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MAY 2023

Big Blessings

After 45 years, Pedro and Gloria Aceves are still answering the call

In the Kitchen With
Melissa and Codie Bearden

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt

Crossword

Featured Business:
JJ's Customs & Collision

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ON THE COVER



Still in the pulpit, Pedro Aceves ministers to the community.

Photo by
Memories by Melissa.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Listen closely ...

Thunder, lightning, breezes or high winds, spring showers and storms — they all roll across our Texas plains. Coyotes howl, and owls hoot every evening as I sit outside enjoying the nice temps and stars. By day, I hear the flap of the pelicans, glossy ibis and cranes' wings as they land on my lake for a short fishing respite before continuing their travels north. The hummingbirds visit all day long at the feeders placed near my patio, and hawks hunt while smaller songbird species return to my ranch pastures. Spring, going into summer, is my favorite time of year. The gardens are in bloom, and nature's choir and orchestra are at their best.

Speaking of gardens, area farmers markets are beginning to bring in the bounty. Many are already stocked with vegetable and ornamental plants, as we gardeners dig, trim, edge and mow weekly. Much of my yard is native grasses and flowering plants the birds have kindly seeded over my land during the past year. Faithfully, however, my irises have been blooming since mid-March. These bulbs were started in my Grandfather Bates' backyard in Mexia. After I built my first home in South Texas, he shared his white and yellow iris bulbs with me so I could landscape my home. I have dug and moved those bulbs over the years from there to the state's capital, to the Texas Panhandle and now back to Central Texas. No matter the climate or soil, these bulbs have multiplied over the years, so I can share them with my children and will soon do so with my oldest grandson who has bought his first home. What a joy!

Enjoy these moments!



Virginia

Virginia Riddle
CorsicanaNOW Editor
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BIG BLESSINGS

— By Virginia Riddle

A journey that began in Mexico in the 1940s brought the ministers and founders of Templo Avivamiento to Corsicana. “We came because of God in 1974 when I was 27 years old. He wanted us here because of people with addictions and marriages in need of restoring,” Pedro Aceves said. “At that time, there was only one Spanish speaking ministry in town at the Baptist church.” Since then, Pedro and his wife, Gloria, have founded five churches, Templo Avivamiento in Corsicana, one in Dallas and three churches in Mexico.

Their busy lifestyle began while growing up in separate towns in Mexico. “My childhood was beautiful in Coyula, Guadalajara,” Pedro recalled. “Everything was so organic and

healthy. I left my hometown for Laredo, Mexico, seeking funds for studies. I became a musician and worked at the international bridge.”

Gloria grew up in Ciudad Acuña, Mexico, across the border from Del Rio, Texas. “I played a lot of cowboys and Indians when I was growing up, and I liked to sing,” Gloria remembered. At age 17 Gloria met Pedro in Laredo and found they shared a love for God and music. “We got married, and God has blessed us with five boys, two who are pastors,” Gloria added. “Joshua is the worship leader, youth pastor and associate pastor at Templo Avivamiento, and our other minister son is in Mexico. We lived in Laredo, and when our first two sons were small, we came to beautiful Corsicana. God has been good to us. We have beautiful sons, grandkids and great-grandkids and a beautiful congregation.” As their ministry has grown, Pedro and Gloria’s family has also grown. The couple has 14 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

With a family to support, Pedro and Gloria found employment in Corsicana quickly after their arrival. Pedro worked at several local companies, including Collin Street Bakery. Gloria opened the first taqueria in Corsicana, Taco



Laredo, in an old laundromat building and then bought the first food truck in Corsicana. "Lines were everywhere to get my mom's tamales," Josh Aceves recalled.

But the couple still had their journey's course set on the ministry and studies. They majored in theology at the International Theological University of Florida and began their church. Pedro has been the pastor, leader and mentor, and Gloria has been the preacher, janitor and singer. "Mom has always set up the ground floor work and worked hard," Josh said. "They did anything that had to be done, so now they do the more relaxing things needed. However, Mom picks up a mic every so often and sings and preaches."

"I have 10 recordings, and I like to sing even more now that I'm older," Gloria said.

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programs involving the youth, with whom Josh works, feeding and clothing the homeless, adopting and cleaning streets and counseling. People find the Lord and even answer the call to ministry. "We have had many ministries come out of our congregation, with a few pastoring other churches in town," Josh remarked.

Over 45 years in ministry has introduced Pedro and Gloria to over 3,000 people in congregations. "We had about 250 members when God gave my father the vision like in that movie, 'Build it, and they will come,'"

Josh stated. "We built this building for 1,000 people." Construction on the church facilities began in 2009.

Memories over the years abound. "The special programs we do, seeing families restored, people coming to the feet of Christ, the miracles of God. These are big blessings and memories," Gloria shared. The couple's musical talents have rubbed off on several family members who are now musicians in churches.

For both Pedro and Gloria, the people served have been their greatest joy in ministry. "The people and authorities in Corsicana are nice. Children behave in our church. There are a few tornadoes in Corsicana, but mostly it's peaceful here," Pedro said.

Gloria treasures having been able to raise her sons in Corsicana's peacefulness, security and in the same home for 30 years. When asked how she felt being the only lady in her house, Gloria's face instantly lit up. "I felt like a queen!" She admits her passion for mucho tacos and coffee. Still a great cook, she and Pedro now like to eat out at restaurants, especially

those with buffets.

"The economy has been challenging, but God has backed us in everything we have built and brought the right people to us at the right time to bless this church," Pedro said. "We don't owe anyone on anything."

As one of the five boys growing up in Pedro and Gloria's household and church, Josh said, "Our household was very strict and very hard. My parents were always juggling family, ministering to others and the church. We were always under a microscope, even now, but God has been behind this whole life of ours. My parents have dedicated their entire life together with a passion to serve the Lord and His kingdom. They've been a blessing to countless families and people in this community."

"Having served the Lord for over 45 years has cost me in my health," Pedro related. "Ministry takes a toll on a body, but the rewards have overflowed. I have yet to see the full glory of what is to come."

Gloria agreed and concluded energetically, "There's more to come. *Dios Es Bueno!*" **NOW**

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Zoomed In:
John Matthews

By Virginia Riddle

During his 39 years in law enforcement, John Matthews experienced the underbelly of Dallas society, became a television crime commentator and wrote a book about his most famous case, Charles Albright, the serial Eyeball Killer. “His killings happened on my beat when I was a patrol officer,” John recalled. “I knew some of his victims.” Partially to find joy in life, John and his family started a vineyard, and now retired from the Dallas PD, he has opened Cassaro Winery in Corsicana and Ovilla. “Corsicana was very responsive, and I love the people and positivity,” he added. He’s enjoying getting involved in social and civic activities, and in spare moments, John likes to fish in his bass pond and grow fresh vegetables in his garden.



Matt Symmack presents the history and mission of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to Corsicana Newcomers Club members.



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At a Mexia Friday Club meeting, Helen Matthews shares ways to recycle and save in Limestone County.



Joan Maxwell and Jean Conwright figure out a crochet stitch together as Susan Jennings watches during the Senior Center's weekly class.



Navarro College Foundation Executive Director Richey Cutrer explains what the foundation does for member of Navarro County Retired Teachers.



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make customers' rides shine. "It's important to us that our customers leave happy and are completely satisfied with our work," Jeffrey said.

The shop offers all paint and body services and will work with all insurance companies. Additionally, Jeffrey and Jamie offer bed liner, audio systems, lifts and lowers installation; detailing; customization; airbrushing; restorations; and custom paint designs. "I have 14 years' experience, and we are I-CAR Gold Class certified," Jeffrey explained. "We give free estimates and can order anything needed, including custom paint colors."

The shop employs seven. Jeffrey is the painter and body man, while Jamie is the office manager. Mike Aston serves as the lead mechanic. Helpers in all areas, a receptionist and a body worker round out the other positions. The shop accepts cash, checks and all major credit cards and will help handle insurance issues.

The shop supports the community and area schools through donations. "We try our best to help out the animal shelter, Mildred and Powell VFDs and participate in car

shows and other fundraisers as much as possible,” Jeffrey said.

Jeffrey grew up working on vehicles and raced with his stepdad and granddad. “I learned customization from my dad, who passed away right before Jamie and I founded our shop in January 2020 and became an LLC,” he recalled. A Corsicana native, he attended school in Mildred and Corsicana, and at age 18, he started working in area shops. “I trained at big shops that were I-CAR certified,” he added. “We’re a member of the Better Business Bureau and enjoy a loyal customer base. Our major challenge is the time the supply chain is taking and the dealers.”

“It’s important to us that our customers leave happy and are completely satisfied with our work.”

Jamie, a Kansas native, moved to Navarro County at age 9 with her family. “We’ve known each other since we were 10 years old,” Jeffrey revealed. “I do this business because I love it, and Jamie pushes me. We work to thrive in our business,” he said. “It’s stressful owning our own business, but I love being the owner.” The couple has three sons and finds time to be involved parents in their kids’ school lives. “We enjoy doing things with them as a family,” Jeffrey said. “We enjoy living and working in Navarro County. We grew up here. I’ve moved away twice, but I’ve always come back because this is home. Corsicana’s in a great location. It’s in the middle of everything from Galveston to Dallas.

“Anything on wheels has always been a passion for me,” Jeffrey stated. “And it’s always been my dream to one day own my own shop, where I could do cool stuff customizing cars. I’ve been painting everything on wheels since I was 18 years old. I enjoy our customers and seeing their dreams for their vehicles come to life.” **NOW**

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CookingNOW *In the Kitchen With* MELISSA AND CODIE BEARDEN

— By Virginia Riddle

Familiar faces in the Kinsloe House kitchen, Melissa and Codie Bearden have begun creating custom cutting boards and serving trays. This mother-daughter team enjoys hunting and fishing. “We cook what we hunt and catch,” Melissa explained. “Codie and my other four children learned to cook like I did — when you’re old enough to stand in a kitchen chair and help.”

Codie competes in 4-H arts and crafts competitions, and she serves in leadership roles. “I’m a current Navarro County 4-H Ambassador,” she remarked. “I find recipes in cookbooks, especially those passed down from family members. At home, we enjoy making the recipes healthier by changing ingredients to meet nutritional needs.” **NOW**

James’ Black Bean Tacos With Mango Salsa

Makes 8–10 mini tacos.

Tacos:

1 15-oz. can black beans
1 tsp. cilantro lime seasoning
1 tsp. chili powder
1 tsp. garlic powder
1 tsp. cumin
1/2 tsp. salt

1 Tbsp. olive oil
1/2 cup Mexican-Blend cheese
8 small corn tortillas

Mango Salsa:

2 mangoes, peeled and diced
1/2 medium red onion, diced
2 small sweet red peppers, diced
1 small jalapeño, diced
1/2 cup cilantro, chopped
Juice of 1 lime

1. For tacos: Drain and rinse the beans. In a small bowl, combine the beans and all the seasonings.
2. In a small skillet, heat the olive oil over medium heat. Add the seasoned beans; cook until the beans are soft and heated completely.
3. Removing the beans from the heat, mash them with a fork; add the cheese.
4. Spread the bean mixture over each tortilla; fold the tortillas over. If the tortillas are stiff, warm them before use.
5. Grill the tacos on a griddle or panini press or in a skillet until the outside is crispy and the cheese has melted.
6. For salsa: In a small bowl, combine all the ingredients. The salsa can be served immediately or refrigerated before serving.

Codie’s Cinnamon Apples in a Jar

8–10 Granny Smith apples, washed,
peeled and sliced
1 cup lemon juice
1 16-oz. pkg. cinnamon disc candies,
crushed into fine pieces

2 cups sugar
2 cups water

1. In a large bowl, place the apples in the lemon juice; add enough water to cover the apples; refrigerate overnight. Pack the apples into 2-qt. jars.
2. In a saucepan, mix the cinnamon disc candies, sugar and 2 cups water; bring to a full boil. When the sugar is dissolved, pour the mixture over the apples.
3. Add the jars' rings and lids. This recipe can be kept in the refrigerator or sealed using the water bath method.

Hearty Breakfast Muffins

Makes 12 muffins.

- Nonstick cooking spray
1 lb. breakfast sausage
1/2 cup onion, diced
1/2 cup sweet yellow peppers, diced
1/2 cup sweet red peppers, diced
8 eggs
1 Tbsp. Cajun seasoning
1/2 cup heavy cream or milk

1. Preheat the oven to 375 F; spray a muffin tin with nonstick cooking spray.
2. In a large skillet, brown the meat for about 3-5 minutes. Add the vegetables; continue cooking until browned. Set the meat mixture aside.
3. In a bowl, beat the eggs, Cajun seasoning and cream or milk together well.
4. Combine the egg mixture with the meat mixture; mix well. Pour the mixture into the muffin tin. Bake for 15-20 minutes until the eggs are set and the top is browned.

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

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Joshua 18:8 Deuteronomy 19:14



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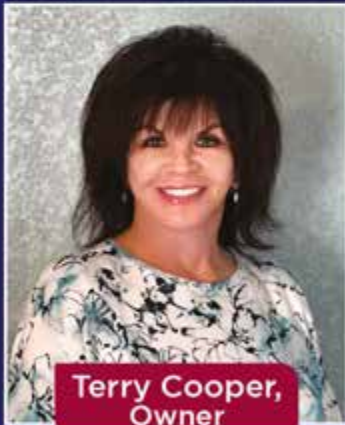
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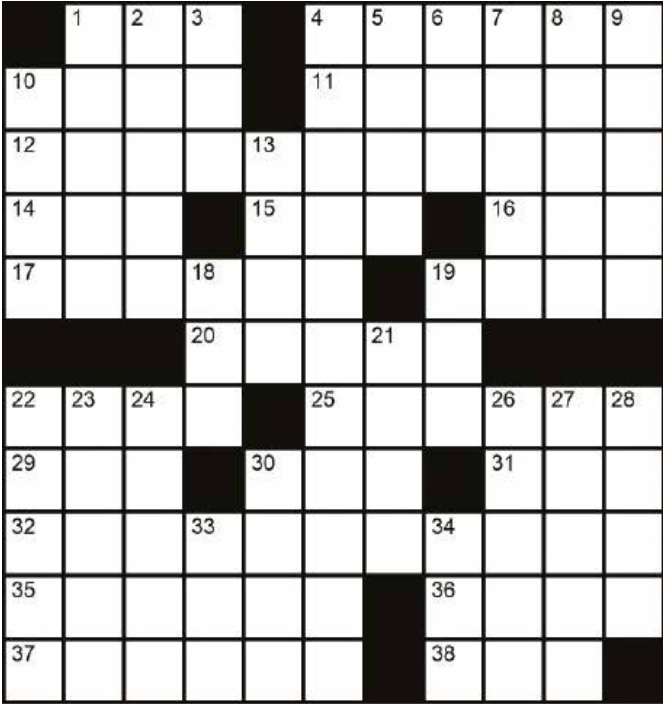


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- | Across | | Down | |
|--|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 USSR successor | 22 Encourage in wrongdoing | 1 Lid | 19 Miss, once? |
| 4 Savanna grazer | 25 Stifle awkward pronoun | 2 Castle of the turkey trot | 21 On the job |
| 10 "Bless me, Father, --- have sinned" | 29 They're white at Guaranteed Rate Field | 3 Transgression | 22 Trembling poplar |
| 11 Impulse transmitter | 30 Hindu honorific | 4 Coterie | 23 Carried |
| 12 Formal attire | 31 Myself, in Munich | 5 Starter for a million | 24 Apply |
| 14 1/100 yen | 32 Repaired, decrepit lab is unsurprising | 6 Brick-making clay | 26 Plant firmly |
| 15 Contents of some whistles | 35 Sign up | 7 Fragrance | 27 Pale purple |
| 16 Heard in a herd | 36 Shellac | 8 Running out of | 28 Guitar ridge |
| 17 Small earthquake | 37 Irritate | 9 Bug | 30 Low-down horizontal beam |
| 19 Numerous | 38 Health security agency | 10 Celebration suffix | 33 Half a colon |
| 20 Sesame Street grouch | | 13 Nasdaq events | 34 Simplicity simile |
| | | 18 Witty remark | |

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Sudoku Puzzle

Easy

9					5			
			1					
5	1	3		4				
				3	6	4		
	6		4	8		3	2	
			2			1		7
		6				2		
3				7				
4	7	5						

Medium

4							3	6
2	9							4
	8				3			
		1			8			2
3			4		5			
			3	2				
			1			9		
9		6		7			5	
				8				

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**SCAVENGER
HUNT
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Mary White, winner of \$50 cash, said, "I enjoy the editor's story each month and love trying some of the recipes from the cooking section. Thanks *CorsicanaNOW.*"

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HAPPY Mother's Day

MAY

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.

5/1-Summer 2023

125&175:

Corsicana Artist and Writer Residency's special exhibit commemorating Corsicana's 175 years with history from the 125-year-old I.O.O.F. Lodge. Viewable 24/7 from the sidewalk, 411 N. Beaton. (480) 824-3015.

5/6

Derby Day:

Cocktail buffet, entertainment, wagering. \$75 per person. 4:00-8:00 p.m., The Palace Theater, 112 W. 6th Ave. (903) 874-7792.

5/9

NARFE Chapter 1191 Meeting:

Speaker is *CorsicanaNOW* Editor Virginia Riddle. 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Sirloin Stockade, Corsicana. (972) 775-2463.

5/13

Peter Pan:

A ballet presented by Avant Garde Dance of Ennis. 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. The Palace Theater, 112 W. 6th Ave. www.corsicanapalace.com.

5/16

Navarro County Community Poverty Simulation:

9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Cook Center, 3100 W. Collin St. (972) 518-1821.

5/18

Yesterday & Today, A Beatles Experience:

7:30 p.m., The Palace Theater, 112 W. 6th Ave. For more information, visit www.corsicanapalace.com.

5/19

**Corsicana & Navarro
County Chamber of
Commerce Golf Classic:**
Check-in: 8:00 a.m.; tee off: 9:00 a.m., Corsicana Country Club, 4100 Country Club Dr. (903) 874-4731.

5/20

**Salvation Army's Navarro's
Got Talent & Block Party:**
Noon-4:00 p.m., 212 East 1st Avenue. (903) 874-7131.

William Lee Golden and The Goldens:

7:30 p.m., The Palace Theater, 112 W. 6th Ave. www.corsicanapalace.com.

6/3

Pancake Breakfast Fly-In/Drive-In:

8:00-11:00 a.m., Mid-Way Regional Airport, 131 Airport Dr., Midlothian. www.mid-wayregional.com.

First Wednesdays

Mexia Woman's Friday Club:

Lunch to be catered. Noon, Location TBD. Facebook: Mexia Woman's Friday Club.

First-Third Wednesdays

Kinsloe House Luncheon:

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

Second Thursdays

Friends of the Library:

9:00 a.m., Corsicana Public Library, 100 N. 12th St. Facebook: Corsicana Public Library.

Fourth Thursdays

Corsicana Newcomers Club Luncheon:

\$20. 11:00 a.m., Kinsloe House, 618 W. 3rd Ave. Make reservations by **previous Monday**. For more information, call Annie Avery at (714) 345-6707.

First Fridays

Food Truck Friday:

Cinco de Mayo Celebration. Food, live music, games. Bring chairs. 6:00-9:00 p.m., 224 E. 5th Ave. For more information, call (903) 654-4850.

Second Fridays

Navarro County Retired Teachers Association:

9:45-11:00 a.m., Northwest Apartments Community Center. For details, email glyn84@hotmail.com.

Third Fridays

Better Garden Club:

Location and time TBD. Facebook: Better Garden Club.

Second Saturdays

Mimosas at the Market:

10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Downtown Corsicana. (903) 654-4850.

Coyote Squadron Meeting:

10:30 a.m., Corsicana Municipal Airport, Christine.hall93@yahoo.com.

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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