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M A G A Z I N E

APRIL 2025

Capturing Moments in Time

Camile O'Briant's world is full of bright blooms

In the Kitchen With Virginia Riddle

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt

Sudoku

Featured Business:
Caliber Collision



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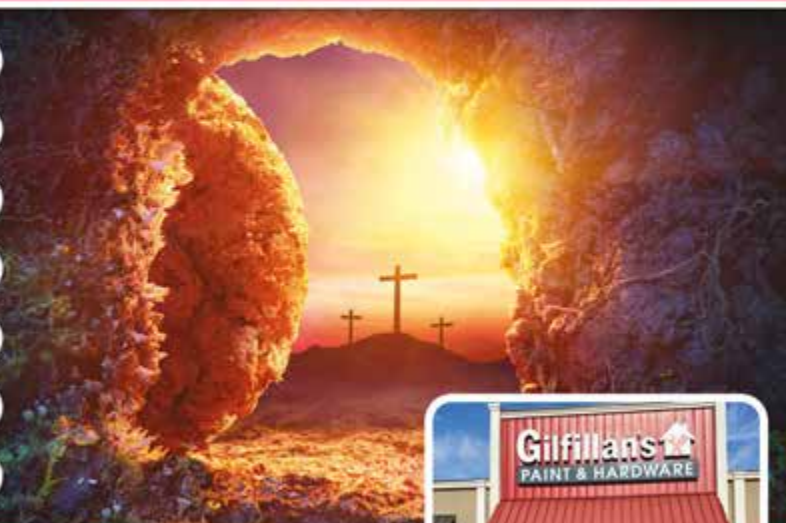
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Camile O'Briant designs
in technicolor.

Photo by
Camile O'Briant.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Hello, Corsicana!

Ranching and camping provides me with plenty of interaction with wildlife, and even when I'm writing or editing this time of year, I enjoy doing so on my covered patio, surrounded by my dogs and all the birds, squirrels, lizards, frogs and occasional snakes. Yes, even the snakes are interesting fellows — if my visitors remain the nonvenomous varieties. It's great to be out-of-doors and throw open windows.

Last spring, I had a pair of sparrows who decided to nest on the small crook where two steel beams supporting my patio cover met. They were quite distracting while they flew back and forth for days, not minding me a few feet away, as they found building materials to weave into place. However, after nightly wind gusts, there were always more of their nesting materials scattered across the patio than in the crook. Ever determined, the next morning, they would start building again. The nest had little support, but their determination was admirable. After a few days, I decided to relocate a birdhouse a friend had given me a long time ago near the birds' location. They spent about an hour flying in and out of it before deciding it might work better. I enjoyed seeing the pair progress through completing a nest, becoming parents and the family vacating the little house in early fall. They were great boarders, who kept me entertained with their antics and created little mess. I've left the birdhouse in the same spot, so I'm hoping they, or another pair of small birds, are going to take up residence soon this spring.

Our warmer and longer days give us great opportunities to plant a garden or trees and walk our dogs in our beautiful parks. If you don't have a dog, there are plenty waiting for their "forever" homes at the Corsicana Animal Shelter.

Have an awesome April!



Virginia

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Capturing Moments in Time

— By Virginia Riddle

A high school art class triggered Camile O'Briant's interest in photography and all things artistic. "I was curious about the medium and fell in love with it," Camile recalled. "I ruined many a shirt in the dark room." Her mom realized Camile's newfound passion and gave her daughter a Canon camera with two lenses. "That was my first camera, a Sear's special," Camile added. "I was really surprised since my mom, a single mother, was very frugal."

As a kid who always colored within the lines, Camile said, "My family didn't promote creativity, but later I found sketches I'd done that my grandmother had kept, and my great-grandmother quilted. My mother was musical but never thought of herself as an artist until she started beading in her 70s." A native of Abilene, Texas, Camile was a student at Westlake High School in Austin when she realized art was her thing. "I was making macaroni sculptures in a beginner's art class and then started drawing faces. That was a quantum leap," she remembered. "The next semester, I was enrolled in the honors art class, doing advanced drawing and taking photographs for the yearbook. Westlake was amazing! Had I not gone there, I might not be where I am. That experience pointed to my future."

Preparation for that future continued at Lon Morris College for two years before Camile transferred to the University of North Texas. Her major was in fine arts photography with a minor in radio, TV and film. She's worked in the film industry in both Los Angeles and New York City. It was while she was at UNT that Camile started building her portfolio. "I took still photos for short films," she stated. "I love taking photos of old cars, people's head shots, NYC street scenes, architecture and flowers. I've never stopped building my portfolio and have decades of work. My core style has stayed the same."

While Camile was working in New York, she pulled together all her creative talents into developing, designing and photographing her own line of clothing and home goods. "I was bored on a subway ride into work one day and started to



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create floral designs from my photos with my iPhone,” she explained. Her signature is mixing bright floral prints with any color of one of her original plaid designs, and the results are her creations viewed online at La Nuit Bleue Atelier. After having had some art shows in Austin and LA, she said, “The art world has changed. With an internet link, I can share my art. Every new thing I try is an opportunity to learn.” I try not to ride every trend. I still want to be me.”

Corsicana became Camile’s home two years ago due partially to encouragement from her cousin, Amy Parnell. “My mom had passed away, and I was ready for a change from NYC after the pandemic,” Camile shared. “I was ready for a slower pace. Amy’s also creative and loves to decorate. She introduced me to Corsicana’s



art community, and I kept coming back until I moved." Camile enjoys building her portfolio even when traveling, a favorite thing to do — often photographing models internationally. "I love flowers, and the variety changes depending on where I live and travel," she explained. Internationally, she's toured Europe and South Korea.

Sony and her iPhone are her camera choices now. "They capture everything I need, are cinematic and lightweight,"

she explained. She works mostly digitally with apps and her iPad, but Camile plans and sketches out ideas. "I used to edit while on the subway and take photos on my lunch breaks in NYC," she recalled.

Ideas are always coming into her creative mind, and she writes them down. "I'm like a little kid, excited when I see something finished," she admitted. "I'm continuously inspired and can become paralyzed by so many ideas. I've created systems to overcome that overwhelmed feeling. I have seasons for different kinds of creativity, can leave it, but taking a break can be scary. I had to realize that not all ideas are going to get done and accept that's OK. It's using creative energy management."

Camile considers herself to be an artist first. "I learned composition and drawing first, both of which work well in photography," she explained. Working digitally while designing and shooting the models and videos helps her artistic endeavors. "It's like having a tool kit that helps me manage everything," she added. "Every job I've ever had, I can pull out something from it I learned and

use it today, even if I hated the job." Mediums in which she has worked include pencil and watercolor sketches, pen and ink painting on top of photos and paper cutouts on top of images. She finds painting in oil or watercolors doesn't come naturally for her. "I'm more linear thinking today," she added.

Knowing when a piece is finished can be challenging for some artists. "There's a point at which one can over tinker," Camile shared. "I can get bored also and less inspired, so I think there's a natural ending. However, in photography, I continue to tinker and edit many versions of images."

Although she's enjoying life in Corsicana, Camile treasures the time spent in LA and New York City. "I've always been influenced and inspired by the film industry and cinema," she stated. "It's a big part of my life." Photography is her favorite medium. She concluded, "It's technical, and I can see the result quickly. There's something magical about capturing a moment that won't happen again." **NOW**

Photos by Camile O'Briant.

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Zoomed In: Rev. Dr. Jay Frazee

By Virginia Riddle

The Frazee family has returned to Corsicana and First Methodist after a few years' interlude while serving elsewhere. During that time, Jay Frazee earned his doctorate from Colorado Theological Seminary and returns as a Global Methodist Church presiding elder and senior pastor helping to develop young pastors. "I wanted to learn, grow and study Scriptures more," Jay shared. Jay volunteers through the church and Rotary Club of Corsicana.

A master scuba diving trainer, Jay and his wife, Renee, opened a scuba shop, MidTex Scuba. Also, Jay is an author of *Evangelism for Today: Offering Christ the Way God Created Us*. The couple's three children are Reagan, Garrin and Evan. Jay added, "I enjoy family time, hunting, fishing, scuba diving and really anything outdoors."



And the winners of Dancing for Our Stars are Chris Acker and Ashtin Pennell!



Harazet Martinez at A Touch of Mexico welcomes guests during Mimosa Saturday.



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These Brew Crew members serve up welcoming cups of coffee at 7 Brew's opening celebration.



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Karen Compton portrays Elizabeth Powell Blair, James Blair's wife of the James Blair Chapter, DAR.

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— By Virginia Riddle

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For Texans who depend on their vehicles almost daily for personal and/or business use, even a ding in the vehicle is an inconvenience and unexpected expense. At Caliber Collision, the staff is in the business of “restoring the rhythm of your life” as they restore your vehicle to its original shine and shape. “We listen to customers’ concerns and help them while they’re experiencing a bad situation,” Mike Cortez, Corsicana’s general



manager, stated. “We want to make sure customers have been heard, and we assure them we are here to help them by creating a great, quality repair on their vehicles and by doing the right thing.”

Founded in 1997, Caliber Collision now operates over 1,800 centers in 41 states and employs more than 30,000 teammates. The Corsicana location opened in 2024. Mike has worked in this industry for 33 years. “I’ve worked for some big companies in the DFW market, as well as smaller shops,” he said.

Services include fleet repairs, paint and collision damage, dent removal, hail damage repairs, paintless dent repair, diagnostic scanning, fender and bumper repairs, auto glass repairs and recalibrations. Additionally, Caliber Collision offers a limited lifetime warranty on all repairs, transparent pricing, electronic communications, free online estimates, after-hours drop-offs, windshield replacement and direct billing to insurance companies. The shop accepts major credit cards and cashier checks as payment.

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“Caliber Collision has both a vision statement and a mission statement,” Mike pointed out. The Vision Statement reads, “Be the company that improves the image of auto service experience,” while the mission statement says, “Be the most trusted auto service provider in every community we serve.” Framed posters of both statements and more are hung in the welcoming reception area, offices and corridors. The industry is regulated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the Deceptive Trade Practices-Consumer Protection Act. Caliber Collision is a member of the Corsicana & Navarro County Chamber of Commerce.

Caliber Collision partners nationwide with the National Auto Body Council’s Recycle Rides Program which provides fully restored vehicles to veterans, active-duty service members, first responders and others who need reliable transportation. The company also partners with food banks during its annual “Restoring You” Food Drive and partners with the American Heart Association in raising money for research. Teammates are trained in hands-only CPR.

Mike, a Dallas native, moved to Corsicana after his wife found a home she wanted to purchase that was nearer to her family. He was ready to live in a quieter environment and enjoys his work at Caliber Collision. “I love cars and love seeing them restored from the beginning to the end,” he shared. He also enjoys fishing and spending time with his family.

“I’m a perfectionist by nature, but I know things can’t always be perfect,” Mike said. “However, our team strives for perfection. I enjoy living in a smaller community where I can see happy customers around town and get to know them.” **NOW**

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www.navarrocouncilofthearts.com.

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www.corsicanaresidency.org.

3 Friends of the Library-Corsicana

Volunteers aid librarians in shelving books and other tasks, and the organization helps fund activities that all ages can enjoy.
Facebook: Friends of the Library-Corsicana.

4 Habitat for Humanity International, Inc.

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www.habitat.org.

5 Hull Creative Arts Foundation

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Gertrude's Apple Crumble Top Pie

CookingNOW

IN THE KITCHEN WITH VIRGINIA RIDDLE

— By Becky Walker



CorsicanaNOW Community Editor Virginia Riddle grew up in Waco — partly in the city, partly on the family farm. The oldest of four kids, she was helping in the kitchen by age 5. “I am mostly self-taught, but my paternal grandmother taught me how to make dinner rolls from scratch and to can my granddad’s garden produce. I enjoyed cooking down-home healthy in large batches when I was raising my four children, and I still do when the family gathers with the addition of six grandchildren,” said the retired teacher, administrator and college professor.

Here she shares recipes from the book, *Recipes to Remember*, which was compiled by her neighbors when she lived in Austin during the 1980s. “We were all moms who formed a neighborhood babysitting co-op and organized monthly street dinners,” she said. “I still use those recipes and remember my neighbors.” **NOW**

Lana's Fruit Dip

- 1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened**
- 1 8-oz. can crushed pineapple with juice**
- 1 cup pecans, finely chopped**
- 1 cup dates, finely chopped**
- Cinnamon, to taste**
- Nutmeg, to taste**
- Apple, pear and strawberry slices and or orange segments, to taste**

- 1.** In a dip bowl, combine the first 4 ingredients. Sprinkle the top with cinnamon and nutmeg.
- 2.** Serve with apple, pear, strawberry slices and/or orange segments or any other favorite fruit.

Carol's Karo Calico Salad

- 3/4 cup Karo Light Corn Syrup**
- 2/3 cup red wine vinegar**
- 1/3 Mazola Corn Oil**
- 1 tsp. salt**
- 1/2 tsp. dried dill weed**
- 1/4 cup pimiento, chopped**
- 1 small onion, chopped**
- 1 16-oz. can wax beans, drained**
- 1 16-oz. can whole green beans, drained**
- 1 16-oz. can kidney beans, drained**

- 1.** In a bowl or blender, mix the corn syrup, vinegar, corn oil, salt and dill weed; set aside.
- 2.** In another bowl, add the remaining ingredients; mix well. Pour the corn syrup mixture over the pimiento mixture; toss.
- 3.** Refrigerate overnight; drain before serving.

Gertrude's Apple Crumble Top Pie

Gertrude had raised her family but was a wonderful sub-in grandmother to all our kids.

- 6 apples**
- 1/2 cup water**
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar**
- 1 cup flour**
- 1 tsp. cinnamon**
- 1 cup brown sugar**
- 1/2 cup butter**

- 1.** Core and peel the apples; grate each apple into a buttered 6x10-inch casserole dish.
- 2.** In a bowl, mix the water, granulated sugar, flour, cinnamon and brown sugar; cut in the butter. Blend well; pour over the apples.
- 3.** Bake for 45 minutes at 325 F.

Bobbi's Hamburger

Barley Soup

Makes 10 1 1/2-cup servings.

- 1 1/2 lbs. ground beef or turkey
- 6 cups water
- 3 beef bouillon cubes
- 1/3 cup barley
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. pepper
- 2 bay leaves
- 1/4 cup ketchup
- 1 28-oz. can tomatoes with juice
- 1 8-oz. can tomato paste
- 2 cups carrots, sliced
- 1 1/2 cups onion, chopped
- 1 1/2 cups celery, chopped
- 1/2 cup green pepper, chopped

1. In a 5-qt. stock pot or Dutch oven, brown the ground beef or turkey; stir in the remaining ingredients. Slice open the whole tomatoes.
2. Bring the soup to a boil; reduce the heat. Simmer 1 hour or until the vegetables and barley are tender.
3. Remove the bay leaves before serving.

Marlene's Broccoli Casserole

- 3 10-oz. pkgs. frozen broccoli florets
- 1 8-oz. pkg. Kraft Jalapeño Cheese
- 1/2 stick butter
- 1 10.5-oz. can mushroom soup
- Breadcrumbs, to taste

1. Lightly cook the broccoli according to package directions; drain. In a casserole baking dish, cut the broccoli florets into bite-size pieces.
2. In a saucepan, melt the cheese and butter. Add the soup; stir well. Pour the cheese mixture over the broccoli, lightly stirring for full coverage.
3. Top with breadcrumbs; bake at 350 F for about 20 minutes or until the breadcrumbs are lightly browned and the dish is bubbly.

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



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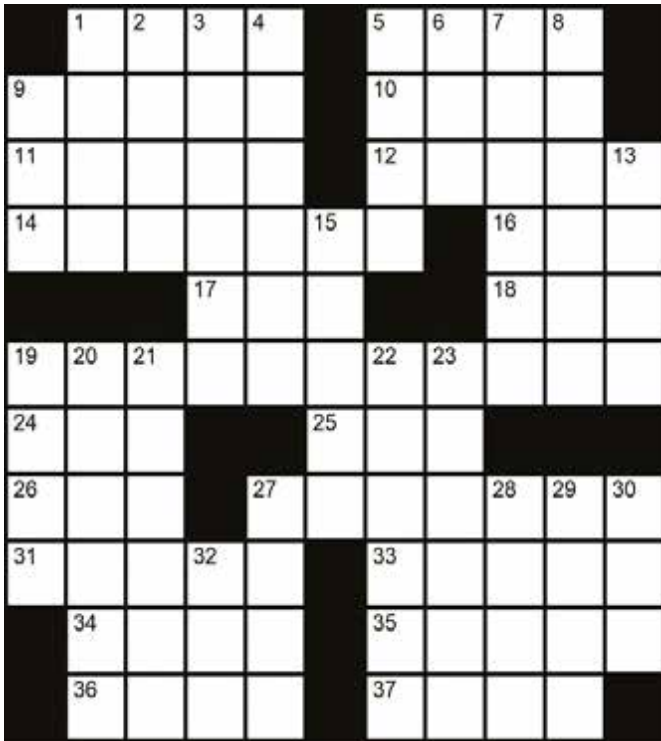
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Crossword Puzzle



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Across

- 1 "Just the facts, ---"
- 5 Window section
- 9 1970s and 80s music style
- 10 Charlie ---, fictional Honolulu 'tec
- 11 Single things
- 12 Persian Gulf port
- 14 Deals in unusual disclaimers
- 16 "Cursed" team, informally
- 17 Contend
- 18 Entirely
- 19 Item for future historians

Down

- 24 20 Down's temperature
- 25 Fish eggs
- 26 Alpha wave chart, for short
- 27 It's not ---, according to Tom Jones
- 31 Complains bitterly
- 33 Fleet
- 34 Grating
- 35 Mosque leaders
- 36 Poet --- Wheeler Wilcox
- 37 Brings home
- 1 Battlefield booby trap
- 2 "B --- boy"
- 3 On the go
- 4 Where tesserae are found
- 5 Banned contaminants
- 6 "By George, I think I've got it!"
- 7 Bahamian capital
- 8 Become a member
- 9 Turkey
- 13 Wheel shaft
- 15 Get familiar with renal change
- 19 Ballpark level
- 20 Mammoth cold spell?
- 21 1991 Macaulay Culkin coming-of-age drama
- 22 Enter en masse
- 23 Seed found on Kaisers sometimes
- 27 Farming agency
- 28 --- the crack of dawn
- 29 Intentions
- 30 Many Salt Lakers
- 32 "--- Abner" (Comic strip)

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

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SCAVENGER HUNT WINNER!

Dr. Neal Green, winner of \$50 cash, said, "I love *CorsicanaNOW* and the scavenger hunt. It is a monthly challenge, thank you."

Sudoku Puzzle

Easy

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

Medium

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

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Hello, Spring

APRIL

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.

4/3

John Conlee:

7:30 p.m., The Palace Theatre,
112 W. 6th Ave.
For more information, call
(903) 874-7792.

4/2, 4/9, 4/16 and 4/23

Kinsloe House Luncheons and Programs:

Noon, Kinsloe House,
618 W. 3rd Ave. Reservations
required. \$20. (903) 874-5791.

4/12

Mexia Area Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament:

Tri-County Gold Club
at the Vineyards. Email
director@mexiachamber.com.

Genealogy Game Day:

Play Jeopardy and learn
Navarro County history. 10:00
a.m., Corsicana Public Library,
100 N. 12th St. Facebook:
Corsicana Public Library.

4/22

Shred Day:

10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.,
Corsicana & Navarro County
Chamber of Commerce Parking
Lot, 120 N. 12th St. Email
chamber@corsicana.org.

Poetry Mic Night:

6:00 p.m., Corsicana Public

Library, 100 N. 12th St.
Facebook: Corsicana
Public Library.

4/24

Jimmy Fortune:

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

4/24-4/26

Derrick Days Festival:

Times vary.
Downtown Corsicana.
www.derrickdays.com.

4/25

Better Garden Club:

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

4/26

Dust: An Accidental Time Capsule:

Documentary film. 6:00 p.m.,
Palace Theatre, 112 W. 6th Ave.
www.visitcorsicana.com.

5/3

Navarro County Go Texan:

Dinner, music, open bar
and BBQ. 5:00 p.m.,
I.O.O.F Event Center,
601 N. 45th St. Jacob Reed
(903) 654-8783.

Mondays

Caregiver Support Group:

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

Tuesdays

Corsicana Lions Club Meeting:

Noon, Navarro College
Dining Hall. Facebook:
Corsicana Lions Club.

Yoga at the Library:

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

Third Wednesdays

Senior Fun Day:

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

Wednesdays

Corsicana Rotary Club:

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

Second Thursdays

Savvy Seniors:

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

Fourth Thursdays

Corsicana Newcomers Club Meeting:

Reservations required.
11:00 a.m., Kinsloe House,
618 W. Third Ave. Annie Avery
(714) 345-6707.

Second Fridays

Navarro County Retired Teachers Association Meeting:

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

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., Hargrave Hanger,
Corsicana Airport.
www.coyotesquadron.org.

*Submissions are welcome and
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virginia.riddle@nowmagazines.com.*

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