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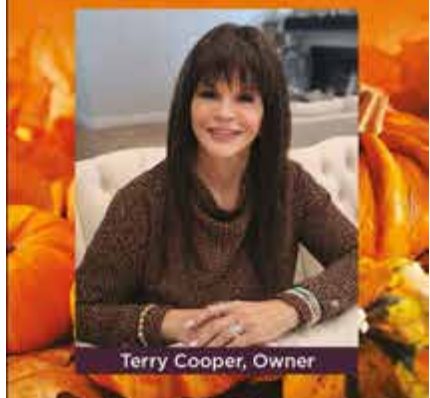
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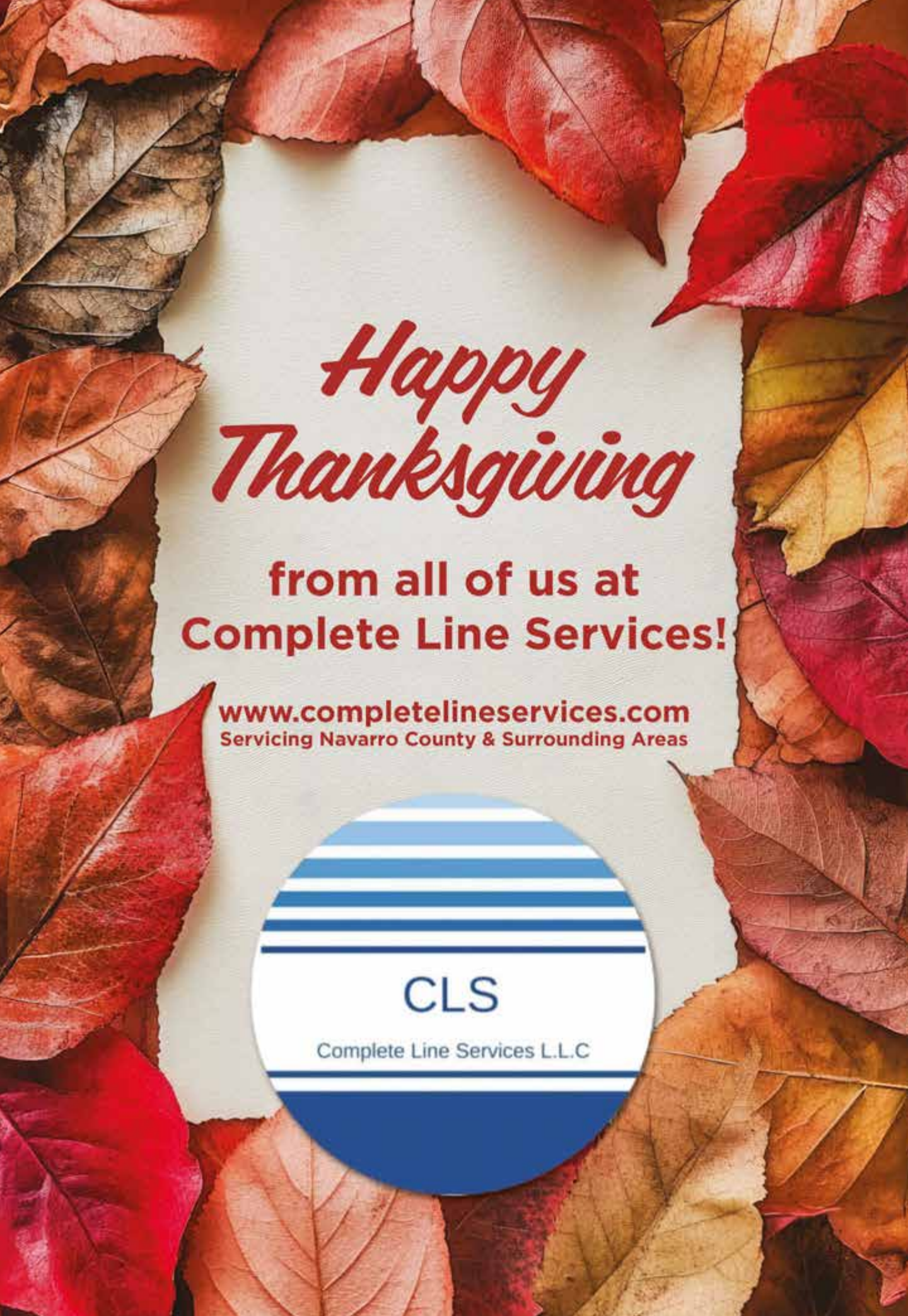
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November 2026
Volume 23, Issue 11



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ON THE COVER



The Navarro County 2026 celebrations have brought together many residents.

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AMERICAN FREEDOM!

It was in 1776 that the American “experiment” began, and this year marked the semiquincentennial anniversary of our country’s beginnings. The planning of events, especially the ones for this past Fourth of July, began last year. Many residents have been involved, either in the planning, implementation or participation. Corsicana Mayor Joe Hill shared, “As mayor, I sat in on many planning committees — literally beginning within weeks of closing out the Fourth of July 2025.”

— By Virginia Riddle

Dr. Mary Jane McReynolds, chair of the Navarro County Historical Commission, added, “I began my volunteer activities with the America 250 in Navarro County in early 2025 at Navarro County Historical Commission meetings. The America 250 celebration has been a time of learning more about our country’s history and reflecting on the many freedoms and privileges our democracy provides each citizen.”

The NCHC sought to collaborate with other history-focused organizations in the area, such as the DAR, which was already planning events as early as 2023 when Barbara Watkins, a member of the James Blair Chapter, DAR, was appointed the America 250 chair. “Our first project was to recognize each member’s patriot and where they served during the American Revolution. We started a Christmas tree on which each member hung a silhouette recognizing their ancestor,” she said.



This past Fourth of July celebration was over the top thanks to Sharla Allen and the Parks and Recreation Department and many participants. "A special salute goes to Councilman Jim Pannell for creating the first Stars, Stripes and Small Wheels Parade for little ones," Mayor Hill said.

Another ceremony was held on the Navarro County Courthouse lawn when the DAR chapter dedicated the America 250 marker. Mayor Hill and Dr. McReynolds were among the presenters. "This project took almost a year to complete from the initial planning stages to the dedication ceremony, and included researching, coordinating approvals, arranging for installation and planning the dedication. Additionally, I planned an America 250 luncheon featuring a historical interpreter portraying Abigail Adams," Barbara noted. "Our last project for this year is to add granite benches on each side of the America 250 marker to provide a welcoming place for visitors, students and families to sit, reflect and learn. We hope to dedicate these benches on November 11, Veterans Day."

"The DAR's marker aligns with the Historical Commission's goal of commemorating historical events with a permanent marker, and the beautiful America 250 Patriots marker will inform current and future generations about American independence," Dr. McReynolds added.

Mayor Hill, Dr. McReynolds and Barbara each expressed a love of history from an early age. Mayor Hill, a retired career Naval officer and native of Tyler, Texas, enjoys reading, primarily about American and Naval history. "I loved American history by my early high school years," he stated. "Before the Revolutionary War, we were 13 individual countries. The war brought us together. Men and women sacrificed. We must remember. We must teach our children."

A Wortham native, Dr. McReynolds remembers her maternal grandmother taking her



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to the cemetery to talk about their ancestors when she was about 4 or 5 years old. "My mother carried on that tradition, and she told me stories about our ancestors who came to Navarro County in 1854. Olena Black, my high school history teacher, is another person who ignited my curiosity about history."

"I have always liked history, but becoming a DAR member has increased my focus on history and our heritage," Barbara, a Navarro County native, said. "Patriotism has always been an important part of my life." She has ancestors who fought in WWI, WWII and Vietnam, and through genealogical research, Barbara has discovered several Revolutionary War ancestors. She added, "Their service has given me a deep appreciation of our country's history and the freedoms we enjoy today."

To learn more about American as well as Texas and local history, this threesome of history buffs offers suggestions. "Visit the area libraries and read. Ask a military person



about history, and attend the NCHC meetings and events," Mayor Hill suggested.

Dr. McReynolds added, "We have wonderful museums in Navarro County that teach our rich history, and a great way to learn about family genealogy is to join the Navarro County Genealogical Society and visit the Corsicana Public Library's Genealogy Department. The Texas Historical Commission offers online resources to learn about Texas history. The app is free and has information about historical markers, state historical sites, courthouses, cemeteries and museums. The Texas Historic Sites

Atlas is a database of nearly 300,000 historic and archeological site records documenting state history. Explore your own family history by interviewing your elders. It makes history personal."

Barbara also focused on finding your family roots and discovering your own history. "Collect documentation for every parent-child relationship with reliable records such as wills; census records; and birth, marriage and death certificates. These documents are essential for building an accurate family history and qualifying for membership in lineage societies."

"Our Corsicana and Navarro County people love our country and wanted to celebrate during America 250," Mayor Hill concluded. "In my many travels around the world, I learned how fortunate we are to live in America. As I tell older kids in high school, 'We have some faults [in America], but realize that you are better off than 90 percent of the world's population. You've won the lottery!'" **NOW**



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GIVING BACK

— By
Virginia Riddle

It's that time of the year again, when Salvation Army bells and smiling volunteers greet customers at local businesses. Every bit of change does add up, providing a Navarro County individual or family with a little merrier holiday. Once again, Barbara Kelley, last year's Corsicana & Navarro County Chamber of Commerce's Volunteer of the Year, will lead the way in recruiting, training and organizing the many volunteers. "Since I retired as a police telecommunicator, a position I held for 35 years, volunteering in my community has been my hobby," Barbara shared. "I love Corsicana's hometown feel, and it's important to give back to your community."

The numbers are impressive. "The Red Kettle Campaign 2025 raised \$88,127.62," Terisa Zuniga, the Salvation Army Corsicana Service Center director, stated. The monies raised helped fund several special holiday programs including the Thanksgiving Meal Box

for 400 families and the Silver Bells Program for 300 senior adults. Additionally, the funds are used year-round to provide food, utilities and rent assistance and emergency aid.

The Salvation Army also sponsors the Angel Tree Program. Christmas trees pop up in November in area businesses and are loaded with the wishes of children in need of a present. "Last year, we served 335 families and 842 children throughout Navarro County," Terisa said. "Recipients receive new clothing, toys, gifts and age-appropriate Christmas items based on needs and wishes." Applications are closed already for this coming Christmas. This program provides for children ages 0-18.

Individuals, families, businesses, churches, schools and civic organizations are welcome to volunteer to ring bells, help with meal prep, client check-ins, register recipients, gift sort, shop for unadopted angels or help with the food boxes and deliveries. There's a job for every volunteer. "For instance, the Fannin Fantastics performed Christmas carols for the senior adults as they received their care packages," Terisa explained. "I am grateful to be part of programs that bring hope and encouragement to our community."

Compassion Corsicana is another organization that helps ensure Navarro County neighbors have food and less financial stress during the holidays. Executive Director Melissa Castillo shared, "We've kicked off the Every Tiger Eats Campaign with Corsicana ISD Wraparound Services and Councilman Jim Pannell.

"From October 26-November 13, our community can donate nonperishable food to CISC campuses or

directly to Compassion Corsicana to help provide food for students and families over the Thanksgiving break. Last year, during Thanksgiving break, we served 786 neighbors and 323 households. Christmas Food Box Distribution is another Compassion Corsicana program, which provides 400 families with a Christmas dinner," Melissa stated. Both the Salvation Army and Compassion Corsicana partner with area grocery stores and other businesses in funding their programs.

A Corsicana native and CISD school board member, Melissa said, "I love Corsicana's small-town charm and laid-back pace. She noted that when the House of Refuge, part of Compassion Corsicana, caught fire last year, the community stepped up to support that program for women and children. "We may not agree on everything, but when someone needs help, people come together," Melissa added.

This dynamic threesome is active in many ways in Corsicana. Each of them still finds time for family, friends and hobbies. Melissa offers this advice to those wishing to serve others as a career, "Remember to fill your cup. You cannot pour into others if your cup is empty. Taking care of yourself isn't selfish; it allows you to be the best version of yourself for the people you serve. When you take care of yourself, and keep your cup filled, you are better equipped to pour into and help others."

"The rewards for volunteering [or donating] are not measured in money or titles but in the lives you touch and the difference you make," Terisa concluded. "Serving others often becomes one of the greatest blessings in your own life." **NOW**

Editor's Note: For more information, contact the Salvation Army Corsicana Service Center at (903) 874-7131. For Bell Ringer volunteers, ask for Coordinator Barbara Kelley. For information on Compassion Corsicana programs, visit info@compassioncorsicana.org.



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Zoomed In: Stefanie Haney

By Virginia Riddle

A Massachusetts native, Stefanie Haney has moved often during her life. “We’ve been in Navarro County for 12 years, the longest I have ever lived in one place,” Stefanie said. “We live in the country. It’s very peaceful. She and husband, Mark, along with their two children, moved here for Mark’s teaching position at Navarro College. A personal trainer, she’s a “big fan” of exercise, reading, gardening and cooking.

Stefanie’s University of Colorado-Boulder degree in graphic design helps her in her hobby of jigsaw puzzle competitions. She’s a major force of the Corsicana Public Library’s monthly puzzle swap. Stefanie explained, “Puzzles reduce stress and promote problem solving. There’s also the social element of working puzzles with friends and family and competing in DFW and through Zoom competitions.”



Jerry Downey instructs in his technique at the reception for the opening of his WLAC show.



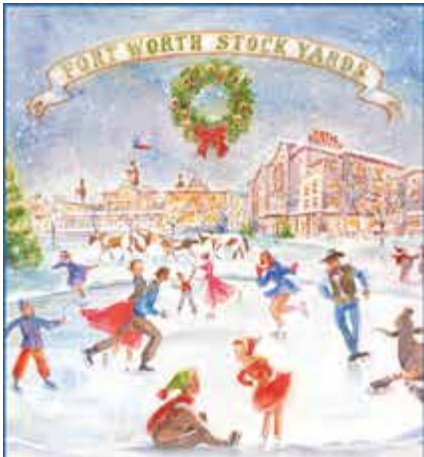
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Zoomed In:
Sandy Parker Martinez

By Virginia Riddle

Sandy Parker Martinez has worn many hats — mother, widow, speaker, women’s coach, magazine writer, TED Talk personality, church staff member and wife to Steve Martinez. She attended the University of Georgia, and plays the guitar, sews and has played Maria in *The Sound of Music*. Sandy previously wrote a children’s book, but her latest book writing effort is *Wake-Up Call with Lipstick*, full of “wit and wisdom.”

Steve pastors, with Sandy’s help, at Frost and Blooming Grove Methodist churches, and Sandy finds time to travel, be a member of the Pink Lady Posse and Corsicana Newcomers Club, journal and do arts and crafts. She concluded, “I like life here. There’s a culture of pride, taking care of things, the arts and a legacy of quality.”



Doug Crawford shares his love of all things bees with Kinsloe House members.



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Herb-Roasted Turkey

- 1 12- to 14-lb. whole turkey, defrosted
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 2 Tbsp. fresh rosemary, chopped
- 2 Tbsp. fresh thyme, chopped
- 2 Tbsp. fresh sage, chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. black pepper
- 1 lemon, halved
- 1 onion, quartered
- 4 sprigs fresh rosemary
- 2 cups chicken broth

1. Preheat the oven to 325 F; remove the turkey giblets, patting the bird dry with paper towels.
2. In a small bowl, mix together the butter, rosemary, thyme, sage, minced garlic, salt and black pepper.
3. Gently loosen the skin over the turkey breast; rub half of the herb butter underneath.
4. Rub the remaining herb butter over the outside of the turkey.
5. Stuff the cavity with the lemon halves, quartered onion and rosemary sprigs.
6. Place the turkey on a roasting rack in a large roasting pan; pour the chicken broth into the bottom of the pan.
7. Roast for 3 to 3 1/2 hours, basting every 30 minutes, until a thermometer inserted in the thickest part of the thigh

reads 165 F.

8. Let the turkey rest for 20-30 minutes before carving.

Cast-Iron Candied Sweet Potatoes

- 4 large sweet potatoes
- 4 Tbsp. unsalted butter
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup maple syrup
- 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp. nutmeg
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/2 cup mini marshmallows
- 1/4 cup pecans, chopped

1. Preheat the oven to 375 F.
2. Peel the sweet potatoes; slice them into 1/4-inch rounds.
3. Melt the butter in a large, cast-iron skillet over medium heat.
4. Add the brown sugar and maple syrup to the melted butter, stirring until combined.
5. Stir in the cinnamon, nutmeg and salt.
6. Arrange the sweet potato rounds in the skillet, layering them in the sugar mixture, and turning to coat both sides.
7. Cook on the stovetop for 5 minutes to begin softening the potatoes.
8. Transfer the skillet to the oven; bake for 25-30 minutes until the sweet potatoes are tender.

9. Remove from the oven; sprinkle the mini marshmallows and chopped pecans evenly over the top.
10. Return to the oven; bake for an additional 5-7 minutes until the marshmallows are golden brown. Serve warm.

Pecan Pie Bars

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 3/4 cup cold unsalted butter, cubed
- 3 large eggs
- 3/4 cup corn syrup
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 cups pecans, chopped

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F; line a 9x13-inch pan with parchment paper.
2. Pulse the flour, powdered sugar, salt and cold butter in a food processor until crumbly.
3. Press the mixture into the pan; bake for 18 minutes.
4. Whisk together the eggs, corn syrup, brown sugar and vanilla extract. Stir in the pecans.
5. Pour over the baked crust; bake for 25 minutes.
6. Cool completely before slicing into bars.

Things to do in Corsicana!

NOVEMBER CorsicanaNOW

Some events may have been cancelled or rescheduled while we were at press.

M A G A Z I N E

11/5

Kinsloe's Night of Style – La Dolce Vita, an Italian Affair

Dinner, wine bar and runway fashion show. Individual tickets and tables available. 5:00 p.m., Cook Education Center, 3100 W. Collin St. Contact Connie Hickman at (903) 654-4029.

11/5

The Comedy & Music of Gary Mile Deer

7:30 p.m., The Palace Theatre, 112 W. 6th Ave. www.corsicanapalace.com.

11/5-11/15

The Book of Dog

Times vary. Warehouse Living Arts Center, 119 W. 6th Ave. www.thewlac.com.

11/8

Tuff Man Series Bass Tournament

5:00 a.m., Oak Cove Marina, Richland Chambers Lake. Facebook: Tuff Man Bass Tournaments.

11/11

Diabetes Education Class

Free. 2:00-4:00 p.m., Navarro Regional Hospital, 3201 TX-22. www.navarrohospital.com.

11/19

Tree Lighting

5:00-8:00 p.m., Downtown Corsicana. www.visitcorsicana.com.

11/20

Pink Friday Downtown

10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Downtown Corsicana. www.visitcorsicana.com.

11/21

Corsicana Lions Club Craft & Vendor Market

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Navarro County Youth Expo, 4021 W. Hwy. 22. Facebook: Corsicana Lions Club.

11/28

Small Business Saturday

10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Downtown Corsicana. www.visitcorsicana.com.

12/3-12/6

Fiddler on the Roof

Times vary. Warehouse Living Arts Center, 119 W. 6th Ave. www.thewlac.com.

12/5

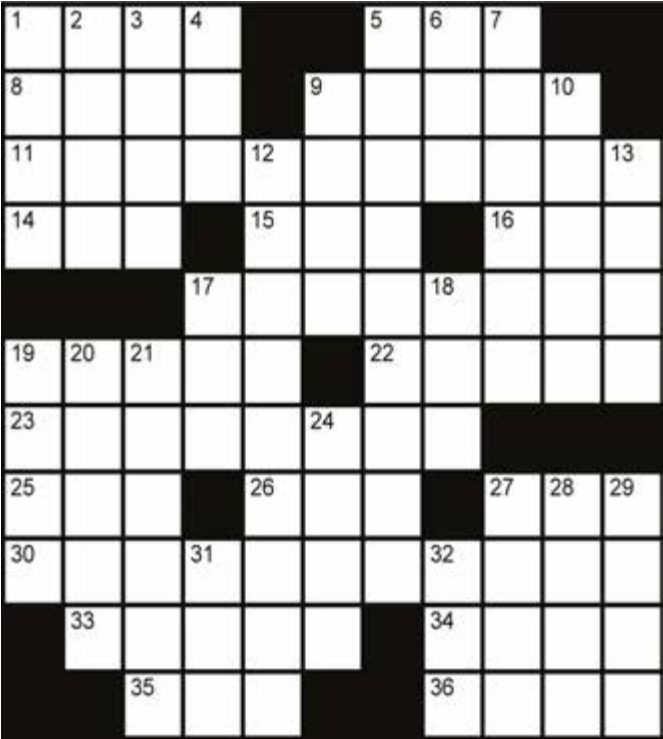
Jingle Bell Jog

9:00 a.m., Corsicana YMCA, 400 Oaklawn Dr. Facebook: Corsicana YMCA.



An advertisement for Jordan Paint & Body. It features a portrait of Christi Thompson, Office Manager, on the left. To the right, the text reads "THANKFUL FOR OUR TEAM, OUR CUSTOMERS AND THE COMMUNITY THAT KEEPS US MOVING!". Below this, a list of services is provided: "JORDAN PAINT & BODY OFFERS: Free Estimates • ADAS Calibration Services • Work With All Insurance Certified Aluminum Repair Facility • Wrecker Service Available • Gold Class I-Car Certified Lifetime Repair Warranty • Top Notch Customer Service • Family Owned and Operated Since 1983". The company logo "JORDAN PAINT & BODY" is prominently displayed in the center. At the bottom, the slogan "WE GIVE YOU MORE THAN YOU EXPECT!" is followed by "43 YEARS OF SERVICE • 649 HARDY IN CORSICANA • 903-872-6923". The background of the ad is decorated with autumn-themed images of pumpkins and pinecones.

Crossword Puzzle



Crosswordsite.com Ltd

Across

- 1 Shimmering gemstone
- 5 Old school dance
- 8 "Lemon" fish
- 9 Washed out
- 11 Disturbed enough moose, of a kind
- 14 Sleuth's cry
- 15 It should stop you at an intersection
- 16 Texting letters for a former identity
- 17 Thrown objects
- 19 Polite form of address for a woman

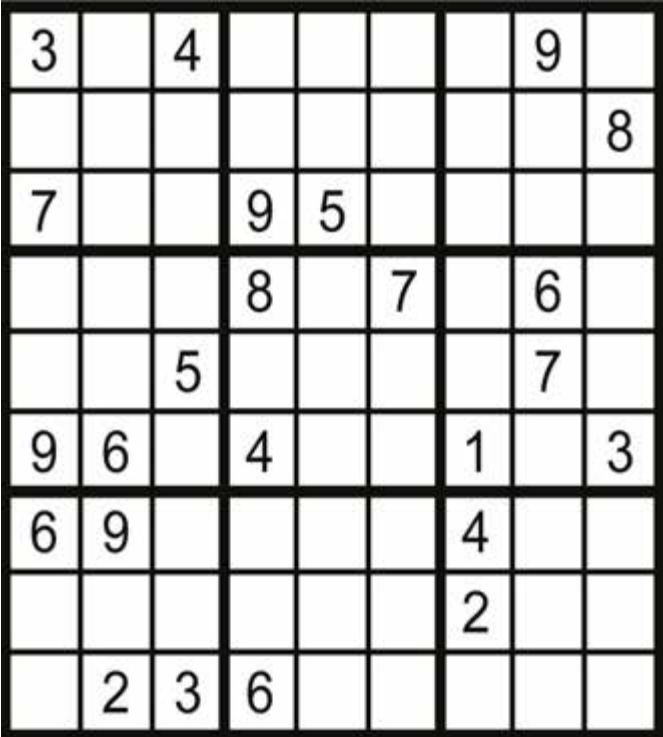
Down

- 1 Labor Dept. agency
- 2 "A Bear of very little Brain"
- 3 --- mater
- 4 13 Popes have had this name
- 5 Bequeaths
- 6 Lyric poem
- 7 What Soylent Green was made of (1973 movie)
- 9 Broker's charges
- 10 Boxers' fists
- 12 Massage magic ring, pulling a face
- 13 Get lippy
- 17 Planetary plan
- 18 Anger
- 19 Spouse
- 20 Fragrance
- 21 Very beginning
- 24 Goon
- 27 Radar image
- 28 Cosmopolitan competitor
- 29 Wildcat
- 31 Golfer's peg
- 32 William H. Bonney, --- "Billy the Kid"

Find puzzle answers within this magazine. Online versions and solutions are also available at www.nowmagazines.com.

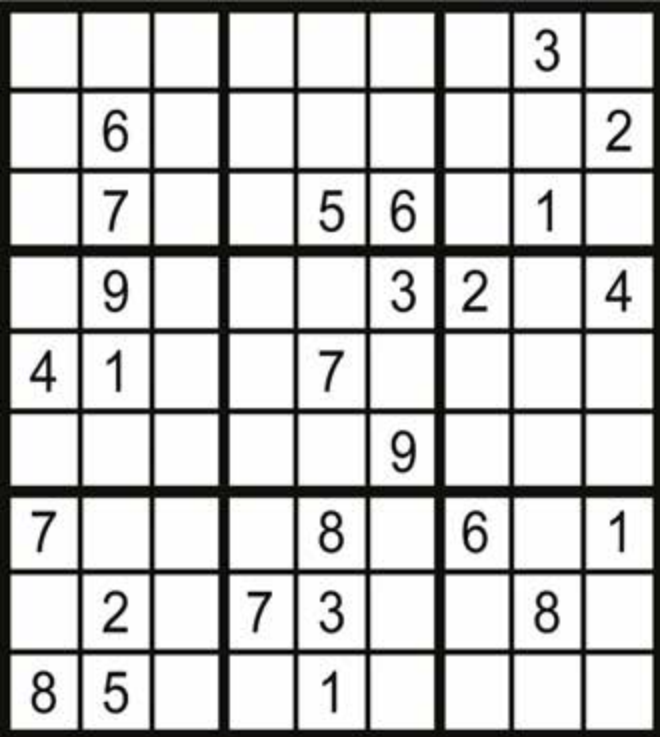
Sudoku Puzzle

Easy



Crosswordsite.com Ltd

Medium



Find puzzle answers within this magazine. Online versions and solutions are also available at www.nowmagazines.com.

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Crossword - Sudoku Solutions

1	O	P	A	L				5	H	O	P	
8	S	O	L	E			9	F	A	D	E	10
11	H	O	M	O	G	E	N	E	O	U	S	13
14	A	H	A			15	R	E	D		16	P
						17	M	I	S	S	18	I
19	M	A	D	A	M			22	D	R	E	S
23	A	R	A	P	A		24	H	O	E		
25	T	O	Y			26	C	O	W		27	B
30	E	M	O	T	I	O	N		A	L	L	Y
						31	A	N	E	N	D	
										34	K	I
						35	E	E	G		36	A
												P
												E
												X

Easy

3	1	4	2	6	8	7	9	5
2	5	9	7	1	3	6	4	8
7	8	6	9	5	4	3	2	1
1	3	2	8	9	7	5	6	4
8	4	5	1	3	6	9	7	2
9	6	7	4	2	5	1	8	3
6	9	1	5	8	2	4	3	7
5	7	8	3	4	9	2	1	6
4	2	3	6	7	1	8	5	9

Medium

9	8	5	4	2	1	7	3	6
1	6	4	3	9	7	8	5	2
3	7	2	8	5	6	4	1	9
5	9	8	1	6	3	2	7	4
4	1	6	2	7	8	5	9	3
2	3	7	5	4	9	1	6	8
7	4	3	9	8	5	6	2	1
6	2	1	7	3	4	9	8	5
8	5	9	6	1	2	3	4	7



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