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HOPE

ON THE COVER



Billy Roy Mitcham always keeps it country.

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Subscriptions are available at the rate of \$35 per year or \$3.50 per issue. Subscriptions should be sent to: NOW Magazines, P.O. Box 1071, Waxahachie, TX 75168. For advertising rates or editorial correspondence, call (903) 875-0187 or visit www.nowmagazines.com.

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Virginia

Virginia Riddle
CorsicanaNOW Editor
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Hello, Happy Hearts!

Now that cold winds are blowing again, I'm back to crocheting two baby blankets for some very special twins — my grandnieces. They were born very prematurely a year ago. I'm happy they have grown more than my rows of crochet, since I took a break during the summer. But I now have my work cut out for me. I enjoy this labor of love, which keeps me warm as the rows multiply, and the girls grow healthier every day.

I treasure the moments I spent last month in New Mexico watching my granddaughter, Sophie, perform in her first ever choral performance. She tried out for a spot in the chorus last summer and scored a seat — a feat accomplished after much effort due to her medical challenges. The group was remarkable. She followed up that week with a monologue she wrote for her class at Albuquerque Little Theatre, and then had a speaking part in the group play. Love was all around as proud family members shared in their kids' accomplishments.

We rounded out my visit with family birthday celebrations for Sophie and her mom, my daughter. New Mexico was already receiving its first mountain snows during my visit, so we only had a few hours a day to comfortably play outside while being heated by bright sunlight. At night, the granddaughters and I enjoyed hot chocolate, while cuddling up in blankets with our combined collection of dogs and working jigsaw puzzles, and we watched some of the old movies from my childhood days. It was a true gift of love for this grandma.

This month, as we celebrate love on the 14th, let's also enjoy the 59th Super Bowl and support Black History Month.

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CHEROKEE ROSE

AND MORE

— By Virginia Riddle

Gospel or country music, Billy Roy Mitcham's voice has sung many of the hits for more than 50 years, and he continues to entertain folks today. Considered the Songwriter's Best Friend, a nickname he earned many years ago, Billy Roy has sung with the greats and not-so-greats over the years. "My audiences have always been good. I've always been able to sing, and I enjoy watching people, especially when they're enjoying dancing to my music," Billy Roy shared.

A Navarro County native, Billy Roy lived on the family's farm and attended school in nearby Hubbard. He remembers bringing his dates to the drive-in theater that used to be across the street from the Corsicana Walmart. "I lived on the farm until 1968 when I moved to Hubbard," he recalled. "I learned to sing by driving around with the guys while we listened to the radio and made the drag. We listened to bands at organizations' halls, and I was coaxed into my first public performance at the Elks Hall in Waco." It was in Waco's Geneva Hall that Billy Roy met Loretta Lynn. "She invited the crowd backstage to get autographs," he said. "Loretta kissed my cheek. I didn't wash my face for a week!"

After having sung with various Waco area bands, Billy Roy was asked by a friend to record a song the friend had written honoring Baylor University's invitation to play in the Cotton Bowl in 1975. "The Bears Are Back," recorded in a Fort Worth studio, was a hit locally, but it didn't enable the Bears to beat Penn State University that New Year's Day.

"I started singing occasionally with the band, Cherokee Rose, and in 1980, I became the lead singer," Billy Roy explained. During his time with Cherokee Rose, the band opened for Brenda Lee, Steve Wariner, the Bellamy Brothers, George Strait, Gary Morris and more. The band played street dances often, and one night while playing in Malone, Texas, Willie Nelson came up and sang several songs with the band. He invited Cherokee Rose to perform at his July 4th Farm Aid Concert in



Austin in 1986. "We played and sang about six songs," Billy Roy added. He and Cherokee Rose were part of the lineup that included Johnny Paycheck and The Beach Boys, with whom Billy Roy had breakfast.

In 1987, Billy Roy and several other Cherokee Rose band members formed a new band, Heart of the Night. Willie Nelson called and wanted them to perform at his July 4th picnic that year at Carl's Corner. The lineup of artists at the picnic included Joe Ely, Kris Kristofferson, Merle Haggard and The Fabulous Thunderbirds.

Billy Roy went to Nashville, Tennessee, in 1991 to perform on the television show, *Be a Star*. "I didn't win, but I sure had a lot of fun," he remembered.

In addition to the Waco area halls he's played, Billy Roy and his different

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bands have played at Melody Ranch in Waco, the Cowboy Western Club in Mexia, and the West Fraternal Auditorium. In Corsicana, he sang at the Big C Jamboree and has performed with the gospel group, Glory Bound. He currently enjoys singing a few country songs with an Elvis impersonator at birthday celebrations.

His worst nightmare while performing happens when his voice is hoarse and/or he must cough. Otherwise, Billy Roy recalls experiencing the usual problems of being on the road in different venues.



“And we had one night in Fairfield, Texas, when our drummer didn’t show up. Another guy offered to fill in, but he didn’t last long,” Billy Roy remarked.

However, singing has always been a part-time gig for Billy Roy, who has had full-time careers during his lifetime. After high school graduation, he became a plumber and then worked at Hunt Mercantile and a feed store in Hubbard. Then he started farming his own place south of Hubbard, which led to him accepting a position with the United States Department of Agriculture as a crop insurance adjuster.

“I traveled and stayed in different places while working claims,” Billy Roy said. He has a friend, Priscilla Lewis, whom he has been dating for 30-plus years, and many other friends. Retired now, he likes to play bingo.

His advice to up-and-coming artists aspiring to follow his musical path: “Have a steady job. Decide what kind of music you are best suited to perform, and have patience. In the music business, you can’t expect to get rich fast.”

Brooks & Dunn, George Strait, Willie Nelson, George Jones and Merle Haggard are Billy Roy’s favorite singers. He enjoys singing anything by Brooks & Dunn, but especially “Believe.” “My other favorite songs to perform are ‘Silver Wings,’ ‘Troubadour’ and ‘Bluest Eyes in Texas,’” Billy Roy shared.

As with many of the performers whose careers began in the 1960s, Billy Roy is still singing his tunes and entertaining folks. To paraphrase the lyrics of “Troubadour,” Billy Roy was a young troubadour when he “rode in on a song,” and he’s still a troubadour today. **NOW**

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Zoomed In: Katie Hudnall

By Virginia Riddle

An artist and woodworker, Katie Hudnall has enjoyed her time at 100 West in Corsicana. “I love this building,” she said. “It’s beautiful, with tall ceilings and windows. The sunlight pouring in is special.

“I also love to walk,” Katie added. She’s strolled through the brick streets of Corsicana whenever she’s had free moments or needed to refocus. She explores solutions to issues, such as getting someone to see or hear you when you are the “other”. A graduate of Corcoran College of Art, she earned an MFA degree from Virginia Commonwealth University. When not creating her own woodwork sculptures, Katie is teaching others as an associate professor and director of the woodworking and furniture program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Mike Terry, owner of Mike Terry Auto Group, hosts Mexia Chamber of Commerce’s Business After Hours.



CHS JROTC cadets post the colors.



Los Agaves Mexican Grill & Bar hosts its ribbon cutting in Rice.



NARFE Chapter 1191 treasurer, Rebecca Jones, greets speaker, Joann Pierson, representing Compassion Corsicana-House of Refuge.



Alicia Rogers' fellow staff members at The Village at Heritage Oaks honor her during Assisted Living Week.



Beau's Big Band sounds entertain young and old.



Patricia Thibodeau, a U.S. military veteran speaks about PTSD.



CHS debaters Zachary Biltz, Maite Garcia and Joclyn Drago medal in regional competition. Maite, a senior, will compete at state.

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BusinessNOW

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— By Virginia Riddle



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SmartSide for siding and LP ProStruct, a high quality, professional material for the flooring,” Abbey remarked.

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Abbey shared, “This position fell into my life in October 2024, and I love meeting people and helping them find what works for their needs.” A native of Charlotte, North Carolina, she met her husband, Frank Robertson, who was in the U.S. Air Force at that time. The couple moved to Texas, Frank’s home state, six years ago. “We love to travel, try new restaurants and volunteer through our church, Grace Community Church,” Abbey added.

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NOW Magazines' Best of ...

Italian Cuisine

Who doesn't love Italian food? It's all about family and flavor! Here is a small sampling of some of the many wonderful Italian recipes that we've printed in our magazines over the years. *Buon appetito!* **NOW**

Italian Cheese Bread

Provided by Marsha Dameron for the April 2022 issue of CorsicanaNOW Magazine.

1/2 cup butter
1/2 cup mayonnaise
2 cups mozzarella cheese, grated
6 green onions, chopped
1 cup ripe olives
1 tsp. garlic powder
1/2 tsp. cayenne pepper
French bread loaf, halved lengthwise

1. In a bowl, blend the butter and mayonnaise; add the remaining ingredients except the bread. Spread the mixture onto the bread halves; piling it up high.
2. Bake at 350 F for 15-20 minutes until bubbly.

Magagnotti Spaghetti Sauce

Provided by Alyssa Magagnotti Rose for the January 2018 issue of BurlesonNOW Magazine.

1 lb. ground chuck
1 medium onion, chopped
1 carrot, peeled and chopped
2-3 garlic cloves, finely chopped or pressed through a garlic press
2 Tbsp. tomato paste
1 cup dry red wine
1 28-oz. can Cento crushed tomatoes
2 Tbsp. sugar
1 Tbsp. Italian seasoning

2 Tbsp. balsamic vinegar

1 Tbsp. fresh parsley, chopped

1 Tbsp. fresh basil, chopped

1 fresh sprig of rosemary, whole

Salt, to taste

Pepper, to taste

1. In a large Dutch oven or pot, brown the meat with the onions and carrots. Drain residual grease from the meat mixture.
2. Add the garlic and tomato paste. Cook for another 2 minutes over medium heat.
3. Add the red wine; cook until the wine has reduced, about 3-4 minutes. Add the remaining ingredients; simmer on low for at least 20 minutes.
4. This recipe will make enough for one 9x13-inch pan of lasagna or a pound of cooked pasta.

Picnic Pasta Salad

Provided by Parker and Scarlett Burt for the September 2020 issue of MansfieldNOW Magazine.

6 servings of your favorite Rotini pasta, cooked, drained and cooled
1/2 cup Italian breadcrumbs
1/4 tsp. black pepper
Salt, to taste
1 tsp. garlic powder
1/4 cup olive oil
1/2 cup water
2 Tbsp. chopped black olives

1/4 cup diced canned tomatoes (Do not drain juice.)

1. Carefully combine all ingredients; chill and enjoy.

Italian Meatballs

Provided by Jennifer Miller for the July 2015 issue of MidlothianNOW Magazine.

1/2 lb. lean ground beef
1/2 lb. Italian ground turkey
2 tsp. basil
3 cloves garlic, minced
1/2 large onion, finely chopped
2 tsp. oregano
1/4 cup parsley
1/2 tsp. pepper
1/2 tsp. salt
1 cup Italian breadcrumbs
1 cup Parmesan cheese
Heavy shake of Johnny's Garlic Spread & Seasoning

1. Mix all ingredients together completely. Form meatballs to preferred size.
2. Bake at 400 F for 20-25 minutes, turning meatballs during cooking.
3. Add to sauce of your choice; continue to cook approximately 1 hour or freeze for later.

Panna Cotta

Provided by Chef Max Zubboli for the December 2019 issue of WeatherfordNOW Magazine.

4 cups heavy cream
1 cup sugar
1 oz. unflavored gelatin
1 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract

1. Boil heavy cream and sugar. When boiling, remove from heat; mix in gelatin and vanilla. Pour mixture into containers; let it cool down.
2. Put in the refrigerator for 3 hours; serve cold with fresh fruit, jam or chocolate.

Tortellini Soup

Provided by Jolie Crews for the December 2017 issue of North Ellis Co.NOW Magazine.

3 garlic cloves, minced
1 tsp. olive oil
1 large can diced tomatoes
1 can tomato sauce
4 cups chicken stock
1/2 tsp. dried oregano
4 large fresh basil leaves
1/2 tsp. dried basil
1/2 block cream cheese
1 bag frozen cheese tortellini
1 bundle fresh spinach leaves
Browned ground beef, to taste (optional)
Salt and pepper, to taste

1. Lightly brown garlic in olive oil.
2. Add tomatoes, tomato sauce, chicken stock and spices; add cream cheese.
3. While cheese melts, prepare tortellini per package directions. Drain and add to sauce mixture. Add spinach and beef, if desired. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Awesome Pepperoni Pizza

Provided by Tracey Skrivaneck for the May 2010 issue of EnnisNOW Magazine.

- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 pkg. dry yeast
- 1 Tbsp., plus 2 tsp. olive oil
- 1 cup lukewarm water
- 1/4 cup pizza sauce
- 12 oz. mozzarella cheese
- 1 3/4 oz. pepperoni slices
- 1/2 tsp. dried oregano
- 1/8 tsp. black pepper

1. Preheat oven to 400 F. Lightly grease a 12x9-inch baking sheet.
2. Sift the flour and salt into a large bowl. Stir in the yeast. Make a well in the center and add olive oil and water. Mix until a soft dough forms. Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured surface and knead gently for 5 minutes.
3. Roll out the dough and rest into prepared baking sheet. Cover for 10 minutes at room temperature; bake for 5-7 minutes.
4. Remove the crust from the oven and spread pizza sauce on top, leaving a 3/4-inch border. Sprinkle with mozzarella and place pepperoni slices. Sprinkle with oregano and pepper. Drizzle with olive oil and bake until golden, 15-20 minutes.

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To search for more great recipes from any of the 9 NOW Magazines publications, visit www.nowmagazines.com.

Be My DIY

— By Angel Morris

Handmade Valentine cards for a classroom giveaway not only save money, but they are a great way to tap into your child's creativity and occupy them for an afternoon. If getting started is a challenge, however, it can help to offer a few prompts for kids to copy or build upon.

Your first step, however, is to round up construction paper, markers, crayons and any other craft supplies that may come in handy. If your child wants to put their cards in an envelope, keep the size of the envelopes you have on hand in mind when cutting construction paper for cards. The less your child has to step away to find necessary supplies, the smoother the card crafting will go!

If kids have a hard time getting started on their own, it can help to create a few sample cards for them to follow. You might ask them to think of their favorite movie character, a game they





enjoy playing or even popular slang among their classmates. These are great jumping off points for messages to include on valentines. If all else fails, here are a few simple themes to consider:

Tic-Tac-To My Heart. After cutting paper to the size that will fit your envelopes when folded in half, have children write the words “You Won ...” atop the front of the card. In the remaining space of the card, draw a tic-tac-toe board (also known by kids today as a hashtag symbol). Cut out three red hearts and glue those in boxes diagonally down the board. Fill in some of the remaining squares with X marks. On the bottom of the card front, the words “My Heart” complete the message. Children can write “Happy Valentine’s Day!” inside, or just sign their name.

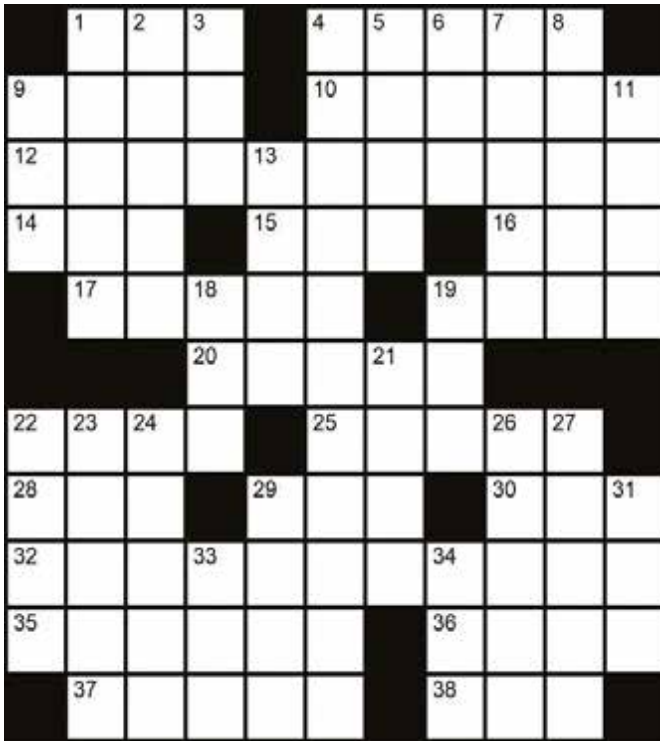
Puzzle Perfect. Have children draw two connected puzzle pieces. Draw one half of a heart within one puzzle piece, completing the rest of the heart on the other piece, so that one full heart is seen across the two pieces. Draw the pieces

large enough so that they will cover a good portion of the front of the card when cut in two. Color the heart, then thickly outline the puzzle pieces in black. Cut apart the two puzzle pieces, gluing one piece in the center of the card front, and the other on the inside of the card. Children can write a variety of messages related to puzzles on the card, such as (outside) “Our Friendship,” (inside) “Is a Perfect Fit!” Or (outside) “Like a Puzzle Piece,” (inside) “You Complete Our Class!”

Lucky in Love. Help children cut out four small hearts from green construction paper, then glue them atop the card front in the shape of a four-leaf clover, drawing a stem to the ground. Write something like, “I’m SO Lucky ...” atop the card. Inside, cut out a single red heart, also drawing a stem from it to the ground. The inside message can be any variation of why your child feels lucky: “You’re My Friend,” “You’re My Classmate” or, even, “You’re My Valentine.”

Remember, you can always go with a smiley face heart on the front and “Happy Valentine’s Day!” inside. Simple is heartfelt, too! **NOW**

Crossword Puzzle



CrosswordSite.com Ltd

Across

- 1 Upper limit
- 4 Tires
- 9 End of a radio alphabet
- 10 On the contrary
- 12 Now and then
- 14 Controversial driving video game
- 15 Go on to say
- 16 "Catfish: The TV Show" host — Schulman
- 17 Japan's "City of Water"
- 19 Breathe convulsively
- 20 Irritably impatient
- 22 Turkey

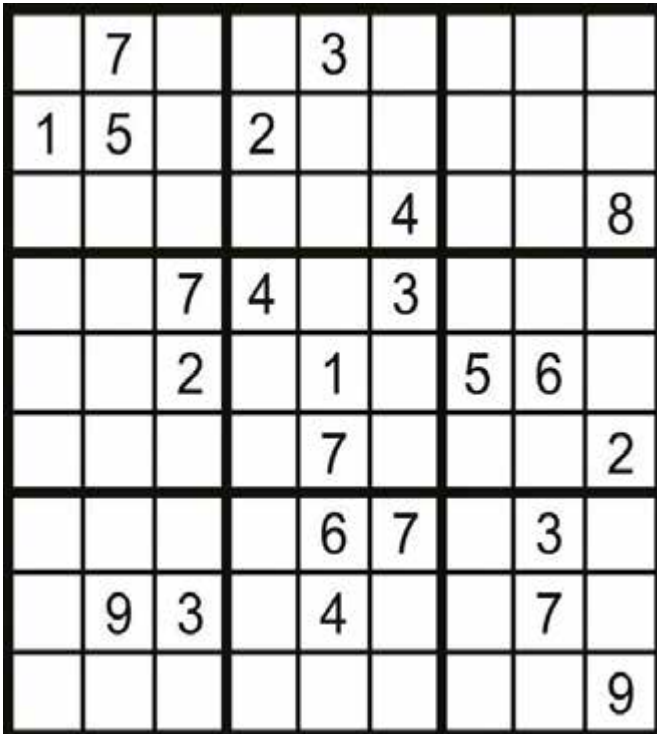
Down

- 1 Film script words between scenes
- 2 Assumed name
- 3 Groan-causing wordplay
- 4 "Steps in Time" autobiographer
- 5 Augment with something superfluous
- 6 Rugged four-wheeler
- 7 African republic preceded by the Ashanti Empire
- 8 Monica ---, stabbed during a tennis tournament
- 9 Take a sharp turn
- 11 Your answer is requested
- 13 Remove
- 18 Organization for Nadal and Djokovic
- 19 Where to work on a six-pack?
- 21 A whole lot
- 22 First word of "The Marines' Hymn"
- 23 Angler's equipment
- 24 Bo's master
- 26 Gut bugs
- 27 Poppy Pomfrey at Hogwarts, for example
- 29 Yankees' legend — Rizzuto
- 31 "Adios!"
- 33 High ball
- 34 Media organization which disseminates "ideas worth spreading"

Online versions and solutions available at www.nowmagazines.com. From our Homepage, click on the Features tab. Click on the Crossword-Sudoku tab. Click on a puzzle to view solutions.

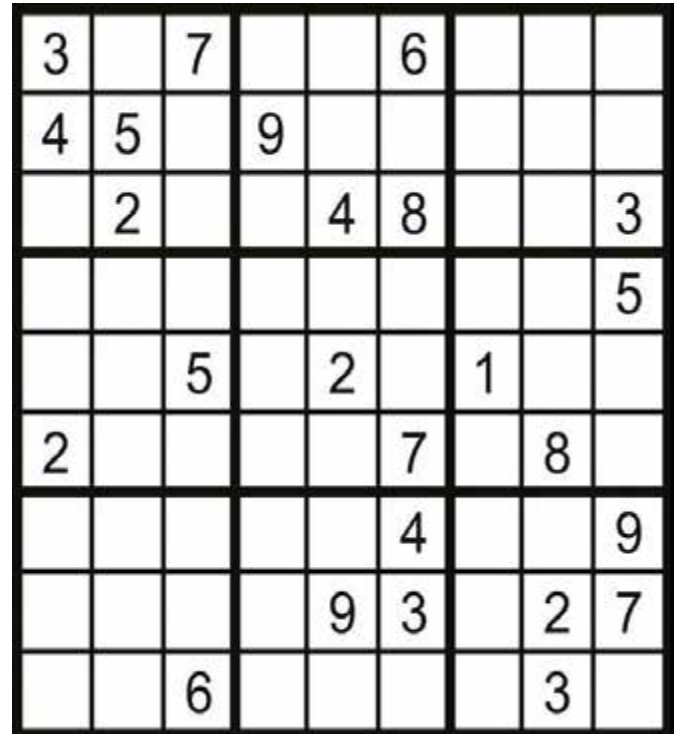
Sudoku Puzzle

Easy



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Medium



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HAPPY Valentine's Day

FEBRUARY

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.

2/4, 2/12,
2/14, 2/15

Navarro College Baseball Games:

Times vary, Navarro College-Corsicana baseball field. www.navarrocollege.edu/calendar.html.

2/5, 2/12,
2/15, 2/22

Navarro College Basketball Games:

Times vary, SEC, Corsicana Campus, www.navarrocollege.edu/calendar.html.

2/5, 2/12, 2/19

Kinsloe House Luncheons and Programs:

\$20. Noon, Kinsloe House, 618 W. Third Ave. Reservations required. (903) 874-5791.

2/15

Dancing for Our Stars:

5:30 p.m., Cook Education Center, 3100 W. Collin Street. Livestream starts at 8:00 p.m. Facebook: Dancing for Our Stars.

2/20

Texas Artists Invitational Show Opening Reception:

5:30 p.m., Pearce Museum, Cook Education Center, 3100

W. Collin St. www.navarrocollege.edu/calendar.html.

2/21

Corsicana & Navarro County Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet:

5:30 p.m., Cook Education Center, 3100 W. Collin St. Facebook: Corsicana & Navarro County Chamber of Commerce.

2/25-3/2

Pride and Prejudice:

Times vary. Warehouse Living Arts Center, 119 W. 6th Ave. (903) 872-5421.

2/27

The Barricade Boys:

London's West End: 7:30 p.m., The Palace Theatre, 112 W. 6th Ave. (903) 874-7792.

2/28

Casino Night Fundraiser for Angel Gallegos:

7:00-11:30 p.m., City of Rice Event Center, 305 N. Dallas St., Rice, TX. (903) 519-0274.

Mondays

Caregiver Support Group:

4:00-5:00 p.m., Corsicana Senior Center, 919 W. Park Ave. (828) 228-3579.

Tuesdays

Corsicana Lions Club Meeting:

Noon, Sirloin Stockade, 2508 W. 7th St. Facebook: Corsicana Lions Club.

Yoga at the Library:

Bring your own supplies. 6:00 p.m., Corsicana Public Library, 100 North 12th St. Facebook: Corsicana Public Library.

Third Wednesdays

Senior Fun Day:

11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., MLK Center, 1114 E. 6th Ave. (903) 874-7259.

Wednesdays

Corsicana Rotary Club:

Noon, Corsicana Country Club, 4100 Country Club Dr. www.corsicanarotary.com.

Second Thursdays

Savvy Seniors:

Lunch, games. 11:30 a.m., Corsicana Senior Center, 919 W. Park Ave. (903) 654-4980.

Fourth Thursdays

Corsicana Newcomers Club Meeting:

Reservations required. 11:00

a.m., Kinsloe House, 618 W. Third Ave. Annie Avery (714) 345-6707.

Second Fridays

Navarro County Retired Teachers Association Meeting:

9:45 a.m., Northwest Apartments Community Center. glynphillips1982@gmail.com.

Third Fridays

Better Garden Club:

The program is "Mardi Gras." 9:00 a.m., First Methodist Church Corsicana, 320 N. 15th St. Facebook: Better Garden Club.

Second Saturdays

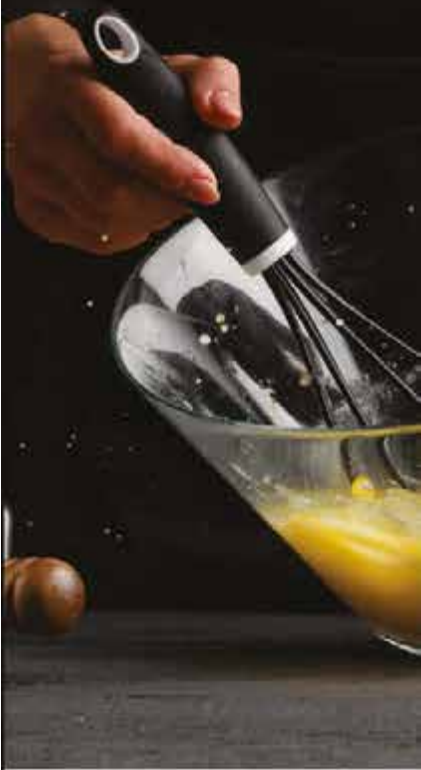
Mimosas at the Market:

10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Downtown Corsicana. (903) 654-4851.

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

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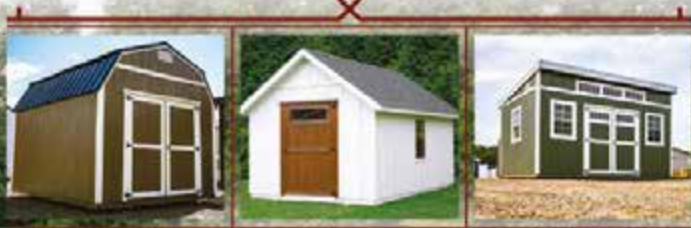


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