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M A G A Z I N E

JUNE 2025

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Scavenger Hunt

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Featured Business:
Jerry's Paint & Body Shop

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Staycation or vacation?

If spring break is any indication of what's to come this month with my grandchildren, it's going to be a wonderful time. I watched them at all their activities, taught them in homeschool the week before the break, and then we caravanned our way back to Texas, pausing for three days in Lubbock so my daughter, their mom, could finish clinicals at the hospital before she parted for a two-day spring break from her medical studies at Texas Tech. The dust storm with 78-mph winds prevented the girls and me, plus their dad, from doing much out-of-doors, but we managed to find movies and toured the Buddy Holly Center for fun. I shared my knowledge of what RPM and VCR stood for at the center and in some of Granddaughter Sophie's required break reading. The winds taught me a new weather term: land hurricane. Card games kept the fun going into the nights. Two days of East Texas wildflowers, and they were heading home. As always, it was hard to part, but we made wonderful memories.

On a sadder note, my family also had to say goodbye to my son-in-law, Dr. Randy Ploetz, who passed away after a long battle with progressive supranuclear palsy. I first met Randy at his Homestead, Florida, home while I was visiting my two grandsons and my daughter, Michelle, in nearby Doral. They had been dating, and he invited us to walk through his garden. I knew Randy was a world-renowned, published author and professor of plant pathology, but I had no idea of the treat his "backyard garden" was going to be. Pathways wound through plants I had never seen, and we picked the fruit, cut and ate it. I hope Randy's found heaven's Garden of Eden!

Make where you are a great place!

Virginia

Virginia Riddle
CorsicanaNOW Editor
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ON THE COVER



A trusting relationship with a horse is a treasure worth earning.

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Breath on the Heart

— By Virginia Riddle

Quarter Horses, Diamond, Ruby, Topaz and Sapphire; mini horse, Opal; and donkey, Pearl, are everyone's best friends at Diamonds and Rubies Ranch. The ranch is a nonprofit that helps women and girls build healthy relationships with each other and the horses, become part of a "herd," experience the beauty of equines and experience the fullness of God's plan for their lives. "Our inspiration is based on Proverbs 31:10, which tells us that every woman is far more precious than rubies," explained Founder Reanna Liversage-Gerky. "We focus on everyone's inward attributes, finding belonging, overcoming obstacles and moving forward."

Founded in February 2024, the ranch uses Faith Based Equine Assisted Learning to heal women and renew hope. "FBEAL is rooted in God's Word combined with observing horses and their behaviors," Reanna said. A cowgirl most of her life, Reanna felt called to use her horses, horsemanship skills and passion to help others. "God told me that He didn't give me this passion without a reason," she shared. "I started researching and established a board of directors and the nonprofit. We want women and girls to achieve God's blessing stated in John 14:27, which allows us to live lives of peace, freedom and rest. The horses are our partners, and the Holy Spirit is our facilitator."

Women and girls, ages 8 upward through adulthood, can participate in focus groups or through one-on-one sessions. A Precious Gems Summer Camp was popular among the girls last summer and two sessions are offered this summer. The Precious Gems Horse Club meets on the second and fourth Friday each month. Ranch Days are scheduled so the community can come have fun with the horses and help with some of the ranch chores. "Many hands make light work," Reanna said. Sessions can be booked online. A women's Bible study will begin this year.

"About 96 percent of the girls go to camp on scholarship," Reanna said. "They just have to ask." To date, 50 women and



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174 girls have been helped. “We learn through the horses,” Reanna explained. “When confronted with a problem, they recircle the herd, retreat, reevaluate and respond. Each person interprets those behaviors and different ideas are revealed. Most of the women are working through different problems, including addiction, and the girls are healing.”

Debbie Richardson, a Navarro College social worker, is the board president. “During the sessions, we listen and pray. I have three daughters and know life can be such a burden on women,” she said.

A college student, mother and grandmother, Angela Reed is one of the group’s clients. “I met Reanna at church,” she said. “Recently, I lost a 5-year-old granddaughter, and I can’t process that. Horses connect me spiritually. I remember when the horses relaxed and laid down, I felt the



presence of God, just like angels were around. I love animals, so this is a life-changing journey.”

Victoria Shepherd Burnett lost her dad. “I felt broken, and after meeting Reanna a year ago, I felt like trying therapeutic riding,” she shared. Victoria operates a residential addiction recovery program. Some of the women she works with who are experiencing addiction and other problems have also joined this group. “Multiples of my residents have broken down crying during these sessions,” Victoria stated. “Reanna tailors the session to the needs of the women.”

Some women don’t wish to ride, and that’s OK. The group’s facility lends itself to small and large gatherings with the outdoor kitchen and patio, a meeting studio, pool, round pen, barn and covered arena. Eleven volunteers have helped during the sessions and summer camp.

Basic horsemanship, such as groundwork, tack and grooming, is taught for 45-minute to 1-hour sessions during camp. “We pray, have art lessons, swim, ride and offer snacks,” Reanna explained.

One of Reanna’s best memories happened when she was having a hard time remembering a client’s name. Finally, she told the client, “I’m going to call you Joy!” The client responded, “How did you know I wanted to leave this session with joy?”

“I love seeing what God’s done in this short period of time with people, but it is challenging to accommodate the growth that has come so fast,” Reanna said.

Reanna moved to Corsicana three years ago after taking a position at Impact Communities. At first she

commuted from Waxahachie, but soon knew she wanted to live here. A property that had room for her “jewels” came available. A horsewoman since age 6, Reanna had taken a break to raise her kids but got back to riding in 2016. She shows western and competes in playdays and cow sorting. When not riding, working or fishing with her kids, Reanna has been studying for her master’s degree, which she earned recently. Reanna’s mother and her two daughters, ages 18 and 13, help at the ranch as volunteers.

When a person breathes one with the horse, the shared breathing is healing, calming and brings on a sense of mindfulness. This forms a deep connection and sense of well-being. Reanna said, “Our vision is that women and girls will become spiritually inspired, resilient and empowered to live an abundant life for themselves and their families.” **NOW**

Editor’s Note: For more information, visit www.diamondsandrubiesranch.com.

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Zoomed In:
Crystal Richardson

By Virginia Riddle

Born in Illinois, Crystal Richardson grew up in Corsicana and considers herself to be a native. “I like the people and this community,” she said. She’s a familiar face around town through her work as Bristol Hospice-Pathways’ hospital liaison and her volunteer work with the Corsicana & Navarro County Chamber of Commerce, Meals on Wheels, Caregivers Support Group and Lakes Community Center.

“My grandpa moved here from Illinois three years ago, so all my family, including four grown sons, husband, parents, in-laws, brother and two grandkids are here,” Crystal stated. She enjoys going to the movies and playing bingo and other games. Crystal concluded, “I’m thankful God allows me to help people, and I’m thankful for supportive friends and family who are my village.”



Debby Bryant helps host the James Blair, DAR George Washington Tea.



Cheryl McLen entertains Corsicana Opy’s dinner crowd.



The Derrick Days Foam Party is a cool way to pass the afternoon.



American Legion members celebrate raising funds for their building project through a recent raffle.



Getting a temporary tattoo at the Easter Hop adds to the fun.



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Dr. Seth Watson encourages Corsicana Newcomers members to pay attention to their body's check engine lights.

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— By Virginia Riddle

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Jerry's Paint & Body Shop works with all insurance

companies and accepts major credit cards, checks and cash payments. Payment arrangements can also be made through Synchrony and SNAP.

The shop is rated I-CAR Platinum status, Hunter certified, and Stephen and other staff members have received I-CAR certificates of recognition for achieving a high level of individual tech training. "The shop offers state-of-the-art equipment including the newest welding machines. We do all static and dynamic calibrations/diagnostics by OEM specs," Stephen explained. A Mildred native, Stephen started painting cars at age 14 in his parents' garage, gained experience in local shops and then owned his own body and paint shop before buying Jerry's Paint & Body Shop. He's a graduate of Mildred High School and Texas State Technical Institute. "Every vehicle is different, so every new job is like starting a new day," he said. "Nothing becomes repetitive. I enjoy seeing customers happy and their vehicles repaired from start to finish."

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With new technologies in the auto industry occurring yearly, Stephen and his staff strive to keep current. "We like to train in-house," he said. "And we take care of employees like family. Many of his employees are family members. "I like to give employees a stepping stone opportunity to grow," Stephen added. "This industry is wide open for high paying jobs, but you have to have passion." He's expanded services by opening Alignment King in both Corsicana and Tyler.

"Jerry's Paint & Body Shop actively supports Mildred ISD and other county school districts and 4-H," Stephen stated. "We like to help whoever and whatever we can directly."

Stephen concluded, "Whether you need to arrange a tow or a ride from anywhere in Navarro County or the surrounding area, need a rental car, help understanding insurance or need repair work done, we strive to make the experience as easy as possible for every customer and make sure the job is done right." **NOW**



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Carrot Cake

CookingNOW

IN THE KITCHEN WITH

FRANK HULL

— By Virginia Riddle



A New Orleans native, Frank Hull's family is full of cooks. "My mother could throw anything in a pot, and it came out great," Frank recalled. "My dad was a master baker who apprenticed starting at 16, and I trained as one in my youth." His dad owned a bakery in Chalmette, Louisiana. "I used to bake King cakes," Frank added.

Frank, who is the founder of Hull Creative Arts Foundation, loves to cook from family recipes his sister, Linda Hull Swanson, has compiled. He enjoys baking and grilling Cajun and, his personal favorite, Creole foods. "Holidays are great. Everyone comes," Frank said. Retired, Frank loves to travel and socialize, which, along with his love of eating, are reasons he likes to cook. **NOW**

Carrot Cake

Cake:

- 2 cups sugar
- 2 cups flour
- 2 tsp. baking soda
- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 4 eggs
- 3/4 cup vegetable or canola oil
- 3/4 cup milk
- 3 cups carrots or about 1 lb., grated
- Cooking spray

Icing:

- 1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese
- 1 stick butter
- Dash salt
- 1 1-lb. box powdered sugar

- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 cup pecans (optional)

1. *For the cake:* Combine all the dry ingredients; mix well. Add the vanilla, eggs, oil and milk; mix well. Add the carrots; mix on medium for 2 minutes.
2. Prepare a 9x13-inch pan with cooking spray; pour the mixture into the pan. Bake at 350 F for about 50 minutes, or until the center is firm to touch.
3. *For the icing:* Let the cream cheese and butter come to room temperature or warm slightly in the microwave. Beat the cream cheese and butter until it's light and fluffy. Add the salt, powdered sugar, vanilla and pecans; mix well.
4. *Tips:* With ends trimmed, 1 lb. of peeled carrots can be food processed rather than hand grated. Also, 3 9-inch round cake pans can be used to make a 3-layer cake.

Gumbo

Serves 4-6 people.

Note: All seasonings, bay leaves-black pepper, can be put together in a bowl, mixed well, and added at one time.

- 8-oz. frozen okra, precooked according to pkg. instructions
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1 cup yellow onion, chopped
- 1 cup celery, including leaves, chopped
- 1 1/2 to 2 lbs. meat (any combo of shrimp, chicken, sausage, crab)
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 2-3 bay leaves
- 1 Tbsp. Italian seasoning
- 1 tsp. thyme
- 1/4 cup dried parsley or 1/2 cup fresh parsley, chopped
- 1-2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 Tbsp. gumbo filé
- 1/2 to 1 tsp. Slap Ya Mama seasoning
- Few dashes of black pepper
- 8 cups chicken broth
- 1/2 bunch green onions, thinly sliced
- Kitchen Bouquet, as needed
- 1 cup rice, cooked according to pkg. instructions

1. In a deep frying pan, add the okra with a little water.
2. In a large stew pot, combine the oil, yellow onions and celery; sauté until the onions become translucent. Remove the onions and celery except for 1/2 cup; set aside. Add a few handfuls of meat and additional oil, if needed. Stir until mixture begins to brown.
3. Add the flour; stir until it begins to brown. Add the spices; stir. Add the reserved onion and celery, chicken broth and remaining meat, unless using crab meat; stir, bringing the mixture to a boil.
4. Add the okra, green onions and crab meat, if using. Cook for about 15 minutes, checking for consistency and flavor, adjusting if needed.
5. Add the Kitchen Bouquet to achieve desired consistency; continue to simmer the mixture for about 45 minutes. Serve over rice.



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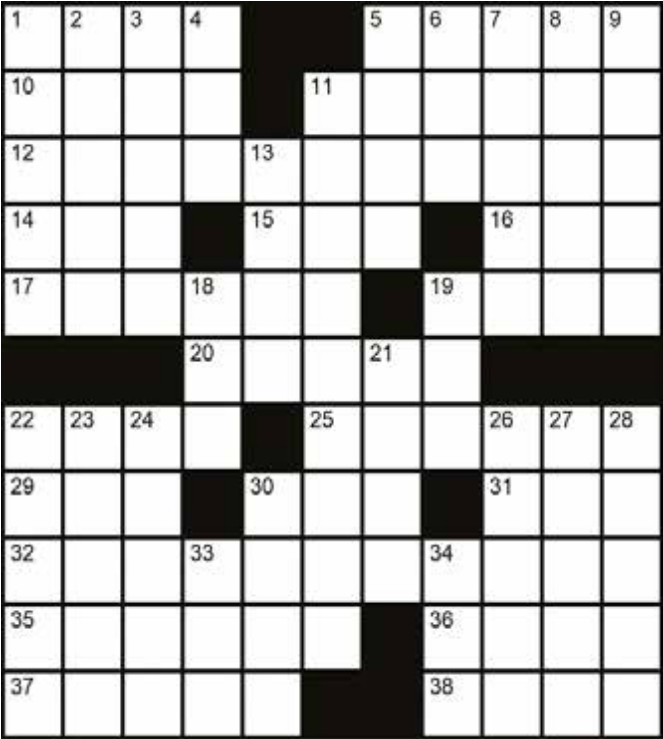
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- Across**

1 Doe's beau

5 Draconian

10 Prolonged unconsciousness

11 "It Started in Naples" star --- Loren

12 Distorted caps trap oil for cosmetician's pencils

14 --- Air, Los Angeles

15 "Friends" actress Courteney ---

16 Lair

17 "Peekaboo, I ---"

19 Coin

20 Hidden

22 Smack

25 Hate

29 Prefix with West

30 Address beginning "<http://>"

31 Narrow beam of light

32 Jakarta is its capital

35 Sell to end users

36 "Marching --- war"

37 Board flaws

38 Intend
- Down**

1 Signs of healing

2 Pith sun helmet

3 Plentiful

4 "Has Anybody Seen My --- ?" (1920s song)

5 Hoodwink

6 Disposed

7 --- Island Sound

8 Seductively beautiful woman

9 Is lacking

11 Cruel dons whipped a dirty dog

13 Clickable image

18 "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" lyricist --- Harburg

19 Old-style computer screen

21 Long fish

22 Self-satisfied smile

23 Fabric woven from flax

24 Embellish

26 Rub out

27 Christmas guy

28 "Iron Mike" ---

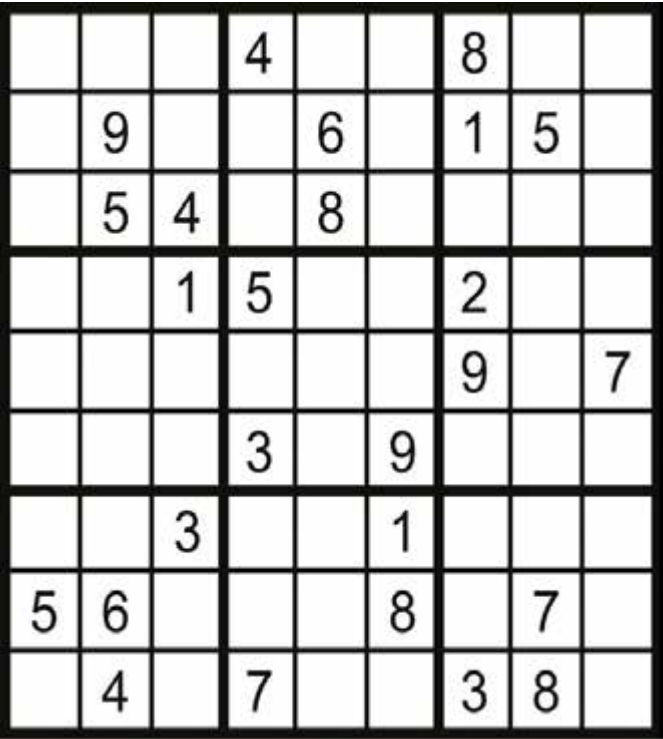
30 "Les États- ---" - that's us to a Quebecer!

33 Cereal grain

34 "--- a Rock" (Simon & Garfunkel hit)

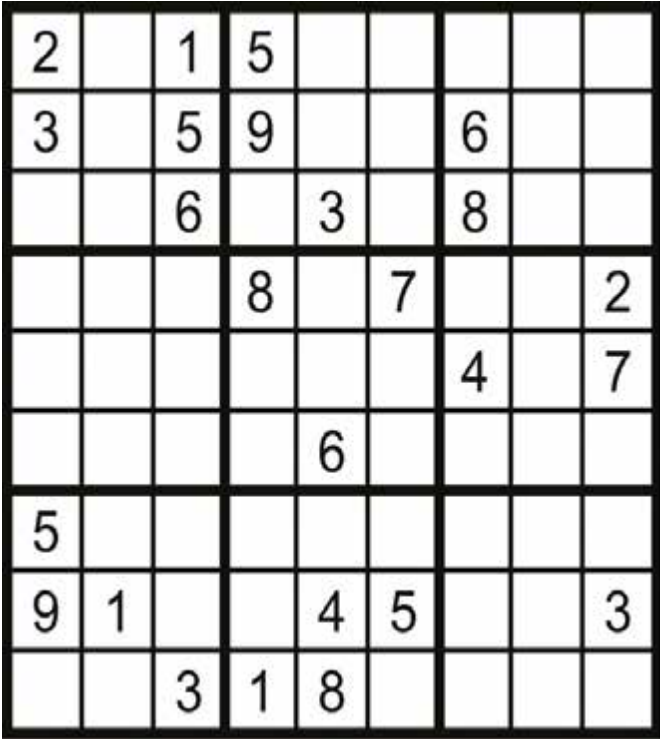
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Easy



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Medium



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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.

6/2-7/25

Navarro County Boys & Girls Club Summer Camp:

Monday-Friday:
7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., 1000 Jackson Ave., Corsicana. bgcdallas.org/summer.

6/3

Summer Reading Kickoff Party:

2:00 p.m., Corsicana Public Library, 100 N. 12th St. Facebook: Corsicana Public Library.

6/5, 6/12, 6/19

Kinsloe House Luncheons and Programs:

Noon, Kinsloe House, 618 W. 3rd Ave. Reservations required. \$20. (903) 874-5791.

6/7

Pancake Breakfast Fly-in/Drive-in:

Classic airplanes, helicopter and airplane rides, live music, children's activities. Mid-Way Regional Airport, 131 Airport Dr., Midlothian. (972) 923-0080.

R. Lowell Thompson Memorial Disc Golf Tournament:

Registration: 7:45 a.m.; start of play: 9:00 a.m., Fullerton-Garity Park. Facebook: Corsicana Lions Club.

Heart of Texas Paddle Jam:

Benefiting first responder wellness. 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Fisherman's Point Marina, Richland Chambers Reservoir, 230 FM 416, Streetman. For more details, visit www.foundation1023.org.

The '77 Experience:

Hits of 1977 Tribute: 7:30 p.m., The Palace Theatre, 112 West 6th Ave. For details, visit www.corsicanapalace.com.

6/12-6/15, 6/19-6/22, 6/26-6/29

Precious Gems Summer Camp Sessions:

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6/20-6/29

Visiting Mr. Green:

Times vary, Fator Studio, Warehouse Living Arts Center, 119 W. 6th Ave. Facebook: Warehouse Living Arts Center.

6/21

Praise in the Park:

5:00-10:00 p.m., Bunert Park, 201 Bunert Park Rd. For more details, email www.evansmargaret75@gmail.com.

6/23-6/28

Camp Hoblitzelle:

Horses, fishing, archery, zipline canoes, swimming, paintball. Discover how to love like Jesus. Corsicana Salvation Army. teresa/zuniga@uss.salvationarmy.org.

Mondays

Caregiver Support Group:

4:00-5:00 p.m., Corsicana Senior Center, 919 W. Park Ave. (828) 228-3579.

Tuesdays

Corsicana Lions Club Meeting:

Noon, Navarro College Dining Hall. Facebook: Corsicana Lions Club.

Yoga at the Library:

Bring your own supplies. 6:00 p.m., Corsicana Public Library, 100 N. 12th St. Facebook: Corsicana Public Library.

Tuesdays and Saturdays

Navarro County Farmers Market:

7:00 a.m.-noon, 408 E. 6th Ave. Facebook: Navarro County Farmers Market.

Third Wednesdays

Senior Fun Day:

11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., MLK Center, 1114 E. 6th Ave. (903) 874-7259.

Thursdays

Movie Time:

Movie and popcorn. 2:00 p.m., Corsicana Public Library, 100 N. 12th St. Facebook: Corsicana Public Library.

Second Thursdays

Savvy Seniors:

Lunch, games. 11:30 a.m., Corsicana Senior Center, 919 W. Park Ave. (903) 654-4980.

Second Saturdays

Free Fitness Class:

9:00 a.m., Campbell Arts Plaza, 109 E. 5th Av. (903) 654-4852.

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

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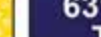
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