CorsicanaNOW

DECEMBER 2023 Silent Sentries At Home With Kay Shimonek 2023 Holiday **Shopping Guide** Also inside: Scavenger Hunt In the Kitchen With Susan Wilson Crossword Featured Business: Southern Belle's Salon & Spa

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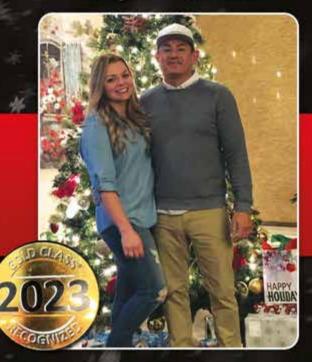






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ON THE COVER



Kay Shimonek's nutcrackers stand at the ready to march at Christmas.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Hear the old familiar sounds!

Christmas carolers, the laughter of children as they chase around Corsicana's centerpiece tree on Beaton, Salvation Army bells being chimed by volunteers, Christmas cantatas and hymns being sung by choirs everywhere and New Year's Eve fireworks — all are familiar, welcoming sounds. As we celebrate this season, let's remember our military personnel stationed far from home and our medical personnel and first responders who must work during the holidays.

My family celebrated three birthdays, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's together for two weeks in November. Two of the birthdays were belated, and the other one will fall on New Year's Eve. Thanksgiving was right on time, while Christmas and New Year's were early. Oh well, we got in all the eating of traditionally served foods and enjoyed the time together. The occasion was planned to accommodate my youngest daughter, Katie, and her family. They will spend the holidays this month visiting Turkey, Jordon and the United Arab Emirates. She has studied Arabic, the language several of the doctors with whom she works speak as a first language. Their patients in New Mexico are often Spanish speakers and indigenous peoples who don't speak English, so there are possible cultural and language barriers between patient and doctor. Katie, who speaks Spanish, is trying to bridge that gap by gaining fluency in Arabic. She's ready for immersion in an Arabic-speaking world, and she and her family will experience some of the many wonders of

I'll spend my holidays remembering my trip in 1968 throughout Europe and then to Greece, Lebanon, Cypress and Israel, which redefined the words "old" and "antiquities" for me. I hope to finally see peace reign in our beautiful and

May peace and good will fill your hearts!

P.S. The publisher and staff of NOW Magazines would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and the happiest of holiday seasons!



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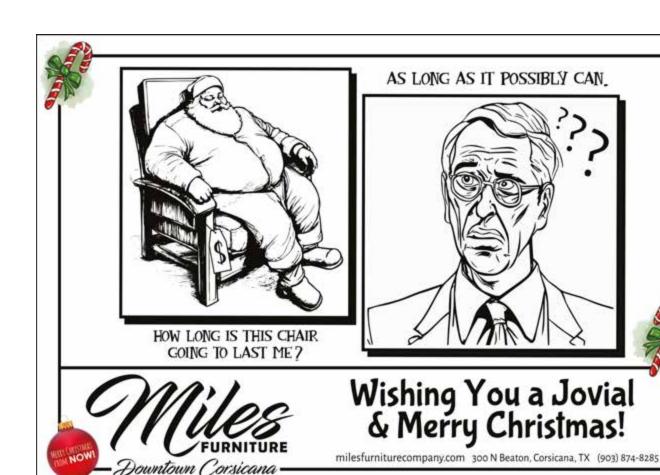
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states." She and Fred liked to cruise, but they favored using their travel trailer so "we could stop and stay awhile." She also shares her passion for nutcrackers by giving one as a present to a neighborhood child at Christmas.

A New York state native, Kay was born in the Catskill Mountains. She graduated from high school in Ossining, New York, and met Fred through a mutual friend while Fred was in the Navy. "Fred's nickname was Bud until he went into the Navy and dropped his nickname," Kay recalled. "We were married 61 years. My dog's name is Bud in remembrance."

She and Fred moved from New York to Nebraska and to Ohio following his military service. Later, Fred's job as a supervisor in a mobile home plant transferred the couple to Texas. Kay recalled, "It was sometimes -30 F at Christmas in Nebraska, but during our first Christmas in Texas, I didn't need to wear anything heavy. A sweater worked." The couple moved to Corsicana so Fred could start his own building business, and Kay furthered her education at Navarro College and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Dallas Baptist University. She was a staff member at Cedar Valley College, Navarro College and the Dallas Community College District.

Retired now, Kay is a substitute driver delivering Meals on Wheels, and she volunteers through her church, St. Luke's World Methodist. "I enjoy subbing at Meals on Wheels because of the different routes and meeting people," she explained.





Kay's dine-in kitchen's shiny white cabinets are the perfect backdrop to bright red poinsettias. The room is spacious enough to serve a crowd. Fred and Kay raised three sons who gave them three daughters-in-law, nine grandchildren and, to date, 14 great-grandchildren.

The Christmas tree, loaded with decorations, lights up one corner of her living area. Reindeer and a Christmas manger scene decorate the coffee table. Her yard is decorated with life-size reindeer, one of which sports a bright red nose, and a welcome sign guarded by nutcrackers.

An avid reader, Kay uses one of her bedrooms as a library/study. The walls are lined with bookshelves filled neatly with her favorite tomes, plants and memorabilia. A daybed stands ready to accommodate visiting family or friends.

One Christmas stands out in Kay's memory. "We were living in Nebraska, and we traveled to New York that Christmas. My brother was working at a ski resort, and I wanted to teach our sons to ski," she recalled. "It rained the whole time! As if that wasn't enough, the family had another surprise when they returned home to sub-freezing temps in Nebraska. "We found our P-traps had frozen," Kay added. That Christmas is Kay's favorite because even though things didn't go as planned, they still had fun as a family.

While Kay's nutcrackers can still be used to crack the once traditional German winter dessert of pecans or walnuts, her nutcrackers are retired from that duty and only serve to delight her and her family and friends. "Fred and I found this home and neighborhood six years ago, and I've been very satisfied with it," Kay concluded. "I enjoy getting my family together in my home any time, but it's really special at Christmas." NOW









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Salon & Spa

— By Virginia Riddle

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The wow factor begins at the front door of Southern Belle's Salon & Spa, as patrons step from the charm of brick-paved Beaton Street into the relaxed ambience salon owner, Samantha Zamarron Pina, has created. "At Southern Belle's, we enhance the inner beauty of Corsicana people in a modern environment that meshes perfectly with the smalltown atmosphere outside our doors," Samantha explained. "I value making sure my customers feel like they are at home and with family."

Two barbers, Aaron Barnard and Ari Campoz, along with hairstylists, Codi Dulworth, Michelle Hernandez, Priscilla Rodehorst, Esmerelda Torres and Samantha serve the hair needs of men and women. Leslie Garcia is the lash tech, and Esmerelda is also a nail technician. "We do cuts, color, styling, straight razor shaving and do manicures and pedicures with acrylic, dip, gel, polish and designs," Samantha added. "Also, we do makeup for major events, photoshoots and date nights and handle facials and waxing needs." Product lines offered include Amika, K 18, Brazilian Blowout, Moroccanoil, Wilson, Pro Bioelements and more.

Samantha founded Southern Belle's Salon & Spa in January 2023 after having worked for many years in the business. "I decided it was time to follow my dreams of starting my own business and bring it to Corsicana," she shared. "The name is inspired by my daughter, Isabella, whom we call Bella. She's who has driven and inspired me to grow in every aspect of my life." The salon was nominated for Best of the Best after only having been open for three months.

A member of the Corsicana & Navarro County Chamber of Commerce, the salon is a sponsor for many local student and community charity events through community and school organizations. "We look for ways to volunteer and support our Corsicana area neighbors," Samantha said.

After showing a talent for doing family and friends' makeup and hair while she was still in high school, Samantha attended Paul Mitchell Beauty School in Arlington, Texas, and then took advanced training with Paul Mitchell in Florida. A Dallas native, Samantha apprenticed with a Mansfield, Texas, salon, She's taken classes in hair extensions, brow and lash and permanent makeup and worked in Metroplex salons. She hosted a cutting class led by celebrity stylist, Linh Phan, in Corsicana. "This industry is ever evolving with styles changing, so education will continue to be a top priority for my team and me," she stated.

"I LOVE SEEING THE REACTION OF OUR CLIENTS WHEN WE TURN THE CHAIR AROUND TO SHOW THEM THE RESULTS."

Family members are also Samantha's neighbors, and she enjoys spending time with family, which includes her husband and daughter. "It's been absolutely amazing living here," she said. "I'm blessed to be in a great town that supports small businesses, and I love my clients and this small-town vibe."

On hold while she establishes her business, Samantha enjoys traveling and making memories with family. Favorite destinations have included Costa Rica, Haiti and Florida.

"I love seeing the reaction of our clients when we turn the chair around to show them the results," she concluded. "I want clients to be completely satisfied with our service when they leave our salon. As always, we have got you covered from head to toe at Southern Belle's Salon & Spa."





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Around Town



Tina Parker Emhoolah teaches relatives attending the Parker Family Reunion at Ft. Parker State Park how to make fry bread.

Zoomed In: Ken Higdon

By Virginia Riddle

In the past two months, a new face has been seen "around town." Ken Higdon, the new Corsicana & Navarro County Chamber of Commerce president/CEO, stated, "I'm excited, enthusiastic and very positive about this community's future. Let's build this economy together!"

An Andrews, Texas, native, Ken attended McMurry College (now University) and became an Abilene, Texas, businessman before spending more than 40 years with chambers throughout Texas. Additionally, he's a trainer for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Institute for Organizational Management.

In his "spare time," Ken spends time with his wife, Betty, who has family ties to Corsicana. He enjoys gardening — "mostly vegetables and herbs" — and, occasionally, dancing, "I like to eat, so I like to cook," he added. The couple has one daughter and three grandchildren living in the Metroplex.



Ms. Amy Harvell from Rice ISD accepts funds from the JET grant from Navarro College.



Navarro County Humane Society's Pet Trick or Treating & Costume Contest winners are all smiles.



Lynda Green, Peggy Herod, Neva Johnston and Lana Stites dine at sunset.

NOW



Rides for the kids are a fun treat at the Kerens Cotton Harvest Festival.



Leah Blackard, Barbara Kelley and Jamie Buchannan Roman dress the theme of this year's Corsicana Education Foundation's C&B Seen Gala.



Barbara Jones' rendering of Dee's Place takes first place at the 175th Annniversary of Corsciana Art Show.



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Susan Wilson's catering business started during COVID-19 when neighbors couldn't get out. Raised in the Texas Valley, Susan said, "I've always had the ability to cook, but I didn't embrace it. My husband, Bill Lynch, taught me to trust the recipe, and the Food Network did the rest." She likes to use Mexican spices. "I didn't realize my mother's style was Tex-Mex until I moved back to the Lone Star State," Susan added.

Recipes are often tested on the international residents at 100 W, and nothing ever goes to waste at Susan's home. Scraps go to her 40 hens. Susan's cooking passion is shared by Bill, some of their foodie friends and their sons, Mark and Matt. "When my sons want Cutco knife sets as gifts," Susan said, "I think I've made an impression." Now

Cherry Vanilla Bundt Cake

Yields 10-15 slices.

Baking spray
3 cups all-purpose flour
I tsp. kosher salt
I tsp. baking powder

1 tsp. baking soda
2 cups granulated sugar
1 1/2 cups plain whole milk yogurt
2/3 cup neutral oil (canola)
2 large eggs
1 egg white
1 Tbsp. pure vanilla

I cup cherry pie filling Confectioners' sugar, to taste

- **I.** Move the oven rack to the center position; preheat the oven to 350 F. Prepare a 10-cup Bundt pan with cooking spray.
- **2.** In a large bowl, whisk the flour, salt, baking powder and baking soda.
- **3.** In another bowl, whisk the sugar, yogurt, oil, eggs, egg white and vanilla.
- **4.** Stir the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients until the mixture is just smooth. Transfer about 2/3 of the batter to the prepared pan.
- **5.** Top the batter with the cherry pie filling. Be careful not to let the filling touch the pan's sides. Top with the remaining batter.
- **6.** Bake for 50 minutes to 1 hour, or until a toothpick inserted comes out clean. Let the cake cool in the pan for 15 minutes.
- **7.** Invert the cake onto a wire rack; remove the pan. Let the cake cool completely for about 1 hour. Dust with confectioners' sugar just before serving.

Hot Holiday Ham and Cheese Wreath

Yields 8 regular sandwich wedges or 12 appetizers. This is an easy recipe for using any leftover ham.

Parchment paper

- 2 8-oz. cans refrigerated crescent roll dough
- 1/4 cup jalapeño jelly
- 6 oz. deli ham or leftover ham, very thinly sliced
- 3 oz. Gruyère cheese (or whatever cheese is on hand), shredded
- 3 oz. pepper jack cheese (or whatever cheese is on hand), shredded
- 1 egg
- 2 jalapeños, thinly sliced
- **I.** Preheat the oven to 375 F; line a large pizza pan with parchment paper.
- **2.** Place a 4.5-inch diameter bowl upside down in the center of the pizza pan to use it as a guide for the center, blank area of a wreath.
- **3.** Arrange triangular sections of the crescent dough on the parchment paper in a circle around the bowl. The long point of each triangle should face outward to the edge. The wide base of each triangle should be in the center with the edges overlapping. Brush the jalapeño jelly on the dough; remove the bowl.
- **4.** In a bowl, mix the ham and cheese. Layer this mixture onto the dough at the widest parts, creating a ring around the center of the circle. Pull the points of the dough from the outer edge over the filling; then tuck them under the center rim of the dough circle. The filling will show through showing the cut marks for the wedges.
- **5.** In another small bowl, either separate the egg, using the white only for a shiny finish or the whole egg for a browner finish. Stir; brush the wreath dough with the egg wash. Top with the jalapeño slices all around the dough to replicate the ornaments of a Christmas wreath.
- **6.** Bake for 20-25 minutes, or until the wreath is golden brown. Rotate the pizza pan halfway through the baking time. Remove the wreath from the oven; allow it to cool completely.

Caprese Skewers With Plum Balsamic Drizzle

Yields 20 servings.

20 mozzarella balls
I cup extra-virgin olive oil
I tsp. red pepper flakes
Salt, to taste
Black pepper, freshly ground, to taste
I 15-oz. jar plum preserves
I cup balsamic vinegar







20 fresh rosemary sprigs 2 pints grape tomatoes 1 small squeeze bottle

- **I.** In a bowl, add the mozzarella balls, olive oil, red pepper flakes, salt and pepper. Cover with plastic wrap; marinate in the refrigerator for at least 1 hour.
- **2.** In a food processor or blender, puree the plum preserves with the balsamic vinegar until smooth. Pour the mixture into a medium pot; bring to a boil over mediumhigh heat. Turn the heat down to simmer; cook for several minutes until the mixture is reduced by half. It should be fairly thick and will continue to thicken while cooling.

When slightly warm, transfer the mixture to the squeeze bottle; refrigerate.

3. Trim about 1 inch or more from the bottom leaves of the rosemary sprigs. Skewer a tomato, followed by a mozzarella ball onto each sprig. Arrange the sprigs on a platter. Cover; refrigerate. Just before serving, drizzle the plum balsamic mixture over the appetizer.

Spicy Roasted Olives

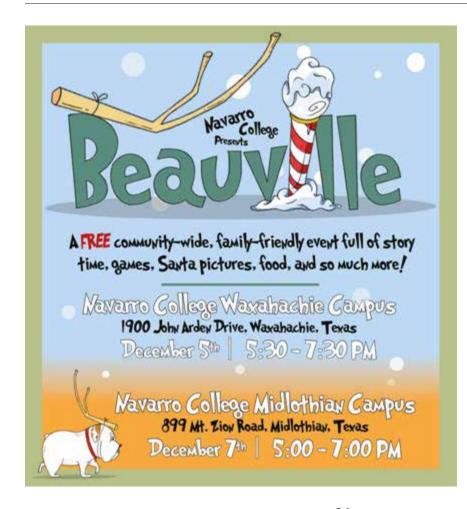
Yields 3 cups.

- 3 cups green and black olives, pitted
- 4 sprigs rosemary
- I red chili pepper, thinly sliced

4 whole garlic cloves, peeled 2 tangerines, halved 1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil 1 Tbsp. red wine vinegar Baguette slices

- **1.** Preheat the oven to 300 F; in a small roasting pan, mix the olives, rosemary, chili and garlic.
- **2.** Squeeze the tangerine juice over the olives; add the olive oil and red wine vinegar.
- **3.** Toss the mixture well; cover the pan with foil. Bake for 60 minutes; serve warm or at room temperature with the baguette slices.















Of all the activities available for families during the holidays, the traditional custom of building gingerbread houses has regained popularity in recent years. With the advent of gingerbread house kits, this funfor-all-ages activity is as easy as choosing your favorite frostings and candies to add to pre-built structures.

Traditionalists can still build the houses from scratch themselves, of course, starting with structural gingerbread dough or even graham crackers. Today, however, packaged kits that provide the basic pre-built house allow all ages to join in the fun on a level playing field.

While spending time together building a single house can be enough, some families take the tradition to new levels by making it a friendly holiday competition. Here are a few ways to implement your own family gingerbread house-building contest.

SUPPLIES

Boxed houses. If you're going the pre-built route, simply stop in your neighborhood grocery or chain store where you'll find a variety of boxed houses from small to large. These typically range in size and shape and include many tube icings, as well as a variety of decorative candy pieces.

Decorative items. Families may set a dollar amount in advance and let each participant shop for additional decorative items — these may be candies or craft items, such as pipe cleaners, stickers, popsicle sticks, small ornaments, etc.

Theme. To increase the opportunity for creativity, some families choose a unique theme in advance, around which participants design their houses. Themes may be Christmas related or more unique.

Some theme possibilities include: Texas Christmas, My Favorite Movie or House of the Future. Families can decide if everyone follows the same theme or if each individual comes up with his/her own theme and announces the theme upon the contest's end.

Timing device. Make sure you have an oven timer, cell phone alarm, clock or watch available.

SET UP

Building surface. Make sure your building surface is well-covered to allow for easy clean up. Towels, newspaper or poster board are inexpensive ways to cover tabletops.

Lay out supplies. Open one gingerbread house box for each participant or team. Family members can compete against each other individually or establish teams such as boys vs. girls, children vs. parents, etc. Place decorative icings and candies at each building station — either those that come in each gingerbread kit or the candy/craft items purchased in advance.

THE CONTEST

Criteria. Agree on the criteria by which each house will be judged. For example, best theme, most creative, most traditional, etc.

Pick judges. Agree on who will be the judges. Perhaps you want to invite neighbors over to vote, or you want to post images on social media for friends to rank their favorites. To be fair, you should not indicate which family member designed which house.

Prizes. Decide what prize the winner receives. Maybe it's bragging rights for the year, a homemade trophy to keep in one's room or the opportunity to open a Christmas gift earlier than anyone else. Perhaps the winner gets to choose which house he or she actually wants to eat. Prizes need not cost money. The more creative, the better!



Time. Choose the amount of time you want to allow for construction of the gingerbread houses, and make all participants aware of start/stop times. Set the timer, and start decorating! It will be fun to watch one another's houses come to life and see how creative individuals or teams can be.

Upon completion, let the agreed upon judging commence, followed by an awards ceremony. Eating the houses together can wrap up the contest, or the gingerbread houses can be displayed on a dining room table for the rest of the season not only making a one-of-a-kind decorative holiday display, but also as a reminder of the fun time enjoyed by the family.

BUDGET-FRIENDLY TIP

If your family might enjoy this type of contest but is not interested in eating the completed product, you may consider buying the gingerbread kits after the holiday and saving them for next year. Post-Christmas clearance sales means you can purchase the houses for 50, 75 and even 90 percent off retail prices.

Decorative candies can also be bought after the holidays on deep discount. Making gingerbread houses is a great Christmas activity to do on a budget. NOW

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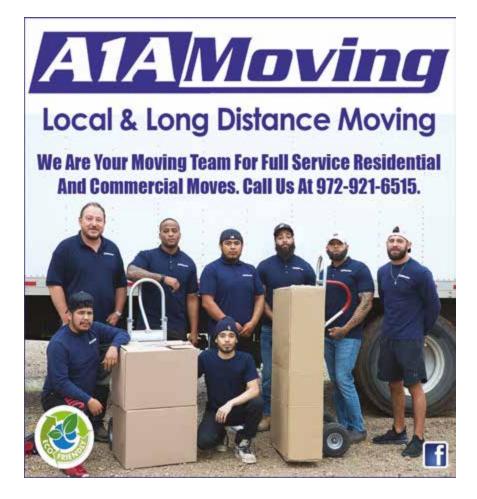
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- 3 Mandela's party
- 4 When that time arrives
- 5 Lean and muscular
- 6 Commotion
- 7 Noon burials arranged for bodies in the workplace
- 8 Patronize
- 9 Strong attraction
- 10 Head honcho

- 16 Ethiopia's capital, -Ababa.
- 19 Bottle top
- 20 Discontented shout from the bleachers
- 21 Suit passed out
- 22 Untrustworthy
- people
- 25 Celebrity
- 26 Grotesque 28 Oil pipeline inserts
- 29 Lifeblood of TV and the web
- 31 Baseball league below the Majors
- 33 Through

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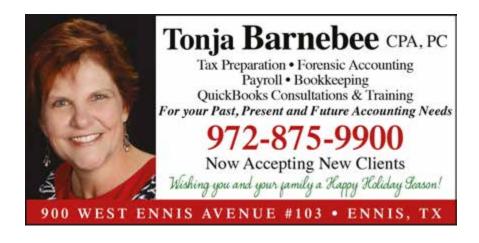




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12/1

Fun Town RV Heritage Bowl Pep Rally:

5:30-7:30 p.m., Downtown Corsicana. (903) 654-4851.

12/1-1/4

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.

12/2

Jingle Bell Jog:

9:00 a.m., Corsicana YMCA, 400 Oaklawn Ave. Runsignup.com/Race/TX.

Fun Town RV Heritage Bowl:

Noon, Tiger Stadium, 4001 FM 744. (903) 654-4851.

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.

12/4

Beauville:

Fun for all ages with crafts, face painting and Santa. 4:00-7:00 p.m., Cook Education Center, Navarro College, 3100 W. Collin St. 1-800-Navarro.

12/6

Kinsloe House Christmas Party:

3:00-5:00 p.m., Kinsloe House, 618 W. 3rd Ave. Membership information or reservations. (903) 654-0620.

12/7

Holiday Open House:

RSVP required. 5:30-7:30 p.m., Corsicana & Navarro County Chamber of Commerce, 120 N. 12th St. (903) 874-4731.

12/9

Artist & Writer Residency Open Studios:

Noon-4:00 p.m., 100West, Storefront and Anteroom. www.corsicanaresidency.org/events.

12/15

Newcomers Ornament Exchange and Luncheon:

Guest speaker Sandra Mahood will share a special Christmas reading. 11:00 a.m., Kinsloe House, 618 W. 3rd Ave. For information or to RSVP, call Annie Avery at (714) 345-6707.

Asleep at the Wheel:

7:00 p.m., The Palace Theatre, 112 W. 6th Ave. www.corsicanapalace.com.

12/21

Santa's Sip and Stroll:

Prizes and wine stroll while shopping. 6:00 p.m., Downtown Corsicana. (903) 654-485I.

12/22-1/6

Winter Reading Challenge:

All ages can read books for gift card drawings. Corsicana Public Library, 100 N. 12th St. (903) 654-4810.

Wednesdays

Storytime:

Christmas-themed shows, crafts and stories will delight all ages this month. 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 Meeting:

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 St. ddean45@hotmail.com.

Second Saturdays

Mimosas at the Market:

10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Downtown Corsicana. (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. (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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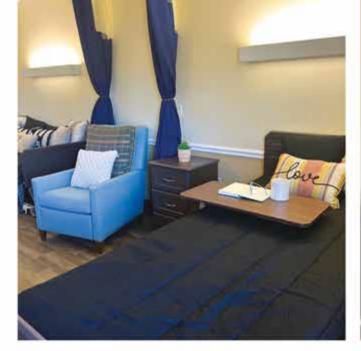
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