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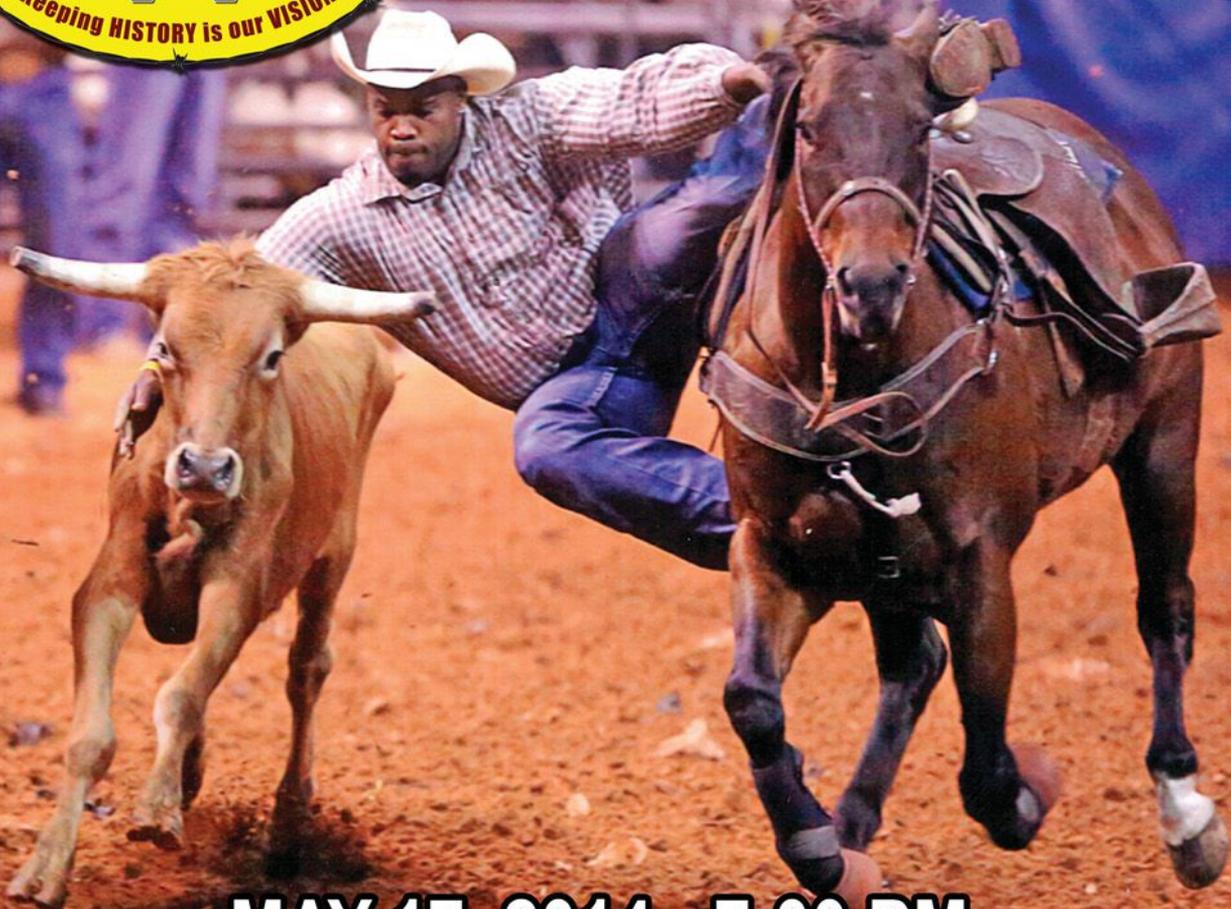
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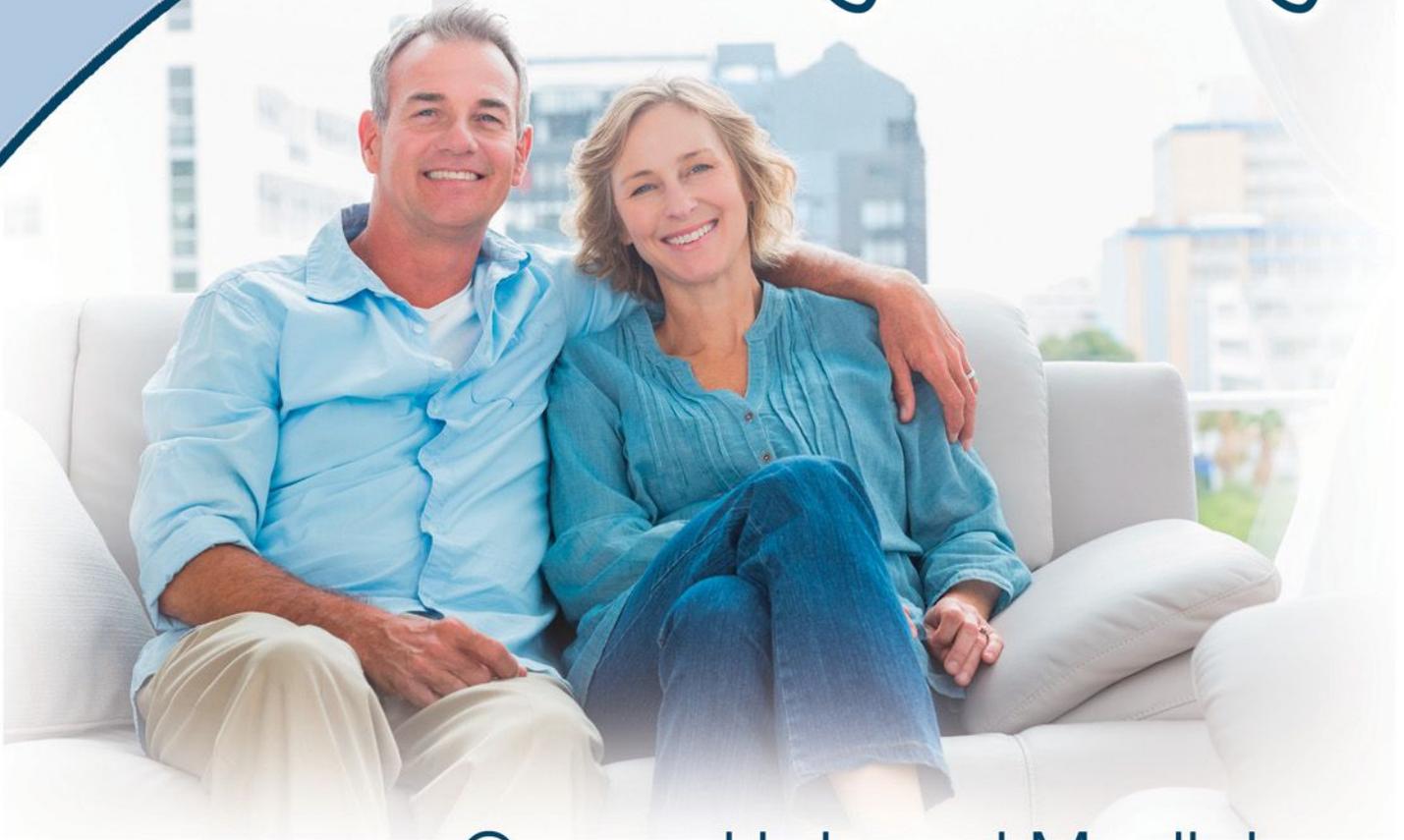
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ON THE COVER



*In the air or on the ground,
Marge Oslick is home.*

Photo by Amy Ramirez.

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Editor's Note

It's the merry month of May!

One of my fondest memories of elementary school was the annual maypole dance. A tall maypole was a permanent fixture on our playground. On or near May 1, all of us would wear our Sunday best to school for the annual May Day celebration. Parents were at-the-ready with Brownie cameras as their child took a turn at capturing one of the long, brightly colored ribbons. Our dance was more of a skip around the pole as we braided it with all the many colors. Spring had returned,

and school was nearly out. We thought life just couldn't get better.

Our weather is turning to beautifully warm, long sunny days and starry nights. As it does so, may you enjoy making memorable moments with your loved ones and all the pleasures of May!

Virginia

Virginia Riddle
CorsicanaNOW Editor
virginia.riddle@nowmagazines.com

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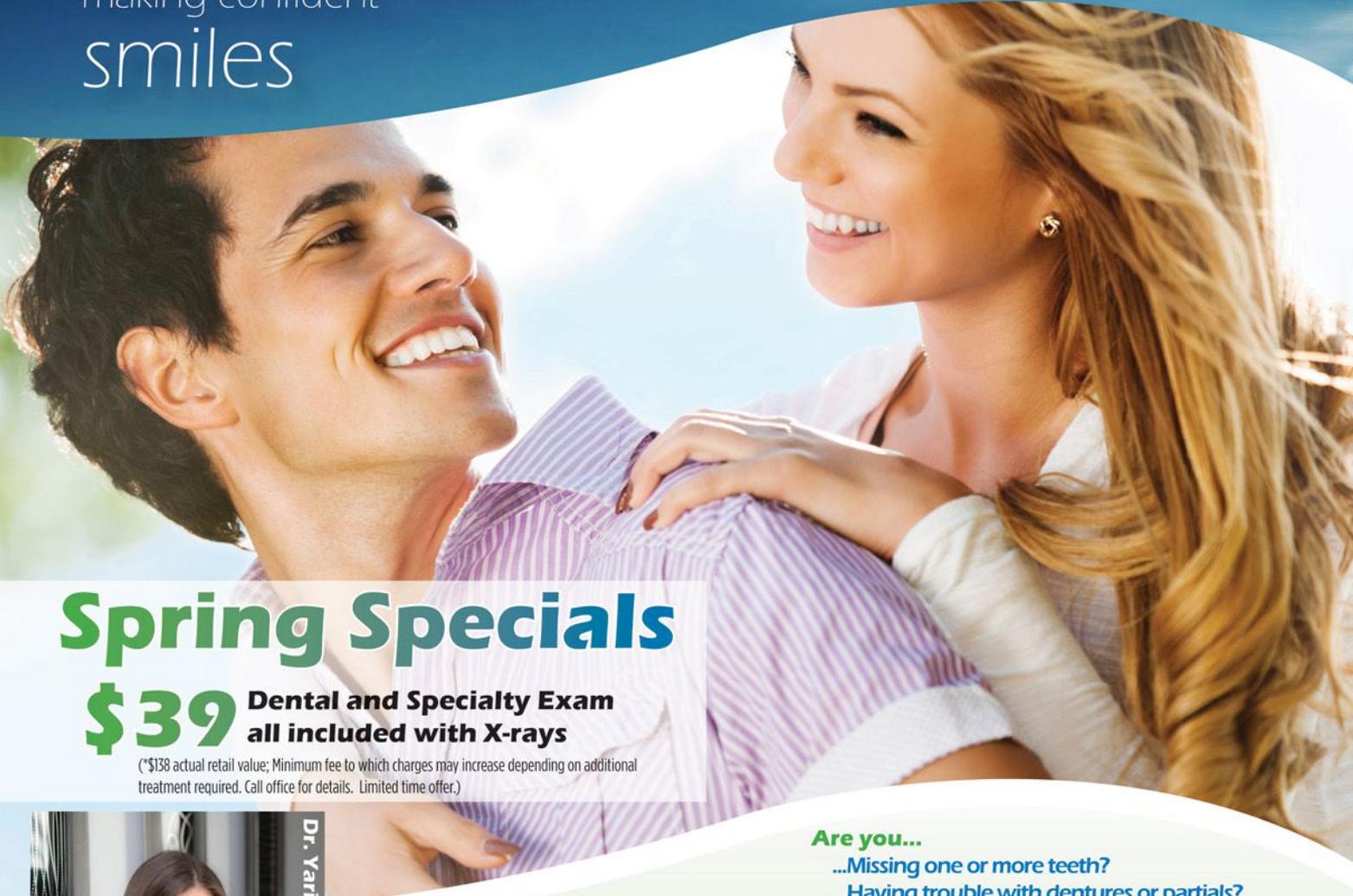


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Sandra Chu
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Congratulations my sweet daughter. I love you so much. Your journey in life has just begun.



Carl Grimes
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Congratulations!
We only expect greatness from you. We love you very much.



Amy Ford
Red Oak High School
Congratulations on your achievement. You've passed through this stage of life. You will do great in whatever you do.



Lori Ann Mathers
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"You can't think forever. Sooner or later, you gotta make a move." - Philip Blake
We love you Lori. We wish you the best.



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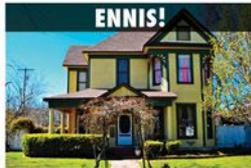
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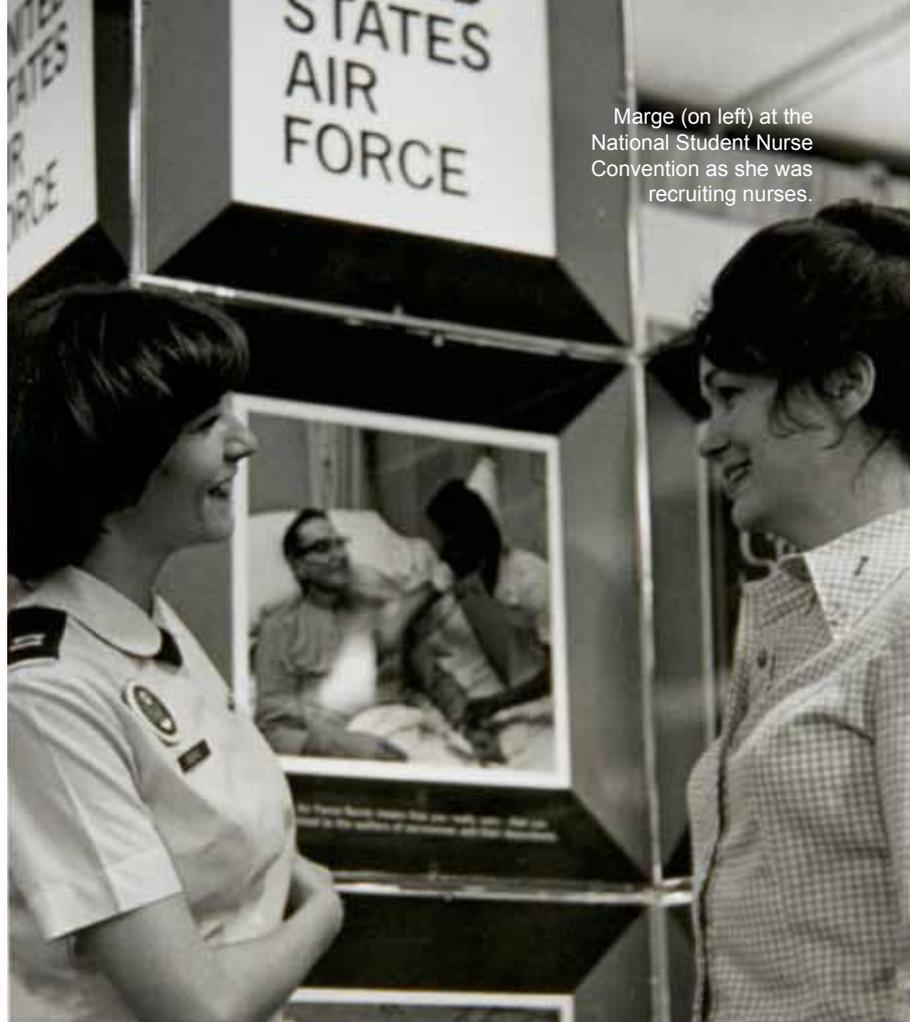


— By Virginia Riddle

As a mother, grandmother and a 20-year veteran of the United States Air Force, Marge Oslick has good reason to look forward to the month of May each year when Mother's Day and Memorial Day are both celebrated. "As a nation, we need to remember and appreciate what all the service people have given up for their country," Marge said.

Following high school graduation in her native Tulsa, Marge attended that city's St. John Hospital School of Nursing, and eventually earned her B.S. from Central State University (now the University of Central Oklahoma). While most women attending college then became either a nurse or a teacher, Marge became both by earning her B.S. in general education, allowing her to be certified to teach grades K-12. "I went to school for a lot of years for someone who only intended to attend a three-year program in nursing," Marge quipped.

Following graduation, Marge longed to move to Arizona. There was just one problem. "I was broke," she revealed. Always in need of nurses, the Air Force provided the adventure Marge wanted. "It looked interesting," she admitted, "and I was young and single. But I picked Florida instead, which turned out to be lots of fun. It was the right place at the right time for me."



Marge (on left) at the National Student Nurse Convention as she was recruiting nurses.

While at Eglin Air Force Base (AFB) in the Sunshine State, Marge received flight school training that enabled her to serve as an air evac nurse certified to fly on three aircraft at Scott AFB Illinois. Her Air Force career allowed her to see a few other regions of the U.S. She served variously at Carswell AFB Texas, Elmendorf AFB Alaska, Tinker AFB Oklahoma and, finally, back to Scott AFB. “I was also a nurse recruiter and worked in obstetrics as well as in clinic and out-patient departments,” Marge remembered. “At Tinker, I was in charge of the OB department. I either loved or hated my job — sometimes feeling both emotions in the same day.” But the tough road paid off as she earned the right to be addressed as Lt. Col. Oslick before she retired in 1994.

It was at Scott AFB that she met her husband, Jim, who was serving in the U.S. Air Force as an air evac pilot. Jim, an Aggie from San Gabriel, Texas, proposed, as he tells it, because Marge “could make a good cup of coffee.”

They were married at the base chapel with an outdoor reception planned at a nearby farm. There was only one glitch — it was a cold day in August. “We had a beer wagon, but we needed hot coffee,” Marge reminisced. “My dad bought instant coffee at a convenience store.”

Once children started arriving — son, Matt, and daughter, Laura — life in the military took on new challenges for Jim and Marge. While it’s not unusual today for both dad and mom to be in the service, they were pioneering the concept. “Back then, if you were pregnant, you had to leave the service, but everything

“We always need to take time on Memorial Day to remember.”

was beginning to change,” Marge said. “The Air Force made sure I wore my wedding band, and my maternity uniform attracted a lot of attention.”

Marge reflected on the challenges of being a wife, mother and military nurse. “I prayed a lot, especially when Jim served in Desert Storm,” she admitted. “The military is like a family. We had lots of stand-by babysitters, and my parents and in-laws came to babysit. Our kids would always have suitcases, backpacks and sleeping bags packed, whether for a sleepover or another move.” Marge recalled transitions being pretty organized. With every move, she was always unpacked in two or three days.

Jim and Marge put their military experience to use once they resumed civilian life and moved to the Dallas Metroplex. Jim flew for American Airlines while Marge was on staff at The University of Texas at Arlington College of Nursing. She

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was also a part-time tax preparer and substitute school nurse. “Much to the kids’ dismay, mom wasn’t going to get called out at night anymore,” Marge joked. “I volunteered at their high school in Ft. Worth so much that most people thought I was on the faculty.”

As empty nesters, Jim and Marge moved to their present Corsicana home, and Marge is often seen around town as a volunteer. She’s the driving force behind Corsicana Newcomers Club’s annual fundraising, is a board member of the Hope Center and is active in her church, Immaculate Conception Catholic Church.

Through visits to her mother who lived in a nursing home, Marge befriended another senior woman who now lives in a nursing home in Tarrant County. Finding out her new friend had no family nearby, Marge volunteered to become her guardian in 2008. “I visit her once a week and decorate her room for holidays,” Marge said. “The staff always



“I PRAYED
a lot, especially when Jim served in Desert Storm.”

says she has the nicest room. She’s 97 now, and I have as much fun at our visits as she does.”

Fully retired now, Jim and Marge enjoy visiting their son, daughter-in-law and grandson in Arkansas and being entertained by their daughter in Dallas. They also relax by reading, boating and sailing around the globe on cruises. Their next destination is a voyage to France for the 70th anniversary commemoration of the WWII Normandy invasion. The couple will follow this event with a side trip to Prague in the Czech Republic, the home of Jim’s grandparents.

And Marge finally made it to Arizona. The couple attended a reunion of air evac military personnel held in the so-called “Bone Yard,” a repository for retired military aircraft near Tucson. “We spent the day on our former air evac planes. I treasure that experience and the old friendships.

Marge has spent the days prior to

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Memorial Day each year taking her mother “on the cemetery run” to decorate family graves in Oklahoma. Her mother passed away last year, but Marge will still make the annual pilgrimage. Mother’s Day and Memorial Day are always celebrated by Marge with family.



Left to right:
Wesley Tryon,
Angie Leverette,
David Wilson,
Mika Chappell,
Brad Wilson

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She also respects today’s military personnel. “Nurses are now in combat,” she observed. “Our military is out there maintaining our position in the world and our freedom. Groups like the Angels of Corsicana Troop Support are remarkable, because they do so much to help our military know that someone back home remembers they’re there. We always need to take time on Memorial Day to remember.” **NOW**

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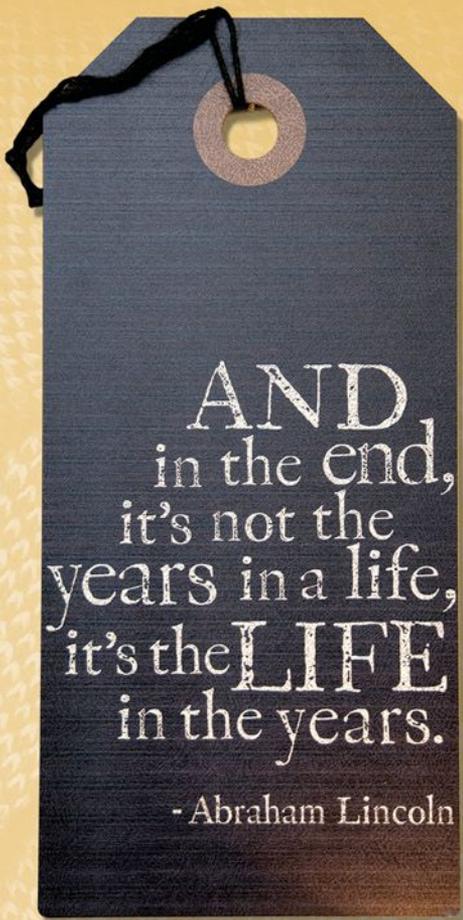
AT HOME WITH Wayne and Sandra Vernon

A house lies nestled in a cul-de-sac in northern Corsicana, shaded by towering trees, partly hidden by well-kept hedges and azalea bushes. Though secluded, the home is anything but deserted. Inside, Wayne and Sandra Vernon have taken great care to create a warm, welcoming environment for their many guests.

Wayne, originally from Tomball, a suburb of Houston, and Sandra, who grew up in Houston, have lived in Corsicana for 33 years. Sandra is an RN education coordinator at Navarro Regional Hospital, and Wayne is the plant superintendent for Firestone Building Products. They have two children. Adam is 28 and lives in Dallas with his wife, Sabrina. Tiffany is 24 and works as a teacher at Carroll Elementary School in Corsicana. Wayne and Sandra decided to settle in Corsicana, because they liked its small-town atmosphere. “I grew up in a small town,” Wayne reflected. “I just really liked growing up there and the closeness we had with neighbors.”

Sandra enjoys the serenity of Corsicana after living in big, busy





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- Abraham Lincoln

Houston. "No traffic is nice," she said. "Although I miss the city, I get my city fix by running to Dallas when I need to." Overall, Corsicana suits Sandra and her family perfectly. "It's just peaceful living," she said.

Ten years ago, Wayne and Sandra decided they needed to upgrade to a larger home. "We came from a very small 1,500-square-foot home that we had lived in for 18 years," Sandra said. "Everyone needed more space. We just wanted something bigger, because we entertain a lot." As the couple began looking for a new home, they had certain criteria in



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mind. “We actually moved off of a dead end road, so we were spoiled in that way,” Sandra explained. “I particularly wanted a dead end or a cul-de-sac.”

They soon found a four-bedroom, three-bath home that sparked their interest. It was built in 1974 and located at the end of a cul-de-sac. “The people I know who grew up in this area tell me this was *the* prestigious house back when it was first built,” Wayne said. “When this

house came on the market, it was perfect for us.” Soon, the papers were signed and the home was theirs.

“It had everything we wanted,” Sandra agreed. “We still had two teenage kids here, and they both had their own private areas.” Sandra saw the potential in the then-outdated home. “It needed a lot of work, but the bones were good,” she pointed out. “I had a vision for it.” After they moved in, Wayne and Sandra went to

work renovating the old place. “There had been some updates, but most of it was still in ’70s mode,” Sandra admitted. “So, we updated it. We put in new windows, updated the crown molding, textured all the walls, put in new flooring and took out some of the dated built-ins.”

Part of the reason Wayne and Sandra upgraded to a larger home is because they enjoy throwing parties with friends and family. “We were hosting lots of events at that little house all the time,” Sandra shared. “But there just wasn’t enough room.” Their children no longer live at home, but a larger space has proved useful for entertaining guests. “Even

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though it's too big of a house for us now, we use every bit of it," Sandra observed. Because Corsicana is centrally located to members of their extended family, Wayne and Sandra usually host holiday and other family gatherings. "Socially, it works," Sandra said. "We love having people over, and the house is conducive to that."

The dining room and front sitting room are spaces guests see first. "We've taken the things that are important in our lives and decorated around them," Sandra said. "You can go through our house and tell who we are." Gesturing to the wine racks and art surrounding the table, she laughed, "You can obviously tell we like wine." In their comfortable den, large portraits of their children hang above the fireplace. In fact, each room reflects Wayne and Sandra's love for family and friends as well as their own individuality.

"Our guest room has its own side of the house," Sandra said. "It has a travel theme. We have a lot of pictures from our vacations in there." The room features a bedspread with pictures of famous landmarks and a bright red rug. "It's a fun room," Sandra said. "It's got good light and color."

At the other end of the house, Wayne and Sandra have converted their children's old bedrooms into an office and a workout room respectively. "Our office is our Texas room," Sandra commented. "We're big Texas Rangers fans, so we have a lot of Ranger memorabilia in there." On the wall, a framed collage shows tickets from games leading up to the World Series. Next to the office, their workout room features exercise equipment and a mounted television on the wall. "It also has all of our old albums, so it's kind of our music room," Sandra added, pointing out various items.



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“The workout room used to be the master bedroom of the house at one point, but former owners added a new bathroom to the bedroom in the back of the house, making it the new master,” Wayne clarified. The master bathroom features a large tub with a window above and a private space each for Wayne and Sandra.

“My bathroom — it’s what sold me on the house. I have a



big sprawling bathroom,” Sandra said. “When I saw it, I was like, ‘I want this house.’” The master bath leads to the master bedroom, secluded and private with double French doors leading to the backyard. “We have French doors all along the back of our house, so it’s very open,” Sandra noted. “No matter what room you go into, you can see the backyard.”

Luckily, this well-designed area is Wayne and Sandra’s favorite part about their home. The large yard offers a patio, fire pit, fountain and a gazebo with a hot tub inside. “We spend a lot of time out on our back porch in the spring and summertime barbecuing, and we have a TV set up out there,” Wayne said. “I like lying on the hammock or in the hot tub or just spending a day sitting on the back porch.”

Wayne and Sandra have found quiet, out-of-the-way refuge, but they love sharing it with the people they love. “Every room is useful, and we anticipate entertaining for years to come, so we’ll probably stay here,” Sandra concluded. “We talk about retiring and moving other places, but we could stay here forever.” **NOW**

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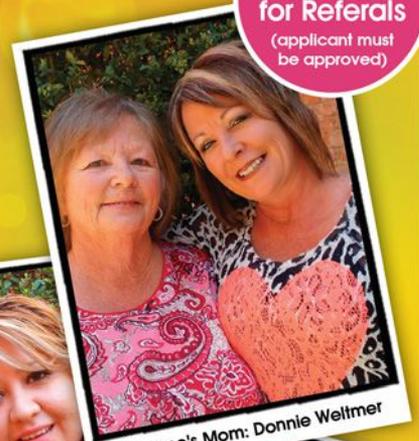
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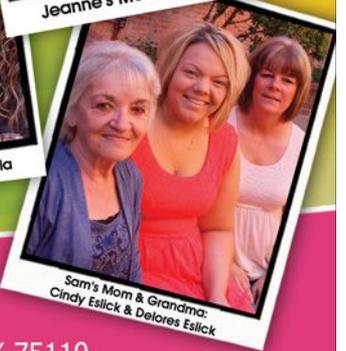
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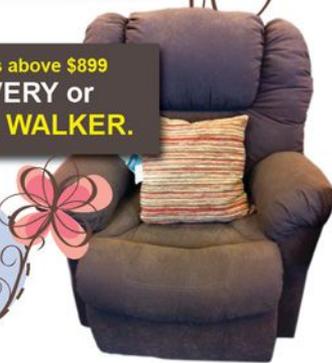
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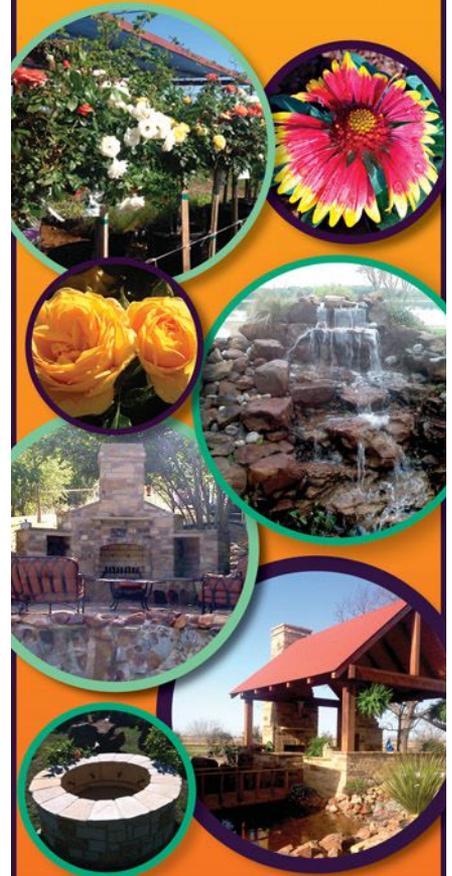
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Creative MOVEMENT

— By Virginia Riddle

When Leona Adams saw a need to help her community and carry on the Jackson High School name, she decided to accomplish her goals by giving the youth of her neighborhood something worthwhile to do after school. She formed the Jackson Bear Drill Team, which today still serves both of Leona's original purposes. Among that first group of drill team members was a young lady, LaTonya Roberts, who now directs



the group. "The team has been a big part of my life," LaTonya said. "We have a lot of gifted kids around here, and we are here to help them."

LaTonya is aided by Seri Nolan, who serves as secretary of the Jackson High School Ex-Students Association, and her friend Kowania Albert. LaTonya and Kowania also give credit to the parents of the drill team's 21 youthful members this year. "We just go to the parents for anything we need," Kowania said. "There's not a lot of art in our neighborhood, so the parents respond." This year, the group has six sponsors, an increase by four from the previous year.

Closed in the 1970s due to desegregation, Jackson High

"This became my life's project — to nurture these kids in the community and keep them involved."



Ja'kayla Bryant, one of the team captains, poses with director, LaTonya Roberts.

School remains in many Corsicana residents' hearts and memories due, in part, to its active ex-students association. The drill team performs at many major local events the ex-students association organizes, such as the Juneteenth pageant and parade. The group was also invited to perform at the Ladies Women's Convention at the Temple Baptist Church in Dallas.

LaTonya remembers, as a student at Drane Intermediate School, when the then Blue and Gold Brigade, which would later morph into the Calicos of Corsicana High School, came to perform. "I dreamed of making that drill team," LaTonya enthused. "My experience on the Jackson Bear Drill Team helped me. I

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Ruby Williams and LaTonya Roberts are proud of the Jackson Bear Drill Team.



made the Calicos by my 10th grade year and performed with them through my senior year.”

The group's three-hour practices at the Bear Den are held two to three evenings per week. The Bear Den is located near the Corsicana Boys & Girls Club, which was built on the land once occupied by Jackson High. One boy and 14-20 girls — ages 10 and up — participate in nearly every one of the practices. While Edrick (E-way) Hervey is the sound man — “He loves music,” LaTonya said — 4-year-old Denym Mullin serves as the group's mascot. Music from all genres is featured, with favorite selections coming from Jackson High's heyday. “We work on themes that are flashbacks to those days,” LaTonya revealed.

Volunteering to work with young people brings its challenges. “Don't poke fun at anyone — that is my pet peeve,” LaTonya explained. “I am very strict, and my motto is: If you look bad, I look bad. And I don't like to look bad. I meet with parents up front and give them the do's and don'ts. They are good about picking up the kids and providing transportation.”

Parents pay a small fee, and ex-students association members help fund the drill team for expenses like travel, costumes, music, makeup and refreshments. In earlier days, Mrs. Barteo made skirts for the team, but today's members wear T-shirts, tights and shorts for their parade appearances and other performances. The team members also raise funds through an annual fish fry, car

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As the team's choreographer, LaTonya keeps the dances balanced so kids of all abilities can be successful. It also keeps the dances new. She recently returned to study dance at Hill Junior College after attending Navarro College her freshman year. "Dance is my passion," LaTonya admitted. "If I'm depressed, dance brings joy back to me. I know how to dance. Now I'm learning how to teach it. I am also learning sound and staging. I like to be challenged." Even though she's an employee of Russell Stover Candies and a mother of two children who are



A memory wall honors Jackson Ex-Students.

involved in sports, LaTonya tries to find some down time to read and to watch old movies. She looks up to professional dancer Debbie Allen.

LaTonya's goals for the drill team's future are high. "I would love to have a bigger group of kids and be able to get professional uniforms," she said. "And it would be great to be able to take everyone to observe the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater practice and performance sometime."

One of the captains of the Jackson Bear Drill Team is Ja'kayla Bryant, who is completing her sophomore year at Corsicana High School. "I just really like the dancing," said Ja'kayla, who has been with the group for six years. "The drill team is like a second family to me and it has taught me leadership skills." At Corsicana HS, Ja'kayla is in Calicos, on the basketball team and runs track, although a recently torn ACL that required surgery has been problematic. She also serves as vice president of First Independent Baptist Church's youth department and plans to attend either Texas Tech University or Stephen F. Austin State University following graduation from high school.

Ja'kayla credits her success to her love



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of dance and a family that supports her totally in all her endeavors. “My grandmother, Bertha Johnson, even helps us by getting on *Talk Time* [a local call in radio program],” Ja’kayla pointed out. “The drill team is special. I would encourage everyone to come join and meet us. It’s just like playing a sport.”

“I like the performances,” Kowania added. “There’s something about the drill team’s performance that sets the tone for the Juneteenth pageant. Everyone gets excited, and members use this experience as a stepping stone. Even former members in their 40s remember LaTonya helping them. She has the talent to take them all to the next level.”

“LaTonya does an excellent job, and I support her 100 percent,” Seri concurred, seconding the assessment. “We want the youth to have something special like this.”

“This became my life’s project — to nurture these kids in the community and keep them involved,” LaTonya concluded. “It’s a gift God gave me.” **NOW**

Editor’s note: For more information, call LaTonya Roberts at (903) 467-9960.

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Child's PLAY

— By Randy Bigham

With summer around the steamy corner, moms and dads everywhere are considering ways to keep their kids cool, entertained and challenged until school activities rev up again. Busy parents, especially, want safe options for amusement and education they can depend on for their children during workday hours.

Summer Camps

For many parents, grandparents and guardians, the tried-and-true youth camp offers an ideal solution to boredom and inactivity for their kids. As schools close their doors for summer break, camps around North Texas open their, drawing children of all ages to the same games, sports and campfire sing-alongs, which have provided fond memories for older generations. But, as the website for Ultimate Camp Resource makes clear, “there’s more to camp than kickball or four-square.” Modern summer camps offer a wide variety of both age-appropriate and inclusive outings, games, art projects and theatrical skits. “We





encourage you to plan all activities using the 'everybody plays, everybody wins' philosophy," the site suggests, adding by changing the rules to give a personal touch and not keeping score helps make competitions upbeat and fun.

Susan Merrill, director of programs for Camp Fire Camp El Tesoro in Granbury, believes in the importance of reaching children through activities for all tastes and skills. In her 25 years in the camp industry, Susan has observed the positive effect the interactive enjoyment of work, play and team building has had on young campers. "Going to camp should be a part of every child's life," she said. "The experience develops their independence and confidence, and it provides the opportunity for children to learn decision making."

At large camps, some extraordinary features include: horseback riding, canoeing and kayaking, hiking,



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basketball, tennis and soccer. Whatever children's interests might be, Misty Luttrell, director of overnight and family camps at Camp Fire, recognizes a common denominator: togetherness. "With all the electronics out there, kids spend more time plugged in and less time interacting face to face," she pointed out. "But camp fosters an atmosphere that allows kids to build relationships with peers and their counselors."

Vacation Bible Schools

Another staple, yet ever diversifying, alternative for meaningful summer activity for children is Vacation Bible School. Nearly every church sponsors a program blending faith-based instruction with challenging amusement, covering a range of ages.

Nora Beane, a contributor to the online clearinghouse Yahoo Voices, cites five good reasons for parents to consider VBS as a viable outlet for kids' entertainment and education:

1. Scheduling: "The majority of VBS programs run for a single week and many only operate for a half day during that week. Almost every family can plan around that."
2. Content: "There are a million sites where kids can go to learn how to play baseball, but considerably fewer places where kids can learn to respect others and have faith in God."
3. Quality companionship: "Parents can guess that their child will be

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attending VBS with other kids who come from families where values are important and faith is central.”

4. Engaging entertainment: “Kids at VBS don’t just spend time reading the Bible. VBS programs have curriculums built for and around kids that are full of adventure.”

5. Economic value: “Because they are church based, most VBS programs are not set up to make a profit. They are set up to share a message.”

Library Programs

An increasingly varied venue for parents seeking relief from the heat for their kids this summer is the local library. Not only can the little ones (and the older ones, too) hone their reading skills, but they also acquire valuable social sensibilities and teamwork through contests and other interactive programs. From talks by authors to magic shows and clown acts, children learn to associate books with fresh new experiences and exposure that will aid their future reading development and desire for knowledge.

According to the American Library Association, 95 percent of public libraries offer summer reading initiatives for children, so there’s no shortage of programs for which parents can sign their kids up. Many libraries select themes each summer for their programming, which involves not only literature but special events. Local themes for summer reading programs in the recent past have included tie-ins



2014 Summer Reading Club
 Every Thursday at 10:30am
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 Reading prizes!

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- June 12th - Corsicana Fire Department
- June 19th - Snake Encounters
- June 26th - Blackland Prairie Raptor Center
- July 3rd - Memaw's Misfits
- July 10th - Len Barnett (Drums)
- July 17th - Wild things Zoofari
- July 24th - Library Craft Day 10:30 & 11:30
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- July 31st - Brett Roberts (Magician)

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to popular family movies, cartoons and comic books.

The ALA lists the three main benefits for youth-oriented summer reading programs as:

1. Maintaining reading skills between grades.
2. Attracting reluctant readers by activity-oriented events.
3. Encouraging reading as a lifelong habit.

YMCA and Community Recreation Centers

More fun in the sun opportunities for kids this summer at local YMCA centers or other community recreation facilities include: basketball and football, swimming, outdoor art installations, tie-dyeing T-shirts and numerous other craft projects.

One North Texas area YMCA craft idea proved especially popular last summer with young children returning from a field trip to a popular water park, and it promises to entertain many again this year. Boys and girls created a souvenir of their outing by gluing sand and shells onto a wooden or particle board backing in the shape of a starfish or dolphin. These were then affixed to a painted stick or straw, which girls in particular enjoyed waving around, calling the toy their “mermaid wand.”

Whether camping out or taking a dip, curling up with a new book or displaying artistic creations, the summer sky’s the limit. There are plenty of choices available for exciting recreational and educational opportunities for your kids this year! **NOW**

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Registration Deadline - May 24th

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Cost: \$20 Family Members
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Registration Deadline - May 24th

Kid Pitch Baseball

Ages 10-12 (as of May '14)
Cost: \$25 Family Members
\$40 Youth Members
\$70 Program Participants
Registration Deadline - June 7th

Machine Pitch Baseball

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Cost: \$25 Family Members
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Registration Deadline - June 7th

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Hours:

Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.



The staff at Corsicana Cancer Center provides patients with treatment close to home. Michael O'Neill and his wife, Natalie (above), are proud to call Corsicana home.



Right Here, Right Now

Corsicana Cancer Center patients can choose hometown, state-of-the-art care.

— By Virginia Riddle

Traveling to out-of-town facilities for cancer care is a thing of the past for Corsicanans and surrounding area residents. The arrival of Corsicana Cancer Center has given patients in the Golden Triangle the advantage of receiving hometown care from local health care professionals. These specialists use state-of-the-art technology individualized to the needs of each patient. “We are bringing experts and the best technology in the field of radiation treatment to Corsicana,” said Michael O’Neill, a medical physicist and CEO of Corsicana Cancer Center. “It’s a good thing for the city and its residents.”

Locals Joe and Shirley Nussbaum can vouch for that. They attended the center’s official opening. Joe, a volunteer who drives area cancer patients to Dallas for treatment, sees the center as

a much needed convenience. “I think it’s a nice facility,” Shirley agreed. “It will save so many people the time and expense of driving to Dallas.”

In addition to Michael, the center’s staff includes Howard Moench, M.D., radiation oncologist; Leonor Edgar and Nicole White, radiation therapists; and Valerie Coffman, medical dosimetrist.

Corsicana Cancer Center uses the latest technology, from Intensity-Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT) and Image Guided Radiation Therapy (IGRT) to the General Electric CT Simulator and the Philips Treatment Planning System. Other features provided by the clinic include the Varian Linear Accelerator with On Board Imaging and the MOSAIQ electronic medical record.

When a cancer patient and his or her doctor decide on radiation as an appropriate treatment, the Corsicana Cancer Center staff takes a CT scan which creates a 3D model of the tumor. Based on that information, a simulation of the treatment is created by the dosimetrist. Following a review by the doctors and a physicist, daily treatment is recorded and verified through a system that assures the dose is accurately delivered.

Since the average radiation treatment is given daily for six to eight weeks, staff members have the opportunity to get to know each patient well. "We try to relieve patients' anxieties," Michael explained. "As a physicist, it's my role to advise on treatment technology."

Multiple doctors are involved in each patient's care since radiation is one of the last lines of attack against invasive cancer cells. The primary care physician is in charge of coordinating services provided by the team of medical professionals.

The Corsicana Cancer Center staff is experienced in being part of the patient's medical team. Dr. Moench received medical training at the University of Southern California and is a member of the American Medical Association.

Michael earned a bachelor's degree from Western Maryland College in physics and biology. He also holds a master's of radiological health sciences degree from Johns Hopkins University with post graduate studies at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. Michael is a member of the Texas Radiological Society, the American College of Radiology and the American Association of Physicists in Medicine. He is enjoying his move to Corsicana and looks forward to indulging in his favorite hobbies — fishing and water skiing — at Lake Richland Chambers. He and his wife, Natalie, are parents of two grown sons.

Corsicana Cancer Center is a member of the Corsicana & Navarro County Chamber of Commerce. "We are proud to be a part of the Corsicana community," Michael said. "We look forward to providing the best of cancer care and working with local civic groups and churches by offering educational forums." **NOW**



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Angie Dyer and Laura Tesmer are all smiles at the Hope Center's annual fundraiser dinner.



Billie Piper and Annie Avery enjoy a spring-themed Corsicana Newcomers Club luncheon.



Chapter 1009 of the Vietnam Veterans of America attend the dedication of the Texas Capital Vietnam Veterans Memorial at the Texas State Capitol.



Melinda Harrison helps out at the Navarro Regional Hospital's Volunteer Auxiliary Gift Shop.



The James L. Collins Catholic School's book fair is a rousing success.



Navarro College students are inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.



Rabbits and their exhibitors wait anxiously for the judge's decisions at the Navarro County Youth Expo.



Deanna Smith with grandchildren (from left) Maddison, Emma and Ainsley Green at the Collins Catholic School's book fair and Grandparents' Day celebration.



Kerens Veterans Memorial committee plans for the May 24th Red Brick Classic Car Show.

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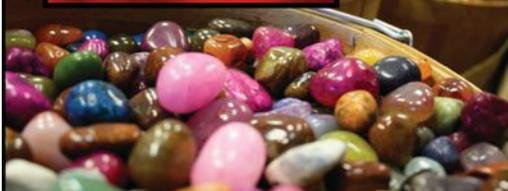


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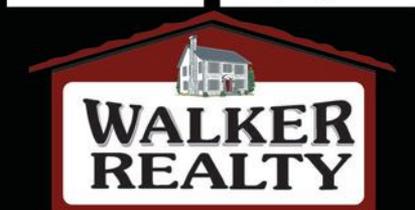
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Nine Smart Uses for Your Tax Refund

You've finished your tax returns and discovered you'll be receiving a nice refund. You're not alone: The IRS reported an average refund of about \$2,800 in 2013. But before you dream up ways to spend that money, think of how helpful this "extra paycheck" could be. Here are nine ways to use your refund wisely:

- 1. Pay off your debt.** Whether you're making payments on a car loan, education loans, a mortgage or high interest credit cards, use your refund to make a dent in what you owe.
- 2. Boost your emergency fund.** Experts recommend stashing the equivalent of three to six months' worth of income in an emergency fund. If your account is low, has been depleted or doesn't exist yet, your refund could help you cover expenses in an emergency.
- 3. Ramp up retirement savings.** According to the Pew Research Center, approximately 38 percent of U.S. adults are not confident they'll have the money to retire. If you've gotten behind in your savings, your tax refund might help you catch up. Not only that, you'll get to enjoy watching how far that money can go when it's accruing interest.
- 4. Start or add to a college fund.** Even if your kids are young, those college tuition bills will be arriving before you know it — and they'll likely be larger than you expect! Seek out an education savings plan and get a head start on your child's education.
- 5. Make an investment.** Consider putting your refund money to work

for you. Talk to your investment advisor about your options.

- 6. Improve your efficiency.** Investing in home improvements can pay off in reduced energy bills. For example, replacing an old refrigerator with a new ENERGY STAR-rated unit can save you \$200 to \$1,100 over the lifetime of the appliance. Some energy-efficient upgrades may help you get a discount from your utility company as well.
- 7. Bolster your life insurance.** If it's been awhile since you reviewed your insurance coverage, you may find you're underinsured. Your insurance agent can help you determine the level of coverage that's right for you.
- 8. Invest in yourself.** Have you put off continuing education because you didn't have the funds? Your refund might provide a good start toward tuition. (Even better: Earning a higher certification could lead to a raise or promotion!) You also could make an investment in your health: Get a personal trainer, update your home exercise equipment or join a gym.
- 9. Be generous.** Find a cause or organization that you feel strongly about and donate your refund to it. Your contribution, added to others, could make a bigger impact than you think. **NOW**

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Lynda Housley is a State Farm agent based in Corsicana.

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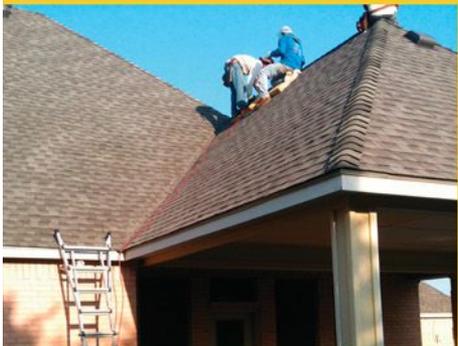
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Silence in Loss

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

“What did you say?” In a louder voice you ask again, “What? I can’t hear you.” It may not be the speaker’s fault you did not hear something as well as you used to. Maybe your hearing needs your attention. Your hearing is a valuable sensory commodity you have used since before you were born. How well you continue to hear will affect the quality of life you enjoy. So it’s important to have any problems with your ears investigated by a physician to prevent hearing loss.

Everyone has difficulty hearing or understanding another person at some time or another. Here is a list from the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders to help objectively determine if there is reason for concern. If you answer yes on three or more, consult with your physician for further guidance.

1. Do you have trouble hearing people on the phone?
2. Do you have a problem following a conversation when two or more people are talking?
3. Do people complain that the volume is too high when you watch TV?
4. Do you have to strain/try hard to understand conversation?
5. Do you have trouble hearing in a noisy background?
6. Do you find yourself asking people to repeat themselves?
7. Do many people you talk to seem to mumble or not speak clearly?
8. Do you misunderstand what others are saying and respond inappropriately?
9. Do you have trouble understanding the speech of women and children?

10. Do people get annoyed, because you misunderstand what they say?

Even if you score the requisite three points, do not panic. Your hearing may be affected by something treatable. An excess amount of ear wax will dull your hearing. An ear infection, certain diseases and/or medications can interfere with the normal operation of your ear. Your first course of action should be to consult with your primary care physician, who may refer you to a specialist such as an otolaryngologist, sometimes called an ENT (ear, nose and throat) doctor — a medical doctor who specializes in those areas. You may be referred to an otologist, who is a highly specialized otolaryngologist focusing mainly on matters of the ear and balance.

Treatment for hearing loss depends upon its cause. If loss of hearing is permanent, then hearing aids or hearing transplants may be necessary. The goal is to improve hearing and communication. Protect your hearing and seek professional help when warranted. **NOW**

Source:

Excerpt from NIH Publication No. 01-4913, www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/hearing/pages/10ways.aspx.

This article is for general information only and does not constitute medical advice. Consult with your physician if you have questions regarding this topic.

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May 2

Corsicana & Navarro County Chamber of Commerce 2014 Annual Golf Classic. For more information, call (903) 874-4731.

Herman's Hermits: 7:30 p.m., The Palace Theatre. For more information or to reserve tickets, call (903) 874-7792.

May 3

Kinsloe House Spring Garden Tour: 1:00-4:00 p.m. This event includes a bake sale, vendors, silent auction and a tour of six Corsicana gardens. For more information, call (903) 874-5791.

May 9

Senior Circle Pot Luck luncheon: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Navarro Regional Hospital. For more information, contact Connie Beal at (903) 654-6892.

Navarro County Retired Teachers Association luncheon: 11:30 a.m., Northwest Apartments Community Center. For more information or to make reservations prior to **May 6**, contact Kathy Huffman at (903) 654-2849.

May 10

16th Annual Corsicana Airsho: gates open

at 9:30 a.m., Corsicana Municipal Airport. Tickets are \$10 per person, \$20 per car and free to veterans, active military personnel and their families. For more information, contact Dan Summerall at (903) 467-7170.

Oakwood Odyssey: 5:30-8:30 p.m. Oakwood Cemetery, 700 N. 15th St. Take a walking tour of Historic Oakwood. Tickets are \$10. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (903) 654-4808.

May 13

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1009 meeting: 7:00 p.m., Sirloin Stockade. For more information, email Roy Messick at roy.messick@gmail.com.

May 14

Dining Out With Senior Circle: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Don Jose's Restaurant. For more information, contact Connie Beal at (903) 654-6892.

May 17

Relay for Life 2014: 2:00-10:00 p.m., Mildred High School Stadium. For more information, contact Becky Long at (817) 992-2883.

G.W. Jackson Heritage Rodeo: gate opens at

5:30 p.m., Navarro County Youth Expo, 4021 W. Hwy 22. Admission is \$10 per person. For more information, contact Charles Betts at (903) 654-4279.

May 22

Corsicana Newcomers' Club: 11:00 a.m., Kinsloe House. For more information or confirmed reservations, contact Marge Oslick at (903) 872-3508.

10th Annual VOICE Spring Night Out: 5:45 p.m., Cook Center. Tickets are \$50 per person and include dinner and entertainment. For more information, contact Gina Dieterichs at (903) 872-0180 or email gdieterichs@voice.org.

May 24

Red Brick Classic Car Show, Fish Fry and Auction: 10:00 a.m., car registration; fish fry, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., auction 1:00 a.m., Downtown Kerens. For more information, contact Danny Combs at (903) 396-2590.

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

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In the Kitchen With Jason Bailey

— *By Virginia Riddle*

Jason Bailey enjoys cooking for his large family, which includes three generations under one roof, and all their friends. Special occasions such as birthday parties, holidays and Mother's Day, allow Jason to share his love of cooking. "We had 33 people for Thanksgiving," Jason recalled. "I wouldn't know what to do if the house was just quiet."

Grilling is Jason's specialty, and steak is a favorite. Jason gained his cooking skills from his dad. "I'm amazed how quick he can put something together," Jason said. Jason's wok is homemade from a disc, and his smoker is homemade and heavy. Whether it's beef, chicken, pork or sausage, Jason said, "It all gets eaten!" **NOW**

Stuffed Jalapeños

- 24 fresh jalapeños**
- 1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese**
- 1 Tbsp. paprika**
- 2 16-oz. pkgs. bacon**
- 24 toothpicks**

- 1.** Preheat oven to 400 F.
- 2.** Wash jalapeños well. Remove tops; use a jalapeño coring tool or a serrated knife to remove the core.
- 3.** In a bowl, mix the cream cheese and paprika. Stuff each jalapeño with cream cheese mix.
- 4.** Wrap each jalapeño with one slice of

bacon, using a toothpick to hold it together.

- 5.** Place jalapeños on cookie sheets; bake for 30 minutes to 1 hour depending on desired consistency — soft to crispy.
- 6.** Remove from oven; let cool before serving.

Fried Chicken

- 2 cups vegetable oil**
- 1 pkg. of 8 chicken thighs**
- 1 pkg. of 8 chicken legs**
- 2 cups flour**
- 2 Tbsp. seasoned salt, or to taste**
- 2 Tbsp. garlic salt, or to taste**
- 1 Tbsp. black pepper, or to taste**

1/2 cup corn meal

- 1.** In a large pan, preheat oil to 350 F.
- 2.** Wash chicken; remove unwanted fat.
- 3.** Place flour, seasonings, corn meal and chicken into a Ziploc bag; shake.
- 4.** Place chicken in oil for 15-20 minutes; remove, drain and let cool.

Beef or Chicken Fajitas

- 2 lbs. beef skirt or boneless chicken breast**
- 2 red bell peppers**
- 1 yellow bell pepper**
- 1 green bell pepper**
- 1 red onion**
- 1 pkg. mushrooms**
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil**
- 2 Tbsp. chili powder**
- 2 Tbsp. seasoned salt**
- 1 Tbsp. black pepper**
- 2 Tbsp. garlic powder**

- 1.** Cut beef or chicken into long, thin slices.
- 2.** Cut bell peppers, onion and mushrooms into thin slices.
- 3.** Heat vegetable oil in wok, on stove top or over outside gas burner.
- 4.** Cook meat; add vegetables and spices, smothering the meat.
- 5.** Stir constantly until vegetables caramelize and meat is done. Additional spices may be added, as desired.
- 6.** Remove from heat; serve while sizzling hot.

Grilled Steak

- 4 chuck eye steaks**
- 1 Tbsp. garlic salt (divided use)**
- 1 Tbsp. seasoned salt (divided use)**
- 1 tsp. black pepper (divided use)**

- 1.** Preheat gas or prepare charcoal grill.
- 2.** Once grill has reached high heat, place meat on grill.
- 3.** Add spices. (Other spices may be added or substituted as desired.)
- 4.** Cook for 3-15 minutes. Cooking time depends on the thickness of the meat and how the meat is cooked — rare to well-done.
- 5.** Turn meat over; add spices to second side.
- 6.** Cook this side for the same number of minutes at the same temperature.
- 7.** Serve sizzling hot with vegetables and other meats prepared on the grill.



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