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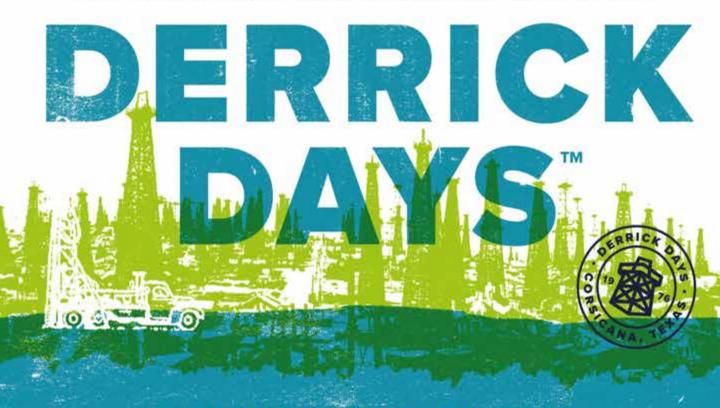
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#### FRIDAY APRIL 26, 2024

BLOCK PARTY | @ 12TH & COLLIN MUSIC BY SUPER KILO: 7:00 - 10:00PM FOOD TRUCKS: 6:00PM | CARNIVAL: 6:00 - 10:00PM

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OILTOWN MINITHON + 5K | @ CORSICANA YMCA REGISTRATION ONLINE | SIGN IN: 6:30AM | RACE: 8:00AM

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#### ON THE COVER



Pillars of knowledge prepare students for today's workforce challenges.

#### Photo by

Anthony Sarmienta.

Publisher, Connie Poirier General Manager, Rick Hensley

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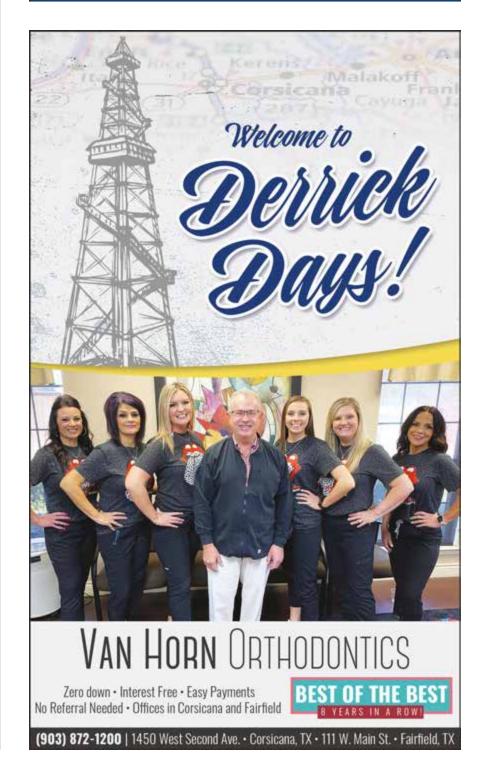
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#### **EDITOR'S NOTE**

Getting down and dirty ...

Spring in Corsicana sprang up early this year with the beautiful days we were blessed with in February and March, but the weeds sprang up, too. I don't need Earth Day happenings this month to remind me I need to spend time gardening around my home and working in my pastures. Digging in the dirt is still a therapeutic activity for me and many other folks. When gardening, I love to listen to audio books from our Corsicana Public Library or through my subscription service. Spending time in our gardens now is a necessity and great exercise, and it will allow us to enjoy fruit, vegetables, blooms and greenery around us later this spring and on into the summer and fall. For monthly gardening tips, fellowship and fun, join Corsicana's Better Garden Club. Meeting details are usually listed in *CorsicanaNOW's* calendar, and attending is a marvelous way to meet fellow gardeners.

Winter into spring brings calving season, and seemingly lots of puppy and kitten litters. While our area farmers and ranchers prosper with new calves hitting the ground, Corsicana's animal shelter and other area shelters are running full. Why not donate time and/or money or adopt a new family member from one of our area shelters? Spring is also a great time to volunteer as a dog walker at the shelter.

Our area's local parks and nearby state parks are a treasure. With the beautiful weather, I've been walking my little dog, Jazz, in Community Park. He loves that park! I enjoy seeing other people outside, and I thrill at hearing the children's voices from across the street as they play. The thump of tennis balls meeting racquets is another welcome sound. If you see my little dog and me, stop and say, "Hi!"

Here's to beautification!



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Seated: Evonne Blackwell, Phillip Presley Standing: (left to right): Claudia Adcock, Rachel Louque, Morgan Miller, Connie Gaddy, Dana Kindrick



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### INNOVATION BUILT

#### ON TRADITION

— By Virginia Riddle

The large Navarro College custom-built Welding on Wheels (WOW) lab pulls into a parking lot at one of their locations. Students enter through its doors as they begin their journey toward becoming much-needed welders in this area's workforce. "Some students in the program intern for employers starting at about \$17 hourly," said Dr. Tara Peters, who leads the Workforce Career and Technical Education division at Navarro College, which offers 17 vital workforce programs. "These programs are helping the communities the college serves by helping prepare employees that are needed," Dr. Peters explained.

Some of the funding and expertise shared by professors comes from a Texas Workforce Commission grant, other grants, tax incentives and from interested corporations and industries. "These are very important partnerships," Dr. Peters said. Students can choose career paths that prepare them to enter agriculture mechanization, emergency services, health care, hospitality, manufacturing and retail industries. While many of these jobs have long been in existence, constantly developing technology in these fields demands more training. Students can earn entry-level certifications and stack certificates, which lead to degrees. Whether students are participating in reskill and/or upskill training, both the students and area businesses and communities benefit.

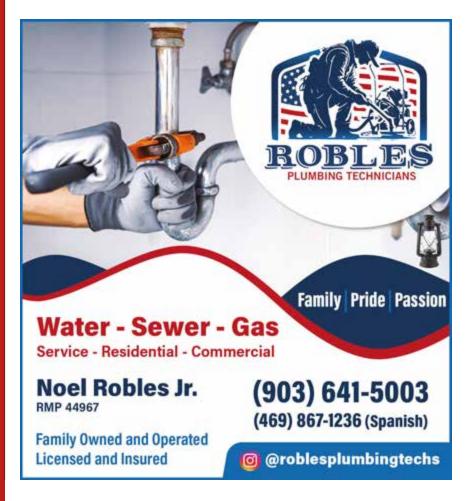
Part of Dr. Peters' job is to host regular Business and Industry Roundtable meetings. "I listen to employers express their needs for continuing education training, initial training and training that includes teaching students basic things like getting up and being ready on time for work, dressing appropriately and customer service relations," she stated. "The roundtable is an important partnership, and I work collaboratively with the companies and economic development corporations within the college's five counties. We can customize training to fit the needs of companies who want to locate within the college's district, since some companies have additional requirements our students will need for employment with them. For example, there's a need for additional automation/robotic training right now."





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For those students who wish to train in one semester and earn a certification, there are choices, such as the phlebotomy and welding programs, which lead to an industrybased certification in one semester. Many of the workforce programs are within a four-month cluster or one semester with a flexible in/out timeline. "These classes are designed to meet students' needs, and they have many professional choices in our programs, from accounting to nursing to fire protection to welding. Training leads to apprenticeships and internships," Dr. Peters said. "Staff and faculty are on every Navarro College location to support student success. The faculty is interested in integrating their programs of instruction within our programs and partnerships. I'm having a blast, and the faculty has a real heart for students. We constantly are 'checking the pulse' of each individual student."





Independent school districts within the college's five-county service area also are partners. "We bring in high school students to visit our programs at our locations, and we can also take the WOW lab to their campuses," Dr. Peters explained. "They can be trained to enter the workforce upon high school graduation or even before graduation."

Funding sources for students include grants, financial aid and paid internships, such as within the John Deere program. "We celebrate completion of certification

programs that will impact not only our students, but often with starting salaries at \$60,000, the training will impact generations to come in their families," Dr. Peters explained. Currently, about 1,000 students each semester are enrolled in career and technical education. "We hope to get back to pre-pandemic levels," Dr. Peters expressed. "These are cool programs. We use virtual reality to provide instruction in our fire protection, EMS and nursing programs.

"From the first day of class, students in the 17 programs learn from doing and applying what they learn," Dr. Peters explained. "While the staff and faculty want students to know they have control and autonomy, we also want them to build resilience they will need on the job. They get to do important work, but one doesn't always have a win at the end of every day while on these jobs."

Students are urged to use their skills while volunteering in the fall Bulldog Serve event. "We have students who partner in area parks, food pantries and city events," Dr. Peters said.

Dr. Peters has "lived" in both

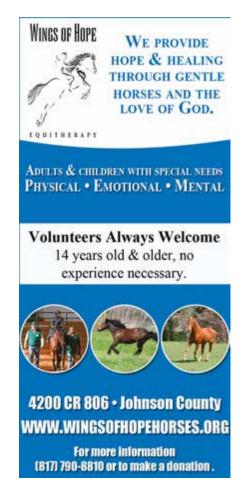
worlds of private school and higher education. She's been a professor and academic dean and followed Dr. Kevin Fegan, Navarro College president, from their time at Northwood University to Navarro College. A Grand Prairie, Texas, native, Dr. Peters graduated from Texas Wesleyan University, received a master's degree from Dallas Baptist University and earned a Ph.D. from Union Institute and University. Prior to serving at Navarro College, she was a math teacher and principal of a church academy school and has been a professor, department chair and division chair at the higher education level. In her spare time, Dr. Peters enjoys time with her son and other family members as well as traveling and "creating new experiences."

"This is the future of education," Dr. Peters concluded. "It is important to ensure that students are prepared to enter the workforce and have the proper credentials for personal success while answering the needs of our businesses and industries. Navarro College's CTE programs are aligned with the state's focus on training our current and future workforce. We are positioned well."















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#### Zoomed In: Kelli Rae Adams

#### A resident artist at 100 West, Kelli Rae Adams creates themed installation-based works examining prevailing economics for national and international exhibitions. She earned a B.A. in visual arts and Spanish from Duke University and a MFA degree in ceramics at the Rhode Island School of Design. Additionally, Kelli apprenticed in ceramics created in the Karatsu tradition in Japan. While in Corsicana, Kelli is creating bowls and a large-scale print for her exhibit,

Forever in Your Debt. "I love the tranquility and peace in Corsicana," Kelli shared. "There's a sense of timelessness. My digital demands are shut out. At the end of the day at sunset, I enjoy walking around town while noticing the details of the many historical buildings."

#### **Around Town**



Aiden Johnson, a member of BSA Troop 258 in Corsicana, delivers his Eagle Scout Service Project to the Corsicana Animal Shelter.



And the winners of Navarro College Foundation's 2024 Dancing for Our Stars are Andrew and Christina Cerda.



The CHS golf team is in perfect form during these beautiful spring days.



The Corsicana Public Library's staff sends out good vibes to all Swifties.

By Virginia Riddle



Alpha Rho Chapter, DKG members Michelle Knauth, Cinda Melton and Karen Cox welcome speaker, Joe Hill, Navarro County's representative with the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.



Beverly Price presents the history of the Underground Railroad to Kinsloe House and DAR members.



Chuck and Deb Miller take the win for Best Costume at the Corsicana & Navarro County Chamber of Commerce's Margaritaville Awards Night.



Holly Currier and Kyle Lichty, I.O.O.F. staff members, enjoy a night out at the Corsicana & Navarro County Chamber of Commerce Banquet.







**BusinessNOW** 

## Jordan Paint & Body

- By Virginia Riddle

**Jordan Paint & Body** 649 Hardy Avenue Corsicana, TX 75110 (903) 872-6923 Fax: (903) 872-7978 jordanpaintbody@earthlink.net

Hours: Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

For 41 years, Jordan Paint & Body has been in the business of taking the "DENTS" out of "accidents" for folks from Corsicana and its surrounding areas. Recently, former Owner David Perry, having looked forward to retirement for a while, trained longtime employee, Jason Bolin, to take over the reins of ownership. "We have a total of over 200 years' experience among our employees," Jason said. "Family-owned and -operated,

our main goal remains the same — to take care of our customers from start to finish. We like seeing their happy faces when their vehicle looks and runs like new again. We've been very fortunate in developing many return customers and friends over the years."

For the last 23 years, Jordan Paint & Body has earned the I-Car Gold Class Professionals Excellence Through Training Platinum Certification. The business is a PPG Collision Repair Center. Locally, Jordan Paint & Body has been voted the Best of the Best repeatedly in Corsicana. The business holds memberships in the Corsicana and Navarro County Chamber of Commerce and the National Federation of Independent Businesses. "We present ourselves professionally and put our best work out there for customers," Jason said.

His 12 employees start working with customers immediately by also using their extensive knowledge and experience of interacting with most insurance companies.

A state-of-the-art Kansas Jack frame machine provides techs a 3-D measuring system, and the shop's PPG computerized mixing system ensures a perfect match in color using PPG paint. "PPG stands behind their paint systems and provides a lifetime warranty," Jason said. With two estimators on staff, there's always one available."

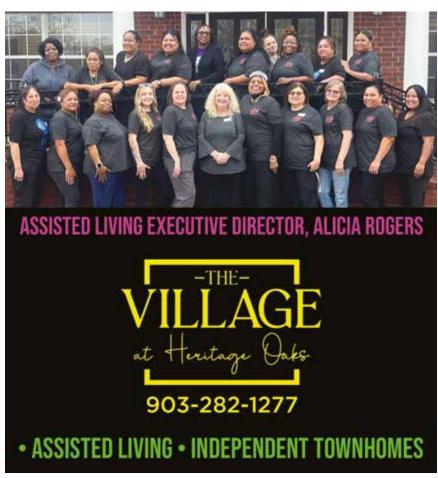
Jordan Paint & Body assures customers and insurance companies that the company's technicians keep up with the changing times in the business. "It's a challenge today to keep up with the electronics and new technology that come out with each year's new models," Jason said. "We must be able to repair everything. The increased use of aluminum in new vehicle models, such as the pick-up trucks, presents challenges. Additionally, as a business owner in this industry, I'm challenged in finding qualified, trained techs because the younger generations aren't going into this field today."

"We seek ways to make the repair process painless," Christi Thompson, office manager, stated. "We try to relieve as much of each customer's stress as possible. It's a joy to fix a vehicle that's put someone in distress, and they're smiling again." Despite ever-changing insurance guidelines, the company remains experienced in working with insurers to quickly facilitate repairs. Cash, major credit cards and checks are accepted as payment.

Jordan Paint & Body and its employees also give back to the community. They are a Life Member of the Texas Lions Club Camp, and they donate to the Corsicana Rotary Club and to Relay for Life. "We donate to many of the area schools' booster clubs and youth sports and support the Brittney Averitt Memorial Scholarship for students studying criminal justice at Sam Houston State University. We always give what we can," Christi said.

"We have a great camaraderie in this shop," Jason added. "I owe our success to my employees, our customers and to the longestablished, wonderful legacy David has left to us, which demands continued great customer service." NOW





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"I've always loved cooking or being in the kitchen with others," Suzanne Plyer revealed. "From my childhood Easy Bake Oven to shelling peas with my mom and grandma, the kitchen's always held a special place for me because food brings people together.

"I did a lot of cooking at home and enjoyed showing our children how to feel comfortable in the kitchen. Our oldest son, Adam, does a lot of grilling and cooking, and our daughter, Erin, is head chef of my eatery, Olive Branch Eatery by Thyme & Elegance.

"My inspiration comes from liking to try new things like in cooking, travel, and decor," Suzanne added. "I enjoy trying new dishes at restaurants, which inspire me to make my own version of the dish."

#### **Italian Bites**

Cooking spray
2 cans crescent rolls (divided use)
1/2 lb. salami, sliced (divided use)
1/2 lb. provolone cheese, sliced
(divided use)
1/2 lb. ham, thinly sliced (divided use)

7 eggs (divided use)1 cup Parmesan cheese12-oz. roasted red peppers, cut into strips (divided use)

- **1.** Preheat the oven to 350 F; prepare a 9x13-inch baking dish with cooking spray.
- 2. Unroll 1 can of crescent rolls; line the

bottom of the dish with the rolls. Cover the rolls with layers of half of the salami, provolone cheese and ham.

- **3.** In a bowl, beat 6 of the eggs with the Parmesan cheese; pour half the mixture over the layers in the dish. Top with half of the red peppers.
- **4.** Layer the remaining salami, provolone cheese, ham, egg mixture and red peppers in the same order as before. Unroll the second can of crescent rolls; place over the top of the last layer.
- **5.** In the bowl, beat the remaining egg; brush it over the top of the crescent roll layer. Cover with foil; bake for 30 minutes. Uncover the dish; bake for 30 additional minutes. Cool: cut into small bites.

#### **Corn Chowder**

This serves a crowd of 25 people, and is so good.

12 medium potatoes, peeled and chopped

3 medium onions, chopped

- 1 1/2 cups cooked bacon, chopped (Reserve the grease.)
- 6 cups chicken broth
- 3 cups canned corn, undrained
- 6 cups cream-style corn
- 2 Tbsp. salt
- 2 Tbsp. pepper
- 6 cups half-and-half

Instant mashed potato flakes, as needed (optional)

Cheddar cheese, shredded, to taste (optional)

Chives, chopped, to taste (optional)

- 1. In a large pot, mix the potatoes, onions, bacon and 2 Tbsp. of the reserved bacon grease; cook the mixture while stirring for 5 minutes.
- 2. Add the chicken broth and corn; stir well. Season with the salt and pepper.
- **3.** Bring the mixture to a boil: reduce the heat to low; cover the pot. Let the chowder simmer for 20 minutes, stirring it frequently until the potatoes are tender.
- 4. In a saucepan, warm the half-and-half until it bubbles; remove the saucepan from the heat. Mix the half-and-half into the chowder just before serving it. If the chowder needs to be thickened, add a little amount of instant mashed potatoes.
- **5.** Top with the cheddar cheese and chives, if desired, before serving.

#### Arugula Pesto

2 fresh garlic cloves, peeled 2 heaping cups fresh arugula I cup fresh flat-leaf parsley 3 Tbsp. walnuts 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese Salt, to taste Pepper, to taste 1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil

- **1.** In a food processor, pulse the garlic. Add the arugula, parsley, walnuts and Parmesan cheese; season the mixture with salt and pepper.
- 2. Pulse several times until the ingredients are coarsely chopped. While the processor is running, add the olive oil; blend all ingredients until the mixture is smooth. Taste the pesto; add more salt, if needed.
- 3. Pesto can be used with steaks, flatbread or almost anything. Transfer the pesto to an airtight container. It can be refrigerated up to 5 days or remain frozen up to 1 month.













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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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6 Grill

7 Animate

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4 Kidney-related

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arrival board

17 Road in Reims

19 Called upon

25 OK with the cops

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29 Short life story

green

28 Attire

31 Moisten

32 Very skilled

person 33 Hither and ---

18 Briefly

21 Figures











#### 4/3, 4/10, 4/17

#### **Kinsloe House Luncheon:**

Noon, Kinsloe House, 618 W. 3rd Ave. For membership information or reservations, call (903) 654-0620.

#### 4/4

#### Ben & Noel Haggard:

7:00 p.m., The Palace Theatre, 112 W. 6th Ave. (903) 874-7792.

#### 4/8

#### **Total Solar Eclipse:**

There's a full calendar of events celebrating this natural phenomenon. 12:22-3:02 p.m., throughout Corsicana and Navarro County. www.corsicanaeclipse.com.

#### 4/9

#### Corsicana Public Library Presents Neal Shusterman:

Meet an award-winning author. 6:30 p.m., Corsicana Public Library, 100 N. 12th St. Facebook: Corsicana Public Library.

#### 4/11

#### 7/ 1

The Ann Richards Story: 7:00 p.m., The Palace Theatre, 112 W. 6th Ave. Tickets at corsicanapalace.com/showare. (903) 874-7792.

#### 4/13

## Mexia Area Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament:

8:00 a.m., Tri-County Golf Club at the Vineyards, 125 PR 940, Teague. (254) 562-5569.

#### **2024 ETLA Corsicana Classic Longhorn Show:**

Free. 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Navarro County Expo, 4021 W. State Highway 22.

#### 4/19

#### Hope Center's Night of Hope:

6:30 p.m., I.O.O.F. Center, 601 N. 45th Street. Facebook: Night of Hope.

#### 4/20

#### 7 Bridges The Ultimate Eagles Tribute:

Opening act will be Corsicana's own Jason Manning. \$35-\$45. 7:00-8:45 p.m., The Palace Theatre, 112 W. 6th Ave. Tickets at corsicanapalace.com/showare.

#### 4/24-4/27

#### **Derrick Days:**

Includes a carnival, tournaments, car show, chili cook-off and more. Times/day of events vary. For more information, visit www.derrickdays.com.

#### 4/27

#### Foam Party:

Hosted by the Parks and Rec Department. Fun for all ages. Noon-3:00 p.m., Pocket Park, 118 N. Beaton St.

#### **100 West Open Studios:**

Spring: Noon-4:00 p.m., 100 W. 3rd Ave. For details, email info@corsicanaresidency.org.

#### First Wednesdays

#### Mexia Woman's Friday Club:

Noon-1:00 p.m., The Farmhouse, Mexia, TX Facebook: Mexia Woman's Friday Club.

#### Second Thursdays

#### Savvy Seniors:

Complimentary lunch, games. 11:30 a.m., Corsicana Senior Center, 919 W. Park Ave. For more information, call (903) 654-4980.

#### Third Thursdays

#### American Legion Riders Bike Night Post 22:

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

#### Second Fridays

#### Navarro County Retired Teachers Association:

9:45-11:00 a.m., Northwest Apartments Community Center. glynphillips 1982@gmail.com.

#### Third Fridays

#### Better Garden Club Meeting:

9:00 a.m., Corsicana First Methodist Church, 320 N. 15th St. Facebook: Better Garden Club.

#### Second Saturdays

#### Coyote Squadron Meeting:

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

#### Third Saturdays

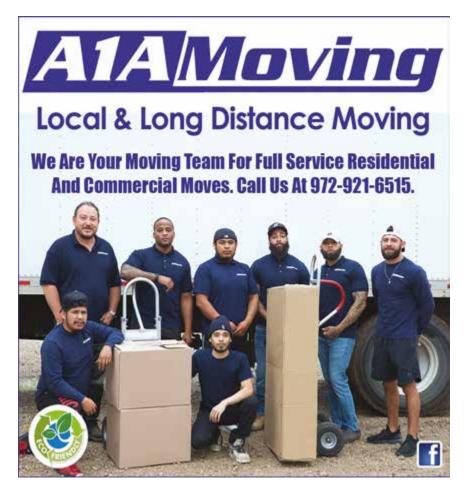
#### **Navarro Fiber Friends:**

11:00 a.m., Corsicana Senior Citizens Center, 919 W. Park Ave. (903) 654-4980.

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



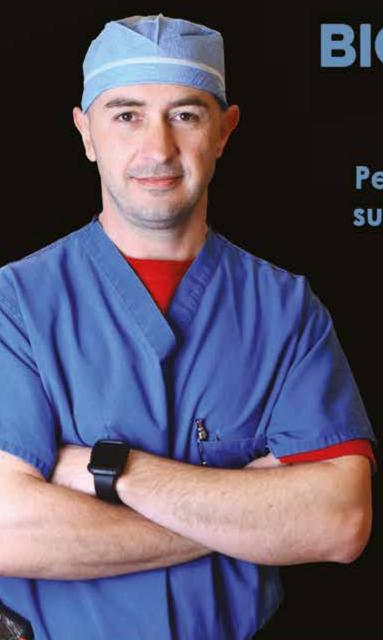






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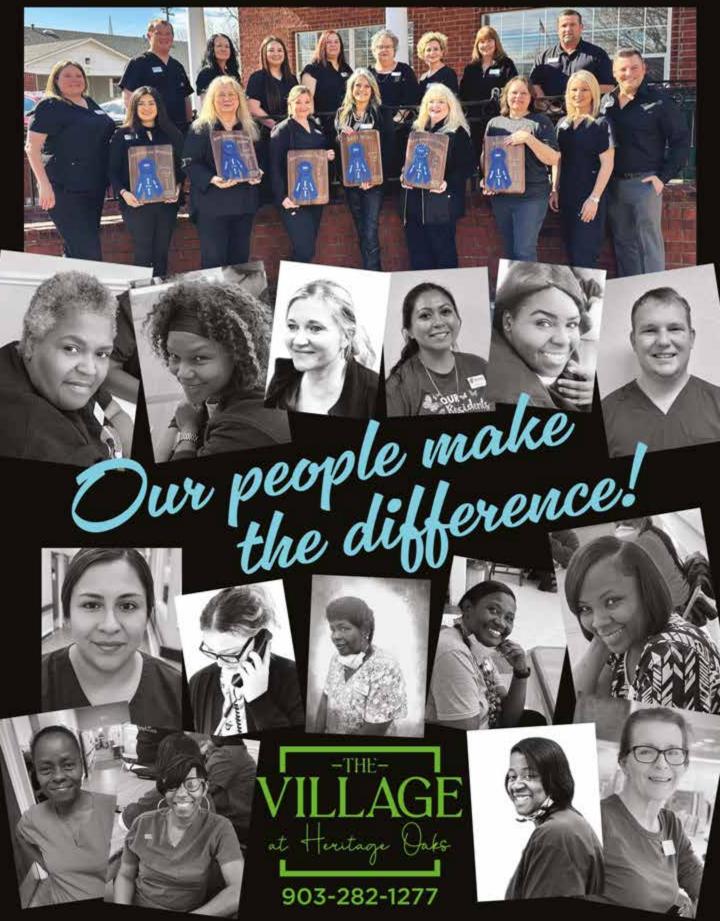


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