Corsicanalow

MARCH 202

M A G A Z I N E

Dance Above the Clouds

Homing pigeons fly high and fast for enthusiast, Troy Smith

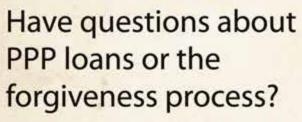
Also inside:
Secretary Hunt
Kids' Fun Page
Crossword/Sudoku

Featured Business: Morgan Corporation

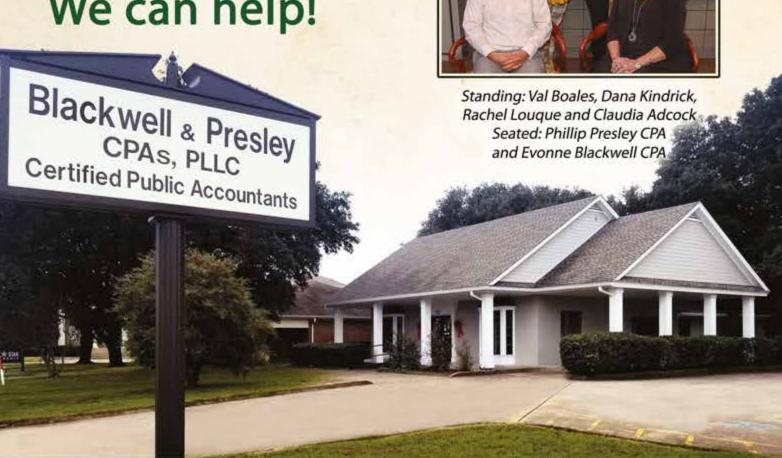
In the Kitchen With Chloe Cate Glicksman



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DANCE **ABOVE THE CLOUDS**

Speed, endurance and finding home again is part of this race.

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Morgan Corporation

16 AROUND **TOWNNOW**

20 COOKINGNOW



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ON THE COVER

Swift and smart, homing pigeons have a place in today's world.

Photo by Memories by Melissa.

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Virginia Riddle CorsicanaNOW Editor virginia.riddle@nowmagazines.com (903) 875-0187

EDITOR'S NOTE

Hello, March!

Springtime used to bring a renewal of my New Year's vows to eat healthier, so I could shop for my summer bathing suit with a little less guilt. Now I have another incentive to find healthier dietary alternatives — two of my family members recently developed diabetes. Along with my own garden veggies that I'm planting now, I can't wait to take advantage of our local farmers market and truck farm offerings.

Our cold winter, which has included some nice, snowy days, hasn't kept my traveling dog, Jazz, and I at home, since I acquired my Class B camper van. You may have seen us cruising "Around Town," while working and quarantining. Through the power of the Internet and some local RVers, I have connected with other RV travelers, groups and events, many of which are held in our beautiful state and national parks. I'm learning what some of you readers already knew — camping in an RV is a lot nicer than the tent or car camping I've previously done.

Many of you did massive spring-cleaning last year with the COVID shutdown, but I avoided doing so. Hmm ... no surprise! I will have a little help from my daughter, Katie, who is coming during spring break to pick up furnishings I saved for her from my mother's estate sale last year. Due to COVID restrictions, those items have sat in storage. It will be wonderful to see them repurposed into her home. There are so many memories and fun stories ingrained into those pieces to share with her and the grandchildren.

Stay safe, stay well!







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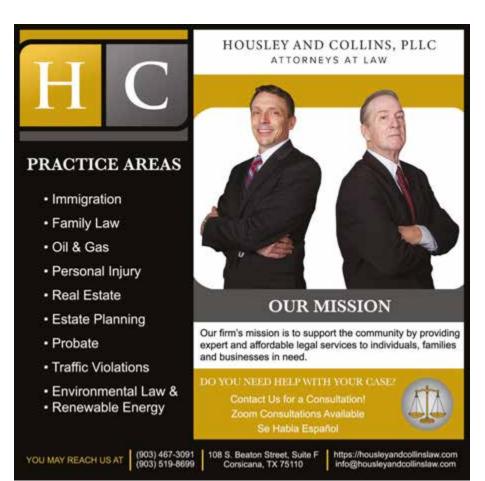
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DANCE ABOVE THE CLOU

— By Virginia Riddle

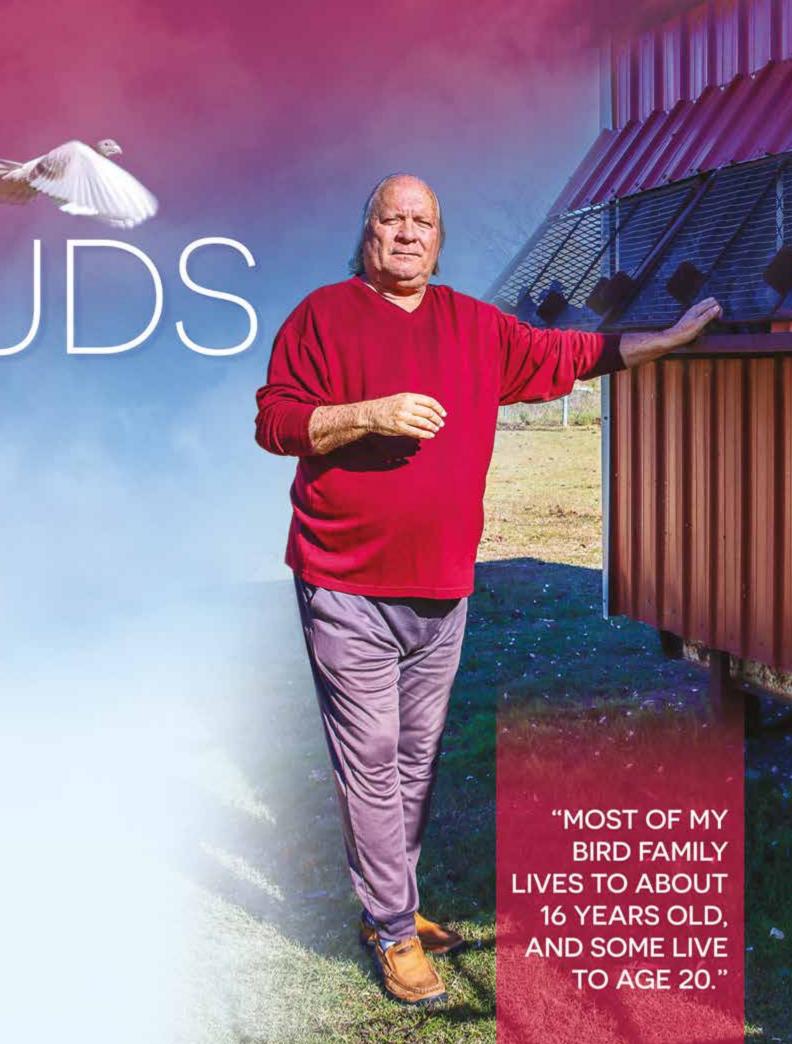
The flock cuts right, then left and out of sight again. Did they spot their home loft and their owner Troy Smith from high above? After a long journey, the pigeons seem to want one more flyover before landing safely home again. They reappear in beautiful formation and begin circling while descending. "I spend a lot of time with my pedigreed homing pigeons," Troy said. "Some are tame enough to sit on my shoes as I walk through their loft."

Troy's interest in homing pigeons began during his junior high days in Brownfield, Texas. "A friend gave me a quarter for every bird I caught, since he wanted the birds out of his garage," Troy recalled. "I made a few bucks and learned about fancy pigeons." When his mom took him to a show in Lubbock, Troy was hooked after an exhibitor told him about homing pigeons, took them out and let them go. "That was a thrill," Troy added.

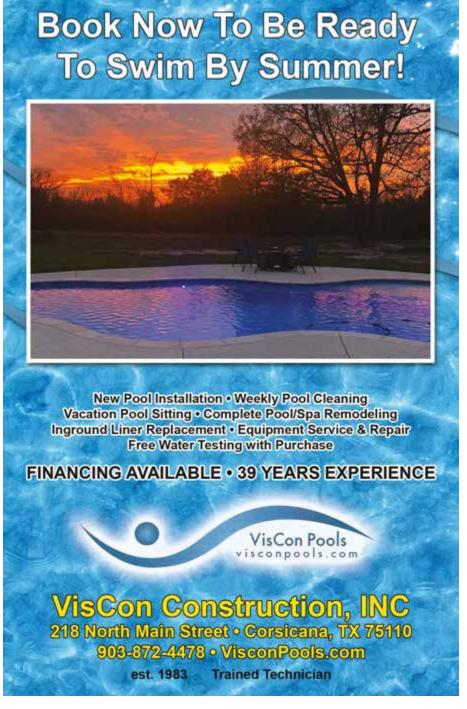
After high school graduation, he attended Texas Tech University, started his career in the oil fields and got married. "We were living in Denver City, Texas, and visiting family in the Seminole area," he said. "I saw a flock of pigeons and followed them to a guy's loft. He introduced me to the club and gave me birds to get started once I built a loft. Club members help new members by giving birds to them. That first loft had steps going down into the ground," he explained. "My neighbors all thought I was building a storm shelter." That was in 1981, and Troy has been racing birds since 1982.

"In a first training toss, a 20-miler, I sent out a little runt. She wasn't back when others were, so I waited for her. Then I had to tell my three children that she was gone," Troy remembered. "Hawks and dove hunters are hazards to the pigeons. She was a week late, but she did come home finally. She became a terrific golden breeder of winners."

A member of the Waco Racing Pigeon Club since 2019, Troy and his pigeons participate in about 14 races during the seven-week fall racing season. Members meet on the Friday of a race weekend and log in their birds, who wear racing bands. Young birds are driven to a site between 100-300 miles away from their home and released on Saturday morning. They are clocked by a laser pad. "Every race is different," Troy









stated. "The pigeons are challenged with different landscapes and wind directions. Each year, we race from a different direction. In 2020, it was northwest of Waco. This coming season, we will race from east of Corsicana. That makes it fair for everyone. I will train my birds to leave the safety of the whole flock when they see Richland Chambers Lake and come home, while the flock keeps flying to their homes west of here."

The pigeons begin racing at 4-9 months of age and compete until they are 5-6 years old. Each year, no matter their actual birthday, pigeons gain a year of age on January 1. They are banded with their hatch year's designated color. "It's exciting to watch," Troy remarked. "They fly in sync, come back and dive into their loft. I sit under the shade tree and watch them come in. The average pigeon flies at about 30-40 mph. Young birds can average 40-50 mph. It's a challenge to breed faster birds and train them, while building their stamina and confidence.

"These aren't wild birds." Trov explained. "They are thoroughbred and registered racing pigeons." He keeps their registrations handy and has studied the different breeds and racing champions' genealogy. Birds are bought, sold and traded online. Troy breeds his birds judiciously. "This is my hobby. I enjoy picking out the cocks and hens to mate, and then I like seeing the youngsters," he said. His loft contains 12 nesting boxes. At 28 days old, the young birds are weaned, and at about 1 month old, they will take a short first flight.

"Most of my bird family lives to about 16 years old, and some live to age 20." he said. "They're just like humans. The cock sits on the nest, too, but the hen will sit longer. The most important thing to them is their nest, their babies and

their families," Troy said. "Both the cock and hen will return to their mate and nest quickly and win, even though they don't know they are racing."

Racing homing pigeons is an ancient sport dating back to around 220 A.D., and the pigeon is the oldest domesticated bird. Before modern communication, the pigeon was used during military conflicts to carry messages. G.I. Joe, an American pigeon who served in WWII, saved over 1,000 lives when it delivered a message that the British had already captured a village that was due to be bombed.



"Racing pigeons is a popular sport in Europe, second only to soccer," he added. "World gatherings are held, and it's a big deal to win the International Pigeon Olympiad." Taiwan currently hosts more pigeon racing events than any other country. America and South Africa hold races with million-dollar purses.

After retiring, Troy and his wife, Dawn, moved to Corsicana, since Troy loves live oaks and lakes. He enjoys bass fishing, and the couple have enjoyed RV camping and travel. "I used to be a professional bowler and still bowl in a league," he said. "We're close to the DFW Metroplex and Waco, and we like Corsicana's downtown history and concerts." Dawn helps Troy with racing competitions.

"Racing and breeding homing pigeons allows me to make friends while trading and racing birds," Troy said. "I love raising and training the babies and still thrill watching the birds dive into the loft." NOW

Editor's Note: For more information or membership, call Troy at (575) 200-6824.











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Morgan Corporation

- By Virginia Riddle

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Hours: Corporate Office: Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Plant Shifts: 6:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; 5:00 p.m.-1:30 a.m.

Morgan Corporation is building the truck bodies that fit a variety of businesses' needs. Wes Jackson, regional HR business partner for Texas, Georgia and Florida, stated, "Our engineering department makes sure everything designed goes through the department of transportation, and then our crews handle the build-out by hand."



Morgan Corporation truck build-outs focus on dry freight, refrigerated freight and platform/dump trucks. "Our company is an industry leader in providing truck bodies that fit customers' vocation needs," Kevin Schlapia, director of operations for Texas and California, continued. There are no robotics or automation. Everything is handled by trained crews according to approved specifications.

"We can build anything needed using a GM or Ford van to a Class 7 chassis," Kevin explained. "During our busy season, we can build out 18 bodies a day," Kevin added. "The Corsicana plant's total 2019 production was 900 bodies."

Founded in 1952, Morgan Corporation opened its Corsicana plant in 1986. Other plant locations include California, Arizona, Georgia, Florida, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Wisconsin, Oregon and two locations in Canada. The Corsicana location is 32 acres and encompasses 60,000 square feet of assembly and office space. "Morgan Corporation is North America's

largest manufacturer of truck bodies," Kevin stated. "The Corsicana plant earned the best safety and productivity (speed of build-out) in-corporation awards in 2019.

The company employs 75-200 employees locally, depending on the year's cycle. Jobs include assemblers, welders, automotive painters, quality controllers, material handlers, fabrication. office workers and managers. "Staffing is a challenge due to no one knowing who Morgan Corp. is or where we are located," Wes said. "We'll do on-thejob-training and provide a merit pay increase and a 10- to 20-percent increase in hourly pay after 90 days. We offer competitive benefits, sign-on bonuses, quarterly and referral bonuses. Flexible hours for college-age workers and up and part-time work for anyone is provided. We're a second chance employer with a diverse staff."

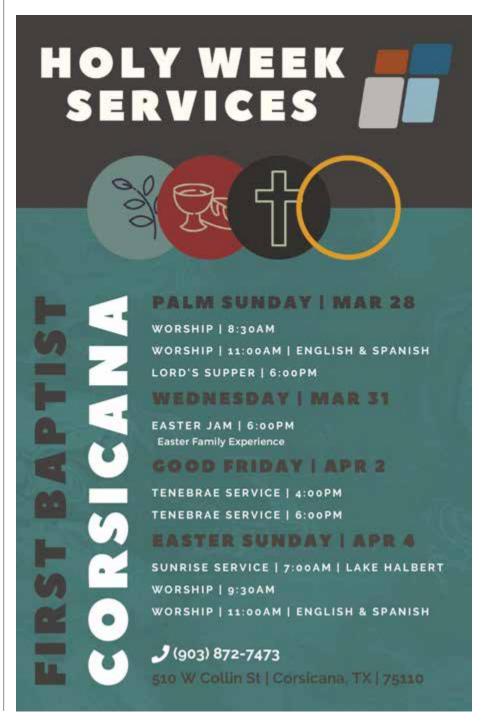
"Having construction experience is good, but having a good work ethic is awarded more," Kevin explained. Both Wes and Kevin started with Morgan Corporation in entry-level positions and have risen to management. Wes served in the U.S. Marine Corps for 22 years before starting his career as an HR generalist with Morgan. He stated. "Everyone pulls their weight."

Kevin started with the company as a painter 26 years ago. "I've always been a dedicated person, and Morgan offers room for growth and challenging jobs," he said. "This is a privately held company. Ideas get approved, if safe, so one person can make a difference."

The company donates to Angel Tree and works with Mildred ISD and CISD booster clubs and FFAs, Navarro College and Texas State Technical College (Waco and North Texas campuses). "We support high school FFA and construction classes with resources and material for their show competition projects," Wes said.

"While business slowed down last spring during COVID-19 restrictions, we'll be doing a significant office expansion here and are looking for new hires this year," Kevin said. "2021 is already shaping up to be one of the biggest years for us." NOW









Zoomed In: Lynda Sloan

A board member of Navarro County Meals on Wheels, Lynda Sloan, enjoys "working with the other end of the age spectrum," since retiring as Voice, Inc.'s CEO. "I'm the one who benefits," she revealed. "I have strong ties to the people I brought meals to before COVID-19. There are so many opportunities to serve." Lynda, a former area teacher, stays active in community work through VOICE's New Life program and as co-chair of Navarro County Early Childhood Coalition.

Lynda raised her four children in Corsicana, two of whom live here and two are in the DFW Metroplex. She enjoys spending time with her grandbaby, practicing yoga, exercising, reading and painting with watercolors. She stated, "I never thought my first year of retirement, thanks to COVID-19, was going to look like this, but I've been fortunate."



Carolyn McCombs gives Officer Travis Wallace a mini tour of Corsicana Opry.



Dragging the field marks the start of Navarro College's baseball season.



CHS JV anticipates low scores in tournament play at Corsicana Country Club.



Jimmy Bates, owner of Jimmy's Car Wash, cuts the ribbon as family and Chamber members celebrate.

By Virginia Riddle



Bistone Bountiful volunteers help load fresh produce into vehicles at their drivethrough delivery location.



Medical staff are busy with COVID-19 testing in Corsicana.

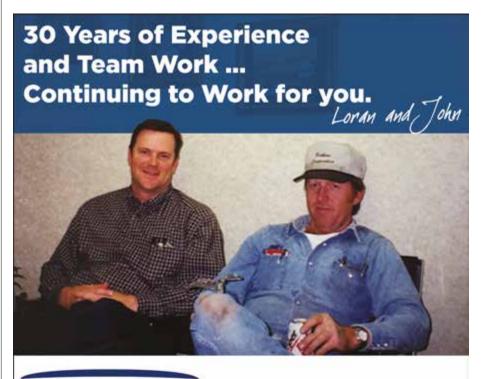


Pearce Museum staff, Jessica Kindon, Ann Zembala and Christine Lucas welcome visitors.



Rachel McNeel and Callye Spence at the Pink Peony host Mimosas at the Market.







903-872-4897 contact@watkinsdevelopment.com 1200 Oak Street, Corsicana, TX 75110 Loran Seely, Owner





SCAVENGER



Anna Dixon, winner of \$50 cash. said, "I look forward to reading the CorsicanaNOW each month and playing the scavenger hunt. I love keeping up with the community and seeing all our town has to offer. Thank you CorsicanaNOW!"



Billy Elder, winner of \$50 cash. said. "I'd like to take the time to thank you for choosing me as your CorsicanaNOW winner. I enjoy the recipes, the articles and advertisements, and most of all playing scavenger hunt."



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Cooking is one of Chloe Cate "Coco" Glicksman's favorite hobbies, which include tumbling and cheer. "I'm on the CTA Storm Level 2 Competition Team," Coco said. "I love my cheer coaches and teammates. We're a family." Coco comes from a family that enjoys cooking together. Her parents, Kyle

Coco comes from a family that enjoys cooking together. Her parents, Kyle and Rockie Glicksman, cook, and her grandmother started teaching Coco to cook at age 3. She explained, "My grandmother and I love to bake together. My favorite things to bake are brownies or cakes." Coco tweaks recipes she finds online into her own creations.

Family food traditions abound, especially during holidays. "We always make deviled eggs on Easter," Coco shared. "We also make kolaches on Christmas morning before opening gifts. "It's fun to spend time with my family and create meals we share." NOW

Holiday Kolaches

- 2 8-oz. cans Pillsbury Original Crescent Rolls
- 48 cocktail-size smoked link sausages or 2 14-oz. pkgs. hot dogs, sliced into bite-size pieces
- **I.** Preheat the oven to 375 F. Unroll the cans of dough; separate the dough into 16 triangles. Cut each triangle lengthwise into 3 narrow triangles.
- **2.** Place I sausage on the shortest side of each triangle and working toward the opposite side, roll up each triangle.

- **3.** Place kolaches point side down on 2 ungreased cookie sheets.
- **4.** Bake for 12-15 minutes, or until golden brown. Rotate the cookie sheets halfway through the baking time.
- **5.** Serve the kolaches while still warm.

The Best Brownies

Brownies:

I cup butter, melted

1/2 cup cocoa powder

4 eggs

1 1/2 Tbsp. vanilla

2 cups granulated sugar

2 cups all-purpose flour

Frosting:

1/4 cup butter, room temperature

1/4 cup cocoa powder

1/4 cup milk

2 1/2 cups powdered sugar

- **1.** For brownies: In a bowl, using a mixer set on medium speed, combine the butter and cocoa powder until all lumps are gone.
- 2. Add the eggs and vanilla; beat about I minute, until the mixture is thickened and smooth.
- **3.** Add the sugar; mix well. Add the flour; mix the batter well.
- **4.** Prepare a baking pan with parchment paper or cooking spray; spread the brownie batter in the pan. Bake at 350 F for 20-25 minutes, or until the center is set.
- **5.** For frosting: Mix the butter and cocoa powder. Add the milk and powdered sugar; beat well for about 2 minutes or until the mixture is smooth.
- **6.** Cool the brownies for about 15 minutes: spread the frosting. Note: the brownies will still be warm, so the frosting will melt into the brownies.
- **7.** Let the frosted brownies cool completely before cutting into squares.

Homemade Hamburger Helper

- 1 lb. lean ground beef
- 1/2 medium onion, diced
- I red bell pepper, diced
- I pinch red pepper flakes, or to taste
- 1 tsp. minced garlic
- I tsp. salt
- I tsp. Italian seasoning
- 1/4 cup frozen spinach, thawed and dried or 1 cup fresh spinach, finely chopped
- 1 1/2 cups beef broth
- 1 3/4 cups milk
- 2 3/4 cups dry, uncooked macaroni
- 1 1/2 cups tomato or pasta sauce
- 1 1/2 cups cheese, shredded (divided use)
- **1.** In a large pot, combine the beef, onion, red bell pepper, pepper flakes, garlic, salt, Italian seasoning and spinach; cook on medium until the beef is browned.
- 2. Add the broth, milk, macaroni and tomato sauce: bring the mixture to a boil. Reduce the heat to medium for 12-15 minutes; stir often.
- **3.** Add 1 cup of cheese; stir. Top with the remaining cheese; let sit for 5 minutes before serving.

Quick and Easy Chicken Noodle Soup

Serves 4.

1 Tbsp. olive oil or butter

- I small onion, chopped
- 2 ribs celery, chopped
- 1-2 large carrots, peeled and sliced
- 4 garlic cloves, minced



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8 cups chicken stock 2 bay leaves 2-3 cups chicken, cooked and shredded 6 oz. egg noodles 1 Tbsp. flat leaf parsley, minced 1 tsp. salt 1/4 tsp. pepper, or to taste

- 1. To a large pot over medium-high heat, add the olive oil or butter. Add the onion, celery and carrots; cook for about 5 minutes, or until the onion is translucent.
- 2. Add the garlic; sauté for 1 minute. Add the chicken stock and bay leaves; bring to a boil.
- **3.** Add the chicken and egg noodles; reduce heat to medium. Add the parsley, salt and pepper.
- **4.** Keep soup at a low boil/heavy simmer for 20 minutes until the noodles are thoroughly cooked and the veggies are tender.

Deviled Eggs

6 eggs 1/4 cup mayonnaise 1 tsp. white vinegar I tsp. yellow mustard 1/8 tsp. salt Freshly ground black pepper, to taste Smoked Spanish paprika, to taste



1. In a saucepan, place the eggs in a single layer; cover with enough water to leave 1 1/2-inches of water above the eggs.

- **2.** Bring the water to boil on high heat; cover. Turn the heat to low for 1 minute. Remove the saucepan from the heat: leave covered for 14 minutes.
- 3. Rinse the eggs under cold water for 1 minute. Crack and peel the eggshells under cool running water. Gently dry the eggs with paper towels.
- **4.** Halve the eggs lengthwise; remove the yolks. In a medium bowl, mash the yolks with a fork into a fine crumble. Add the mayonnaise, vinegar, mustard, salt and pepper; mix well.

5. Place the egg whites on a serving platter. Fill each egg white with a heaping teaspoonful of the yolk mixture; garnish with paprika.

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Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
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Solutions on page 28

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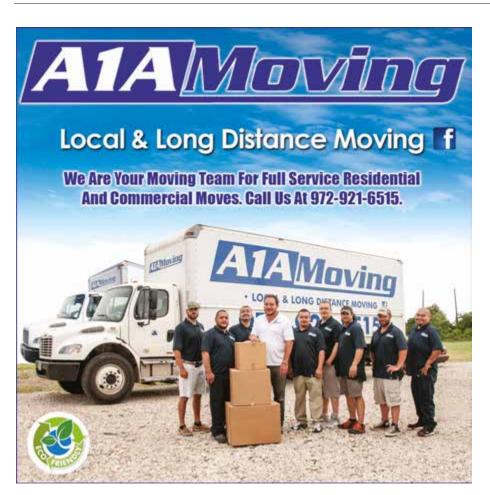
Across

- 1 Arm and a leg
- 6 --- Capped Romance (36 Crazyfists)
- 11 Egg producer
- 12 Uncle Tom's creator
- 13 Childe Harold author
- 14 Doesn't possess
- 15 Blacken
- 17 Tex neighbor
- 21 "The --- File" (Frederick Forsyth)
- 25 Sailor's jacket, maybe
- 27 With sharp side first
- 28 Bloodsucker
- 29 Heavy blow
- 31 Contempt
- 34 Has become rancid
- 39 Like Muzak
- 40 Donald Duck's nephew
- 41 Rowdy —, an early Clint Eastwood role
- 42 Descriptive record

Down

- 1 High shot
- 2 Excellent tree climber
- 3 Besmirch
- 4 Fraternity man, briefly
- 5 Harmony
- 6 Slightly
- 7 Eye impolitely
- 8 Discouraging words
- 9 "My --- Private Idaho" (1991 film)
- 10 Freshly painted
- 16 They're locked in battle
- 17 Have creditors
- 18 Little goat
- 19 Very cold fuel
- 20 Aim of every undergraduate
- 22 Snow runner
- 23 Fraction of a min.
- 24 Ancient boat
- 26 Bounces
- 30 Top gear for a house 31 Spot
- 32 Preceded by the OSS
- 33 Plump
- 35 One kind of offspring
- 36 Unfashionable
- 37 Cone producer
- 38 Visionary

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Sudoku Puzzle

Easy Medium

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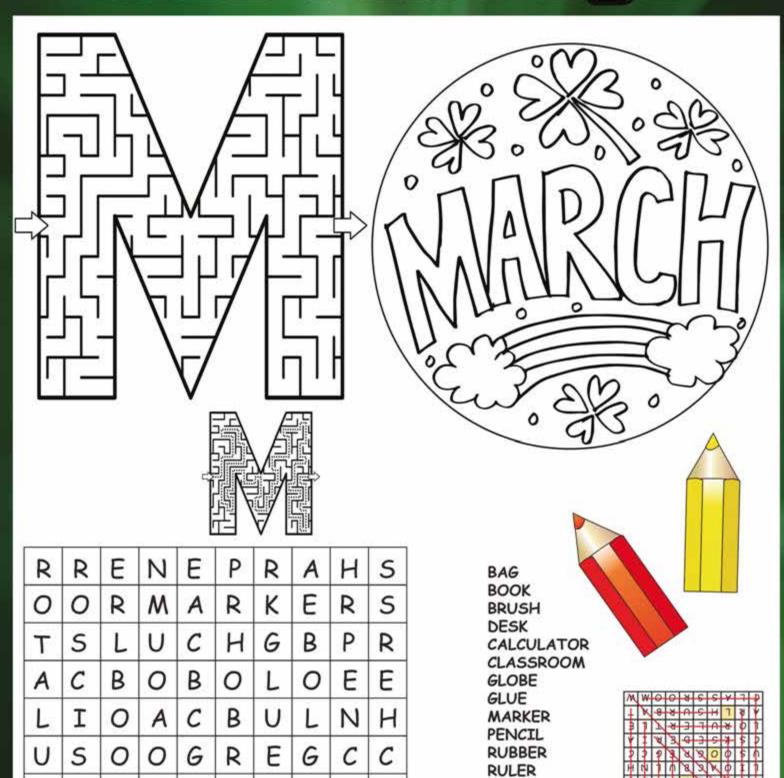
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Solutions on page 28





Kids' Fun Page



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WATERCOLOR 100HDS NOILINIOS

MYSTERIOUS WORD:

SCISSOR

TEACHER

SHARPENER



3/1-3/27

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3/1-3/31

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3/11-3/13

Corsicana Charity Horse Show:

Times TBA. Navarro Expo Center. www.navarroexpocenter.com.

3/12

First Responders **Appreciation Breakfast:**

6:30-8:30 a.m., Martin Luther King Community Center. For more information, call (903) 874-4731.

3/15-3/16

WLAC Reader's Theatre's Breakfast:

Auditions are March 15-16 at 6:30 p.m. Performances will be held March 27 at 7:30 p.m. and March 28 at 2:30. A Q&A will follow each performance with Pam Dudley, the playwright. Warehouse Living Arts Center. www.thewlac.com.

3/25-4/3

Navarro County Youth Expo:

Times and events vary daily. For more information, visit www.navarroexpocenter.com. 3/27

Texas History Lecture Series:

Navarro County's Loughridge Family. 2:00-4:00 p.m., Pearce Museum Theatre, Navarro College. (903) 875-7642.

Navarro College Homecoming:

Events will continue throughout the day. Corsicana Campus. www.navarrocollege.edu.

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Crossword Sudoku Solutions

L	2	3 M	⁴ B	5 S		6 A	s	8 N	90	10 W
10	٧	Α	R	Υ		12 S	Т	0	W	Ε
13 B	Υ	R	0	N		Ŧ,Ŧ	Α	S	N	T
				15 C	16 H	Α	R			
170	18 K	19 L	²⁰ A		210	D	Е	²² S	²³ S	24 A
25 W	1	N	D	26 B	R	Ε	Α	K	Ε	R
27 E	D	G	E	0	N		28 T	1	С	K
			²⁹ G	U	s	30 T				
31 S	32°C	330	R	N		34	35 S	36 O	37 F	38 F
38 _P	1	Р	Е	D		⁴⁰ L	0	U	1	Е
"Y	Α	Т	Е	s		42 E	N	Т	R	Y

Easy

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

Medium

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

"And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace." - James 3:18



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