday activities, events and decorations that create an enchanting atmosphere to delight all ages.

Home for the Holidays Festival — November 24-26

McKinney's Home for the Holidays festival, held every Thanksgiving weekend, is a beloved tradition that kicks off the Christmas season. The event features an array of activities, including live music and dance performances, arts and crafts vendors and food trucks offering delicious holiday treats. Children can delight in visits with Santa Claus in his workshop. And families will not want to miss the spectacular community tree-lighting ceremony on Friday evening followed by a concert on the square. Admission to the weekend-long event is free.

Throughout the holiday season, families can enjoy the Christmas Carousel, kids workshop craft area, visits with Santa and taking family photos by the community Christmas tree on the downtown square. Of course, you will want to take some time to stroll around Historic Downtown McKinney to be enchanted by the festive storefront displays.

Christmas shopping in McKinney is a delight, as the city boasts an eclectic array of boutiques, specialty stores and art galleries. Browse through the shops to find one-of-a-kind gifts for your loved ones, such as handmade jewelry, clothing, home decor, Christmas decorations, toys and artisanal chocolates.

After a day of shopping and exploring, enjoy the delightful dining options McKinney has to offer. From cozy cafes serving hot soups and sandwiches to upscale restaurants with seasonal menus, the city's dining scene caters to all tastes. Don't miss the chance to try some Texas-style barbecue, a local favorite, or indulge in a festive feast at one of the many restaurants offering special holiday menus.

50th Annual Holiday Tour of Homes — December 2-3 & 9-10

This year, Chestnut Square and the Heritage Guild of Collin County celebrate 50 years of this favored event that showcases several homes in McKinney's residential historic district. For this year's tour, there will be two sets of decorated homes, one set each weekend, and bonus stops and activities at Chestnut Square Heritage Village. In addition to the home tours, guests can enjoy tea served along with a full breakfast buffet in the recently renovated Bevel House. (Additional ticket required for this activity.)

Holidays at the Heard — December 8-9

This annual event at the Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary brings the beauty of the holiday season to nature. Children can take part in activities and snacks in the museum while visiting with Father Christmas, then head out to the nature trails adorned with thousands of twinkling lights. Make sure to look for the animatronic dinosaurs that visit The



Heard each fall and winter, all decked out for the season. Bundle up the kids, and enjoy this one-of-a-kind family holiday experience.

Christmas Parade of Lights — December 9

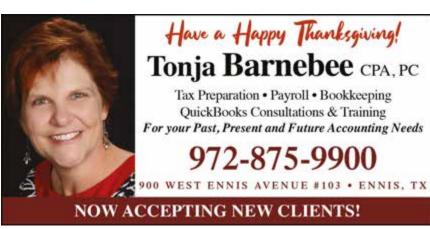
Each year, thousands of locals and visitors fill the downtown square for the Christmas Parade of Lights that includes decorated floats, marching bands and, of course, Santa Claus himself.

Admission is free.

If you are seeking a magical and heartwarming Christmas experience for your family, look no further than McKinney with its rich traditions and strong sense of community. Plan your visit to McKinney to experience the magic that makes this North Texas town a must-see holiday destination.

Beth Shumate Communications Manager — Visit McKinney

Editor's Note: For more information, go to visitmckinney.com.







Crossword Puzzle

	1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9
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Across

- 1 "House" and "Shooter" actor Omar ---
- 5 Frat-party 25 Wise one's wraps
- 10 Skateboarding jump
- 11 "Lummox" writer Fannie --
- 12 Icon
- 13 Efface
- 14 Military gobetweens
- 15 Devoted follower
- 17 Anonymous Jane
- 18 Follow closely
- 20 Sound of a finely tuned engine

- 21 Swells
- 24 It stopped with HST
- call?
- 26 Kind of PC port
- 27 Creditor's
- statement 28 Online
- connector
- 31 Barrel bit
- 33 In unison
- 35 Old
- watchmaker
- 36 Kind of eclipse 37 Start over
- 38 1/2 fl. oz.

- - 2 Some forms of
 - 3 Iron block
 - 5 At that time

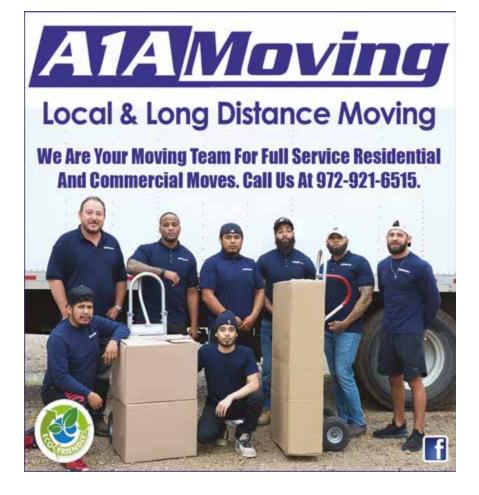
 - 7 Marks on a measuring
 - device
 - type
 - 9 Takes the tiller
 - medium
 - Hawaii!

- Down
- 1 Patron saint of sailors
- packaging
- 4 Believe it proper
- 6 Belonging to us.
- 8 Arrange by
- 10 Painting
- 16 Welcome to

- 19 Seek clarification
- 20 Paid sportsperson
- 21 Vituperative
- 22 Steal stock
- 23 Kind of blue
- 27 Home on the range?
- 29 Easy task
- 30 For each
- 32 Contend
- 34 Pinch-hitter

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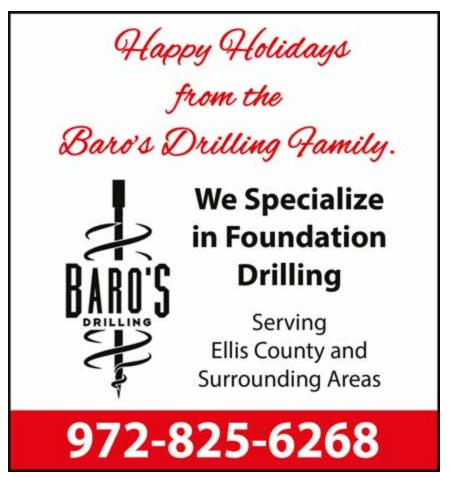
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11/1-1/4

American Plains Artists Show:

Monday-Friday: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; Saturday: Noon-4:00 p.m., Pearce Museum, 3100 W. Collin St. www.pearcemuseum.com.

11/3-11/19

Dust:

This exhibit features a recently discovered cache of Corsicanathemed photos dating from 1948-1966. 200 E. 4th Ave.

Fridays-Sundays:

Noon-6:00 p.m. susan.wilson@susanwilsonmarketing.com.

11/1, 11/8, 11/15

Kinsloe House Luncheon:

Noon, Kinsloe House, 618 W. 3rd Ave. Membership information or reservations, (903) 654-0620.

11/9

"When You Wish Upon a Star":

Presented by Harlem Jazz Band. 7:00 p.m., The Palace Theatre, 112 W. 6th Ave. www.corsicanapalace.com.

11/11

Brick Street Bazaar:

28 vendors with hand-forged knives, handmade jewelry,

crafts, baked goods, etc. Free admission. 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Corsicana Opry & Event Center, 215 E. 5th St. For details, call (903) 872-6779.

11/11-11/30

Corsicana Art League Show:

Local artists exhibit their works in varied mediums. Opening Reception: 11/11: 9:00 a.m.-noon. Gallery Hours: Wednesday-Friday: Noon-5:00 p.m., Warehouse Living Arts Center Gallery, 119 W. 6th Ave. www.thewlac.com.

11/17

Corsicana Newcomers Club Luncheon:

Lea Blackard with the Palace Theatre will speak. \$20. 11:00 a.m., Kinsloe House, 618 W. 3rd Ave. Make reservations by **previous Monday**. Annie Avery, (714) 345-6707.

Christmas Tree Lighting: 5:00-8:00 p.m., Downtown Corsicana. (903) 654-485I.

11/25

Small Business Saturday:

Live entertainment. 10:00 a.m., Downtown Corsicana. (903) 654-4851.

12/1

Heritage Bowl Pep Rally: 5:30 p.m., Downtown

Corsicana by the Christmas Tree. For more information, call (903) 654-4851.

12/2

Heritage Bowl:

Noon, Tiger Stadium, 4001 FM 744. (903) 654-485I.

Festival of Lights Parade:

6:00 p.m., Downtown Corsicana. (903) 654-4851.

12/2-12/3

A Prairie Little Christmas:

Step back into Little House on the Prairie days. Adults: \$10; children: \$5.10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Pioneer Village, 912 W. Park Ave. (903) 654-4850.

Wednesdays

Storytime:

10:30 a.m., Corsicana Public Library, 100 N. 12th St. (903) 654-4810.

Second Fridays

Navarro County Retired Teachers Association:

9:45 a.m., Northwest Apartments Community Center. glyn84@hotmail.com.

Third Fridays

Better Garden Club:

9:00 a.m., Corsicana First Methodist Church, 320 N. 15th St. Facebook: Better Garden Club.

First Saturdays

Rainbow Girls & Pledges Masonic Youth Meeting:

New members welcome. 10:00 a.m., Corsicana Masonic Lodge, 201 N. 15th Street. For more details, email ddean45@hotmail.com.

Second Saturdays

Mimosas at the Market:

10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Downtown Corsicana. For more information, call (903) 654-4850.

Coyote Squadron Meeting:

10:30 a.m., Corsicana Municipal Airport. Facebook: Coyote Squadron.

Third Saturdays

Navarro Fiber Friends:

11:00 a.m., Corsicana Senior Citizens Center, 919 W. Park Ave. For details, call (903) 654-4980.

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



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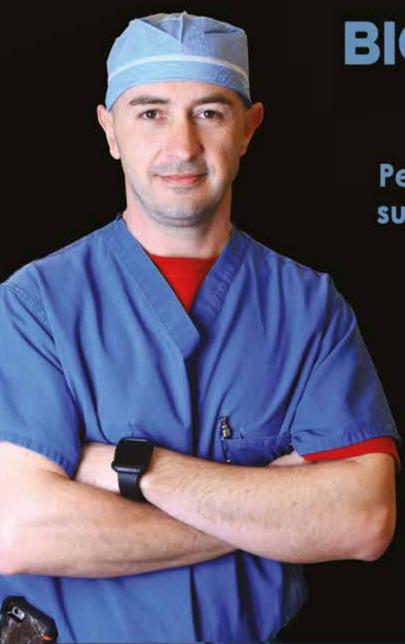


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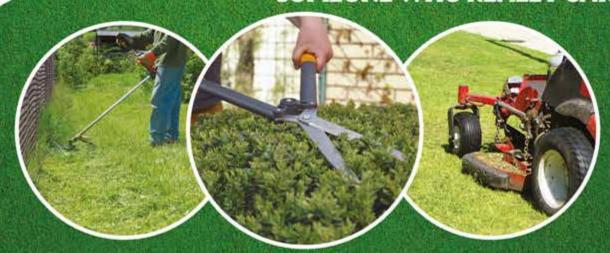
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