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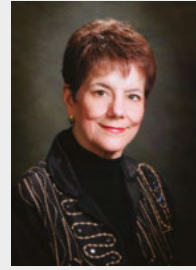
I want each of you to know that it has been an honor and a privilege to participate in your orthodontic care and an even greater honor to be part of your lives and your community. Thank you! I am very confident in leaving you in the excellent care of Dr. Bodine, and I know that you are in great hands going forward.

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Dr. Darrell Van Horn



May 2026
Volume 23, Issue 5



Virginia Riddle
CorsicanaNOW Editor
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ON THE COVER

Country ballads are this band's forte



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HEARTSTRINGS — By Virginia Riddle of LIFE

Harlan Howard, an American songwriter who co-penned the Patsy Cline hit "I Fall to Pieces" and about 4,000 other songs, once stated, "Country music is three chords and the truth." Ron Sikes and Jody Thomas are two musicians who have been playing traditional and new country songs full of love, hate and love lost and other human emotions of the genre for years while entertaining fans. In May 2025, they formed the Twisted Cactus Band. "I've always liked seeing the people have a good time, and we have a good time," Ron said.

Ron plays the pedal steel guitar. Jody's on the drums. Phil Harder is the lead guitarist, and Stanley Young is the bass guitarist. All are well-known musicians who have played in different groups and then together for five years before forming Twisted Cactus. The newest member is A.J. Ruane who, at age 23, has already served in the U.S. Army and recently performed on



American Idol and *America's Got Talent*. Ron, Jody, Stanley and A.J. perform the band's vocals, and A.J. plays acoustic guitar. Ron handles the bookings and coordination of schedules, while Jody is the band's manager who also puts the set list together for each performance. "There aren't any egos. We fit together well, but we do give each other a hard time occasionally," Ron said.

The group has opened for such greats as Pat Green, Roger Creager, Billy Joe Shaver, Barbara Fairchild, David Frizzell, Lorrie Morgan and Johnny Paycheck. Among area venues, they have played the Corsicana Opry, I.O.O.F. Event Center, Cedar Creek Plowboys Club, Western Kountry Klub and the Rockett Café and Club. "We like nonsmoking, family-oriented places, and there's been lots of teenagers, especially at the Rockett Café," Ron stated.

The group's name, Twisted Cactus, was selected by Ron. "Nobody else was using the name, and I was just trying to be creative," he recalled. "My oldest granddaughter created and hand-painted the logo on a piece of paper for us."

The band's members have played with such groups as Against the Wind and the *Always ... Patsy Cline* show. Both Jody and Ron cite the *Always ... Patsy Cline* show as being the most fun to perform. "The music was cute, but challenging, and the cast was great," Ron shared.

Having so much experience among the group's members helps when learning new music, since it's a challenge to get together for rehearsals. Distance, day jobs and life in general limit their time together. Ron lives in Corsicana, Jody and Stanley live in Eureka, A.J. lives in Waxahachie and Phil is in Garland. "We share the songs digitally, learn our parts separately, and then practice before we set up for the performance," Ron revealed. Ron and Phil are retired from James Manufacturing and Southwest Airlines respectively. Stanley's employed by Navarro County Planning and Development, A.J. is in sales and Jody is self-employed in construction. Acknowledging that even the greats get stage fright,

Ron said he only gets nervous when he knows a really good steel player is in the audience. "I tell myself I'm playing for myself," he said. "We learn from each other."

Jody added, "Every time I play, I have an imaginary wall. I see out, but the audience can't see me."

Twisted Cactus occasionally performs benefits for charities such as the American Heart Association, the local cancer groups and The Palace Theatre. "We helped raise funds to honor Billy Joe Shaver and also for the local legend, Lefty Frizzell's, statue," Ron said.

Ron has been influenced by Merle Haggard, George Strait and Lefty Frizzell. "I started learning the guitar in eighth grade from a friend. My first guitar teacher had played with Lefty," Ron remembered. "The guitarist, Charles Norris, called playing the steel guitar 'a wonderful addiction' and that's true. There are some really good musicians/songwriters coming up. We've got some originals in the works, but they aren't out yet." Ron also plays

the mandolin and dobro.

Jody started learning to play the drums by ear at age 14. "I listened to Tammy Wynette and Red Foley 8-track tapes while drumming," he stated.

When not working at a day job or playing a gig, Jody enjoys traveling to see his daughter in Maryland. Ron likes target shooting and fishing. He travels frequently with his wife.

For both these two experienced musicians, there's nothing quite like the natural high they get from performing. Ron shared, "Even though we're still pretty new to the scene, Twisted Cactus is gaining a real good following, but some of these folks have been following us through all these years. That's a great feeling."

"I love to entertain folks," Jody said. "The best moments happen when they hit the dance floor and respond at the end of our songs with clapping." **NOW**

Editor's Note: For more information, go to the Twisted Cactus Facebook page.



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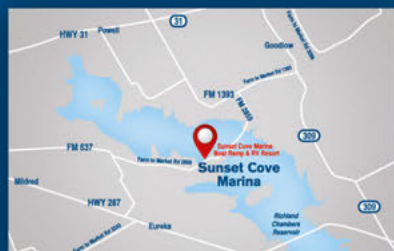
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Precious Cephus, winner of \$50 cash, said, "I look forward to viewing the CorsicanaNOW Magazine at the beginning of each month. I enjoy the scavenger hunt and have played for many years. I am a proud resident of Corsicana and enjoy reading about this great city."

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Lynda Housley State Farm Agency

— By Virginia Riddle

Helping clients protect what they value most in an effective and efficient way, basically asset protection, has been Lynda Housley's most important goal since she became State Farm's third and first female agent to represent the company here in June 1980. "When the unthinkable happens to others, I've always wanted the recovery to be easily dealt with," Lynda recalled. Her agency offers a full range of multi-line insurance (auto, home,



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"State Farm's original slogan states, 'Like a Good Neighbor,'" Lynda said. The "good neighbors" in Lynda's office include her husband, Dr. Harold Housley; their daughter and office manager, Melissa Housley; and sales and service agent, Manny Taylor. "Manny is bilingual, and she works well with our Hispanic clients," Lynda added. "We enjoy working with people to solve problems and provide for their needs. Doing so is always rewarding," Lynda stated. "Melissa was a State Farm agent in Midland, Texas, for two years, and it's wonderful having her work with us, especially with all the technological changes that our industry and State Farm have launched over the past several years."



The team members are all state licensed in the various product lines. Cumulatively, Lynda and her team provide clients with over 73 years combined State Farm experience.

A newer addition to the office is Betty, Harold and Lynda's 3-year-old English Setter and office mascot. "Betty's a great salesman with the canine group when we're writing pet insurance through Trupanion," Lynda stated.

There's a slogan at State Farm — "School Is Never Out." "Insurance is a highly regulated industry and is constantly in flux as rules and regulations are imposed, both at the state and federal levels," Lynda said. "There are lots of compliance issues, and product lines are ever increasing per client needs and demands. Keeping up with a multi-line agency of this size is a challenge my team and I work to meet."

In addition to being CorsicanaNOW's longest continuously running customer, the agency is a Corsicana & Navarro County Chamber of Commerce 46-year member. Lynda has actively served the Chamber on numerous committees and in board positions. The business is a drop-off location each Christmas for Toys for Tots, and it participated in State Farm's "Neighbor of Good Initiative" during the COVID outbreak by partnering with Corsicana ISD to support the Summer Kids Food Program.

Personally, Lynda has served as a Navarro County Child Advocacy Center board member and officer for more than 25 years, and she served the Navarro County American Cancer Society in the same capacities. Lynda and Harold are members of Corsicana First Baptist Church, where she has taught Sunday School classes for many years. In addition to Melissa, the couple have a son, Hal, who is in the energy sector.

A native of Panama City, Florida, Lynda holds a bachelor's degree in sociology and business administration from the University of Southern Mississippi. Lynda stated, "I've always enjoyed helping people solve problems and, hopefully, making a difference in their lives. Insurance is a natural business for me. I'm just working with a different set of needs for each client." **NOW**

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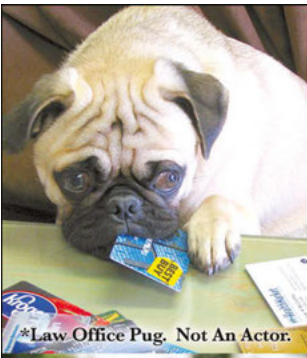
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Zoomed In: Melana Wiese

By Virginia Riddle

A native of Blooming Grove, Melana Wiese became the new program director/curator at Pioneer Village about a year ago. "I graduated from Blooming Grove High School, earned my associate degree at Navarro College and wanted to work with kids," she stated. Melana is also learning more about Corsicana through the Chamber's Leadership Class of 2026. "I'm learning of opportunities to volunteer and about the business community," she added.

Melana loves to read, is active in an online ministry and has three dogs. "I'm blessed with this job and the opportunity to learn area and Texas history," she said. "People here are so down-to-earth, and I get to meet visitors that come to town. They comment on how nice everyone here is."



Bruce Peil and Karla Brady Massengill are two of the artists with work on exhibit at the Pearce Museum's 2026 Texas Invitational Art Show.



Deb and Chuck Miller dress per the Disco 80s Corsicana and Navarro County Chamber of Commerce Awards theme.



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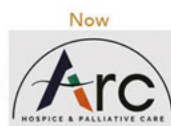
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Zoomed In: Kim Yarborough

By Virginia Riddle

Having moved from Mansfield, Texas, to Corsicana in July 2025, Kim Yarborough has found a sense of community in her new experience of small-town living. "People wave and help each other. There's lots to do, and I'm making many new friends," she said. Kim has also found time to serve on three HOA committees and has become a Corsicana Newcomers Club member.

Retired from her career as an ultrasound tech, Kim enjoys riding bikes; boating; reading, especially anything medical; and traveling with her husband, Steve. The couple has three grown children, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Fun family times can be had easily since all live within easy travel distances in Texas as do Kim's identical twin sister and their brother.



Kaitlyn Kearns shares her knowledge of how women and children dressed in the 1860s with Pearce Museum Living History attendees.



Jonathan Hardin Chapter, DAR, honors Limestone and Freestone counties' history essay winners.



James Blair DAR members fill Easter eggs with candy and cheerful comments for area teachers.



Erin Abay and her prom date, Duckie, at his Humane Society of Navarro County Doggie Prom.

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