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NOVEMBER 2024

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2024 Holiday Shopping Guide

In the Kitchen With Roman Navarrete

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ON THE COVER



Service to others is key for Alpha Rho DKG members.

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# EDITOR'S NOTE



Virginia

Virginia Riddle  
CorsicanaNOW Editor  
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*Corsicana Family ...*

This month, we are in what my kids labeled long ago as the 3D and 4F seasons of the year. I live on my ranch, high above a lake with fields all around me, so the 3D stands for dove, duck and deer seasons opening in the state with volleys of gunshots awakening us just before dawn nearly every morning and returning in the late afternoons. One dog, my Catahoula, a hunting breed, spends most of her days ducking (pun intended) under or behind the couch. Honey's a sweetheart, but she doesn't always live up to her breeding specifications! We at least get to this point gradually after having survived dove season since September and having added duck season last month. Now with deer season upon us, I know I won't see the deer jumping my back fence as often. Perhaps with the shortening of the daylight, especially with daylight saving time ending on the 3rd, coupled with the gunfire, they know to lie low deep in the woods for a while.

So what's the 4F season, you ask? That season started in August with Football, Fun and Family and really kicks into high gear this month with holiday Foods. While my kids were growing up, football season was an integral part of the family, since one son played the sport, and one daughter marched in the band. Oh, those late nights coming home on the buses from away games! I was in the booster clubs during those times and was a bus chaperone. I'm thankful we can now watch football in climate-controlled comfort, with a full table of goodies on which to graze while enjoying our family's alumni teams, Baylor, UT-Austin, Texas A&M and Texas Tech, play on the gridiron.

*Celebrating with an attitude of gratitude!*



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Karen Cox, Jo Beth Ellis, Su Morris and Marcia Anderson share a commitment to education and community service.

# SOAR TO NEW HEIGHTS

— By Virginia Riddle

*The year was 1933, during the Great Depression, when on March 11, nine area women educators met with one of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International's founders, Mamie Sue Bastian, to organize a local DKG chapter, Alpha Rho. By the first meeting, the group had grown to 13 members with seven prospective members. A 90th birthday celebration was held in 2023 to honor the chapter's founders and longtime members. Many of the traditions established long ago are still followed by the current 27 chapter members. "We are educators and caregivers, and as such, we are part of this community and give back to it in many ways," Marcia Anderson, current president and a retired teacher and administrator, stated.*

The DKG Texas' theme for this biennium fits the local chapter's purpose and is explained in the acrostic use of the letters in "Soar" with the "A" standing for "Act to serve and share." "Every year, we make a connection with every school in the county," Jo Beth Ellis, a past president, stated. Some of the chapter's projects include Welcome Back to School gift baskets and donations to the Corsicana Animal Shelter, the House of Refuge and to teachers for student field trips. The chapter members also donate school supplies to Head Start, books as memorials and backpacks. "We pass the hat. We don't use chapter money for these contributions," Jo Beth added.

A Christmas season fundraiser has become a tradition and a friendly, but competitive, event between attendees at Kinsloe House. Jo Beth recalled, "Kinsloe House is beautifully decorated for the season. There's usually a fight over the homemade bread and hand crocheted

necklaces, but we make it work. I give the necklaces to people I love.” A Santa that wiggles was donated one year and has continued to return every year since, prompting a bidding war between members. Monies raised fund the chapter’s scholarships to students wishing to become educators.

The “S” in the acrostic stands for “Seek new members and opportunities.” Monthly meetings are held at Kinsloe House during the traditional school year months. Committees are responsible for every-other-month speakers. On the other months, a business meeting is held. “Our speakers are people from our community and school groups such as choirs and the Amazing Shake team,” Marcia said.

Prospective members must have taught a minimum of three years and receive an invitation from a current member. “Teaching” is broadly defined to include such positions as park rangers, college professors or anyone who trains or instructs others on a regular basis. Su Morris, the longest serving active member, who was initiated in 1973, stated, “Originally, the new member initiation required long, formal gowns and the traditional red roses, but now it’s less formal.” New initiates become members during a ceremony held at the September meeting each year.

Lindsay Olsen, scholarship chairperson and the newest member, shared how she became involved. “I was invited to a meeting by my son’s first grade teacher,” she said. “I respected her. She always had a servant’s heart, and I was impressed by the wealth of information shared by members. There’s a camaraderie that transfers across generations of educators. Our recent scholarships have gone to Abigail Estrada and Margarita Garcia. We work with Navarro College, Texas A&M University-Commerce and the Navarro College Foundation to select qualified candidates.”

Chapter members enjoy attending area workshops and conventions sponsored by DKG Texas and the DKG Society International, headquartered in Austin, Texas. The state and international annual events are an opportunity to gain knowledge, travel, learn from educators across the



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Marcia transferred from a Waco chapter after moving to Corsicana. “I’ve had the best time at conventions and being a member helps keep my brain active,” she said. “Members are very supportive.” She retired after serving as a teacher, administrator and at the regional service center for 48 years. “I enjoy life in Corsicana,” she said. “I can call on people when I need anything, and I’ve easily acclimated here after only three years.” Marcia is a member at Corsicana First Methodist Church and

is serving as a volunteer with several area organizations. She enjoys reading, British TV shows, travel and cruising.

“I was honored to receive a membership invitation in a sealed envelope, and I’ve enjoyed sharing info and the sad and happy moments with other members,” Jo Beth recalled. She began teaching in 1979 in Corsicana ISD, and though retired, she’s still substitute teaching, is a church nursery teacher and enjoys reading to her grandson’s class. A member of Corsicana First Baptist Church, Jo Beth said, “Corsicana’s a great place to live. We’re small enough to get to know people, but close enough to the big city for everything we need.” She enjoys RVing, cruising and her grandchildren.

Su enjoys seeing teachers from other schools at meetings and the support she receives from members. She served 43 years as a teacher. A volunteer giving people rides to doctor appointments, Su also volunteers through her church. She enjoys cruises.

Lindsay is in her 22nd year as an educator and serves as a Region XII Service Center dyslexia



Lindsay Olsen greets Bowie Elementary students on the first day of school.

specialist. “I learn so much from longtime teachers,” she said. “I enjoy my family, my church family and teacher friends.” She volunteers through her church and at Bowie Elementary School. I enjoy attending Aggie home games and concerts, reading, cheering my kids on in their activities and podcasts,” she added.

Fellow members contribute in many ways. Through their sharing spirit, they “O”pen hearts, minds and attitudes and “R”each to renew, respond and relate to each other and people throughout their community. **NOW**

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— By Virginia Riddle

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all of us,” Kelly Bell, marketing director, stated. With each patient, a personalized care plan is created, and care is taken to ensure a dignified and compassionate hospice experience while celebrating the patient’s life.

November is National Care at Home Month, an observance dedicated to awareness about the importance of in-home care for millions of Americans, and Hand in Hand Hospice is proud to be a part of that celebration. “Far too many people never take advantage of the hospice benefit, either due to a lack of education, misunderstandings between patients and providers on whom should initiate the conversation, or a general lack of understanding of hospice services,” David Glick, CEO of Arc Hospice, Hand in Hand’s parent company, said. “We hope that raising awareness will help more families understand the value of hospice care and ensure they get the support needed during critical times.”

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military veterans' care, connection with appropriate and available community resources, volunteers and the Arc of Life Program. Hand in Hand provides these services and more, as needed, to patients and caregivers in Navarro, Kaufman, Henderson, Anderson, Freestone, Leon, Limestone, McLennan and Ellis counties. Medicare and most insurance plans cover hospice care. Hand in Hand Hospice is a member of the Corsicana & Navarro County Chamber of Commerce.

Veteran care includes ceremonies which honor veterans' military service, trauma-informed care in which veterans can share experiences at their comfort level and social workers who can assist families in understanding VA benefits and eligibility. Customized pain management is provided to veterans and all other patients.

The Arc of Life Program helps patients create memories by planning and engaging in events that hold special significance for them. It might be revisiting a favorite hobby or celebrating with loved ones. Plans are made in collaboration with the patient and his/her family, so the moments are memorable and meaningful.

Kelly, a resident of Navarro County since 1983, strives to help educate communities as to what hospice is about and the services offered. "I graduated from Blooming Grove High School, as have all three of my children," she recalled. Kelly volunteers as a Corsicana & Navarro County Chamber Ambassador and worked in the nursing home field as a marketing director for eight years before her employment with Hand in Hand Hospice. She's been awarded Top Salesperson designation.

When not working, Kelly enjoys watching her children participate in sports, spending time with her grandchildren, crafting and doing "anything outdoors." "I love the feel of small towns and getting to work with people who I have grown up with," she said.

Kelly's challenge at work comes with educating the public on the services and help that hospice care can provide patients and caregivers. She concluded, "Don't wait to contact us. Ask questions about what hospice offers." **NOW**



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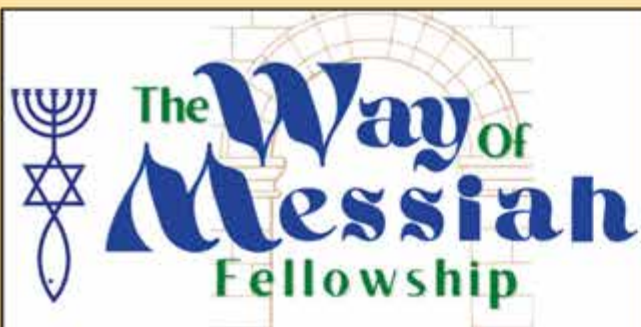
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## Zoomed In: Ashton Kantor

By Virginia Riddle

A familiar face around town for the past seven years, Ashton Kantor has a new role to play as executive director of the Palace Theatre and the Navarro Council of the Arts. While working for the Chamber, city and CISD, she “fell in love with this town.” “Corsicana stuck like glue to me, and I love the people, so I bought a house here last year,” this Mexia, Texas, area native, stated. “This job is a childhood dream come true, and I want people to find the theater fun and exciting.”

Ashton volunteers on the Main Street board and enjoys choreographing Warehouse Living Arts Center’s big annual musical production. She loves to cook, go to the theater productions, travel and spend time at her family’s farm.



Susan Jennings, Beth Williams and Glenda Southard proudly represent the Piecemakers Quilt Guild of Corsicana at the group’s annual quilt show.



Artists David Godfrey, Jack Moss and Bob Penny wrap up the popular Western Artist Roundup Show at the Pearce Museum.



The Carter Hillock Group, Ebby Halliday Realtors, celebrate their new Main Street location.



CHS ROTC members honor James Blair DAR members.



Caleb Loftice, of the fraud and prevention office for Community National Bank & Trust of Texas, tells Corsicana Newcomers Club members how to avoid being scammed.



Colonel Jennifer Baird Fiederer shares her military experience with Kinsloe House members.



Karla Brady stands by her personal favorite during her art show at the WLAC Gallery.



The steam locomotive, Big Boy, makes its stop in Mexia, Texas.

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CookingNOW

*In the Kitchen With*

ROMAN NAVARRETE

— By Virginia Riddle



At age 15, Roman Navarrete began his “journey into the cooking world,” which led him to open the Corsicana restaurant, Mas Queso. “I learned different cooking skills, along with discipline, good habits and have the motivation and passion to achieve my goals,” he said. “Cooking’s an art, and I enjoy every moment in the kitchen.”

Roman grew up eating Tex-Mex foods, and that’s where he states his strength in the kitchen is. However, he’s inspired to learn new recipes through cooking videos, flipping through food magazines and watching cooking shows. “I always want to add new recipes I like,” he shared. “I enjoy teaching others and believe in working with the new generations, so they are familiar with the food and recipes they will one day, hopefully, pass along.” **NOW**

### Chicken With Mushrooms

*This entree pairs well with an avocado salad.*

**1 6-oz. chicken breast, sliced**  
**Salt, to taste**  
**Variety of preferred spices, to taste**  
**1/2 oz. margarine**  
**3 oz. mushrooms, sliced**  
**1.5 oz. yellow onions, sliced**

**1.5 oz. poblano peppers, sliced**  
**1 tsp. fresh garlic, chopped**  
**Monterrey Jack cheese, to taste**  
**Rice, cooked according to package instructions (optional)**

**1.** Season the chicken with salt and your personally preferred spices; set aside.  
**2.** In a skillet, melt the margarine; sauté the

mushrooms, onions, poblano peppers and garlic.

**3.** Add the chicken breast; cook all the way through, turning and searing on both sides. Add the cheese; cook until the cheese melts. Serve over rice, if using.

### Green Rice

**2.5 oz. fresh spinach**  
**2 bunches cilantro**  
**4 poblano peppers**  
**3 oz. white onion**  
**6 garlic cloves**  
**2 Tbsp. salt**  
**2 Tbsp. chicken base**  
**1/2 tsp. white pepper**  
**Salad oil, for toasting**  
**32 oz. rice**

**1.** In a blender, mix the spinach, cilantro, poblano peppers, onions and garlic cloves with water until the mixture equals 1.5 gallons of fluid.  
**2.** Transfer the mixture to a pot; bring the mixture to a boil. Add the salt, chicken base and white pepper.

3. In another pot, add enough salad oil to coat the bottom; toast the rice until it becomes golden in color.
4. Transfer the toasted rice to the spinach mixture. Cover the pot; cook on low heat for 10 minutes. Stir; recover. Cook for an additional 10 minutes.

### Black Beans

- 1/2 gal. black beans
- 1 gal. water
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 4 cups hot potato salad, made from a favorite recipe or store bought
- 2 Tbsp. granulated garlic
- 1 tsp. finely ground black pepper

1. In a large pot, add the black beans, water and salt; cook over medium heat for approximately 60-90 minutes or until the beans are soft.
2. Add the hot potato salad, garlic and pepper; stir well. Drain the mixture; grind it in a blender or mixer before serving.

### Mas Queso's Chili Con Carne

- 5 lbs. ground beef
- 1 gal. water
- 1 cup paprika
- 1 cup chili powder
- 1/4 Tbsp. salt
- 1/4 Tbsp. granulated garlic
- 1 Tbsp. granulated cumin
- 1 tsp. oregano
- 1/4 gal. vegetable oil
- 1/2 gal. flour

1. In a large pot, add the ground beef and water, stirring the meat into the water. Cook at a high temperature for 5 minutes. After reaching a boiling stage, add the spices; cook for an additional 15 minutes.
2. In a bowl, mix the vegetable oil and flour. While the meat mixture is still boiling, add the flour mixture to the pot. Stir well; more flour may be added to reach the desired thickness.

To search for more great recipes from any of the 9 NOW Magazines publications, visit [www.nowmagazines.com](http://www.nowmagazines.com).

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## FIVE NONPROFITS We Are Loving Right NOW

### 1 Navarro Council of the Arts

Quality cultural events are sponsored for all ages annually. Art education is provided to introduce and promote the arts to county school children.

[www.navarrocouncilofthearts.com](http://www.navarrocouncilofthearts.com)

### 2 Corsicana Artist and Writer Residency

Artists and writers from around the world are invited to produce their new work within a historic setting and share their expertise with the community and area school students.

[www.corsicanaresidency.org](http://www.corsicanaresidency.org)

### 3 Friends of the Library-Corsicana

Volunteers aid librarians in shelving books and other tasks, and the organization helps fund activities that all ages can enjoy.

Facebook: Friends of the Library-Corsicana.

### 4 Habitat for Humanity International, Inc.

Helping families build a place to call their own and improving the community through home ownership is this organization's mission.

[www.habitat.org](http://www.habitat.org)

### 5 Hull Creative Arts Foundation

Navarro County high school seniors are encouraged, through the awarding of scholarships, to pursue a career in the arts by continuing to develop their artistic skills and talents at the college level.

[www.hullcreativearts.com](http://www.hullcreativearts.com)

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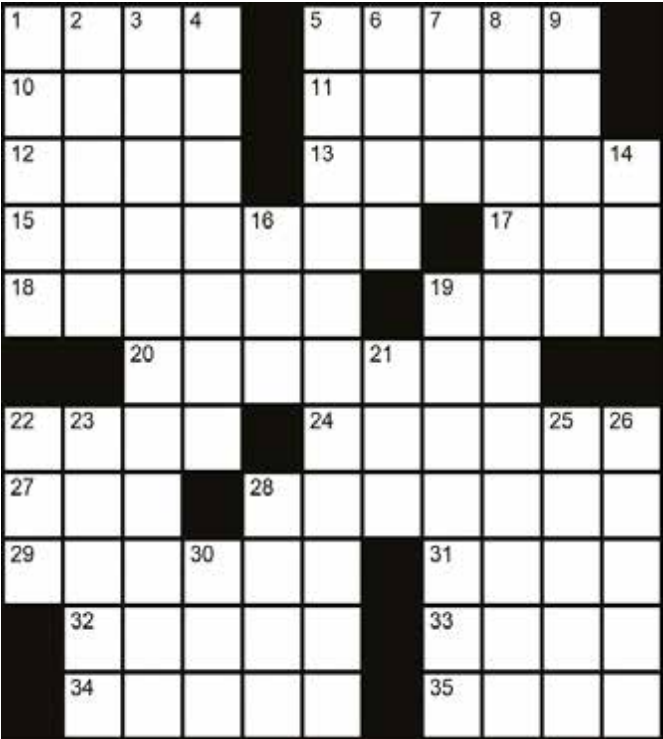
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## Across

- |                            |                                                                  |                                                |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Gray-haired              | 31 Upon                                                          | 7 That's my boy                                |
| 5 WWII female fliers       | 32 Oddball                                                       | 8 Temporary                                    |
| 10 Free from doubt         | 33 Food source                                                   | 9 Divest                                       |
| 11 Scrub                   | 34 First unelected president                                     | 14 The United Kingdom's Delta Force equivalent |
| 12 Filly's father          | 35 Split                                                         | 16 Trike rider                                 |
| 13 Domingo and Bocelli     | <b>Down</b>                                                      | 19 Bring back into use                         |
| 15 Made suitable           | 1 Indian tea state                                               | 21 Impair                                      |
| 17 By way of               | 2 Museum employee                                                | 22 Ask for a loan                              |
| 18 Empyrean streaker       | 3 All over the place, clearly Rita is all over the place         | 23 High up                                     |
| 19 Immerses                | 4 Most profound                                                  | 25 Orléans "our"                               |
| 20 Neck of land            | 5 Boiler                                                         | 26 Pixie                                       |
| 22 Diplomacy               | 6 "And gentlemen in England now -- ... (Shakespeare, "Henry V")" | 28 Distilled coal                              |
| 24 Alleviating             |                                                                  | 30 Comrade                                     |
| 27 Rather like             |                                                                  |                                                |
| 28 Design for a painting   |                                                                  |                                                |
| 29 Cambodian mass murderer |                                                                  |                                                |

Online versions and solutions available at [www.nowmagazines.com](http://www.nowmagazines.com). From our Homepage, click on the Crossword-Sudoku tab. Click on a puzzle. Click on the See All button to view solutions.

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# Happy THANKSGIVING NOVEMBER

Some events may have been cancelled or rescheduled while we were at press.  
Check with individual organizations or your city or Chamber websites to verify dates and times.

11/4-11/30

## Corsicana Art League Show and Sale:

**Opening Reception: 11/12, 5:00-7:00 p.m.,** Warehouse Living Arts Center Gallery, Hours: **Monday-Friday: noon-5:00 p.m.**  
Facebook: Corsicana Art League.

11/9

**Texas Veterans Parade:**  
10:00 a.m., Downtown Corsicana.  
[www.texasveteransparade.com/events/2024](http://www.texasveteransparade.com/events/2024).

**Seger System:**  
7:00 p.m., The Palace Theatre,  
112 West 6th Ave.  
[www.corsicanapalace.com](http://www.corsicanapalace.com).

11/15

## Corsicana Newcomers Club Meeting:

The speaker will be Fred Biltz, Corsicana Senior Center director.  
11:00 a.m., Kinsloe House,  
618 W. 3rd Ave. Annie Avery  
(714) 345-6707.

11/16

**Pioneer Thanksgiving:**  
A living history event. Enjoy apple peeling, fiber spinning and corn shucking. 10:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Pioneer Village, 912 W. Park Ave.

11/21

## Tree Lighting:

5:00-8:00 p.m., Downtown Corsicana. (903) 654-4851.

11/30

## Small Business Saturday:

As you start your Christmas shopping, discover the exclusive deals offered by local businesses. Unwrap the joy of supporting small businesses and find that perfect gift for everyone on your list! 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Downtown Corsicana.

12/5-12/8

## A Christmas Carol, The Musical:

Times vary, presented by Warehouse Living Arts Center. For


tickets and information, call (903) 872-5421.

12/7


## Mistletoe on Mills:


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Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to [virginia.riddle@nowmagazines.com](mailto:virginia.riddle@nowmagazines.com).



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