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MARCH 2026

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In the Kitchen With
Sadye Carroll

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Virginia Riddle

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ON THE COVER

Flying high in the sky is a normal day for this couple.



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WHERE ARE THEY NOW? COLONEL JENNIFER A. FIEDERER

— By Virginia Riddle

While much of her time today is spent in the air as both a U.S. Air Force pilot and Delta Airlines captain, Colonel Jennifer A. Fiederer recalls her days growing up in Corsicana where her parents, James and Jennie Baird, moved when their daughter was only a few days old. “I spent days on the boat at the lake water skiing. Dad barbecued,” she said. “Mom drove me all over the state to play tennis. I graduated from Corsicana High School in 1994. My best memories there were getting out of school early to play tennis and attending Friday night football games.”

Her next stop was the U.S. Air Force Academy where she earned a B.S. degree in political science in 1998 and continued to play tennis competitively. Colonel Fiederer also holds an MBA degree from the University of Phoenix. Her first reason for choosing a military career was based on her parents’ jobs, which served other people. “That influenced my development, and early in my career, 9/11 occurred. That event shaped my perspective, and I wanted to ensure that never happened in America again,” she stated.

Colonel Fiederer is a career officer with combat and operational experience in Northern and Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and Noble Eagle. She’s flown more than 800 combat hours and more than 100 combat sorties. “It’s been 30 years of moving,” she explained. “Early in my career, I spent about five years in the Middle East. While not my favorite location, the job was rewarding. Next, I taught pilot training in Georgia and Mississippi. I loved flying the T-6A, and the highlight was finally living with my husband, Eric, after being apart for six years.”

She transitioned to the Reserves in 2009 and has over 3,300 flight hours while continuing to serve with her husband at Hill AFB, where



Photo by Jaime Byington.

both were Group Commanders in the 419th Fighter Wing and at the Pentagon, where they were both on the same staff. Days at the Pentagon also allowed family-focused time. "I think I'll look back on my [military] career and miss the days we worked together the most," she added. Decorations earned include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with five oak leaf clusters, Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters and service/campaign medals. Her military education includes Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, Air War College and the Reserve Component National Security Course at the National Defense University.

Having just served as Deputy Commander of the 349th Air Mobility Wing, Travis AFB, Colonel Fiederer is now the Mobilization Assistant to the 19th Air Force Commander at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolf, Texas. "I've enjoyed shaping the future and developing our future leaders," she said. "I also get to take care of the families of those who are protecting this country. I'm humbled by those who sacrifice so

much for this nation."

Colonel Fiederer becomes Captain Fiederer when she dons her civilian career uniform as a Delta Airlines pilot flying the A319, A320 or A321 out of Salt Lake City. She also serves as the Delta Master Executive Council Airline Pilots Association Investor Relations Chairman. Her husband is a Delta Airlines First Officer. "Now we occasionally get to fly together in our civilian careers," she remarked.

When not working at one of her three jobs, Colonel Fiederer loves to cook and travel. "I absolutely can't bake anything. I don't like measuring ingredients, but my happiest moments are in the kitchen with my family, which includes our four children, or exploring a new country," she explained. "Our next adventure is Thailand, and, hopefully, a cooking lesson." Typical time spent with four kids includes attending a lot of sporting events. "We have a daughter who's into theater, so we volunteer at her productions, and we have a son who is a competitive soccer player," she said.

In speaking of the constant changes

in technology which affect her many roles, Colonel Fiederer said, "I see technology as both a blessing and a curse. When I first deployed, we didn't have the daily access to home which, in many ways, makes the job easier. You're more focused on the mission. It's incredible to stay in touch with family/friends, but it's also a security threat that's easily compromised. The hardest part [of being deployed] is being separated from my children, knowing those are days I'll never get back. I don't use social media. My kids make fun of me."

Her future after retiring from the military? "I'll have less stress and can put myself on the priority list while only working two jobs instead of three," Colonel Fiederer said. "I might actually finish a Netflix series!"

She encourages those who seek to follow in her footsteps into the military to "strap in, and get ready for the ride." She added, "When I do retire, I know it's the people I will miss the most. I've had the opportunity to work with heroes who put this nation above their own self-interests for 30 years. It's been incredible!" **NOW**

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Friendship Towers Corsicana

— By Virginia Riddle

There's no place like home, and that's the way Amy Rasmussen, the assistant community director of Friendship Towers Corsicana wants residents to feel. "It's important that we are available, compassionate and empathetic," she explained. "My office is their living room, and I want residents to know they can come and talk to us."

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In addition to comfortable apartment homes, residents enjoy a welcoming atmosphere filled with opportunities to connect and stay active. Planned social activities, holiday gatherings, game

days and community events help foster friendships and keep life engaging. The property features inviting green space, where residents can relax outdoors, visit with neighbors or take a peaceful walk. Recent renovations have refreshed common areas, enhancing both comfort and appeal while maintaining the building's charm and functionality.



“In addition to comfortable apartment homes, residents enjoy a welcoming atmosphere filled with opportunities to connect and stay active.”

Abel Acosta is the community director. He is assisted by Amy, two maintenance employees and a facility housekeeper. Working closely with residents naturally creates strong bonds. “We have huge hearts, and our residents are amazing,” Amy said. “We care deeply about them and enjoy the relationships we build. At the same time, we’re here to support their independence and manage the community in a way that keeps everything running well for everyone.” Potential residents and/or family and friends are welcome to call or drop by for a tour of available apartments, the gathering areas and grounds during office hours. The facility’s name says it all since the residents and staff are friendly, including the four-legged furry residents. **NOW**

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Zoomed In: Cindy Phillips

By Virginia Riddle

It's a "WOW" time — Words of Wisdom — that Cindy Phillips plans for older kids attending the monthly meeting at Growing Together Parent Café. "I see positive changes, so this work is fulfilling," Cindy shared.

Three years ago, following her husband's passing, she moved to Corsicana from Missouri to be closer to two daughters and now three grandchildren. "My husband was in the ministry, a calling which we shared, and this work is the closest I could find to that. I love it here, and I love my work as a parent educator," Cindy said. "Also, I wanted to be part of my kiddos lives." When not at work, Cindy enjoys sewing, crafting, baking, listening to music, playing games and just hanging out with family and/or friends.



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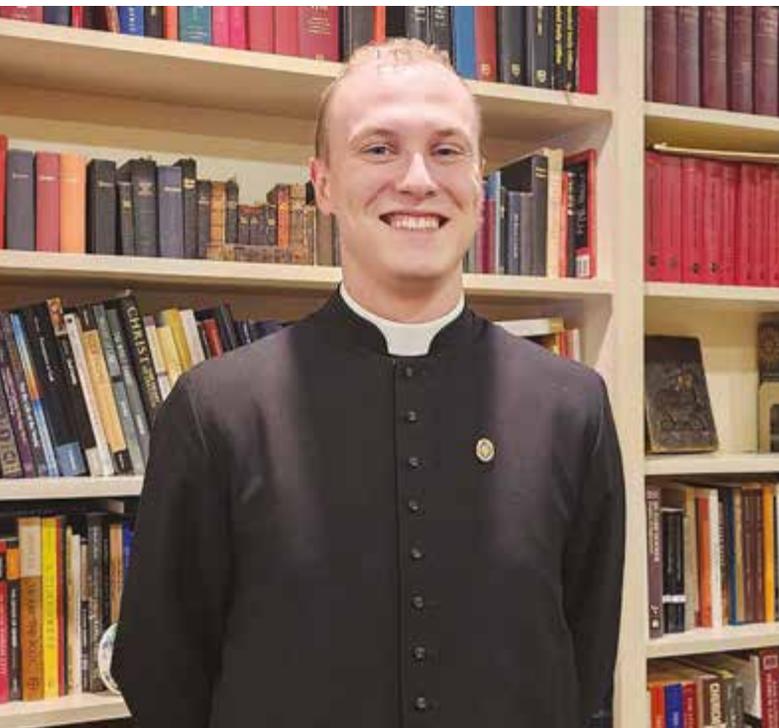
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Zoomed In: Father Matthew Sparks

By Virginia Riddle

Father Matthew Sparks, an Indiana native, came to St. John's Church last July after becoming ordained the previous month. "I had gone to seminary and taught in a private school before starting my Anglican studies at a historic parish, St. John's Episcopal Church, in Savannah, Georgia. Corsicana reminds me of the small town in which I grew up," he shared. Father Sparks and the congregation are excited about the church's 150th anniversary this year.

In his spare time, Father Sparks enjoys spending time with his wife, Jenna, and their 19-month-old son. The couple is expecting another son's birth this month! "I'm also an avid reader," Father Sparks said. He's traveled to England and Poland and studied Greek, Hebrew and Latin while preparing for the priesthood.



Raquel Lindemann-Nguyen and husband, Paul Nguyen, enjoy a walk in the snow.



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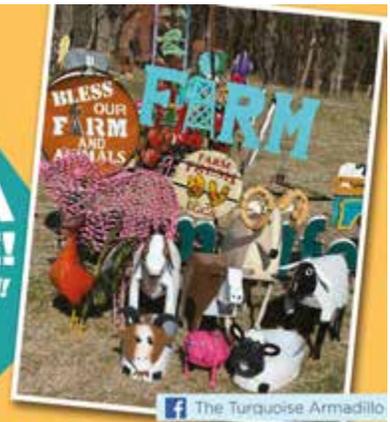
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Cream Pie



CookingNOW

IN THE KITCHEN WITH

SADYE CARROLL

— By Virginia Riddle



Classically trained at the Culinary Institute of America, Sadye Carroll remembers her first teacher. “When I was 3 years old, my grandmother would scoot a chair to the counter, so I could stand in it and ‘help’ her cook,” she said. “I learned so much from her.”

With two daughters now, Sadye shared, “I bake complex cakes, but I enjoy baking more homey comforts like muffins and biscuits with my girls.” Living on the family farm, Sadye cans and teaches canning and baking classes.

“Growing up, we had my memaw’s chocolate cream pie every holiday,” Sadye shared. “I have so many memories of helping her make it, and now I get to teach my girls that same recipe. I’m starting my own traditions by baking cookies for Santa, neighbors, friends and family every holiday.” **NOW**

Cream Pie

- 1 cup sugar**
- 1/3 cup flour**
- 2 cups milk (divided use)**
- 2 egg yolks (Reserve the whites if meringue is desired.)**
- 2 Tbsp. cocoa powder (optional)**
- Pinch of salt**
- 2 cups sweetened coconut (optional)**
- 1 Tbsp. butter**
- 1 tsp. vanilla**
- 1 pie shell, baked according to pkg. instructions**
- Whipped cream or meringue, as desired**

- 1.** In a saucepan, combine the sugar and flour; add a splash of milk to make a thick paste. Add the egg yolks; mix well.
- 2.** If a chocolate pie is desired, add the cocoa at this point. Add the remaining milk

and the salt; cook on medium-high heat until the mixture is thick and bubbly. This will take time; keep stirring, so it doesn't burn on the bottom.

- 3.** If a coconut pie is desired, add the coconut at the end of the cooking step.
- 4.** Once the mixture is thickened and bubbly, add the butter and vanilla; mix well. Pour the pie filling into the baked crust; chill. Top with whipped cream or meringue topping before serving.

Pumpkin Bundt Cake With Cream Cheese Frosting

- Cake:**
- 1 cup vegetable or avocado oil**
 - 2 cups sugar**
 - 4 eggs**
 - 2 cups flour**

- 1/2 tsp. salt**
- 2 tsp. cinnamon**
- 2 tsp. baking soda**
- 1 16-oz. can pure pumpkin puree**

Cream Cheese Frosting:

- 1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened**
- 4 cups powdered sugar**
- 1 tsp. vanilla**
- Milk, as needed**

- 1.** For the cake: In a large bowl, using a hand mixer or stand mixer, add and mix the ingredients in the order listed.
- 2.** Pour the batter into a prepared Bundt pan; bake at 350 F for 55-65 minutes.
- 3.** For the frosting: In a smaller bowl, mix the cream cheese with the powdered sugar and vanilla; add the milk, as needed, to acquire the desired consistency.

Rolled Sugar Cookies With Royal Icing

Sugar Cookies:

- 3/4 cup butter**
- 3/4 cup sugar**
- 1 egg**
- 1 tsp. vanilla**
- 2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour**
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder**
- 1/4 tsp. salt**

Royal Icing:

- 3 egg whites**
- 1 tsp. vanilla**
- 1 tsp. almond extract**
- 1 16-oz. bag powdered sugar**
- Gel food coloring, as desired**

- 1.** For the cookies: In a bowl, cream the butter and sugar together until the mixture is light and fluffy. Add the egg and vanilla; mix until well combined.
- 2.** Add the remaining ingredients; mix until a soft dough is formed, but don't overmix or the cookies will be crumbly. Wrap in plastic; refrigerate for 1 hour.
- 3.** For the icing: While the dough is chilling, whip the egg whites with the extracts until the mixture is frothy; add the powdered sugar slowly until it becomes a fluffy, stiff peak mixture.
- 4.** Separate the mixture as needed for the desired decorating colors; color with gel food coloring. *Hint: To soften the icing to a spreadable or pipeable consistency, add water 1 drop at a time. Keep the icing covered, so it won't dry out.*
- 5.** Remove the cookie dough from refrigeration. Roll it to a 1/4-inch thickness; cut the dough into desired shapes. Place the cookies on a prepared baking sheet.
- 6.** Bake at 350 F for 8-9 minutes until the cookies can just hold shape. Cool on the baking sheets completely before decorating.

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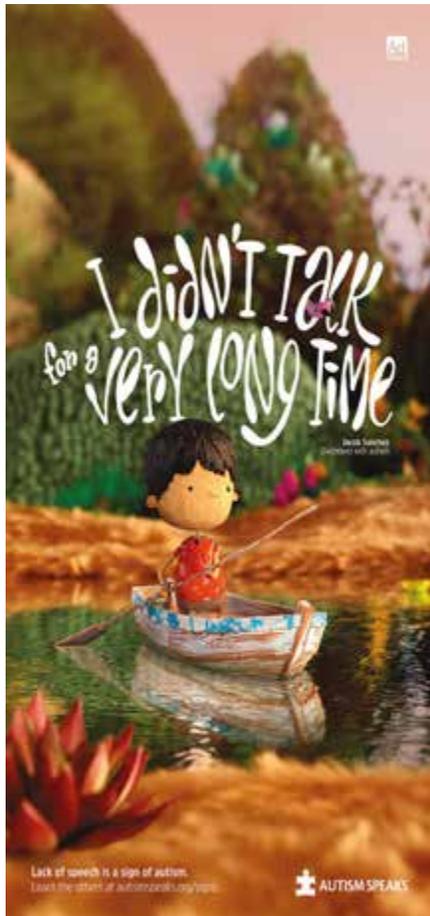
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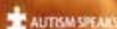
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