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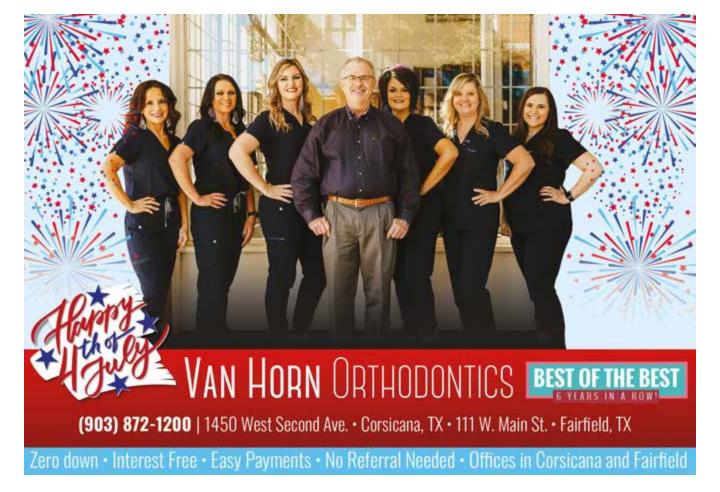
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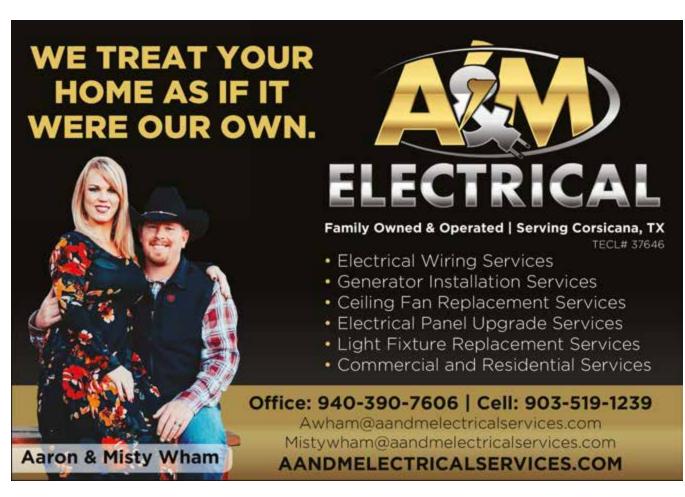
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ON THE COVER



Robert White "spins up" in the military and as a civilian.

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Memories by Melissa.

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Subscriptions are available at the rate of \$35 per year or \$3.50 per issue. Subscriptions should be sent to: NOW Magazines, P.O. Box 1071, Waxahachie, TX 75168. For advertising rates or editorial correspondence, call (903) 875-0187 or visit www.nowmagazines.com.









EDITOR'S NOTE

Let's celebrate!

Fireworks; food trucks; and fun, kid-friendly activities in the park — it doesn't get much better, and it's happening on July Fourth at the I.O.O.F. Park! Fly or wave your flag proudly, and wear your red, white and blue bling. My own flag will be hoisted up my ranch flagpole for the day, and I'll celebrate with neighbors who decorate their boats and piers for our annual parade of colors, hot dogs and all the trimmings at the lake.

If you haven't visited the Corsicana Parks and Recreation page on the city's website to see all the summer offerings or been by the Corsicana Public Library, which has nearly daily family fun activities planned, please do. The price is right for most of the activities — free! Chill at the pools and spray parks, and take in an evening picnic, musical event or drive-in movie as the sun sets. Great celebrations leave marvelous memories!

Everywhere I go, especially on the weekends and during evening hours, I see kids and their personal cheer squads (otherwise known as family) getting fortified for another Little League game, purchasing drinks and ice. Or they are coming in to a favorite hangout to recover from the heat of the day, celebrate a win or commiserate over a loss. Their uniforms reflect local school colors, and win or lose, the kids are having a great time. I remember those times when my own kids played softball, baseball, soccer, basketball, in football leagues and in school sports over the years. Like so many grandparents, I still sit in those hot stands to cheer on grandkids. Long days into long nights, but I wouldn't trade the experiences gained and the memories made.

Corsicana, TX 75110

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The actor, Patrick Stewart, narrator in the movie, Ted, stated, "... nothing is more powerful than a young boy's wish. Except an Apache helicopter. An Apache helicopter has machine guns and missiles." For Robert White, the wish to fly began in his early childhood days when the skies and runways were filled with aircraft at the Corsicana Airsho. It was a life-changing moment for him. "That was my first memory of being in a helicopter, a Bell OH-58, and I'm still flying a Bell now!" he said. "I was in first grade and watched Apache helicopters fly during the Gulf War, a 'prime-time war,' and I wanted to become an Apache helicopter pilot."

A Corsicana native, Robert started working toward that dream and goal by becoming an Eagle Scout and graduating from Mildred High School, followed by Navarro College and The University of Texas at Tyler. He recalled, "I graduated from college, and 30 days later, I was in the Army." With an eye on his goal, he had also earned his pilot's license, but he found that his eyesight initially disqualified him from Army flight school. Infantry duty in Iraq during the Surge Campaign happened, and so did LASIK surgery. "I saved my money, got the surgery and got accepted to flight school," Robert recalled.

In between his Airsho experience and now flying for PHI Air Medical, Robert's flying stints have included the AH-64E Apache gunship, prop planes and jets. "Prior to my first deployment, I took a 30-minute helicopter Discovery Flight, and I was hooked. I ended up going back for more lessons until I'd mastered the ability to hover, using both hands and both feet with lots of finesse."

Described by fellow pilots as both a humbling experience and an honor, flying the Apache helicopter is challenging. The helicopter is designed to be a flying tank that carries missiles, rockets and guns used in precision and close air attacks. Since its main mission is to provide overwatch and a sense of security for ground troops, Apache pilots must be able to fly day, night or in bad weather at a level of complexity requiring total focus. "At the same time, we have to fly the aircraft, manage our co-pilot,



coordinate with our wingman, know exactly where our troops are on the ground and safely employ our weapon systems," Robert explained.

For Robert, being tested by the best were the best of times during his 13 years serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria and back in the U.S. "I've flown with some great pilots and mentors," he recalled. "After a few missions in Afghanistan, a very battle tested major saw some potential in me and recommended me for a pilot-incommand evaluation. And, of course, I was paired with the most strict, nononsense evaluator. What was initially planned to be less than a two-hour flight of practice maneuvers, turned into a couple of spicy missions over seven flight hours. When we finally got back to base to rearm, he congratulated me and said I had passed. It had taken years of work to get to that point, and it had to be earned.

"I loved doing a job that was second

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to none, and the people I've come across in the military were awesome Americans who wanted to master their trade and mentor others." Robert said. He received his chance to mentor and instruct future Apache pilots at Fort Rucker, Alabama. "The most rewarding experience was training student pilots to become future attack pilots. I was even fortunate enough to deploy with several of my recently graduated students and watch them thrive through the pressures of combat," he added.

However, serving in the military

is challenging. Robert had married April, and the couple already had two children who were old enough to understand the long separations for training and deployments. "Out of one 18-month time period, I was home less than three months," Robert said. "We had a third child on the way, so we re-evaluated, and I left the Army to fly



jets for the airlines. Then COVID made us re-evaluate again, and I applied for jobs in air medical. I hit the lottery when I got hired by PHI Air Medical in Corsicana. I get to fly and serve my community, and the people I work with are like a second family. I never dread going to work. I enjoy it."

Still flying helicopters and getting to be with family more is a dream come true. The kids are now aged 10, 7 and 3, and Robert and April are busy watching and working on their new home being built on their farm. "I love spending time with the kids and look forward to road trips and vacations, but building the house, working on our farm and teaching the kids things are priority for now," he explained.

Corsicana and Navarro County were Robert's home growing up, and now he enjoys sharing those childhood experiences with his own kids. "We're close to family and friends," he shared. "I'm still serving in a way and doing what I enjoy, while my family and I are putting down permanent roots after having to pull those roots up for so many years." NOW







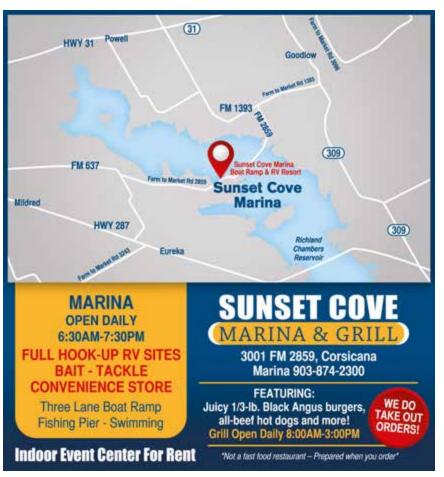


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Around Town



Zoomed In: Katharine Hable

The Corsicana arts scene gave Katharine Hable a reason to return home. "I graduated in the CHS Class of 1986 and went to Ole Miss. Then at age 25, I went to New York City," she said. "I wanted to open an art gallery here, and I've reconnected with old friends, Mom's friends, and met lots of talented people and working artisans here."

A partner with her sister, Susan, in Hable Construction, Katharine is the daughter of Kay Hable. While busy with remodeling the building for the gallery (which has yet to be named), Katharine enjoys yoga, gardening, music and dance and has traveled extensively. She has kids in Florida and Georgia. Katharine added, "I feel very centered now in Corsicana."



Amy Kasprzyk serves as emcee at the Pens to Lens award celebration.



Rebecca Jones, NARFE officer, greets Virginia Riddle, CorsicanaNOW editor and speaker.



It's time for celebration and ribbon cutting at Southern Belle's Salon & Spa.



Jack Allen, CISD graduate, and Josie Hanna, BGISD graduate, receive Hull Creative Arts Foundation scholarships.

By Virginia Riddle



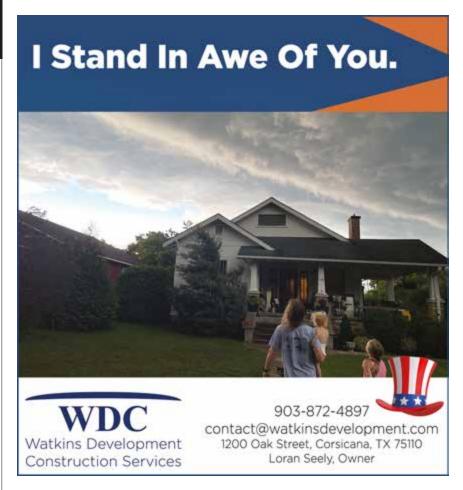
Cyclists fill Beaton Street at the Texas State Criterium & Time Trial Bike Race.



Mexia Friday Club members enjoy a picnic lunch meeting at Lightsey Farms.



Julissa Gandara and Lauren Smith host Mimosas at the Market participants at Turquoise Pistol Boutique.







BusinessNOW

Kountry Klutter

- By Virginia Riddle

Kountry Klutter

235 S. Fairway Fairfield, TX 75840 (979) 229-1658 Facebook: Kountry Klutter Instagram: Kountry Klutter

Hours: Monday-Friday: 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Saturday: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Sunday: Closed

The door's tingling bell sounds, and Nellie, the shop's only Shih Tzu employee, raises her head in greeting as a little boy walks in with his mom. They frequently visit Gaye Tatum's Kountry Klutter. "He calls my shop the treasure store, and they always find something unusual," Gaye said. "There's lots of history shared by families when they come in and shop. People are surprised at the size of my store because it looks unassuming, but the back room is big, and I continuously stock items that prompt family stories to be told. I treasure their stories, the people and their memories."

Gaye is always on the lookout at flea markets and garage and estate sales for new items to display. "I have everything including the kitchen sink," she quipped. Antiques pour out onto the porch, and a boutique features clothes, shoes, jewelry and purses. 4P Jewelry displays handmade silver jewelry, and Gaye enjoys painting, rehabbing and repurposing some of the antique furniture. "I enjoy satisfying customers' needs. They usually come in with an idea of what they need or want, and I help them anyway I can," Gaye added. "If I don't have the item in stock, I don't mind sharing information as to where they might find it. Local businesses should stay together and help each other. Exploring my shop makes for a great girls' day out, especially since we have wonderful shopping and eateries in Fairfield, and men can find great things in here, too." People visit her shop from far and wide, since it's located near I-45 and just a block off U.S. 84. Her porch of treasures draws people to have a peek inside.

Gaye opened Kountry Klutter in July 2020 amid the

pandemic, but her large store gave folks plenty of room to roam safely when retail reopened. As shoppers stayed closer to home and redecorated or repurposed their personal spaces, Kountry Klutter often had just the right item.

"I enjoy
satisfying
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in with an idea
of what they
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and I help them
anyway I can."

Experienced in her family's retail business, Gaye enjoyed estate sales and garage sales part time, but after having retired from the retail world, she found she missed interaction with people. With Kountry Klutter, Gaye is enjoying her full-time commitment again. "My mom liked going to garage sales," Gaye said. "Weekends were our junkin' time, and you had to get up pretty early to beat her on those mornings. Those times with my mom are my inspiration today. I've always loved antiquing, and my mother having been in that kind of business was a catalyst," she recalled.

The shop takes cash, all major credit cards and PayPal as payment, and Gaye will hold items in layaway for 30 days. "With inflation, it's harder to find items I can resell at a reasonable price, but I'm making it work," she said. "I want happy customers who come back." The shop is a member of the Fairfield Chamber of Commerce, and it sponsors different kids' activities in the community. Kountry Klutter has been honored by the Chamber as the Business of the Month.

These days, Gaye is up early, so she gets to sales first thing. Nellie rides shotgun to sales and to the shop daily. If you miss them around town, stop in and say a quick howdy before strolling through the memories.





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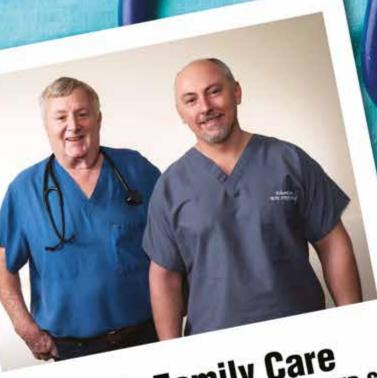


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Growing up on the family farm in Richland, Texas, Jennifer Cofer had fresh meat, eggs and veggies. "We had a garden, cattle and chickens," she recalled. "I loved watching my grandmother and mother cook. They put so much care into feeding our family." She started learning to can and cook around age 9. "I made peanut butter cookies — my dad's favorite," Jennifer added.

Now, she puts that same care into feeding her husband and sons. "My favorite flavor profile is garlic and onion, and my favorite recipes are ethnic," Jennifer explained. Healthy choices include vegan recipes and recipes for fermented vegetables. She enjoys reading, gardening, composting and drinking great wine. "I'm a wine consultant for Scout & Cellar," she added. "Cooking is a creative outlet for me." Now

Stuffed Franks

A family favorite for generations.

- 1 14-count pack Nathan's Beef Franks or your favorite brand
- 2 4-oz. pkgs. instant potatoes, cooked according to package directions
- 2 cups cheddar cheese, shredded
- **I.** Boil the franks in water until warmed through. Remove the franks from the

water; cool.

- **2.** Slice the franks lengthwise down the seam; open each up to resemble hot dog buns.
- **3.** Spoon the potatoes into a large Ziploc bag; cut off about 1/4-inch of the bag's corner on one side. Pipe the potatoes into the sliced franks, filling up over the sides a little; sprinkle with cheddar cheese.
- **4.** Place the franks on a tray under the oven's boiler for 5 minutes, or until the cheese is bubbling; serve warm.

Slow Cooker Chili Lime Pulled Pork Tacos

Serves 8.

Tacos:

3-5 lbs. pork shoulder

1/4 cup lime juice

1/2 tsp. lime zest

1 Tbsp. chili powder

1 tsp. salt

2-3 garlic cloves, minced

1 tsp. cumin

I tsp. smoked paprika

1/2 tsp. oregano

1 Yuengling beer

I cup chicken broth

1 bunch cilantro, chopped

2-4 serrano peppers, or to taste depending on desired heat, chopped Tortillas

Suggested Toppings:

Oaxaca or cotija cheese, sour cream, avocado, green onion, black beans, shredded cabbage, cilantro sauce

Cilantro Sauce:

I cup slow cooker juice

I cup chicken broth I cup cilantro, chopped 1-2 cloves garlic, chopped Juice from 1 lime Serrano peppers from slow cooker 4 oz. cream cheese

- **1.** For the tacos: Put the pork shoulder into a slow cooker. In a small bowl, mix the lime juice, zest, chili powder, salt, garlic, cumin, paprika and oregano; pour this spice mixture over the pork.
- 2. Add the beer, broth, cilantro and desired amount of peppers to the slow cooker. Cover; cook on low for 7-8 hours.
- 3. When the meat is done, remove it onto a cutting board or into a large pan. Shred the meat with a fork. Reserve 1 cup of the slow cooker's liquid and the serrano peppers.
- 4. Return the meat to the slow cooker to soak up the remaining liquid; serve in warmed tortillas with desired taco toppings and cilantro sauce.
- **5.** For the sauce: Add all the ingredients to a regular or Ninja blender; pulse until mixture is smooth.

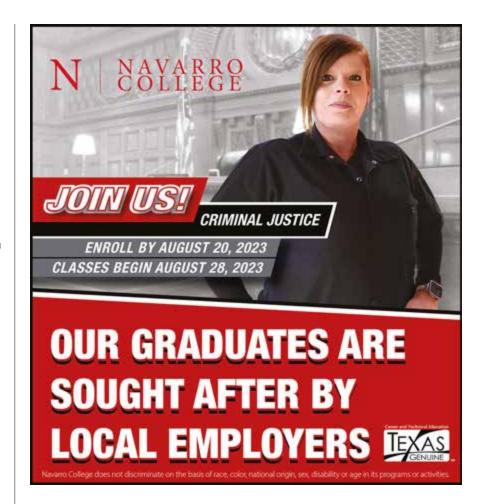
Gwen's Pound Cake

2 sticks butter

3 cups sugar 1/2 cup shortening 3 cups flour (divided use) 6 eggs (divided use) I cup evaporated milk (divided use) 1 tsp. vanilla Powdered sugar, to taste Choice of berries, to taste, sliced

- 1. Preheat the oven to 300 F; grease and flour a tube or Bundt pan.
- 2. In a large mixing bowl, stir the butter and sugar together until thoroughly creamed. Add the shortening; mix well.
- **3.** Add 1 cup flour; mix well. Add 2 eggs; mix well. Add 1/3 cup milk; mix until blended. Repeat the order of flour, eggs and milk until all is added; mixing well each time. Add the vanilla; blend the batter well.
- **4.** Pour the batter into the pan; place it into the oven. Cook for 90 minutes, or until the cake springs back when touched and is golden brown.
- **5.** Remove the cake from the oven; let cool for 10-15 minutes on the stovetop. Invert the cake onto a serving plate. Cool completely; sift the powdered sugar on top. Serve with berries.

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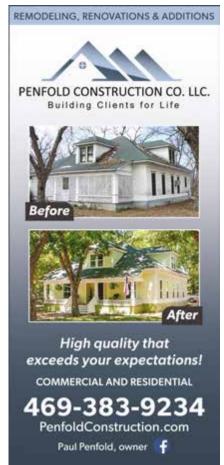
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Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3				4	5	6	7	
8	T	T	9		10	Т	+		T	
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14	t	t	t	15		t		16	t	H
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			19	T	t	†	20			
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Crosswordsite.com Ltd

Across

- Obsolescent
 PC screen
 type
- 4 "--- the gods would destroy they first make mad" (Longfellow)
- 8 Rules
- 10 Historic Tuscan city
- 11 Go for --- in the sea
- 12 One of several English kings
- 14 Flat-tailed Everglades animal
- 16 Place for critical cases
- 17 Lead the way
- 18 Hold up

- 19 Ed Asner has seven 21 Breach
- 24 Pit's C E O organized literary study
- 28 Part of a military address.
- 29 Finished
- 30 In abundance
- 32 Shame
- 33 Bob ---, former Alabama Governor
- 34 "--- make a long story short ... "
- 35 Mary Lincoln's maiden name
- 36 24-hour Canadian sports channel

Down

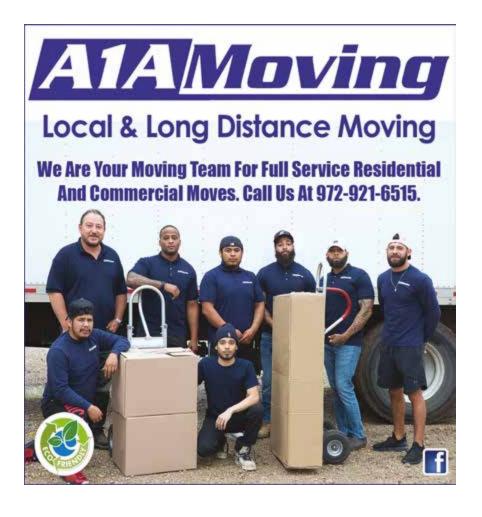
- 1 Workbench gripper
- 2 It's not so good against stealth technology
- 3 Strong thread
- 4 Looking amazed
- 5 Chop
- 6 TV studio warning
- 7 --- Polo
- 9 Room 10 Initial funds

- 13 Provide with a soundtrack in a foreign
- a foreign language 15 Toughened up
- 20 Paces
- 21 One-liner
- 22 To pieces
- 23 Salk beat it
- 25 Utterly stupid person
- 26 The historic --- Madison
 House,
 Washington
 DC
- 27 Bug
- 31 Well stricken in years

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7/1-7/29

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7/1-7/31

The Planetarium at Navarro College:

Summer showings: Forward to the Moon and From Earth to

the Universe. \$3 per person.

Monday-Saturday: Noon,
1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m., 3:00
p.m. For more information,
visit their Facebook page: The
Planetarium at Navarro College.

7/4

FreedomFest 2023:

Food trucks, kids' activities and live music. 6:00 p.m., I.O.O.F. Park, 3440 W. 2nd Ave. (903) 654-4850.

7/5-7/27

Summer Activities:

Summer days are filled with crafts, movies, LEGOs, Harry

Potter, Storytime and mini golf. Corsicana Public Library, 100 N. 12th St. Visit their Facebook page for details.

7/13

Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder:

7:00 p.m., The Palace Theatre, 112 W. 6th Ave. www.corsicanapalace.com.

7/18

Texas Garrison Brothers Bourbon Pairing:

Benefiting Hull Creative Arts Foundation scholarships. 6:00-9:00 p.m., Corsicana Country Club, 4100 Country Club Dr. Facebook: Hull Creative Arts Foundation.

7/29

Moses Snow as Elvis:

7:00 p.m., The Palace Theatre, 112 W. 6th Ave. www.corsicanapalace.com.

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







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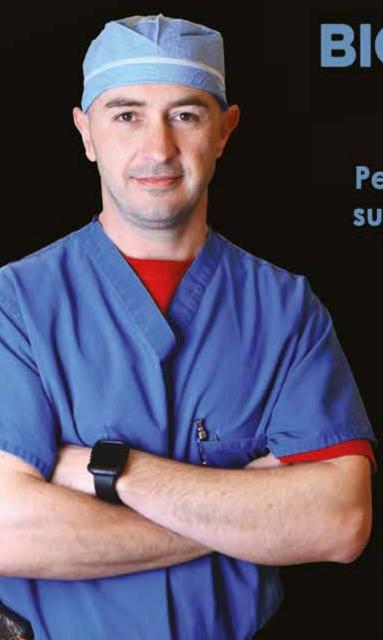
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