

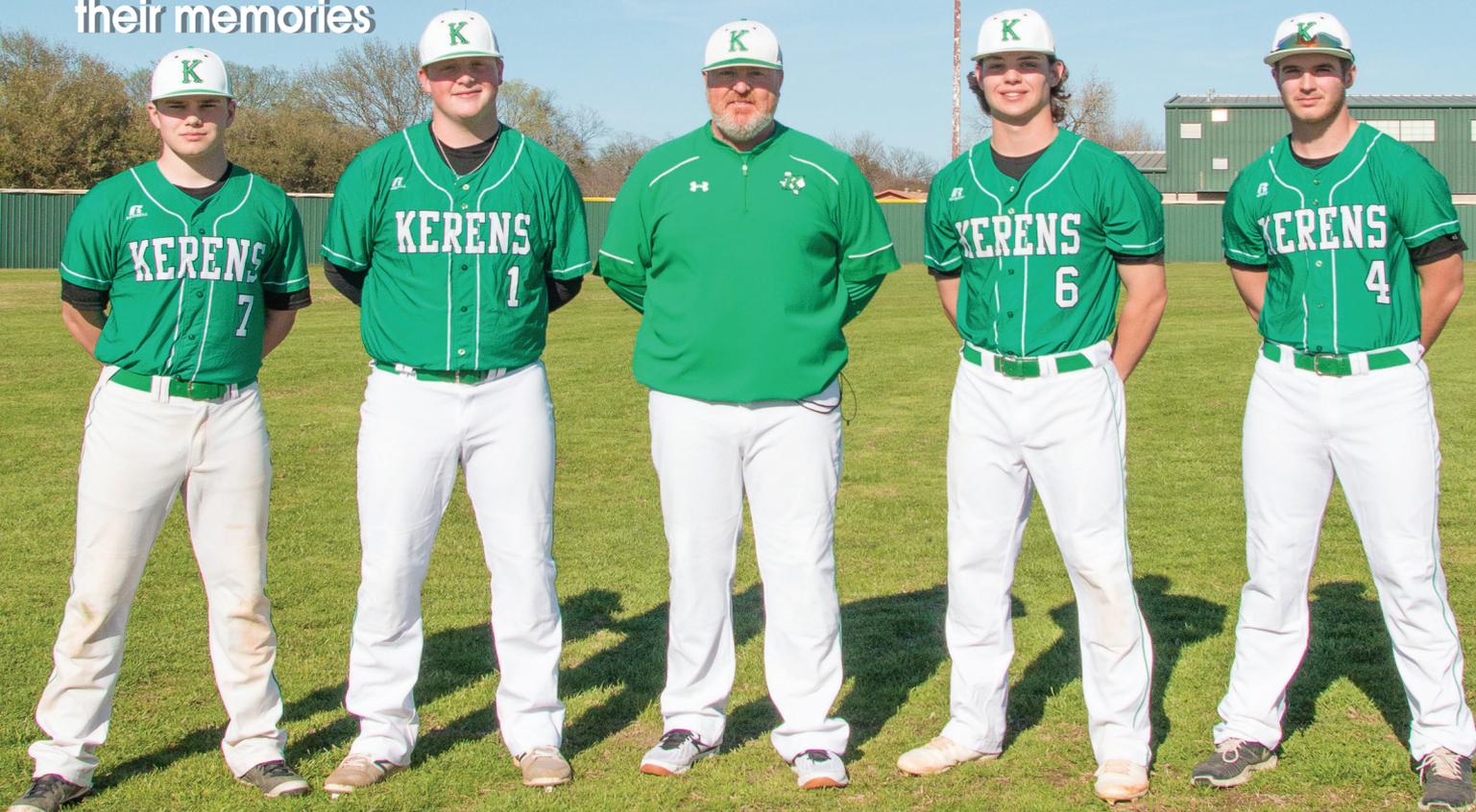
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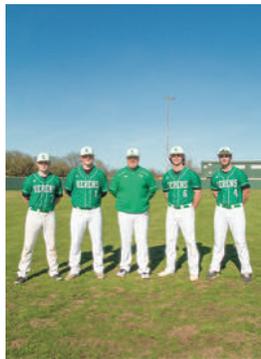
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ON THE COVER

These teammates share an unbreakable bond of friendship.

Photo by
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EDITOR'S NOTE



Virginia

Virginia Riddle
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Dear Readers,

One of my favorite songs to perform is "Summertime," from the musical *Porgy and Bess*. Not only is it beautiful, but it brings back memories of my favorite season. From my maternal grandmother's big wraparound, Victorian farmhouse porch near Waco, my sisters and I could *really* see the cotton "gettin' high" while we enjoyed iced tea or Dr Pepper, a sleeve of Ritz crackers and a good book during the hot afternoons. Grandmother really believed in that "10, 2 and 4" advertising, and we didn't argue! We had already worked in that cotton field, gathered eggs, ridden our donkey and horses and plucked the chicken for Sunday dinner during the relatively cooler mornings.

Life at my other grandparents' home in Mexia was equally fun. My grandmother Bates was a teacher, so she was home during the summer days. We canned everything my grandfather grew in his backyard veggie garden, worked jigsaw puzzles and did needlework. I could walk a few blocks every day to the public library and check out new reads.

I'm reminded of that garden every summer as my grandfather's irises, transplanted to every home I've owned, stand tall, even in drought years. I hope you enjoy some great summer reads and cooling drinks, while making and sharing wonderful memories with your family and friends.

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➤ TEAMMATE

Between them, they've had a lot of wins and even more memories. Nine members of the Kerens High School Bobcats baseball team have been playing together since they were in elementary school. They are seniors Garrett Kilcrease, Travis Sorrells, Cayden Henderson, Stacey Bailey, Tyson Garrison, Paxton Kilgore and Eli Cranford, along with juniors Tate Engel and Brady Blue. "The best thing is the brotherhood, the bond we have with each other. The whole team is your best buds," Tate, the coach's son, said.

"We love playing baseball together because we know we have each other's backs," Eli added.

In 2017, the Bobcats finished 24-3 and reached the third round of the playoffs. It was one of the deepest playoff runs in school history, and the best since Jayson Engel became coach in 2001. But the coach said his relationship with the group goes beyond the victories. "It has been a joy to coach these guys. They grew up together. They learned how to win together," he said. "It's been an absolute blessing to coach them. They come from great families. They are everything you could ask for as a coach."

Being part of a small town, everyone knows each other in Kerens. Brady's and Cayden's dads were among the group's first coaches at the youth baseball level. Garrett's and Cayden's fathers were best friends growing up. "I've known everybody since long before baseball. Me and Garrett went to the same babysitter," Brady said.



ES FOR LIFE

— By Rick Mauch

“We work for each other’s parents during the summer. My dad has a ranch, and several of us will haul hay,” Garrett said.

That familiarity has played a key role in their success over the years. This season they were playing for the program’s eighth straight playoff berth — which would be four straight for the seniors. The seniors were also going for a third straight district championship. “This group has never *not* made the playoffs. They’re just used to winning,” Coach Engel said. “They’re one of the most successful groups ever to come through Kerens.”

In youth baseball, they reached two state tournaments. In 2008, they advanced to Machine Pitch State, and two years later, they were competing in the 12-Under division. “The first year, we lost bad because we were just worried about getting to the water park,” Tate said with a laugh. “Two years later, we did better. We were more focused and won a couple of games.”

The high school individual accolades have been many. For example, just last year alone, they included four TSWA All-State Awards, eight All-



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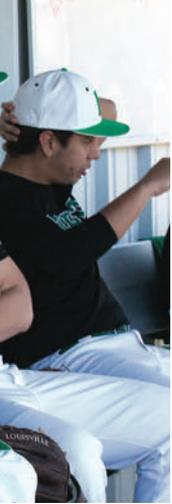
District 20-2A Awards and five All-Golden Circle Team Awards. Over the years of play, nine individuals have grown into a team of winners, on and off the field.

Playing alongside each other for so long has instilled a confidence in the group. There is not a deficit they don't believe they can overcome. Of course, they have not faced that many deficits during their time together. "Knowing people are going to do their job, you know you can always come back and win," Tyson said.

Tate recalled a time when he was on base and Stacey was at the plate. He knew what was coming. "I just had a feeling Stacey was going to hit one out," he said. Of course, Stacey obliged.

But the memories include much more than wins. Whether it's gathering to play video games or one of the many trips they've taken together, each moment is special. "Our sophomore year after a playoff game, we went to Denny's in Tyler. We'd had a few rain delays, so it was late. We got there about 2:30 in the morning, and got home about 5:00," Garrett said. "We had nowhere to be the next day. But the team that beat us went to the state championship game," he added with a chuckle.

"Even practices are memorable," Stacey said. He recalled one day when they turned what would have been a rainout into a great time. "We had sliding practice one day when it rained. We found a big puddle of water on the field and just slid through it," he said.



Travis said his favorite memory was a trip to a couple of Baylor University baseball games. “The whole day was just having fun with your teammates. What more could you want?”

For the seniors, this time together has come to an end — as teammates, at least. Stacey plans on playing baseball for Navarro College and studying criminal justice. Tyson plans on attending East Texas Baptist University to study kinesiology and, perhaps, walk onto the baseball team. Paxton plans on attending Tarleton State University to study hydrology and, possibly, walk onto the baseball team, too. Garrett might be getting a scholarship (he’s getting some looks from colleges), but otherwise, he will be attending Texas A&M University to study wildlife and fisheries science and, perhaps also joining a baseball team as a walk on. Eli plans on attending The University of Texas at Arlington to study pharmaceuticals. Cayden looks forward to attending Texas State Technical College to study electrical alignment and industrial controls. And Travis is ready to begin his time with the Air Force Academy, where he will study air traffic control.

But no matter where the future takes them, they say their friendship will remain solid for the rest of their lives. To which Stacey quipped, “I love ya’ll chumps.”

“We have made some friendships that will last a while, even after high school. Playing baseball together all those years, we learned a lot about each other,” Eli said.

“We’ll start a softball league when we get older,” Paxton said. “That way we can all play together again.”

To which Garrett added, “We need to make sure everybody has kids at the same time, so they can play together and have the same experience we’ve had.” **NOW**

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Family FIRST

— By Virginia Riddle

At Home With Billy and Misty Fletes

Folks walking their dogs, stopping to visit and longtime neighbors helping neighbors — those are just some of the traits Billy and Misty Fletes enjoy about their home of 19 years that's nestled in one of Corsicana's older areas. Their welcoming front porch with its wrought iron furniture invites friends and family to come and sit a spell. "We moved here in August 1999. This was my dream home," Misty recalled. "Our son, Dean, was starting school at Bowie Elementary that year. Now, he's graduated from Texas A&M University and is a Starwood Hotels and Resorts manager."





Marking timelines by what's going on in one's children's lives is a "mom thing," and Misty, once a stay-at-home mom and now a working mom, puts family first. Both Billy and Misty are Corsicana natives, but Billy moved to nearby Fairfield, where he graduated from high school. Fate brought the couple together, however, and Billy, already a high school graduate, took Misty to her Corsicana High School senior prom. These high school sweethearts have been married for

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24 years. “Billy’s always been my soul mate,” Misty reflected. “We love to hang out together and visit while listening to music.”

Having a house full of their kids’ friends has created wonderful memories for this family. Sixteen-year-old daughter, Chloe, a member of CHS’s golf team, along with most of Billy and Misty’s extended family members, fill their household at

times. “Dean learned to ride a bike without training wheels here, and Chloe was brought home from the hospital here,” Billy remembered. “We’ve got great memories of kids having a great time here while growing up.”

Billy runs reactors and works with chemicals at NALCO Champion. Misty, at age 29, began attending college, pursuing a degree in

education. “I had always said that whenever there was a four-year local program, I’d go back to school,” she said. Misty taught in Corsicana ISD for 13 years and is now a real estate agent with Corsicana’s Keller Williams Realty, helping others find their dream homes.

It’s not all work, however, for this busy family. “We love to go camping,” Misty said. She enjoys reading and going on treasure hunts for unique antiques and cheap “junk” that she refurbishes and repurposes into treasures. An active



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mom, she has volunteered for the PTO, athletic booster clubs and at church with the children. Misty is also a member of the Navarro County Board of Realtors.

Fishing, hunting, golfing, fixing things and “tinkering with junk” are Billy’s spare time pursuits. He’s a member of Ducks Unlimited. “I want to travel to the outer dimensions of the universe, but Misty reminds me that we haven’t even been to Mexico yet,” he quipped.

Billy’s skills fixing things was tested in October 2015 and, again, in May 2016 when the nearby creek in which the kids had all loved trolling for tadpoles and fish overflowed its banks, sending water into their home. “Billy did a lot of the repair work himself between the floods, but we had help from contractor Phillip Arteaga after the second time,” Misty recalled. “We had mixed blessings and flood insurance, so I got to do a lot of things I wanted to do with our home, but the floods affected us all greatly.”

One wonderful outcome was that the flooding brought out the best in friends and family. “It brought us closer together as a family,” Misty explained. “We lived with my parents for just over a year while our home was being repaired.”

Billy agreed and added, “I have a network of people that came in a moment’s notice when I needed them. They know that works vice versa.”

The results of the remodel incorporate many of Misty’s awesome trash-to-treasure finds. A welcoming, bright red door gives entry into an open living, dining and kitchen area. “We pulled out a wall to open this space, put in new flooring and completely remodeled the baths,”

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Misty said. "During the remodeling, there were just studs everywhere. The old den is now the dining room with a window view to the backyard. We took out the fireplace, and Billy built the patio fireplace base from its bricks, and the firebox is the same. He hand-scraped all the mortar from the bricks. Billy can do anything."

A picture window to the world illuminates the open living area. Comfortable wrap-around couches and an easy chair fit right in with the dining table and chairs that carry an Asian theme. "I painted the chairs but not the table," Misty said. "Every nick and scratch are part of our memories."

The kitchen is a cook's dream, with its custom concrete countertops and floor. "I did lots of shopping online to find what I wanted," Misty said. Sliding barn doors open to a custom designed utility/pantry/dog residence. Chico and Bentley are favored "mutts." Miss Puss is the family's resident feline.

Chloe's hall bathroom is one of Misty's proudest creations. "The mirrors came from the Dallas Adolphus Hotel remodel, and the chandelier came from a Dallas Highland Park garage website sale," Misty shared. "I found the vanity thrown out and laying on the side of the road. The claw-footed tub and vintage black-and-white tile complete the perfect picture. We love how it turned out," Misty added.

In addition to the patio fireplace, Billy repurposed wood from Misty's parents' porch and added the tin roof to construct the useful backyard shed. "I'm planning to build a full outdoor kitchen and get a handle on my 'black thumb' with our yard," Billy added. Investing in their home is important. Billy said, "I want to see Corsicana continue to grow and bond as a community."

Misty agreed, "It's the sense of community here that I love. Every day and everywhere I go, I see friendly faces and receive blessings." **NOW**

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Born to Sing

— By Rick Mauch

Courtney Prater was born to sing. And, like her mother, she's bringing her daughter up in the world of music. "I grew up in music. My mom sings and plays and had me singing and playing in church since I was little. I also took piano lessons," Courtney, 35, recalled.

Now, Courtney is the lead singer of her own band, Courtney and the Sidetracks. They are known for playing at Derrick Days and weddings. As a solo artist or with the band's lead guitarist, Courtney performs mostly cover songs but, also, a few of her own original tunes, at coffee shops and wineries in the Corsicana and Waxahachie areas. "My favorite is one called *You and Me*," she said. "I performed it at my sister's wedding. It's a sweet love song perfect for a wedding."

Courtney learned to play guitar in high school, joking

that it's much easier to transport than a piano. "You can take a guitar anywhere," she said, laughing. "I taught myself to play on this guitar my mom had."

Her repertoire ranges from classic country to pop. "I'll go from playing Miranda Lambert to Fleetwood Mac to Otis Redding," she said.

After taking time off to have children, 9-year-old daughter, Aubrey, and 11-year-old son, Ethan, she returned to performing "gigging" six years ago and created her current band three years ago. Aubrey often joins her onstage, or even performs on her own. In fact, the two shared one very special moment a couple years ago when Aubrey won a youth talent show at the Corsicana Opry. "I played guitar for her. That was so cool," Courtney said.

Aubrey would someday, perhaps, like to follow in her mother's footsteps. "I get nervous before shows, but then I see a crowd, and I get excited. I think it's cool that my mom gets to perform at different places. I'm happy when I sing and people clap."

Courtney graduated Corsicana High School in 2000. She attended Hill College on a soccer scholarship, later switching to Navarro College and getting a degree in medical laboratory technology. Today, she works as the director of child care for Tradeway. "I was a singer and didn't know what I wanted to do. My dream was always to go sing somewhere," she said.

She and her band have played at some larger venues, such as the Corsicana Opry and the Cedar Creek Lake Festival. However, she prefers the more intimate setting of coffee shops and wineries. "I like it because you know people are into it. It brightens their day," she said. "Whatever song I'm playing, I'm doing something I love and am bringing joy to someone else. I'm getting to where I can gage the audience. It's fun when they know the song, and they're singing along."

The rest of her band is Chris Aldama, lead guitar; Chris Cofer, bass guitar; and Dr. Vernon Bryder on drums. Courtney said though they have not recorded anything in the studio, that might happen someday. "We would like to, whenever the inspiration comes to get new songs."

Courtney and Aubrey also perform at their church, First Baptist Church of Corsicana. "Our music pastor retired recently, and on his last Sunday Aubrey and I did a song together at church," Courtney said.

Her dream was once to be a performer and go on tour. Now, however, such a decision would have to be able to be balanced with her family life. "I'm very involved with my kids. I don't want to miss a thing! I want to be able to spend time with them and enjoy life. I love my family," she said. "If something comes along and I could make it a career, that would be great, but it would have to be something I could work out with my life as it is now. I have a great thing going." **NOW**

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CookingNOW
In the Kitchen With
ARLENE CRAWFORD
 — By Virginia Riddle

Arlene Crawford, owner of Arlene's Kountry Kitchen, is renowned for her "down-home Southern comfort cooking." She's influenced by her parents and her grandmother who grew much of their vegetables and raised chickens. "My grandmother strongly believed in growing her vegetables, so collard greens, tomatoes, green beans and okra were staples. Grandmother's kitchen always had an inviting aroma. They're now part of the meals I cook," Arlene said.

The parable about using God-given talents also inspires Arlene. "I share my cooking talents with family, church and my community," she said. "As the mother of three, grandmother of 10 and sister to four, I'm kept busy filling my family's hungry tummies. Cooking's a calming labor of love, the fruit of which brings together people for moments of fellowship and nourishment." **NOW**

Smothered Liver and Onions

Makes 4-6 servings.

- 1 16-oz. pkg. liver
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. pepper
- 1 cup flour
- Vegetable oil
- 1 small onion, peeled and sliced

1. Rinse the liver well; coat each piece with salt and pepper.
2. Dip each piece in the flour, coating it well.
3. In a skillet with heated vegetable oil, fry each piece, turning to cook both sides.
4. In another skillet, sauté the onions in

heated oil until softened; pour the onions over the liver.

5. Cover the liver and onions; simmer on low heat for 10 minutes.

Beef Stroganoff

Makes 4 servings.

- 12 oz. (1 1/2 cups) bow tie pasta
- 1 lb. beef tenderloin tips
- Cooking spray
- 2 tsp. olive oil
- 1/3 cup onion, chopped
- 1/2 lb. mushrooms, sliced
- 2 Tbsp. flour
- 1 10.5-oz. can beef broth

Salt and pepper, to taste
 Dollop sour cream (optional)

1. Cook pasta according to package directions.
2. While pasta is cooking, trim fat from meat; cut into 1x1/2-inch pieces. Spray a large skillet with vegetable cooking spray. Heat skillet over medium-high heat until hot. Add beef; stir-fry 3-5 minutes until outside surface is no longer pink. Remove from skillet.
3. In the same skillet, add the olive oil; heat until hot. Add the onions and mushrooms; cook until tender, about 2-3 minutes.
4. Stir in the flour. Gradually add 1 cup beef broth, stirring until blended. Bring to boil. Cook and stir 2 minutes. Return beef to skillet and heat through. If stroganoff appears too thick, add more beef broth to thin, as desired.
5. Add salt and pepper; serve beef mixture over pasta. Add dollop of sour cream, if desired.

Squash Casserole

Makes 4-6 servings.

- 1 15-oz. can squash, drained
- 1/4 cup onions, diced
- 1/4 cup green bell peppers, seeds removed and diced

1 sleeve saltine crackers, crumbled
 1/2 cup butter, melted
 1 Tbsp. salt
 1 Tbsp. black pepper
 Cheddar cheese, grated, to taste

1. In a large bowl, mix all the ingredients, except cheese, together; prepare a baking pan with cooking spray.
2. Pour mixture into pan. Top with cheddar cheese; bake at 350 F for 30-45 minutes.
3. Cool for 10 minutes before serving.

Waldorf Salad

Makes 6-8 servings.

5 apples, cored and diced
 2 stems celery, diced
 1/4 cup pecans, chopped
 1/4 cup raisins
 3 Tbsp. mayonnaise

1. In a mixing bowl, mix together apples, celery, pecans and raisins; stir in the mayonnaise.
2. Chill for 1 hour before serving.

Bread Pudding

Makes 10-12 servings.

1 loaf white bread or 12 flour biscuits, crumbled
 1 cup whole white milk
 1 cup sugar
 2 tsp. cinnamon
 1/2 cup butter, melted
 1 tsp. vanilla
 1/2 cup raisins
 4 eggs

1. In a large mixing bowl, soak bread or biscuits in milk.
2. Add sugar, cinnamon, butter, vanilla, raisins and eggs; mix well.
3. Pour the mixture into a prepared pan; bake for 30 minutes at 350 F
4. Cool for 10 minutes before serving.

To view recipes from current and previous issues, visit www.nowmagazines.com.

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— By Virginia Riddle

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MSAC-Enviva is a one-stop shop for all medical and occupational needs. Services include family medicine, acute care, work injuries, wellness exams, employment and school physicals, DOT physicals, pain and injury management, fingerprinting, drug and alcohol testing, hearing tests, pulmonary function testing, vaccinations and low-cost lab work and X-rays.

Such diversity of services is possible due to the merging of three local practices. "We're the only occupational clinic left in Navarro County," Dr. Williams said. "Government agencies and local employers pay for our services mainly through workers' compensation networks. We also accept most insurance, Medicare, credit cards and cash. Our initial cash office visit is only \$69. We help a lot of people, whether they're a private patient or employee. Our goal is affordable medical care."

Following a patient's registration, they are assessed in the intake room, where their history and vitals are taken. Then the patient is escorted to one of several exam rooms.

An X-ray room, treatment rooms, a fingerprint room, a hearing booth, physical therapy wing, OSHA-required testing rooms and a blood and drug testing lab are available, depending on the patient's needs.

Like many medical professionals today, Dr. Williams' team is challenged to stay current on the latest medical advances and work successfully with insurance companies. Team members' current certifications and licenses, which reflect all the services provided, line the clinic's hallway wall. "Many of our team members are highly experienced and have been performing their jobs for decades," Dr. Williams offered.

Dr. Williams graduated from Parker University. "I always wanted to be a doctor and help people. I'm also interested in natural medicine," he said. Dr. Williams is board certified through the Texas Board of Chiropractic Examiners and is a credentialed Designated Doctor for the state of Texas. "It takes a lot of work to obtain that certification," he explained. He's also listed in the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners.

"I grew up in Deer Park, Texas," Dr. Williams recalled. He and his wife, Robin, a school teacher, moved from Rowlett, Texas, to Corsicana. The couple's youngest son of their eight children attends school in Rice ISD, where he is the 2017-2018 valedictorian and earned First-String Football Academic All-State Team. "My mother lives in Purdon and most of our grown children live in the North Texas area," Dr. Williams said. The couple has seven grandchildren. When not at the clinic, Dr. Williams enjoys his family, studying the Bible, riding his horses and Harley, surfing and doing "anything outside and on the water."

At MSAC-Enviva, patients and employers enjoy an open line of communication, state-of-the-art equipment and experienced medical professionals. Dr. Williams concluded, "We want our patients to be happy with their care." **NOW**



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Cultural Attraction

— By Andrea Panozzo

For a slice of Americana, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, beckons Texans with family fun, outdoor adventure, live music, shopping, museums and history. Enriched culture, ever-growing culinary and brewery scenes, beautiful art and a variety of sports entertainment are all within visitors' reach. Driving northeast from Fort Worth will take almost 16 hours and about \$150 in fuel. Or, the Eastern Iowa Airport is 9 miles from Cedar Rapids, where cultural immersion is easy, thanks to a community proud of its heritage.

For many years, Czech was commonly spoken in Cedar Rapids, and today, more people of Czech ancestry live in Cedar Rapids than in any other city in the world, except for the Czech capital of Prague. It is a proud aspect of Cedar Rapids culture, and the history is expressed through extraordinary

exhibitions and experiences at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.

The museum isn't the only representation of the Czech culture. Czech Village/New Bohemia Main Street District was voted Best Cultural Attraction by the *Corridor Business Journal* in 2017 and was a 2016 Great American Main Street Award semi-finalist. It is home not only to incredible artists and world-class museums, but also some of the best dining, shopping and entertainment in the area.

One fantastic shopping area in the district is NewBo City Market, a year-round indoor farmers market. Visitors can taste local cuisine and brews and support local artistry, all while experiencing a unique and fun atmosphere.

One of Cedar Rapids' most famous local artists, Grant

Wood, got his start here. Cedar Rapids Museum of Art holds the largest collection of his works. The classic art piece, *American Gothic*, was painted in his studio home in 1930. His studio is located near downtown Cedar Rapids and is available to visitors on weekends from April through December.

Another historic landmark is the Brucemore Estate, former home to several history makers who played a large role in Cedar Rapids' factory industries, including Quaker Oats. The estate was donated to the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1981, and today 43,000 people are drawn to the site every year. Brucemore Estate hosts signature events for the public, like the poolside Tahitian Party, Balloon Glow in the summer, Brucemorchestra in the fall and A Modern Salon in the winter. The house and incredible gardens are open for tours throughout the year.

Hundreds of other parks allow for escape into nature. Indian Creek Nature Center's grounds and trails are explorable at no charge. Families can hike scenic trails, see a concert in the amphitheater, participate in a yoga class or let their children play in the outdoor classroom.

Throughout spring and summer, visitors can join residents cheering on their Cedar Rapids KERNELS baseball team, the Minor League affiliate of the Minnesota Twins, playing at the single A level. Fans get to experience firsthand future MLB talent, as top prospects from all over the world play for and against the KERNELS. There are also hockey, indoor football and soccer teams competing in the winter.

At the end of full days, calm and cozy lodgings abound. People who need the comfort of a hotel will find every national chain has a key just for them. And those towing an RV will rest securely at campsites nestled close to the Cedar River. **NOW**

For more information or to plan a trip to Cedar Rapids, visit gocedarrapids.com.

Photos by Liz Zabel, GO Cedar Rapids.



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RV There Yet?

— By Zachary R. Urquhart

You may be thinking about getting a new ride before your family heads on its ultimate adventure. Whether you just need a vehicle to get to your destination, or you are thinking of having the RV experience this year, here are some tips to keep in mind before you head to the dealership.

The Best Type for You

- *Compact vs. Roomy* — If you are just looking at getting a simple sedan, the main decision is two-door or four-door. If you have kids, a compact car with limited legroom in the back may not be the best choice. But, if you just need something to get to work and back, a compact car is often cheaper and offers better fuel efficiency.

- *Minivan vs. SUV* — If you have a big family or tend

to drive a lot of people around town, you probably need something that seats seven or eight people. While minivans are sometimes thought of as uncool, their sliding doors and lower access make them more convenient than bulkier sports-utility vehicles. If you need the space but not necessarily the seating, an SUV or even a pickup truck may be the ideal choice for you.

If the Car is More Than a Car

While alternative accommodation options like Airbnb have given travelers more choices than ever, many people still love the freedom of having a vehicle that doubles as lodging. If you are looking for the perfect RV, here are the questions you should ask:

- *Pull vs. Drive* — While there are many specific choices, the first decision to make is whether you want something

that attaches to a vehicle, or if you want to buy a larger unit that is a vehicle in and of itself. Motor homes vary in size, but they are self-contained houses that sleep any number of people, while fifth wheels and bumper pulls attach to trucks, and even small cars, in some cases, and tend to be less expensive on average.

• *Fifth Wheel vs. Bumper Tow* — Fifth wheel RVs are a specific type of trailer that use a sophisticated system to hitch to the entire bed of a pickup truck. Because of their attachment method, they tend to be bigger than other towable RVs. But there are varied sizes available for those who want to tow from a bumper hitch. Some of the smallest pop-up campers can actually trail a sedan, though most RVs will still require a decent-sized truck for the towing power they afford.

• *A vs. B vs. C* — If you decide to go the route of a true motor home, there are three classes, A, B and C. Type A is the largest and, understandably, the most expensive, but it offers more sleeping accommodations. Type B is essentially a larger version of a minivan, with sleeping enough for a small family. Type C is smaller than type A but, typically, offers sleeping space over the driver's area, similar to the way type B does.

While there are no special license requirements for operating an RV, you will want to practice driving such a large vehicle before heading out on the open road for the first time. If you opted against a motor home, be sure you have all the necessary hitches, light hookups and the registration needed to tow from your vehicle. This summer could be the perfect time to take your family on the road trip of a lifetime, so be prepared and get the perfect vehicle to meet your family's needs. **NOW**

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Zoomed In: Haylee Clarke

By Virginia Riddle

There's a new face helping in the Navarro County Extension — Texas A&M AgriLife offices. Haylee Clarke, a Midlothian native and Tarleton State University student, is serving an internship. "I like seeing how the real world of agribusiness works. The agents are so helpful, and they include me in everything," Haylee said. "I enjoy seeing the variety of activities the agents do, and Navarro County people are so nice."

A senior, Haylee eventually plans on becoming an extension agent, ag insurance agent or an ag teacher. She is the treasurer of *Sigma Alpha*, a sorority for women in agriculture. Too busy these days, Haylee will soon enjoy hiking again in state parks, while preparing to follow her dream.



Malachi and Josiah Grigsby are two real-life super heroes.



Keshun Coleman draws the winning ticket for the Vietnam Veterans of America's raffle with supervision from chapter president Roy Harrison.



Friends, food and music fills the air for these Cowboy Church of Corsicana congirls at their spring event.



The Chatfield Chi Chi Chili Cooks compete during Derrick Days, feed first responders and still find time for a friendly game of dominoes.



Ashley HomeStore employees welcome Corsicana area shoppers during their grand opening week.



Jo Beth Ellis, president of the Alpha Rho Chapter, DKG, presents the Julia Stewart Scholarship to Evelyn Larson.



Everyone's welcome at the James L. Collins Catholic School's open house.



Cindy Walker directs the choir in the Navarro College theatre department's production of Paper Babies.



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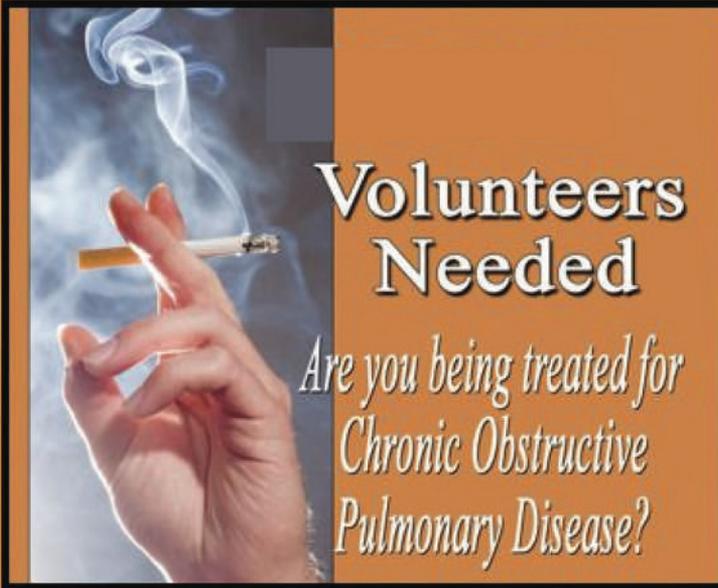
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Calendar

June

1

Jester Park and Bunert Park Pools: Jester Park, **Wednesdays-Saturdays**, 1:00-6:00 p.m., **Sundays**, 1:00-5:00 p.m.; Bunert Park, **Wednesdays-Saturdays**, 1:00-6:00 p.m. Call pool managers to reserve a morning or evening pool party time. Bunert and Community parks spray parks are open daily from 10:00 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Call (903) 654-4874. Open through **August 4**.

Summer Fun at the Y: Times and dates vary for all the many activities, Corsicana YMCA. Summer programs include day camp and swimming lessons. Call (903) 872-2412 or visit www.corsicanaymca.org. Open through **August**.

City of Corsicana Tennis programs and camp: Times vary by age groups, Mertz Tennis Center. For more details, call (214) 907-0586. Open through **August**.



Senior Circle Pot Luck Luncheon: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Navarro Regional Hospital. Bring a salad, vegetable, casserole or dessert. For more details, contact Connie Beal at (903) 654-6892.

2

Annual Pancake Breakfast Fly-in: 8:00-11:00 a.m., Mid-Way Regional

Airport. The event will include classic airplanes and fighters, helicopter rides, CAF vintage airplane rides, fly-overs, Midlothian Classic Wheels, Gold Wing Road Riders, live music, children's activities and more.

Breakfast tickets are \$6 for adults and children over the age of 8 and above. Children under 8 are \$3. Parking is free. Call (972) 923-0080.

Corsicana Public Library Summer Reading Program Kick-off Party for adults and children: 10:00 a.m. Call (903) 654-4810.



4

Piecemakers' Quilt Guild meeting: 9:30 a.m., Westhill Church of Christ Fellowship Hall. For more details, visit pqgcorsicana.com.

4, 11, 19, 25

Free Family Movies and Popcorn: 1:00 p.m., Corsicana Public Library. Call (903) 654-4810.

6, 13, 20, 27

Super Summer Storytime: 10:00 a.m., Corsicana Public Library. For more information, call (903) 654-4810.

9

Angels of Corsicana Troop Support packing: 9:00 a.m., 1020 N. Business I45. Donations may be dropped off

at this site **Monday-Friday** 8:00-11:00 a.m. To leave the name of a deployed military person or donate, call Jean O'Connor at (903) 851-2560 or visit the group's Facebook page.

Mimosas at the Market: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Downtown Corsicana. Contact (903) 654-4851.

11

Eclectic Readers Book Club: 6:30 p.m., Corsicana Public Library. *Vivid* by Beverly Jenkins will be discussed. Call (903) 654-4810.

13

Doll and Tea Party: 9:30-11:30 a.m., Pioneer Village. Ages 5-8 and all dolls are welcome. Call (903) 654-4874.



16

Navarro Fiber Friends meeting and field trip: 11:00 a.m., Homestead Café, Homestead Heritage, Waco. Contact Beth Barrows (210) 422-1775 or visit the group's Facebook page.

LeftyFest Music Festival: 2:00-10:00 p.m., Jester Park. This free concert honors Country Hall of Fame singer Lefty Frizzell. For more details, visit www.davidfrizzell.com/leftyfest.

Single Believers Ministries Juneteenth Celebration: 5:00-6:00 p.m., Bunert Park. Free hot dogs, gospel music and fun for all. Call (903) 602-0373.

19 Lake Halbert Outdoor Adventure: 10:00 a.m.-noon, Sandy Beach Area, Lake Halbert. Call (903) 654-4874.

28 Kids Spy Academy: 10:00-noon, Corsicana Police Department. Call (903) 654-4874.

\$15. To confirm reservations, contact Annie Avery at (714) 345-6707.

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1009 meeting: 7:00 p.m., LaPradera Restaurant. Email Roy Messick at roy.messick@gmail.com.

20 Senior Circle Lunch Bunch: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Napoli's, 111 E. Collin. St. Join Navarro Regional Hospital's Senior Circle members for fun, food and fellowship. Contact Connie Beal at (903) 654-6892.



29 Boogie Woogie Bash Annual Senior Dance: 6:00-8:00 pm., The Cook Center. For more details, contact Connie Beal at (903) 654-6892.

July

4 Rotary Club Freedom Festival: 6:30 p.m., I.O.O.F Park. For more information, call (903) 654-4874.

20 — 22 Air and Space Camp: 9:00 a.m.-noon, Cook Center. This activity is for ages 10-13. Call (903) 654-4874.

Corsicana Newcomers' Club: 11:00 a.m., Kinsloe House. Virginia Monk with Habitat for Humanity of Navarro County will speak and offer volunteer opportunities. Lunch is

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

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S.M.A.K.

Summer Music Activity for Kids

July 23-27 // 8:30-12:30 pm

Performance: July 29 // 6 pm

Vacation Bible School

Kick-Off: June 24 // 6 pm

June 25-28 // 9-12 pm

Family Nite: June 28 // 6 pm

To register for these events, call (903) 872-7473 or visit fbccorsicana.org





Built on the Rock

— By Virginia Riddle

With broad white columns standing tall, First Independent Baptist Church has been an important part of Corsicana’s history since its founding in 1868 by a group of former slaves led by Simon Perry. First named Second African Baptist Church and located on East Collin, now 3rd Street, the congregation built the first building at 4th Avenue and 3rd Street.

Undeterred following that building being destroyed in a storm in 1886, the congregation built its current church at 701 MLK (East 5th Avenue) in 1917. Set in the red brick foundation are the cornerstones for both buildings. The church is a Corsicana Historic Landmark and bears a Texas Historical Commission marker. “I remember when the tree on the corner was planted,” Leonard Dixon, head deacon and a lifelong member, said. “It’s grown with us.”

The name was changed in 1929 to reflect the congregation’s independence from other Baptist movements and to note that it was the first black church to have been registered. “We’re now part of the Texas

Baptist Conference,” Deacon Dixon said. “We’ve helped host the conference’s state convention.”

Sister Cathy Watson is another lifetime member who serves as clerk and social committee chair. “The church is often used for funerals and weddings,” she said. “All of us are committed members. We’ve grown up here.”

Stained glass windows given by families reflect different hues of light into the beautiful sanctuary. Two organs and a grand piano accompany choral groups. The congregation is currently led by Pastor Kenneth Walton, Jr., a former U.S. Air Force sergeant and a graduate of Baylor University’s George W. Truett Theological Seminary. “Great teaching has always been passed down through the church,” Pastor Walton said. “This church has been a focal point of hope.”

“We’ve always had influence at the state level and have solicited wonderful pastors,” Deacon Dixon explained. “Our ministers and church members have always been active volunteers in this community. We’re planning more ministries for our kids to get them to know Jesus today and bring their kids and grandkids in the future. We want to keep our youth involved.”

The church’s slogan, “A Going Church for a Coming Christ” holds true today as in yesteryears. “We’ve always felt it’s important to be a part of and lead our community,” Sister Watson said. “And everyone is always welcome.” **NOW**

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