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We're celebrating two decades of telling wonderful neighbors' stories.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Let the celebration begin!

Many changes have occurred over the past 20 years, since NOW Magazines was founded in Corsicana by its publisher, Connie Poirier. The town has grown, slowly but steadily, and downtown has almost been completely revitalized into a wonderful place to shop and/or live. Other areas and the loop have seen development. *CorsicanaNOW's* March issue is a celebration of having grown, thanks to you the reader, our fabulous advertisers and overall community support, within a tough industry these days — print media. *CorsicanaNOW* was just the beginning, with eight more magazines that started over the course of those 20 years, *WaxahachieNOW*, *EnnisNOW*, *MidlothianNOW*, *MansfieldNOW*, *North Ellis Co.NOW*, *SouthwestNOW*, *BurlesonNOW* and *WeatherfordNOW*. The magazine has changed its formats. Great NOW staff members have come and gone. COVID-19 and Snowmageddon hit everyone hard, but through it all, the magazines have been read and enjoyed monthly by thousands of you, and since 2007, NOW has had an online presence.

As a freelance writer in those earlier days, I gained experience for three years while still in the education world with CISD and Navarro College. When the opening for an editor in Corsicana came, I was ready to retire from CISD and take on that new learning curve. Since that time, I've become a twice over member of the University of North Texas Mayborn School of Journalism's Tribe of Writers, working with internationally known prizewinning writers, editors and agents, while facilitating workshops for the school's annual conference. *CorsicanaNOW*, too, has been honored by several organizations for its coverage of the wonderful people and places in Navarro County and the Bi-Stone counties. It's a blessing to meet so many of you, grow with NOW Magazines and be a part of a vibrant community.

Thanks for 20 great years — and counting!



Virginia

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Wow! 20 years!

It seems like only yesterday that *CorsicanaNOW Magazine* was just an idea. Would it work? At that time, only the big cities had full-color magazines. In late 2003, I was considering whether a community magazine that was direct mailed into every home and business in the Corsicana ZIP codes would be sustainable. Now, here we are 20 years later!

The concept of providing good stories about good people and delivering free of charge to the readers in the community has proved to be a good one. This, along with providing our advertisers the ability to reach all of these readers in a direct mail format for an affordable price has all culminated into the success of what is NOW Magazines, LLC.

Thank you to all! We appreciate our readers and the input you provide, and we couldn't exist without our wonderful and loyal advertisers who make this all possible.

And a big shout out to the NOW Magazines staff, including Advertising Strategist Linda Moffett and Community Editor Virginia Riddle. They, along with General Manager Rick Hensley, Managing Editor Becky Walker, Creative Director Chris McCalla and the rest of the NOW family work so hard each month to bring you *CorsicanaNOW Magazine*.

Here's to the past 20 years! We all look forward to serving Corsicana for many years to come!

Connie Poirier





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Since 2004, *CorsicanaNOW* has been featuring the faces of local folks at work, play, volunteering, worshiping, cooking, at home and around town. Through the years, those featured in articles have shared their love of life in Navarro County and much of its history. Reaching back into the magazine's archived issues here are some quotes remembering the past and savoring life in Corsicana from neighbors doing great things in our community and beyond. Some folks have passed on or moved away, while others still wave hi across the aisles at the grocery store every week:

"Giving a child a piece of paper and a pencil doesn't mean they're going to learn. We try to reach them where they are. We have to create environments for them." — Cheryl Pratt, kindergarten teacher, Fannin Elementary School, March 2004.

When CorsicanaNOW began in 2004, there was no loop around the town. All trucking came right through the heart of the city. Family Service was celebrating its 100th anniversary. Derrick Days was under revival thanks to the commitment of the Derrick Days Committee, the Palace Theatre had recently been restored and Home Depot was just about to open a location in town. Much has changed since then, and some significant milestones have been marked during that time. The Corsicana & Navarro County Chamber of Commerce celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2018, and the city of Corsicana celebrated its 175th anniversary with a full year of special events in 2022.



Building on Memori

— By Virginia Riddle

"I can't tell you how many times I have eaten, slept and dreamed a project. Then in the middle of the night, I fly out of bed to begin creating it." — Tom Adams, jewelry and floral designer, February 2008.

"Those are my multiplication scoops. We do speed tests, and we add a scoop to the cone for each goal met. When a student gets all the scoops and a cherry on top, we go out for an ice cream treat." — CISD teacher Anele Richardson, June 2009.



"We all celebrate when the staff at the shelter finds a home for a healthy, good-tempered dog that has been neglected." — Julie Maupin, president of Humane Society of Navarro County, December 2010.



"I don't know any other town this size with as many horses as we have, and as many officers who ride. ... We've used them to search larger open field areas in criminal cases, and used them to search for Alzheimer's patients that had wandered off." — Capt. Ken Kirkwood, Corsicana Police Department, June 2005.

"When you commit to doing things right, the kids see that and it will affect their behavior. They will have more of a sense of pride in what they are doing." — Dave Henigan, Corsicana High Head Football Coach, September 2006.

"We are here to help you. We decided to send comfort food that meant Corsicana." — Pat Spillar, Corsicana Public Library Director, August 2007. Corsicana librarians and local businesses reached out to help libraries in Hancock County, Mississippi, following Hurricane Katrina by sending care packages filled with the above message, chili, fruitcakes, candy and pecans.



"Our common bond is that we enjoy getting together, and we look out for one another." — Ellen Block, president of Corsicana Newcomers Club, September 2011.

"So many people in the community have so many talents. I like to turn them around to being gainfully employed." — Billy Elias, singer and minister, August 2012.



"I love watching these kids grow and develop. Some of them go on to play in college and the pros. They come back to visit." — Bernie "Doc" Camarillo, CISD head trainer, August 2013.



"We have to help our existing businesses and industries. If there's a problem locally, we need to fix it." — Bill King, economic development director, July 2014.



"A lot of people view Corsicana as 'that city' between Tyler and Waco or Houston and Dallas. It is truly a hidden gem. My ultimate goal is to encourage people to stop, shop, tour and stay awhile." Sara Beth Wilson, Main Street director, April 2015.

"We all wanted to know that we were making a difference in this community. I had watched Robert E. Lee Elementary School being built, raised my kids and then watched them go to school there." — Mary Love Sanders, February 2016.



"It's good, clean fun for the whole family, and where else can a cowboy work on weekends while wearing make-up and tights?" — Ronald Burton, Derrick Days rodeo clown, April 2017.

John Boswell has been Corsicana and Navarro County's economic development director for the past five years. As such, he is part of the team leading the area into its future. Factors helping Corsicana grow are its proximity to the DFW Metroplex and the Houston metro area, combined with an available and trained workforce. "Dr. Fegan and Navarro College are key partners in training the workforce needed in today's economy," John said. "Corsicana has a lot to offer with our location, quality of life and the people."

Challenges and competition from other areas exist. "Economic development is highly competitive. Cities and states across the nation compete for a handful of new projects every year," John stated. But the next 10-20 years should bring continued growth. "Corsicana is getting attention from all types of developers — residential, commercial and industrial. We want to continue to attract and retain industrial employers, which will, in turn, attract new commercial and residential development. The goal is to create good job opportunities for people who want to live and stay here.

"We have two shovel-ready industrial parks. The Highway

31 and I-45 industrial parks," John stated. "In 2020, just before COVID, we announced the Audubon Metals project as the first tenant in the Highway 31 Park. They built a new 150,000-square-foot facility to recycle and transform automotive shredder residue into secondary aluminum alloys for die castings. An Economic Development Administration Grant allowed the city to construct a rail spur to the industrial park. Now GAF is building a new commercial-scale asphalt shingle recycling operation to reclaim post-consumer shingles and a new Frito Lay Exchange Center is under construction. Corsicana Mattress recently moved into a new 375,000-square-foot manufacturing building in the I-45 Industrial Park. Several renewable energy projects and the Riot Platforms Bitcoin mine in the county are bringing in significant new tax revenue."

A native of Waco, Texas, John graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University with a business degree. After a short time with the U.S. Small Business Administration, he joined the East Texas Council of Governments as the economic development specialist. With over 30 years of experience in the field, John is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma

"There was a big ice house downtown. There weren't any refrigerators, only iceboxes. In the evenings, my whole family gathered around the radio. ... On Saturdays, we went to movie specials at the Ideal or Palace theatres." — Kay Sharp, April 2019.

"I was in the One-Act play directed by Mrs. Mac. Thanks to her I learned composure, being aware of my entire body and making eye contact — all things that transfer into other lifetime activities." — Veronica Reyes, teacher and musician, September 2020.



"Everyone called me 'Gangster Granny.' I qualified on the firing range, I hauled prisoners to Dallas, and then often would go home to repair fences. Work has always taken me where the Lord wanted me to go." — Sandy Carroll, former Navarro County sheriff's deputy, September 2021.

"There's usually a celebration of life's events or milestones involved. We've even had a few marriage proposals right here in our store." — Paul Nguyen, owner of Van's Jewelers, October 2022.

"I have a passion for history and tradition, and I've enjoyed watching the Chamber ebb and flow into becoming more valuable today to our business climate." — Dr. Linda Timmerman, Corsicana & Navarro County Chamber of Commerce chairman 2007, August 2018.



Economic Development Institute and is recognized by the International Economic Development Council as a Certified Economic Developer. Prior to moving to Corsicana, John was a senior developer for Panda Power Funds, a private equity firm. When not working, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Lesa, and playing music. They have two grown children, Emma and Ben.

As the hands of time move onward, so will Corsicana. Changes will continue to happen as the world changes, but the friendly, downhome atmosphere developed by residents who give back to their community seems to be here to stay. The staff at NOW Magazines looks forward to the next 20 years of storytelling and bringing the best of Corsicana to readers everywhere. **NOW**

"Lines were everywhere to get my mom's tamales." — Josh Aceves, speaking of his mom, Gloria Aceves, opening Corsicana's first taqueria and buying the first food truck. May 2023.





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Song of Solomon 2:11-12

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THE THRIFT Shift

— By Angel Morris

As prices on just about everything continue to creep up, visiting your local thrift store may become more enticing. While prices at those, too, are on the rise, there are still great deals to be had on everything from clothing to home decor. When thrift shopping, keep in mind there will be good days — when you find things you had in mind — and bad days — when all you seem to find is junk. Of course, one man's trash is another man's treasure. For the complete newbie, to “thrift” is to shop for reduced-price items at flea markets, garage or estate sales, second-hand or discount shops and, of course, thrift stores. Here are some tips to keep in mind if you're new to the thrifting game.

Keep a running list of items you are hunting. The thrift store is unlikely to be the place for picking up things you must have in a timely manner. Successful thrifters have in mind items they don't necessarily need now but would like to have at some point in the future. When they hit their local thrift shops, they are always on the lookout for these things but are not disappointed when they don't find them. Think of things you know you'll need at a later date, like larger size clothing than what your toddler currently wears or toys for them as they grow up, furniture pieces for a room you want to gradually update or seasonal decor for an upcoming holiday.

Get to know your discount stores. Do they restock shelves on a particular day? Mondays are often a good thrifting day, as all the items that folks donated over the weekend will begin to get shelved, and typically a new discount will begin within the store. This begs the question: Is one day of the week set aside for additional discounts? Can you get a store credit if you donate items to them before shopping? What stores offer what products: clothing, decor, toys, furniture, etc.? Do certain stores support a particular charity that is dear to you? Knowing these things can make your thrifting experience more successful by saving you not only money, but also time.

Get creative. If you find an item that is close to what

you've been wanting but not perfect, what can you do to make it closer to what you desired? Paint works wonders on wooden furniture. New fabric can update the look of upholstered pieces. Clothing can be tailored more to your style. These changes may not be worth it if they require too great of an investment in money or time. But if you can inexpensively update something that was already a good deal, thrifting can mean getting items you could not get at the same discounted price elsewhere.

Know your limits. Just because something is cheap doesn't mean you need it. Ask yourself: Do I have a place for it in mind, or will it end up in my storage shed? Does it fit my decorating style, or will it stick out like a sore thumb? Will it really partner well with my current clothing or end up in the back of my closet?

A bargain is only a bargain if it works with your lifestyle. Thrift stores are a great place to find things to add to your collections. Just don't make the mistake of thinking you need every kind of collectible. Stick to a few that have special meaning to you. If you tire of those or your tastes change, you can always donate them and start over.

Beware of certain items. As a general rule of thumb, you do not want to thrift anything that cannot be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Avoid items that are stained or damaged, of course, unless it is something you know can easily be repaired. While many thrift stores verify appliances are in working order, you run the risk of them lasting only a short time after purchase. It is not considered wise to purchase safety items like children's car seats or bike helmets because regulation standards change frequently. Makeup, hats, shoes, swimsuits and undergarments are typically no-no's, as you could expose yourself to the germs, fungus or skin issues of the previous owner. In the case of items that are new with tags, you would still want to follow deep-cleaning procedures before wearing them.

Keep these suggestions in mind as you begin your thrifting adventures. Whether bargain hunting is a hobby or a lifestyle, the key is to save some money and have some fun! **NOW**



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Zoomed In:
Gail Cruze

By Virginia Riddle

Born in Oklahoma and raised in the Texas Panhandle, Gail Cruze found Corsicana through her sister who resides here. For three years, she’s lived at The Village at Heritage Oaks. “We’re a family,” Gail shared. She was named Resident of the Month for January 2024.

Gail attended Navarro College and worked for Walmart. “I met my husband, Ted, in Walmart, and we were engaged there. I tell people you can get anything at Walmart,” she quipped.

A volunteer through her church, Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church, Gail is a substitute Sunday school teacher and serves on the welcoming committee. “I don’t know a stranger,” she said. She loves to read, learn new things and skills, paint and work in the garden. She also shares her dog, Bear, with residents and staff.



Calvin Herrin gears up for steer riding at the Lynn Bottoms Memorial Rodeo-Navarro County Expo Center.



Stuart and Laura Smith enjoy a night out at the Mildred Friends of Youth fundraiser.



Coyote Squadron members provide JLCCS students an opportunity to see a 1953 M37 Korean War ambulance during the school’s U.S. Military History Club meeting.



Author L.L. Brown speaks about writing to Sisterhood of the Traveling Book Club.



Bistone Municipal Water Supply District's manager, Brent Locke, and his team host the Mexia Area Chamber of Commerce's Business Brunch.



Barbara Watkins, James Blair Chapter DAR regent, presents flowers to Mary Ann McColpin in honor of her volunteerism.



Kyle Hobratchk, founder of 100West visits with Kinsloe House members.



Paula Norwood educates Dianne Kerzee and other Better Garden members on plant propagation.



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BusinessNOW

Lynda Housley State Farm Agency

— By Virginia Riddle

State Farm



Lynda Housley State Farm Agency

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<https://www.lyndahousley.com>
Lynda@lyndahousley.com

Hours: Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Saturdays: By appointment.



Helping clients protect what they value most in an effective and efficient way, basically asset protection, has been Lynda Housley's most important goal since she became State Farm's third and first female agent to represent the company here in June 1980. "When the unthinkable happens to others, I've always wanted the recovery to be

easily dealt with," Lynda recalled. Her agency offers a full range of multi-line insurance (auto, home, business, life, health) and annuity products plus banking, mutual funds and financial services. Payment can be made by cash, check or major credit card.

"State Farm's original slogan states, 'Like a Good Neighbor,'" Lynda said. The "good neighbors" in Lynda's office include her daughter and office manager, Melissa Housley, and sales and service agent, Manny Taylor. "Manny is bilingual, and she works well with our Hispanic clients," Lynda added. The team lineup now includes Dr. Harold Housley, Lynda's husband, who joined the company after his recent Navarro College retirement. "We enjoy working with people to solve problems and provide for their needs. Doing so is always rewarding," Lynda stated. "Melissa was a State Farm agent in Midland, Texas, for two years, and it's wonderful having her work with me, especially with all the technological changes that our industry and State Farm have launched over the past several years." The team members are all state licensed in the various product lines. Cumulatively, Lynda and

her team provide clients with over 60 years combined State Farm experience.

There's a slogan at State Farm — "School Is Never Out." "Insurance is a highly regulated business and is constantly in flux as rules and regulations are imposed, both at the state and federal levels," Lynda said. "There are lots of compliance issues, and product lines are ever increasing per client needs and demands. Keeping up with a multi-line agency of this size is a challenge my team and I work to meet."

"We enjoy working with people to solve problems and provide for their needs. Doing so is always rewarding."

In addition to being CorsicanaNOW's longest continuously running customer, the agency is a Corsicana & Navarro County Chamber of Commerce 44-year member. Lynda has actively served the Chamber on numerous committees and in board positions. The business is a drop-off location each Christmas for Toys for Tots, and it participated in State Farm's "Neighbor of Good Initiative" during the COVID outbreak by partnering with Corsicana ISD to support the Summer Kids Food Program.

Personally, Lynda has served as a Navarro County Child Advocacy Center board member and officer, and she served the Navarro County American Cancer Society in the same capacities. Lynda and Harold are members of Corsicana First Baptist Church, where she has taught Sunday School classes for many years. In addition to Melissa, the couple have a son, Hal, who is an oil and gas attorney. When not in the office, Lynda enjoys reading, scrapbooking, cooking, traveling and wine tastings.

A native of Panama City, Florida, Lynda holds a bachelor's degree in sociology and business administration from the University of Southern Mississippi. She formerly worked as a social worker. Lynda stated, "I've always enjoyed helping people solve problems and, hopefully, making a difference in their lives. Insurance is a natural business for me. I'm just working with a different set of needs for each client." **NOW**

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CookingNOW

In the Kitchen

20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION 2004-2024

— By Virginia Riddle

It's a reunion of good cooks and friends, y'all! In 2004, Connie Poirier founded NOW Magazines, LLC in Corsicana. She was aided in the endeavor by then staff members, including Deb Miller, Linda Moffett, and Linda's daughter, Lacy Moffett. It was during one of those early months of the magazine that these four cooks and other staff members submitted their recipes for what has become one of the most popular features in the magazine. Now, this foursome has returned to offer new recipes.

Times, tastes, cooking methods and the formatting of "CookingNOW" recipes have somewhat changed over the past 20 years, but some things remain the same. Good cooks generously share recipes. People still gather in the kitchen around food at parties and during holidays, and cooks treasure seeing friends and family enjoying their prepared delights. **NOW**

Connie Poirier's Grilled Stuffed Poblano Peppers

- 1 large sweet potato, peeled and diced
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 tsp. cinnamon (divided use)
- 1 tsp. cumin (divided use)
- 4-5 poblano peppers
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 2 garlic cloves, diced
- 1 bell pepper, diced
- 1 lb. ground beef, venison or turkey
- 2 grilled ears of corn, off the cob (or 1 8.75-oz. can whole kernel corn)
- Salt, to taste
- Pepper, to taste
- 1 cup cheddar or Cotija cheese, shredded

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F. In a bowl, toss the sweet potatoes in the olive oil; sprinkle

half of the cinnamon and cumin over the sweet potatoes.

2. Place the sweet potato pieces on a cookie sheet. Roast for 20 minutes; remove and set aside.

3. On a hot grill, roast the poblano peppers for about 2 minutes on each side, or until they're just pliable. Remove; let cool. When cooled, cut the poblano peppers down one side; remove the seeds.

4. In a skillet, sauté the onions, garlic and bell peppers until tender. Add the ground meat; cook the mixture until the meat is brown. Add the corn, roasted sweet potatoes, salt, pepper and remaining cinnamon and cumin. Stir gently; cook approximately 2 additional minutes.

5. Stuff the poblano peppers with the meat mixture; place on a grill pan. Grill for 15 minutes; top with the cheese after the first 10 minutes. More cheese can be added, if desired.

Deb Miller's Butterscotch Walnut Blondies

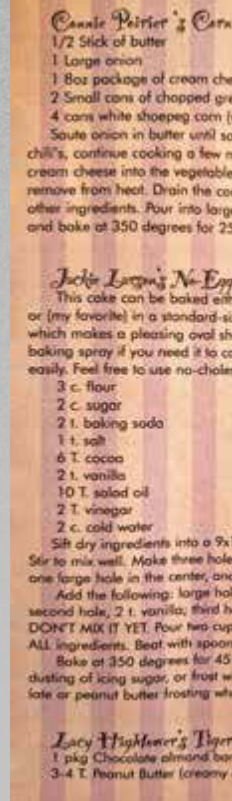
Yields approximately 9 bars.

Nonstick baking spray with flour

- 1 cup unsalted butter, melted and slightly cooled
- 1 1/2 cups light brown sugar, firmly packed
- 2 large eggs
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. kosher salt
- 3/4 cup butterscotch morsels
- 3/4 cup walnuts, chopped

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F. Spray an 8x8-inch baking pan with nonstick baking spray with flour; set the pan aside.

2. In a medium bowl, whisk together the melted butter and brown sugar until





Casseroles

1/2 c. Chocolate chips
Melt almond bark and peanut butter in large bowl in microwave until completely melted, set aside, melt chocolate chips in a separate bowl until melted. Spray non-stick cooking spray on cookie sheet and pure almond bark/peanut butter mixture and spread, then drizzle chocolate chips on top. Place cookie sheet in refrigerator for 15 minutes. Cut and serve.

Lacy Moffett's Hot Buttered Cider
1/3 c. Packed brown sugar
1/4 c. margarine
1/4 c. honey
1/4 t. cinnamon
1/4 t. nutmeg
Apple cider or juice
Beat sugar, margarine, honey and spices until fluffy. Place mixture in tightly sealed container and place in refrigerator for up to 2 weeks. Bring to room temp before using. Stir 1 tbsp into 1 cup hot cider.

Deb Miller's Oatmeal-Corned Cakes
2 c. Butter or margarine
2 c. Brown sugar, firmly packed
2 c. Granulated sugar
2 t. Vanilla
4 Eggs
3 c. Sifted flour
2 t. Salt
2 t. Baking soda
6 c. Quick-cooking rolled oats
1 1/2 c. Flaked coconut
Cream butter and sugars together till fluffy. Stir in vanilla; then add eggs, one at a time, beating after each addition. Sift together flour, salt and baking soda. Add to creamed mixture, stir in rolled oats and coconut. Drop by teaspoon about 2" apart on well-greased baking sheet. Bake in moderate oven on 350 degrees for 10-15 minutes. Makes 14 dozen.

Chocolate Cakes
Preheat oven in a 9x13 pan. Grease roasting pan, spray. Use Pam. Sprinkle some out of the pan. Bake for 10 minutes.

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smooth. Whisk in the eggs and vanilla.

3. In another medium bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder and salt. Gradually add the egg mixture to the flour mixture, stirring to combine. Gently stir in the butterscotch and walnuts. Spread the batter in the prepared pan, smoothing the top with an offset spatula.

4. Bake for approximately 40 minutes, or until the blondies are golden brown and a wooden toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean.

5. Remove; let cool completely on a wire rack. Cut into bars.

Lacy Moffett's Peanut Butter Chews

1 cup creamy or crunchy peanut butter
1 cup light corn syrup
1 cup white sugar

6 cups Corn Flakes cereal
Waxed paper

- 1. In a heavy saucepan over medium heat, mix together the peanut butter, corn syrup and sugar. Bring the mixture to a boil; remove from heat.
- 2. Add the cereal; mix well. Using a spoon, dip out the mixture, a spoonful at a time, onto the waxed paper to set.

Linda Moffett's Lucious Italian Cream Cheese Cake

- Cake:**
Crisco and flour, for pan preparation
1/2 cup butter, softened but not melted
1/2 cup Crisco solid shortening
2 cups sugar
1/2 tsp. salt
5 large eggs, room temperature, yolks and whites separated
1 tsp. pure vanilla
2 cups all-purpose flour
1 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. baking powder
1 cup Bulgarian or whole buttermilk
1 cup sweetened, shredded coconut
1 cup pecans, chopped

- Cream Cheese Frosting:**
1 cup coconut

- 1/2 cup pecans**
11-oz. cream cheese, softened
3/4 cup butter, softened to room temperature
6 cups confectioners' sugar (more if needed)
1/4 tsp. salt
1 1/2 tsp. vanilla

- 1. *For cake:* Preheat the oven to 350 F. Grease and flour 3 8- or 9-inch round cake pans.
- 2. In a large bowl, cream the butter, shortening, sugar and salt for about 5 minutes, until the mixture is light and fluffy; beat in the egg yolks and vanilla.
- 3. In a small bowl, combine the flour, baking soda and baking powder. Alternately add the flour mixture and buttermilk to the butter mixture, beginning and ending with the flour mixture. Beat just until all ingredients are combined. Stir in the coconut and pecans.
- 4. With clean beaters, in a third bowl, beat the egg whites until they're fluffy but not dry. Fold 1/4 of the egg whites into the cake batter; then fold in the remaining egg whites.
- 5. Pour the batter into the pans; bake for 20-25 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the center of each pan comes out clean. Remove; cool for 10 minutes before removing the cakes from the pans. Let cool completely on a wire rack before frosting.

- 6. *For frosting:* Preheat the oven to 275 F. Toast the coconut for about 10 minutes; stir often. Toast the pecans for about 7 minutes; stir once to toast evenly.
- 7. In a bowl, beat the cream cheese and butter until smooth. Beat in the confectioners' sugar, salt and vanilla until fluffy.
- 8. Spread the frosting between the cake layers and over the top and sides of the cake. Pat the toasted coconut around the sides of the cake; top with the pecans. *Note: Desired decorations can be piped on. The cake stores well refrigerated, or it freezes well before or after being frosted.*

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

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13, 19.

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MORE THAN A CROSS

— By Bill Smith

Travel Interstate 40 east from Amarillo, and in just about 45 minutes, a tall beacon will appear on the south side of the highway. You have been driving along what has been known as “The Mother Road” — or the iconic Route 66. There are a lot of things to see along the way — some historical, some quirky and some inspiring. Without a doubt, The Cross at Groom falls into the inspiring category.

Route 66 met the fate of becoming a decommissioned highway as recently as 1985, and the route was largely overlayed by Interstate 40 across the Texas Panhandle and beyond. Though many of the towns along the way have turnouts from the highway where you can still travel on the road with the Route 66 designation, a desire to reach destinations with the most expedience tends to make drivers bypass the two-lane routes through the small towns in favor of the interstate. Travel guides for the Route 66 trip still exist, and most of them will mention pulling off the highway at Groom.



The reason the cross stands out so prominently to the passing motorist is the notoriously flat terrain across this part of the Panhandle, as well as the magnificent height of the cross, upwards of 19 stories. Made of steel, the cross weighs 2.5 million pounds, took eight months to build and required the work of more than 100 welders. It was erected in 1995 and is visible for 20 miles.

As significant as the huge cross is, it is only the beginning of the attraction if you take the exit from the big highway. The formal name of the exhibition is The Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ Ministries. The official website has the mission statement, which reads in part: “Our mission is to serve people from all walks of life by creating an environment that is filled with peace, compassion and spiritual direction. We believe in cherishing and strengthening the institution of the family, which we feel is a vital part for establishing a culture that flourishes.”

The exhibit welcomes more than 1,000 visitors per day, and while that sounds like a lot, the parking area is large enough for a significant number of cars and can accommodate large RVs. The outside exhibits are spaced well apart, and the interior gift shop and exhibits are more than adequate for the traffic. The numerous bronze sculptures depict the stations of the cross — that is, the events leading to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ — and continue with an exhibit of the empty tomb, celebrating His resurrection. Each



station is accompanied by Scripture that explains the sculpture.

At the top of the steps that represent the climb up Golgotha's Hill are three crosses with bronzes representing the scene of the crucifixion. Another large, yet unfinished, sculpture represents the Last Supper.

The Cross at Groom is obviously more than a place to take a break from your drive down the highway. It's a place to pause — a place of spiritual reflection. The exhibits are extremely well done, creating an unforgettable destination. There is no cost to view the exhibit, and it is available for viewing 24 hours daily. **NOW**

Sources:

1. <https://www.audleytravel.com/us/usa/country-guides/route-66>.
2. <https://www.roadsideamerica.com/story/12568>.
3. <https://crossministries.net>.

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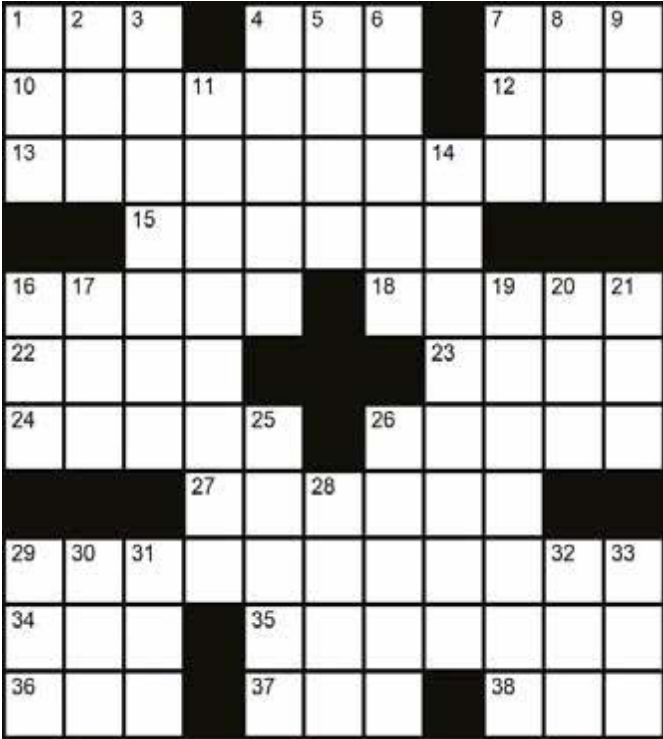
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Across

- 1 Dad, in the boonies
- 4 TV forensic drama
- 7 Chinese life force
- 10 Made self-conscious
- 12 Strike lightly
- 13 Competitor
- 15 Hawk or eagle for example
- 16 Often split in argument
- 18 Oklahomans originally from the Midwest
- 22 Jogger's companion, often
- 23 Family
- 24 Blood fluid
- 26 They're outstanding
- 27 NASA to shake up composition
- 29 Concert Ivan arranged for a dodge
- 34 Arrest
- 35 Mad Goneril's show with no men and a solitary actor
- 36 Presidential advisory group created under HST
- 37 No way, old-style
- 38 Opposite to 37 Across

Down

- 1 Baby food
- 2 Lawyers' group
- 3 Golden State cager
- 4 Poker pile
- 5 Religious splinter
- 6 "Walls have ears" or "in the soup"
- 7 Bean counter
- 8 Chinese dynasty of Christ's time
- 9 "Addams Family" cousin
- 11 Hoagy Carmichael standard
- 14 Cause of sticker shock
- 16 "--- Dark Materials" (Philip Pullman)
- 17 Take off
- 19 Its capital is Tirana
- 20 Floor covering
- 21 Connections
- 25 Doofus
- 26 Goliath's master of old TV
- 28 Simone of jazz
- 29 "The Situation Room" station
- 30 It replaced the Pan-American Union
- 31 "Superstore" network
- 32 "--- 'Havoc!' ---" (Shakespeare, "Julius Caesar")
- 33 Catastrophic occurrence

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

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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.

MARCH

3/6, 3/13, 3/20

Kinsloe House Luncheon:

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

3/8

An Evening With Amy Grant:

7:00 p.m., The Palace Theatre, 112 W. 6th Ave. For tickets, visit <https://corsicanapalace.showare.com/ordertickets.asp?p=192>.

3/14

100 West Spring Presentations:

6:00 p.m., MLK Center, 1114 E. 6th Ave.

For more info, email info@corsicanaresidency.org.

3/14-3/17

Silent Sky:

Presented by The Warehouse Living Arts Center. **Thursday-Saturday:** 7:00 p.m.; **Sunday:** 2:30 p.m., The Planetarium at Navarro College. Tickets: <https://www.onthestage.tickets/show/warehouse-living-arts-center/654d6646f331c90e3c7317ff>.

3/19

Navarro College Jazz Band Concert:

Free admission. 6:00 p.m.,

Cook Center, 3100 W. Collin St. www.navarrocollege.edu/calendar.html.

3/21

Texas Invitational Art Show & Sale Closing Event:

5:30-8:00 p.m., Pearce Museum, 3100 W. Collin St. (903) 875-7642.

3/23-3/31

Navarro County Youth Expo:

Times/days of events vary, Navarro County Exposition Center, 4021 W. Hwy. 22. For more details, visit www.navarrocountyexpocenter.com.

3/28

Easter Hop:

3:30-5:30 p.m., Downtown Corsicana. For details, call (903) 654-4851.

Kinsloe House Spring Into Style Show:

6:00 p.m., Cook Center, 3100 W. Collin St. Reservations: (903) 654-0620.

Tuesdays

Corsicana Lions Club Meeting:

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

First Wednesdays

Mexia Woman's Friday Club:

Noon-1:00 p.m., MISD Admin. Bldg., Mexia. Facebook: Mexia Woman's Friday Club.

Wednesdays

Storytime:

10:30 a.m., Corsicana Public Library, 100 N. 12th St. Facebook: Corsicana Public Library.

Second Thursdays

Savvy Seniors:

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

Third Thursdays

American Legion Riders Bike Night Post 22:

Food, beer, music and fellowship. 632 N. Beaton St. (903) 229-8667.

Fourth Thursdays

Corsicana Newcomers Club Meeting:

Diana Castillo will speak. 11:00 a.m., Kinsloe House, 618 W. 3rd Ave. Annie Avery, (714) 345-6707.

Ladies Night:

5:00-7:30 p.m., Downtown Corsicana. (903) 654-4851.

Third Fridays

Better Garden Club Meeting:

9:00 a.m., Corsicana First Methodist Church, 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.

Coyote Squadron Meeting:

10:30 a.m., Corsicana Municipal Airport. Facebook: Commemorative Air Force Coyote Squadron.

Third Saturdays

I.O.O.F. Trade Days:

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., I.O.O.F. Event Center, 601 N. 45th St. (903) 872-7438.

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



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