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M A G A Z I N E

JUNE 2023

The Fast Layne

Dirt track racing is in this kid's blood

In the Kitchen With Deborah Johnson

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ON THE COVER



Layne Skinner rushes to race to a new best time.

Photo by
Memories by Melissa.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Summer's here!

When June hits, I'm usually ready with a packed vehicle and plans for summer trips, and this year is no exception. It's an inherited trait, at least on my dad's side of the family. I had seen most of the 48 contiguous states before I graduated high school, and then traveled with my kids. The crowning state their senior years was an Alaskan cruise — number 50! They're not following that tradition totally, since they are multilingual, and their professions give them and their families chances to travel internationally, but travel is travel.

Camping, hiking, rock climbing and bouldering are activities we do together on long weekends closer to their homes. The grandkids enjoy being co-pilots in my camper van's cockpit, and they all, in turn, have learned to use an old-fashioned paper map. They find out, as we get into isolated national parks and historical sites and state parks, that their cell phones don't Google too well, and there's no "lady-in-the-box" installed, as one young granddaughter called the OnStar response one day. They even must do camp dishes "the old-fashioned way" by hand to stay "new-fashioned green" for the planet! Seeing animals in their habitat, visiting museums, meeting people who are different from us, learning from history and ancient civilizations — it's all a treat!

A shout out goes to my youngest daughter, Katie, who will be completing her medical school prerequisites at Texas Tech University this fall. A lead lab tech already, she's been encouraged by the team of doctors with whom she works to follow in their footsteps. It won't be an easy road to travel, but, like many of the scenic drives we've taken, there's beauty all along the twists and turns.

Have an outstanding month!



Virginia

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THE FAST LAYNE

— By Virginia Riddle

Fast start. Brake. Apply the throttle. Round the corners in the fastest, most advantageous square inches of space. Doing all of that in a matter of seconds is Layne Skinner's world when he's dirt track racing. "Going fast requires quick thinking," said the 15-year-old student at Mildred High School and Corsicana native.

Starting with go-cart racing at age 10, Layne moved on to racing cars at age 12. "I recently got my learner's permit," he said. "Racing both helps and hurts me for driving in town or on the highways. It helps in the sense of fast thinking. It hurts in following speed limits." He occasionally gets challenged to street race now that he is learning to drive on public streets. "Street racing is something which, sadly, I cannot do," he added.

His typical dirt track race consists of a heat and feature. The cars in his class are split into two-three heat races with six-eight cars in each. The heat race is eight laps and determines where Layne will start in the feature race. The feature race is 15 laps, and the winner gets a trophy and prize money. The track is a quarter mile long and oval shaped with high banks. "My average time consists of 17-19 seconds," Layne explained. Rules for class designations are strict, but the driver's age isn't a big factor. "If you are experienced enough and can keep up with the competition, you can race," he added.

One of Layne's best racing memories happened when he raced his dad, John Skinner. "We finished second and third with a good battle between us for positions," he recalled. His all-time best win to date happened in his first year of racing. "It was a tough, but fun race," he said. "We went 50 laps, which was the longest race I had ever been in, and I managed to barely win by half a car. Every win is great in its own way. Winning is a great feeling."

Win or lose, Layne has family members present to cheer him onward. "My dad is the greatest!" Layne revealed. "He helps give me ideas on where to put the car in the corners and what to do in certain situations. He's also the one who helps me in the shop, fixing the car and getting it ready to go each week. My mom, Amethyst Skinner, pawpaw and my sister are always in the stands to cheer me on."

His race car is built out of an '80s model Chevy Monte Carlo frame and has a roll cage. It has a 350 block Chevy engine



and a lightweight manual transmission. The body is sheet aluminum. "There are many rules for how the car should look and how the motor should be built," Layne explained. "The biggest challenge in racing is the amount of maintenance required to keep the car in good winning condition and keeping it looking good each week. During the week, I don't stay in the shop any later than 7:00 p.m., leaving me a few hours to study and do homework."

Well-rounded, Layne is in the gifted/talented program at Mildred High School, competes in 4-H decision making, school debate and in robotics competitions where robots are constructed from LEGOs and given a task to complete. "I think what drives me at the track is the great feeling of winning and the money, but if my school grades aren't good, then I won't be able to race," he said. "Why have good grades, when with just a little

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more effort, I can have great grades? My favorite subject is math.”

With those interests, he’s planning to attend Texas A&M University and get an aeronautical engineering degree. “As much as I would love to continue racing through college, I don’t think I’ll have time to keep up with both,” Layne said. “After getting my degree, I would like to

work for Lockheed Martin, get a steady income, figure things out and start racing again.”

When not working on his car or preparing it for the track, Layne spends his spare time building and repairing computers and phones. “I also work on my custom truck, getting it ready to drive when I turn 16,” he remarked. “I work

on and ride dirt bikes, four-wheelers and really anything that has an engine.”

His dad and pawpaw have been involved in dirt racing. “My dad is my biggest inspiration,” he stated. Layne also admires professional racer, Kyle Larson. “He has proven to be one of the best in the racing world, driving a lot of different cars and winning in all of them,” Layne added. His best advice to those who wish to race dirt track cars? “Watching someone better than you is the best way to learn,” Layne continued. “Try doing your own thing. There’s always a faster time on the track.”

Little traffic, compared to places like the Metroplex, and rarely any long lines are reasons why Layne enjoys living in Navarro County. “Corsicana’s a small town, and everything’s accessible within 15 minutes from my house,” he said. Most of his family lives in Navarro County, including his 5-year-old sister.

With racing in his blood, Layne admits his greatest joy on the track comes from the adrenaline rush when in his car. He concluded, “All the worries of life fade away as the car’s horsepower takes over.” **NOW**

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Zoomed In:
Dana Ramirez

By Virginia Riddle

A Lewisville, Texas, native, Dana Ramirez joined the U.S. Navy 11 years ago and has been busy seeing the world ever since. Trained as a gunner, she shared, “I’ve mastered everything the navy shoots from small arms to missile weapons systems.” Dana is serving as Corsicana’s recruiter and holds the rank of E-5. “I’ve served in Virginia, Japan, Australia and too many other places to name,” she said. “My favorite memory is seeing the Northern Lights from the ship.”

Dana is happy to return to Texas, where her parents and three brothers reside. “I like the trees and nature,” she explained. “There’s fresh air all around.” In her spare time, Dana plays the ukulele, an instrument she learned while she was deployed.



Diane Maize presents colonial herbs still in use today to James Blair Chapter, DAR members.



Rosie the Riveter meets motorized wagon participants in the Texas Veterans Parade.



JLCCS’ 3:16 Choir performs at the Texas State Capitol’s Rotunda.



A sharing of experiences follows the last presentation of WLAC’s Breakfast.



Bobbie Hathcock, outgoing Corsicana Newcomers Club president, passes the gavel to incoming president, Linda Lammers.



Randy Faulkner, a certified arborist, gives tips to the Better Garden Club members.



Adults are at the ready to help 4-H and FFA members show their livestock at the Navarro County Youth Expo.

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— By Virginia Riddle

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Having grown up ranching, the couple blended their skills of animal husbandry with regenerative grazing and a chemical-free environment in order to raise clean, healthy livestock. The market's grass-fed beef and pastured pork, lamb and chicken are processed, USDA inspected, labeled and vacuum packed for extended freshness. Custom cuts and orders are accepted. "You are what you eat, eats," Doug explained.

"Your nutritional health is important to us," Susie added.

The couple provides services with down-home, old-

fashioned welcoming smiles. “We mentor aspiring farmers, ranchers and homesteaders who work with all sizes of acreage and dreams. We have a community of farmers, ranchers and homesteaders across the U.S., so if we don’t have what a customer wants, we source for them. Susie also hosts a sewing circle and will organize events, classes and retreats for folks. Tours of the ranch, animals and grazing methods are available upon request.

Doug stated, “It’s important to support your local growers and producers.” The couple founded their ranch in 2011 and the market in 2020. The bed-and-breakfast and greenhouse are this year’s additions. Doug added, “We also have a clean mineral program for livestock for sale on the ranch.” The couple accepts cash, all major credit cards, Venmo and PayPal and can ship some products. The Winters are members of ITLA and TLBAA, registered Texas Longhorn associations.

“We truly enjoy people visiting here, and find joy in sharing our ranching lifestyle,” Susie shared. “We’re excited to see people have fun and take photos of their memories here. Return visitors are a real joy.”

Doug agreed, “We love our animals and seeing people enjoy them. We’re a regenerative farm.” However, challenges abound. “Everything is challenging about this life, but we learn from them all. This life has been glamorized, but it’s hard work every day,” Doug said.

As it is for all farmers and ranchers, Mother Nature is one of the biggest challenges. “The weather and the physical requirements are more challenging as we get older,” Susie added. “You have to be prepared for loss and be very adaptive. It’s our faith that keeps us going.”

Producing nutritious and organic food in a sustainable and regenerative manner continues to be Doug and Susie’s goal for the ranch, and they willingly share their methods with others from area ag students to foreign visitors. There is a farm-to-table, cowboy-style business with more plans in the works. Susie summed up, “Keep watching Trail of Faith to see what’s happening here next. Come visit. We’ll leave the gate open.” **NOW**



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CookingNOW In the Kitchen With DEBORAH JOHNSON — By Virginia Riddle

A recipe developer, food photographer and food stylist, Deborah Johnson is working on her first cookbook. “Something magical happens around the table when people break bread together — particularly when it’s a homemade meal made with love,” she said.

She and her husband, Trevor, moved to land near Corsicana earlier this year to start gardening and raising animals. “That process has given me so much more appreciation for the gift each ingredient is,” Deborah explained.

Learning to cook in childhood, Deborah has expanded her horizons through travels to 48 states and six continents. “I’m half Mexican, and in our culture, food and family are very important. I’ll read versions of a recipe, and then create my own,” she shared. “I love to travel for culinary inspiration!” **NOW**

Peach Pecan Bundt Cake With Brown Butter Sugar

Perfect for a Texas summer! A cinch to make, and a beauty to serve!

Cake:

- 1 1/4 cups coconut oil, melted**
- 1 1/2 cups granulated sugar**

- 1/2 cup coconut sugar**
- 1 Tbsp. vanilla**
- 1/4 cup sour cream**
- 3 eggs, room temperature**
- 2 cups all-purpose flour**
- 1 cup whole wheat flour**
- 1 tsp. baking soda**
- 1 Tbsp. ground cinnamon**
- 1 tsp. kosher salt**

- 1/2 cup pecan pieces, finely chopped**
- 6 fresh or frozen peaches (almost 3 cups), peeled, diced**

Brown Butter Glaze:

- 1 stick butter**
- 2 cups powdered sugar, sifted**
- 1/4 cup milk**
- 1 tsp. vanilla**
- 1/8 tsp. salt**

- 1. For cake:** Preheat the oven to 325 F; thoroughly grease and flour a 12-cup Bundt pan.
- 2.** In a large bowl, combine the coconut oil, both sugars, vanilla, sour cream and eggs with a fork.
- 3.** In another bowl, whisk both types of flour, baking soda, cinnamon, salt and pecans. Add the dry ingredients to the wet mixture, reserving about 2 Tbsp. of the dry ingredients in its bowl; mix until the batter is smooth.

4. Blot the diced peaches with a paper towel to remove excess moisture. Toss the peaches in the reserved dry ingredients. Pour 1/3 of the batter into the pan; add 1/3 of the peaches. Continue until there are 3 layers of each.
5. Tap the pan on the counter to remove air pockets; bake for about 90 minutes, or until no wet batter remains in the center when tested.
6. *For glaze:* In a medium skillet over medium heat, brown the butter; let cool for a few minutes. Stir in the sifted powdered sugar, milk, vanilla and salt.
7. Remove the cake from the oven; let cool for 15 minutes. Carefully turn it out onto a serving platter; drizzle the glaze over the cake. It will keep in the refrigerator for about 5 days if covered tightly.

Flour Tortillas

- 2 2/3 cups flour, plus extra for rolling out dough**
3/4 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. baking powder
1/3 cup olive oil
7/8 cup warm water

1. In a large bowl, stir the flour, salt and baking powder. Add the olive oil and water; stir until the mixture is thoroughly combined.
2. Knead the dough for about 2 minutes until it's soft, smooth and pliable. Separate the dough ball into 10-12 equal size balls, kneading one more time.
3. Cover the balls loosely with a clean kitchen cloth; let them rest for about 30 minutes.
4. Preheat a griddle or heavy metal pan over medium heat. With a floured rolling pin and surface, roll out each dough ball. Try to rotate the dough to create a circle shape. The key to success is rolling the dough thin to almost transparent but still sturdy enough to handle.
5. Add each tortilla to the pan or griddle; cook the first side for about 2 minutes. Then flip; cook the other side for about 1 minute until both sides are golden brown and starting to bubble.
6. Remove each tortilla to a tortilla warmer, or wrap them in a clean cloth to keep warm on a plate.
7. *Note: For breakfast tacos, prepare these tortillas. Add eggs, bacon and salsa.*

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



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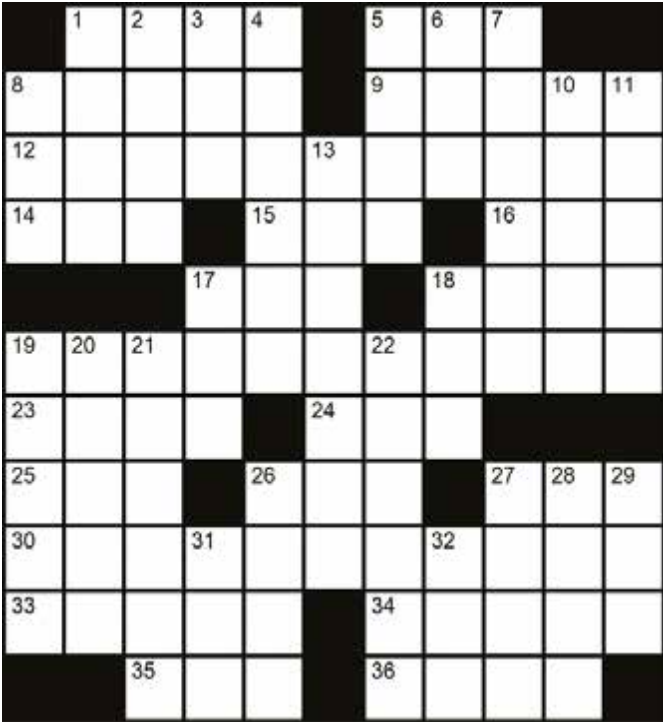
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Across

- 1 Doorframe part
- 5 Hog thigh
- 8 Vehicle on Mars or the Moon
- 9 Nearing the end?
- 12 Hell arranged scooter bash for a potential killer
- 14 — Arbor, MI
- 15 Network which created "Cribs"
- 16 Tina's former partner
- 17 Meadow
- 18 Parade wrecker
- 19 First pair in the first garden
- 23 Comply
- 24 Anger
- 25 The mailman's busy this month
- 26 Regret
- 27 Rocky pinnacle
- 30 Blue super-soldier?
- 33 Thick slices
- 34 Classified
- 35 Cut along the grain
- 36 Spandau's last inmate

Down

- 1 Fourth Gospel
- 2 "Calling" Co.
- 3 Director --- Brooks
- 4 German city on the Weser River
- 5 Man cave centerpiece
- 6 Affirmative vote
- 7 Moses' sister
- 8 First U.S. color TV maker
- 10 Cell brand
- 11 First orbital American
- 13 Game venue
- 17 Narrative song
- 18 "Dizzy" singer Tommy ---
- 19 Operandi or vivendi
- 20 "That rings ---"
- 21 Sweet secretion of flowers
- 22 Christmas decoration
- 26 Coarse file
- 27 Waiters wait for them
- 28 They might feature in 27 Down
- 29 "Something in ---" (Lorrie Morgan hit)
- 31 A sac fly collects one
- 32 Cereal grass

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

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Shirley Stewart, winner of \$50 cash, said, "I recently moved to Corsicana and found this wonderful magazine. It's very informative, and I love the calendar of events so I can see what is happening in my community. I look forward to it every month."



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Joshua 18:8 Deuteronomy 19:14



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MAGAZINES



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6/1-Summer 2023

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6/6

IMPACT Navarro and Navarro College's Building Mental Wellness Center's Lighters, Blades & Needles, Oh, My!:

A seminar on self-injury and intervention. General audience:

9:00 a.m.-noon; health professionals: 12:30-4:30 p.m., Cook Center, 3100 W. Collin St. Facebook: IMPACT Navarro.

6/6-6/11

Honky Tonk Hissy Fit:

A Doublewide, Texas Sequel:

Dates and times vary. Warehouse Living Arts Center, 119 West 6th Ave. For more details, visit thewlac.com.

6/7, 6/14 and 6/21

Kinsloe House Luncheon:

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

6/15

Moe Bandy:

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

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Third Thursdays

Ladies Night Out:

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



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- I often misplace or have difficulty finding things at home or at work
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