

Corsican NOW

A G A Z I N E

JULY 2020

Winning Ways

Chaser Crouch and Zanny read cows well

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt

Kids' Fun Page

Crossword/Sudoku

Featured Business:

Altitude H2O and Altitude Trampoline Park

In the Kitchen With Geather Weeks

Postal Customer

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ON THE COVER

Chaser Crouch has earned his spurs.

Photo by
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EDITOR'S NOTE



Virginia

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CorsicanaNOW Editor
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Time for fun in the sun!

Hmm ... will it be the beach, the mountains, big city or country lanes we explore this summer? Will we be able to safely travel following our long at-home hibernation due to COVID-19, or will we be sharing vacations with friends and family by touring online museums and sights? Questions do abound during this challenging time in world history.

In my early childhood, we stayed inside during summer days due to the polio scare, but after that vaccine was created, my summers were spent packing for Camp Fire Girl camp; for a week with my Mexia, Texas, grandparents; and for travels to U.S. Army postings with my family, since my dad, a reserve officer, taught for two weeks on one post and then went to another post for a two week school as a student every summer. An attorney in private practice the rest of the year, his Army career afforded my three sisters and I, along with our mom, a six-week vacation every summer. We saw the 48 contiguous states and lived the Army life in guest family officer quarters. While dad worked, we played golf, swam at the officers' club and toured the countryside.

While cleaning out my parents' home in preparation for their estate sale, I found my 16th birthday present — a vinyl recording of *South Pacific's* soundtrack. That birthday was celebrated at Fort Benning, Georgia, by going to eat at the officers' club, followed by seeing the movie, *South Pacific*, on post for a quarter per person, a bargain even then. That recording, along with a few other treasured and much played movie soundtracks of those days, has come home with me.

Here's to a summer making new memories!

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The “fresh” cows have settled instinctively into a tight circle, raising dust around their hooves. Rider and horse enter slowly, looking for the right cow to cut, intent on not scattering the herd. The cows start mooing and moving in anticipation of the rider signaling the horse to lock on a cow. The pure poetry in motion of rider, horse and cut cow begins with high speeds and fast turns.

Competitive cutting isn't for the faint of heart. It's an athletic event. “When I get the right cow picked out and am in sync with my horse and the cow, it's a perfect run,” Chaser Crouch said.

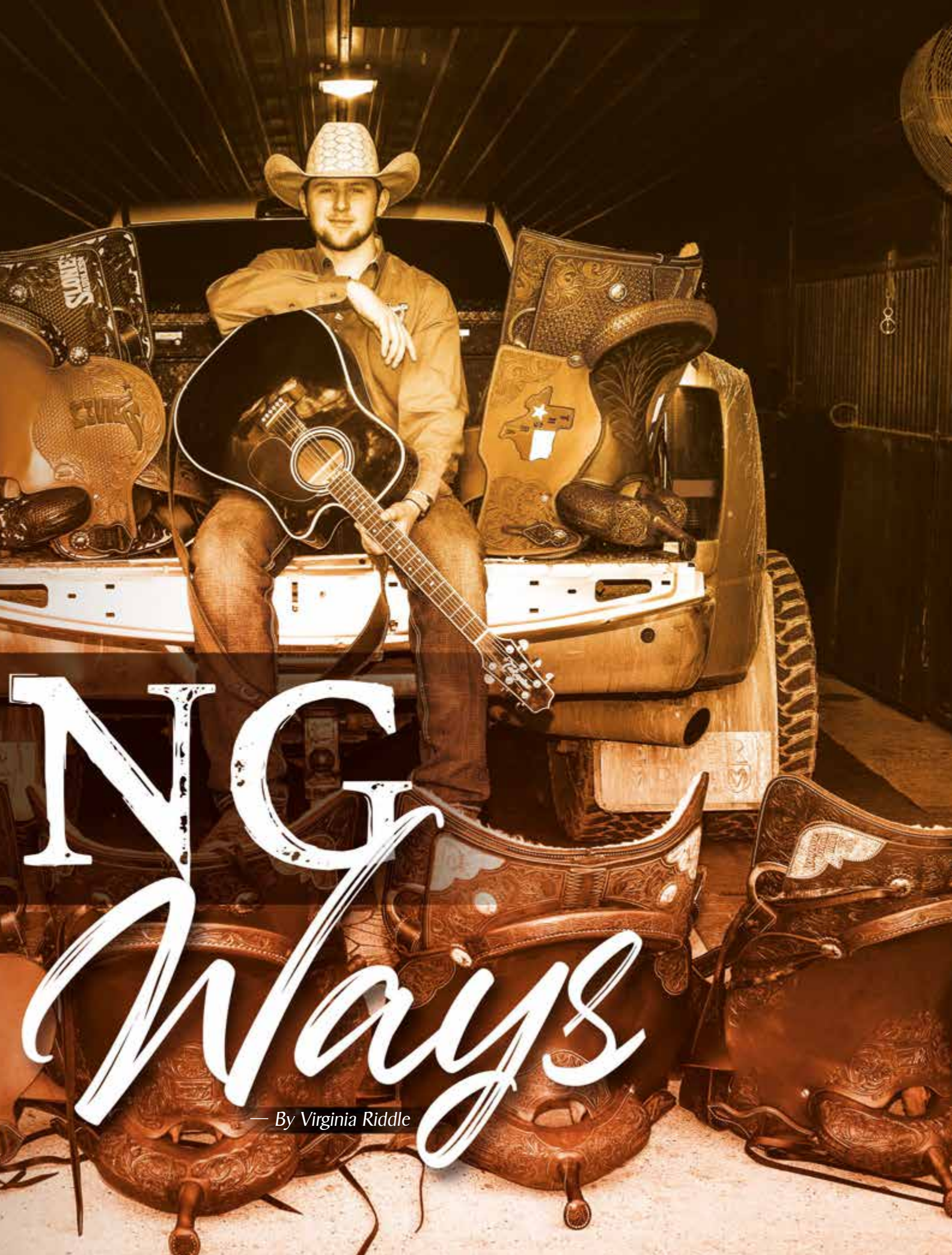
He should know. Chaser's winning credentials in the competitive cutting world as a youth are impressive: 2016 National Youth Cutting Horse Association (NYCHA) Senior Youth Reserve World Championship, 2017 and 2019 National High School Rodeo Association (NHSRA) Cutting Championship, 2018 NYCHA Senior Youth World Championship and National Cutting Horse Association (NCHA) Western Nationals Senior Youth Championship and 2019 NYCHA Senior Youth Reserve World Champion. Additionally, Chaser is a two-time San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo \$10,000 scholarship recipient (NCHA senior youth division). Chaser has earned more than \$50,000 in scholarship money through the NYCHA. He qualified all four years of high school for the NHSRA finals by being one of the top four boys from Texas, something not accomplished by a Texas high school rodeo competitor in 20 years.

A Corsicana native, Chaser has grown up in the cutting world, with its cowboy roots and traditions. His dad is Casey Crouch, a professional cutting trainer and competitor. His mom, Chelsa, and his grandparents, great-grandparents, aunts and uncles have all competed successfully in the equine world. “Having family supporting me adds to and takes off the pressure of competing,” Chaser explained.

WINNI

While cutting cows is a necessary skill on a ranch or farm, competitive cutting is done against a 2.5-minute clock with two to three cows cut individually. The rider's rein and horn hands must remain motionless. The rider signals his or her equine partner to commit to work a cow or quit the cow (let it return to the herd) if it “sours” with leg work — pressing off or pressing up — and through spurs. The rider's upper body strength works as a counterbalance to the horse that's “on the cow” and turning quickly. Both rider's and horse's eyes stay focused completely on reading the cow's next movements. There are rules to follow, three judges watching every movement and film to help the judging remain fair.

Riding a horse comes as second nature to Chaser. “The first time I walked a horse into the herd I was about 3 or 4 years old,” he recalled. His equine partner through all the winning runs has been his 13-year-old quarter horse mare, GS Zans Cat, (Smooth As A Cat x Zans Red Gold x Zan Gold Jack), otherwise known by her barn name, Zanny. She was a gift from his parents following his first reserve championship.



NG Ways

— By Virginia Riddle

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"Zanny busted my lip and nose the first time I tried her," Chaser said. "Since then, she's taken care of me. You must trust your horse. Horses know when you're nervous, so I don't get stressed out. Cutting is fun, and when the adrenalin gets going, it's exciting!"

Staying fit comes easily through ranch duties. "I don't ride every day, but I run errands, haul horses and get and move hay," Chaser said. "I help my grandparents, Harold and Meredith Davidson, with their cattle and am starting a cattle business of my own with a friend." He enjoys riding four-wheelers, working on trucks and hunting with friends, as well as jet skiing and fishing at the Lake Richland Chambers place belonging to his grandmother and step-granddad, Jana and Bill Robinson.

Homeschooling through Weatherford's Grace Christian Academy allowed Chaser to stay on the road competing. "All my buddies that show horses homeschool," he said. A Navarro College-Corsicana student in 2018-2019, Chaser transferred to Hill College last year due to receiving a scholarship to ride as a ranch horse team competitor. His major is business agriculture.

A NYCHA board member and officer for the past three years, Chaser has visited children's hospitals, has raised money for Cook Children's Medical Center and has served holiday meals to the homeless. During an African hunting trip, he represented the association by bringing supplies gathered by members to a rural African school.

As with most sports, competitive cutting gives riders some losses. "I went through a streak for a month during my sophomore year when I was showing every weekend, and I couldn't get through a single run," Chaser remembered. "Cows would run into me, and at nationals I lost a cow. But even when it looked bad, it's overall been pretty good. You can get a bad cow or do something stupid, but you learn not to do the same thing again."

While not overly superstitious, he sometimes does use "bright hunter orange" leg wraps on Zanny. "People have a theory that the color makes her feet move faster," Chaser quipped. He always lopes Zanny before a competition "until she's dialed in and feels right."



Chaser has been taking guitar lessons at Navarro with Steve Colburn and is now singing and playing at area venues. He sings at the Cowboy Church of Corsicana, NCHA church services and placed three times at NHSRA talent shows. He recently opened at The Cowboy Club in Mexia for country music recording artists Brandon Rhyder and Rich O'Toole. "Music helps with the competition pressure," he said. "I'm taking it slow, having fun and learning."

Corsicana is home, and Chaser doesn't think he'll ever leave, but traveling to competitions is fun. He and fellow competitors enjoy sightseeing during free moments and going on adventures, such as river rafting. "We're all friends and don't get angry or discouraged but are mutually encouraging," Chaser remarked. "I can have fun in Corsicana with friends, but the horse world is a good place to hang around in, too." **NOW**

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— By Virginia Riddle



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Sunday: 1:00-7:00 p.m.

It's summer and time to go jump in the lake — specifically, the lake that I-45 overlooks from the U.S. Highway 287 overpass. That's where Corsicana folks will mingle with out-of-town visitors enjoying an all-day bright and colorful adventure where water meets trampolines at the Altitude H2O and Altitude Trampoline Park. "We want folks to be sad to leave because they had such a great time," John McClung, developer and owner, stated.

The fun began last summer with the opening of the water park with its Wiggle Bridge, Cliff, Balance Beam, Slope and Monkey Bars features expanded to include even more fun ways to cool off. Lifeguards and safety monitors ensure visitors enjoy many safe and happy hours. Life jackets are provided and required.

After the seasonal closing of the water park, John; his son, Chris, the operations manager; and Pat Wollenberg, the general manager, went into high gear developing the trampoline park, which now towers over the lake. "The trampoline park will add

a 34,000-square-footprint, including the 3,400-square-foot mezzanine floor, that accommodates up to 750 people at a time,” John said. The trampoline park’s favorite offerings include Stunt Bag, Foam Pit, Extreme Dodgeball, Trampoline Basketball, Racing Zip Line, Wipe Out, Clip ‘N Climb and more.

“We have the latest equipment, 18 55-inch TV screens and Wi-Fi,” Chris added. Two party rooms can be booked separately or opened to accommodate a larger group. Comfortable couches, stools, a countertop, vending machines containing food and drinks provide a restful break and a point from which adult family members can watch their kids. An outdoor balcony stretches the mezzanine farther and overlooks the water park. The mezzanine can be booked for private parties. “There aren’t video games because we want to keep kids moving,” Chris explained. Court monitors, floor managers and team leaders provide a safe environment. The park is ADA approved.

The parks were born out of John’s desire, as a then Corsicana city councilman, to interest a food store chain in locating on the east side of town. A trip to Tyler with then Economic Director Lee McCleary led to an indoor water park visit in that city. John connected with Mike Jenkins, developer of Six Flags, to do a feasibility study for a Corsicana adventure park. “It looked good,” John said. “The trampoline park wasn’t part of the original plan, but some ladies at my bank were talking about going to one with their grandkids and having fun,” John said. While the water park is seasonal, the trampoline and a future adjacent adventure park with ropes and paint ball courses and a zip line will provide year-round enjoyment.

The parks are providing 50-plus jobs and are estimated to attract 137,000-plus guests annually. Altitude franchise employees provide training for local employees. The parks are a member of Corsicana & Navarro County Chamber of Commerce. “By employing a lot of people and bringing sales tax revenues to Corsicana, these parks are a real boon to this area,” John concluded. “It’s really happening!” Let the fun begin! **NOW**



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Zoomed In: Gene Hathorn

By Virginia Riddle

An FFA Wright Brothers Master Pilot, Gene Hathorn looks forward to giving rides in the Coyote Squadron's T-34 during the upcoming Corsicana Airsho. He served as a Navy pilot for seven years, served another 14 years in the Navy Reserve Flying Unit and, for 35 years, was a Delta Airlines pilot.

Gene proposed to his wife, Dottie, on a flight. The couple's first date had been in a plane, and Dr. Rick Lamb married them in flight in 2011! Gene and Dottie both serve as Coyote Squadron colonels, enjoy time at the lake and feeding cows on a farm that's been in Gene's family since the Spanish land grant days. In a decade-long partnership with the Corsicana Lion's Club, the couple also flies children to the Kerrville Lion's Club Camp.



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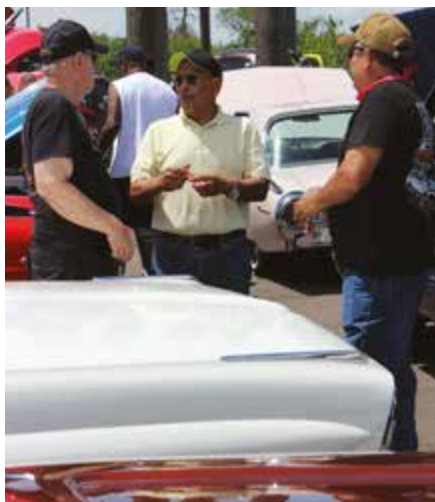
Gladys Espenson, Corsicana Art League's president, hosts a social (distancing) CAL meeting.



There are smiles in the eyes of these masked curbside servers at the First Responders Appreciation Breakfast.



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CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With GEATHER WEEKS

— By Virginia Riddle



Geather Weeks is Twilight Nursing and Rehabilitation Home's marketing and admissions director. She received her food handlers' license and shares her talents with her "Twilight family."

A passion for cooking was fostered by Geather's mom, Wanda; Grandfather Paw Paw Payne; and Grandmother Sug early in Geather's childhood. "My mom worked outside the home, and our time together was mostly spent in the kitchen," Geather recalled. "She taught me numbers using measuring spoons and cups and always made a fun game of cooking. Paw Paw taught me that you can put anything together and make a meal, and my grandmother taught me how old-fashioned, Southern-style cooking made everything tasty. My mom also taught me that the secret ingredient in any recipe is love, and don't cook if you are mad!" **NOW**

Hushpuppies

2 Tbsp. sugar
2 cups cornmeal
1 cup flour
1 Tbsp. red pepper, crushed, or to taste
1 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. salt
1 egg
Garlic, minced, to taste
4-5 fresh green onions, chopped
1 16-oz. piece of crappie or catfish,
finely minced

1 8.75-oz. can whole kernel corn
(only use 1/2 of the can)
2 jalapeños, minced
2 Tbsp. Cajun seasoning
1/4 cup whole milk, or more as needed
Grease or oil

1. Combine all ingredients, except for the milk and grease/oil. Note: Other seasonings can be used as desired.
2. Slowly add the milk until a cornbread consistency is reached.
3. Mold the mixture into hushpuppies. Drop

each hushpuppy into hot grease/oil; fry until golden brown; drain.

Coconut Cream Pie

Crust:

1 1/2 cups White Lily Flour, sifted
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 stick Crisco, chilled
3-6 Tbsp. cold water
Baker's Angel Flake Sweetened Coconut,
as needed

Filling:

3 eggs, separated (divided use)
3 cups milk
2/3 cup cornstarch
1 cup sugar
1/2 cup Baker's Angel Flake
Sweetened Coconut
2 Tbsp. vanilla

Topping:

2 eggs, plus 3 reserved egg whites
3 Tbsp. sugar
Baker's Angel Flake Sweetened Coconut,
to taste
1 cherry
Pecans, to taste

1. **For crust:** Preheat oven to 375 F. Using a pastry utensil, mix the flour, salt and Crisco until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs.
2. Add water, 1 Tbsp. at a time, until the dough forms a ball. Using hands patted in flour, place flour on a board and rolling pin. Roll out the dough, turning at least 2 times. Add flour, as needed, to keep the dough from sticking to the board or rolling pin. Roll until the dough is 1 inch larger than the 9-inch pie pan. Fold in half. Place in the pan; unfold.
3. Pinch the crust's edges using your thumb and forefinger. Using a fork, make holes in the crust.
4. Place foil around the edges for 5 minutes; remove. Place crust in the oven; bake for 5-7 minutes. Remove; cover the bottom with a layer of coconut.
5. **For filling:** In a double boiler, combine 3 egg yolks (reserve the egg whites for the topping), milk, cornstarch, sugar and coconut; mix well with a mixer.
6. Cook on low heat, stirring constantly until thickened to gravy consistency. Remove; stir in vanilla. Pour the filling into the crust; cover with coconut; let cool.
7. **For topping:** Beat 2 eggs and the reserved egg whites on high speed. Add sugar, a little at a time, until soft peaks form.
8. Spread topping over filling completely. With a knife, make 3 slices in the filling (not holes).
9. Cover the filling with coconut; garnish with a cherry and pecans. Place the pie in a 400 F oven; bake about 5 minutes, or until the coconut is toasty brown.

Mom's It's Like Sex Cake

- 1 18.25-oz. box Pillsbury pineapple cake mix

Topping:

- 1 20-oz. can crushed pineapple
 1 1/3 cups sugar (divided use)
 1 3.4-oz. box French vanilla or pineapple pudding mix
 1 8-oz. tub Cool Whip
 1 1/2 cups heavy cream
 1 cup Baker's Angel Flake
 Sweetened Coconut
 1 cup pecans, crushed

1. **For cake:** Preheat oven to 350 F. Make the cake according to the package directions. Pour the batter into a greased 13x9x2-inch pan; bake for 30-35 minutes.

2. **For topping:** While the cake bakes, combine the pineapple and 1 cup sugar in a saucepan; bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring constantly.

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Mom's It's Like Sex Cake

3. Remove; let cool. Using a fork, poke holes in the freshly baked hot cake. Pour cooled topping over the cake; set aside.
4. Prepare the pudding according to the package directions; blend in 1/2 tub of Cool Whip. Spread the pudding mixture over the cake. Refrigerate until chilled.
5. Whip the heavy cream and remaining sugar, creating soft peaks. Spread the mixture over the cake.
6. Using a large skillet, toast the coconut and pecans on low heat, stirring constantly. Sprinkle mixture over top of the cake.

Paw Paw's Cajun Red Beans

- 1 16-oz. pkg. dried pinto beans
- Tony Chachere's Creole Seasoning, to taste
- 2 Tbsp. garlic, minced
- 1 purple onion, chopped
- 1 10-oz. can Ro-Tel tomatoes
- Cayenne pepper, to taste
- 1 green, yellow or orange bell pepper, chopped
- Salt, to taste
- 1 14-oz. pkg. Polish sausage

1. Rinse the beans for 1 hour in cold water; pick out any damaged or small ones.

2. In a Crock-Pot, cook the beans in water overnight on low. Add all the other ingredients, except the sausage; cook for an additional 2-3 hours.
3. Add sausage; cook for another 30 minutes.

Sug's Cornbread

Note: Delicious with the Cajun Red Beans or with a sip of the next morning's milk.

- Olive oil
- 3/4 cup cornmeal
- 1/4 cup White Lilly Flour
- Sugar, to taste
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 egg
- 1/3 cup buttermilk

1. Preheat oven to 400 F. Add enough olive oil to cover the bottom of an 8-inch iron skillet or an iron fritter skillet. Heat the pan and oil to a hot temperature.
2. Mix all the dry ingredients well; add the egg and buttermilk. More buttermilk can be added to get a heavy, but not watery consistency. Mix well.
3. Pour the batter into the hot skillet; bake about 20 minutes, or until golden brown.

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Elaine Newton, winner of \$50 cash, says, "I enjoy all the information written about our neighbors in *CorsicanaNOW*. It is a great magazine. The scavenger hunt is so much fun, especially when you win."



Harry Hudson, winner of \$50 cash, says, "My wife and I have lived in the same house for 61 years. We look forward to getting our *CorsicanaNOW Magazine* every month. We love the new scavenger hunt. Thanks, *CorsicanaNOW*!"



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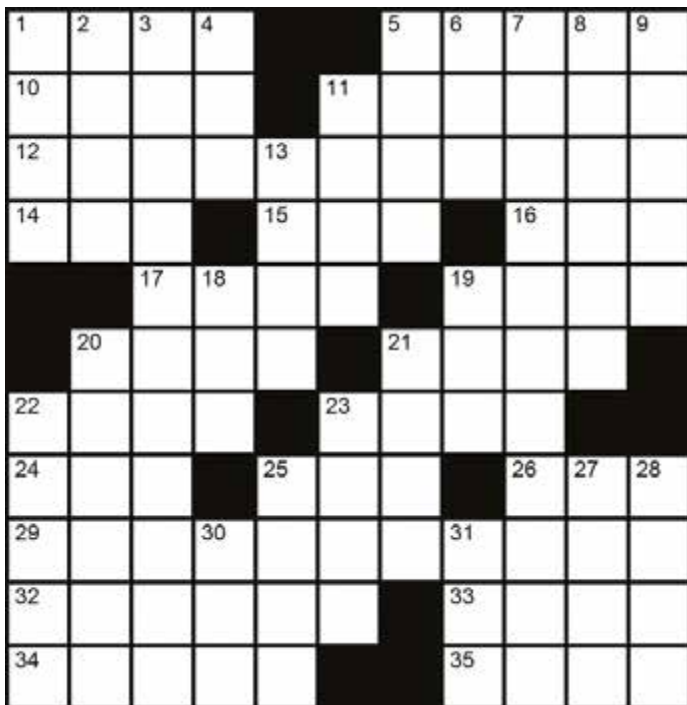
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Crossword Puzzle



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Across

- 1 "Summertime" singer --- Fitzgerald
- 5 Long for
- 10 Quick look
- 11 Diddy record label
- 12 Constant
- 14 Long-leaved lettuce
- 15 Baby weight units
- 16 It's boring to be stuck in one
- 17 Cosmetic ingredient, often
- 19 Audition sample
- 20 Can cause temporary blindness
- 21 Drones might attack you here
- 22 Some docs' degs
- 23 Bond's M
- 24 To be unwell
- 25 Pony ---, for small beer perhaps
- 26 DoJ enforcer
- 29 Interrogation aid
- 32 Starts an answer to "What's in the paper today?"
- 33 Goat's milk cheese
- 34 Snug shelters
- 35 Horatian works

Down

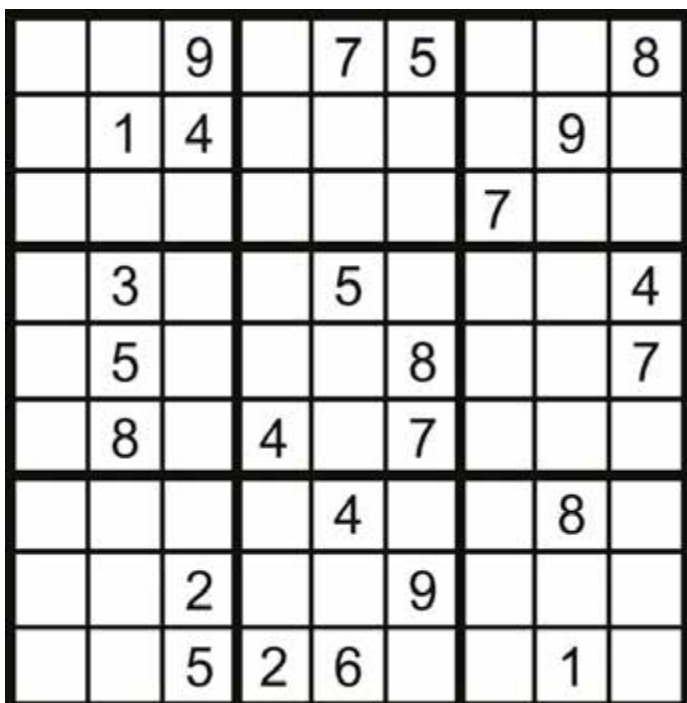
- 1 Huge in scope
- 2 Former "Tonight Show" host
- 3 Ever-decreasing
- 4 Copy
- 5 Elevator chambers
- 6 Vitamin-bottle abbreviation
- 7 Cut short
- 8 Book
- 9 With an --- (mindful of)
- 11 Sacred name in baseball history
- 13 Used to move 20 Across
- 18 LA article
- 19 Solved
- 20 Sunni counterpart
- 21 Very important
- 22 Much-lampooned Alaskan politico
- 23 High-speed streams
- 25 In Florida, they're 113 miles long
- 27 Schlep
- 28 Italian monks
- 30 "Who ---?" (Saints' chant)
- 31 Corp's money mgr.

Solutions on page 28

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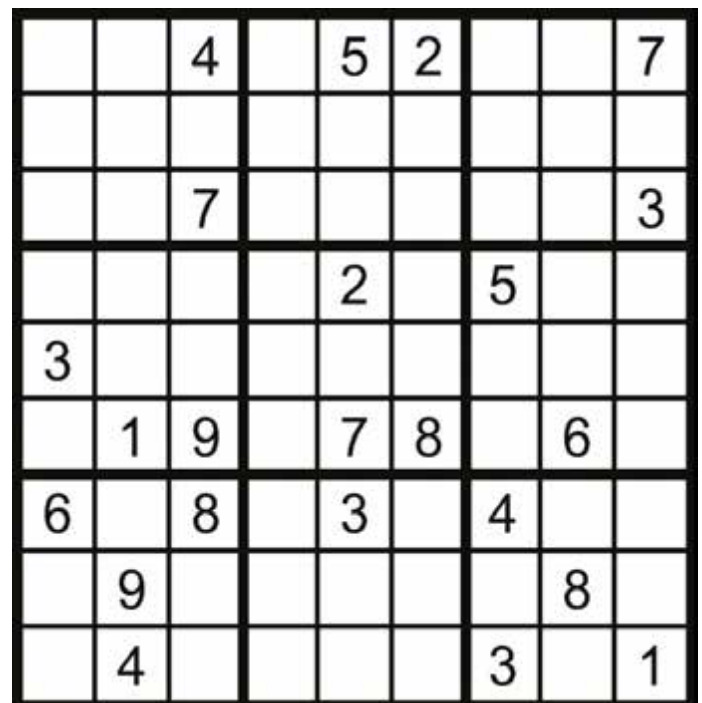
Sudoku Puzzle

Easy



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Medium



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Solutions on page 28

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Kids' Fun Page

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Dd

Dog



D

d

Fill in the missing numbers

1	+	7	=	
+				-
				4
=				=
	-	2	=	

3	-		=	
+				+
4				8
=				=
	+		=	9

HAPPY

Independence Day

July

7/4

City of Corsicana Freedom Festival:

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and vendors.

6:00 p.m.; fireworks
begin at 9:15 p.m.,

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7/13-8/6

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7/14

American Business Women's Association:

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Education Center. Dana Collins,
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7/21

Corsicana Newcomers' Club's Summer Social:

11:00 a.m., Uniquely Yours
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confirmed reservations by 7/13.

7/23-8/1

A Doublewide, Texas Christmas:

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Third Tuesdays

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1009 Meeting:

7:00 p.m., Sirloin Stockade.
roy.messick@gmail.com.

Second Saturdays

Christmas in July/Mimosas at the Market:

10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.,
Downtown Corsicana.
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Coyote Squadron Meeting:

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Third Saturdays

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1	E	L	L	A				5	C	R	A	V	E				
10	P	E	E	P				11	B	A	D	B	O	Y			
12	I	N	S	E		13	P	A	R	A	B	L	E				
14	C	O	S			15	L	B	S			16	R	U	T		
						17	A	L	O	E			19	D	E	M	O
						20	S	N	O	W			21	H	I	V	E
22	P	H	D	S				23	J	U	D	I					
24	A	I	L			25	K	E	G			26	A	T	F		
29	L	I	E	D	E	T	E			31	C	T	O	R			
32	I	T	S	A	Y	S					33	F	E	T	A		
34	N	E	S	T	S						35	O	D	E	S		

Easy

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

Medium

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



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