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AUGUST 2023

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Bobbie Hathcock

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt

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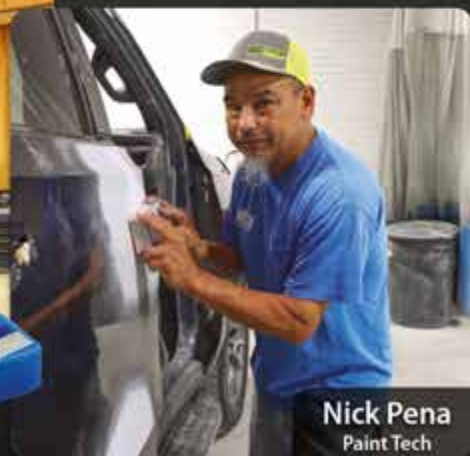
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ON THE COVER



John Blewitt enjoys a quiet moment from his community involvement.

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*Managing Editor, Becky Walker
Corsicana Editor, Virginia Riddle
Office Assistant, Kristin Bato
Writer, Susan Simmons
Editors/Proofreaders, Rachel Rich
Virginia Riddle*

GRAPHICS AND DESIGN
*Creative Director, Chris McCalla
Artists, Kristin Bato . Martha Macias
London O'Connell . Anthony Sarmienta*

PHOTOGRAPHY
*Photography Director, Chris McCalla
Photographers, Memories by Melissa
Bill Smith*

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*Advertising Representatives,
Linda Moffett . Linda Roberson
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Virginia

Virginia Riddle
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virginia.riddle@nowmagazines.com
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EDITOR'S NOTE

Cherishing the opportunity to learn ...

One way to keep young in body, mind, spirit and heart is to keep learning, and the love of developing an understanding of new things and cherishing opportunities of growth starts at birth. Having reached senior status, I still love learning new facts and ways of doing things alongside my grandchildren on vacation, during home school or when on adventures. Teaching is still the best way to learn, so sometimes the reverse happens, and I'm *their* student!

This summer and RV camping has offered me new opportunities to see new places and meet new people. I enjoyed exploring three of our great state parks and made new camping friends in the process. However, there's so much to do in Navarro County and Corsicana, a staycation is a good idea, too.

This month, we're going to be entertained by the annual Perseid Meteor Shower. Peak nights will be the 12th and 13th, but for a couple of weeks before and after those dates, we should be able to see plenty of meteors. During my elementary school days, we were in the space race with Russia. My classmates and I speculated whether moon rocks would look something like the volcanic landscaping rocks on the playground. One summer while I was in college, I watched as Neil Armstrong became the first man to walk on the moon. Then I got to see the *real* moon rocks.

I now talk on my cell phone through my wristwatch/smartwatch. Life is getting to be just like the lives of the Jetsons from the 1960s TV cartoon. What exciting things to learn are yet to come our way?

Here's to another great school year!



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Vivian felt like part of a team...

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A Transformative TIME

— By Virginia Riddle

Retirement does not come easy for some always active and on-call professionals who are driven to respond to other's needs. When Dr. John Blewitt retired from ministry at Westminster Presbyterian Church in 2018 and completed an interim pastorate in 2021, he found he was "drifting along." However, his "drift" didn't last long. "I wasn't teaching or preaching," John recalled. But with time to read more, he focused on world issues — war, poverty, racism, environmental destruction, justice, win-win resolutions, transforming hurt and anger to healing, reconciliation and finding peace in one's heart. His reading and research led him to found Nonviolent Navarro in Fall 2022. "Being involved with this has been very freeing," he stated. "I have a wider audience."

John's wider audience also includes theatergoers who have enjoyed his thespian talents on the Ennis Public Theatre's stage now that he has more time to devote to community involvement. Karen, his wife, had begun running the box office at the theater, and John joined her as a volunteer. He found he liked treading the boards, appearing first in *Young Frankenstein*. In his somewhat typecast roles, John has played Reverend Bass in *Walking Across Egypt*, Monsignor Ryan in *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, and also Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*. His latest role was in the play, *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, and involved comedy, singing and dancing. For some productions, he is part of the sound/light crew. "Sharing this experience with my wife is a real blessing. I'm averaging being involved directly in about two productions each season," he said. "Theater people are open, winsome, accepting and fun to be around."

He has found the theater experience to be challenging, too. For John, with a leg prosthesis, mobility can be an issue when moving up and down set stairs and dancing. "Markus Baldwin, builds a railing into the set for me, and Julie Mitchell [Markus' wife and co-artistic director] is very supportive. They and the casts and crews I've worked with are great! However, having a



senior moment and forgetting a line is terrifying for me.” Challenges aside, John said, “I’ve found I can still sing. Through being part of the theater life, I’ve made friends, and we keep in touch. We bond night after night while working together.”

Before the advent of COVID, John volunteered in the community through Compassion Corsicana and by tutoring Corsicana ISD students. Also, he and Karen enjoyed hosting a Korean teacher in their home when the group of teachers came to Corsicana. “I like the arts community here,” John said of his adopted Corsicana area, “but as a minister, I have experienced many areas of living here that needed improvement. I want to help meet those community needs through Nonviolent Navarro. Jesus said, ‘Follow me,’ not, ‘Worship me.’ We are beginning a faith community to respond to spiritual hunger needs, and

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Decatur, Georgia. John was ordained as a Presbyterian minister in 1978. His career path has taken him to multiple locations and positions of service. “I was part of the Young Life staff and served as a youth minister, but those days are passed,” he said jokingly in reference to his senior citizen status, “and I have served as a minister.” He and Karen have seven children and four grandchildren between them.

When John began his research on nonviolence, he found a “treasure trove” in the United Nations International Day of Non-Violence, Mahatma Gandhi’s teachings, Martin Luther King Jr.’s Six Principles of Nonviolence and Nonviolent Austin, after which he named Nonviolent Navarro. With a little help, he has set up a Facebook page for the group and is busy organizing it as a viable nonprofit. The group organized an event to celebrate the International Day of Nonviolence and hosted a Peace Concert in Corsicana in which national and local talents were featured. John is looking forward to the Season of Peace, sponsored by Campaign Nonviolence,

a project of Peace e Bene (September 21 to October 2). It promotes peace, dignity and equality on a healthy planet. He hopes to grow the group through social media contacts and more such events.

Inspired by Isaiah 2:4, Nonviolent Navarro seeks to turn “swords into plowshares ... nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.” John is firm in his beliefs. “Any conflict situation, at any level from family to nation, is possible to be resolved peacefully in a way that will be fair and benefit all parties. There’s no such thing as redemptive violence, but there is redemptive suffering. Punitive justice can be changed to restorative justice.”

As Gandhi once said, “The day the power of love overrules the love of power, the world will know peace.” John, with peace in his own heart, continues to help others seeking that peace. **NOW**

Editor’s Note: For more information, email John at jblewitt@bellsouth.net.

help others in spiritual growth, teaching nonviolent perspectives and practices and meditation.”

A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, John stated, “I grew up in a Presbyterian minister’s home, and then I became one. Jesus has always been my example to follow.” John graduated from Westminster College, earned his Master of Divinity through studies at Princeton Theological Seminary and earned a Doctor of Ministry at Columbia Theological Seminary in

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Zoomed In: Ashley McClavin and Paula Norwood

By Virginia Riddle

Ashley McClavin has been a familiar face at the Corsicana Animal Shelter for five years. "As the manager now, I work with the community more, and it's been very supportive," Ashley said.

One way the community has stepped up is through business partnerships, such as adoption programs. Paula Norwood threw open her Properly Planted doors to shelter dogs looking for their furever homes, and she found her perfect shop dog. Ashley's dog, Puck, often helps at the shelter and when Ashley is a volunteer animal rehabber.

"We can't adopt our way out of the cat and dog overpopulation in Navarro County," Ashley explained. "Spay and neuter your pets. Contact us for help before surrendering your dog or cat or if you're missing a pet."



Maverick Arnold has some summer fun.



Thomashire Sawyerr and Jaden Smith, Corsicana HS grads, are heading to Baylor University.



Corsicana Newcomers Club models show the latest fashions from three boutiques.



At the Pearce Museum, Felicia, the sculptor, answers questions during the opening night of her one-woman show, *Sculptures by Felicia*.



Mildred Dancer takes her turn at skillet tossing during Boomin' on the 4th in Mexia.



Marcus and Robert Evans place flags around town for the Fourth of July.



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BusinessNOW Penfold Construction

— By Susan Simmons and Virginia Riddle

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Paul Penfold and his wife of 42 years, Aleta, followed a vision God put into their hearts and moved to Ellis County 15 years ago to begin a construction company with trust and obedience to God. Paul had been in construction for more than 35 years when they arrived in Ellis County to begin Penfold Construction, LLC. Aleta is active in the planning, designing and decorating of all the projects the Penfolds purchase for restoration.

During the past 15 years, Penfold Construction has successfully restored several of the historic buildings which abound in this area. "I feel that holding onto the history



of where we came from is so important if we are to go where we need to be as a community and a society," Paul explained. "My favorite part of construction is seeing old buildings and homes being restored and repurposed into something that maintains the character of the original builders/designers but becomes functional for today's living and doing business."

In downtown Ennis, four projects that Paul and Aleta are especially proud of are the restoration of The Livery building, the Clyde's building, the Franklin Building and the 204 W. Knox building, where the city has their spirit store across from Minnie McDowal Park. Penfold Construction does not only do commercial buildings. They have completed a dramatic makeover of a residential house, and recently, they performed a custom garage conversion to an apartment for a woman who wanted to live close to her son, as well as many kitchen and bath remodels and room additions. Paul and Aleta have become the go-to choice for property owners needing new additions, remodeling, renovating, restoration or repurposing services.

Paul believes a critical component to a successful renovation is to build a real relationship with the owners of the project. “Listening to the ideas that are floating around in our client’s head is the basis where everything begins. After we fully understand our client’s ideas and needs, we make a plan or a blueprint, and then turn them into reality. It’s the creation of something new and wonderful that our client is going to enjoy for years into the future that makes all the hard work so rewarding,” Paul said passionately. “We are there for our client during the entire renovation process, listening and working together, and even after the project is long over, we continue to be there for them for the next project.”

“MY FAVORITE PART OF CONSTRUCTION IS SEEING OLD BUILDINGS AND HOMES BEING RESTORED AND REPURPOSED INTO SOMETHING THAT MAINTAINS THE CHARACTER OF THE ORIGINAL BUILDERS/ DESIGNERS BUT BECOMES FUNCTIONAL FOR TODAY’S LIVING AND DOING BUSINESS.”

Penfold Construction is a relationship-oriented business. “We are working with our neighbors, and we value and respect that immensely,” Paul shared. “What sets our company apart is that we prioritize our relationships with all of the different teams we work with — from our employees and subcontractors to our suppliers, engineers and city officials. We respect them and try to always treat them with the same respect and integrity that we expect from them.”

Paul and Aleta feel their move has been a truly successful one. “God knew exactly where we needed to be,” Paul said. “We love living in this area. We love the small-town feel, and the way the communities come together when needed. It is rare to find cities and counties with both small-town attitudes and forward-looking city/county officials, who have a real vision for where their towns are going.” **NOW**

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CookingNOW *In the Kitchen With* BOBBYE HATHCOCK

— By Virginia Riddle

Bobbye Hathcock enjoyed visiting her mother's Louisiana family often while raising her own five daughters. The getting-to-be-famous biscuits recipe that's part of Bobbye's Heart Attack Breakfast fixins' came from those times with her Aunt Clydie. "I always said it was her hands molding those biscuits that made hers the best!" Bobbye explained.

Born in Dallas and raised in Seattle, Washington, Bobbye started cooking in fourth grade. "I like recipes with five ingredients or less," she said, "but mostly I cook with no recipe." She creates dishes from leftovers.

Bobbye is known as "Honey" by her grandchildren. She and her husband, Ron, who is also a cook, love to host family (now numbering 24), as well as smaller gatherings for friends. She added, "When they love my breakfast, that's a win for me!" **NOW**

2. Add the vegetable oil; mix the batter with a large spoon. The batter will be very sticky.

3. Cover the bottom of a black iron skillet with vegetable oil; drop large serving spoon-size amounts of biscuit batter into a bowl filled with flour. Dust all sides of each biscuit; roll by hand into a ball.

4. Roll the biscuit in the skillet's oil before adding the biscuit to the skillet. The biscuits should be tight and touching each other.

5. Place the skillet into the oven; bake for 23-26 minutes until the biscuits are medium brown.

6. Remove the skillet from the oven; let the biscuits sit in the skillet for 5-10 minutes before serving.

Bobbye's Biscuits

Makes 22 biscuits.

6 cups Gold Medal Self-rising Flour,
plus extra for coating biscuits
1/2 tsp. sea salt
1/2 tsp. baking soda

1/2 cup vegetable oil, plus extra for the
skillet's bottom

4 1/2 cups buttermilk

1. Preheat the oven to 425 F. In a large mixing bowl, mix the first 3 ingredients with a pastry cutter.

Lemon Refrigerator Pie

1 8-oz. can frozen lemonade, thawed
1 14-oz. can unsweetened condensed milk
1 8-oz. tub Cool Whip
1 graham cracker crust

1. In a bowl, combine the lemonade with the condensed milk; fold in the Cool Whip.
2. Pour the filling into a graham cracker crust; refrigerate for 2 hours until firm.

Peach Cobbler

- 1 stick butter
- 1 15.25-oz. can sliced peaches
- 1 cup self-rising flour
- 2 cups sugar (divided use)
- 1 cup milk
- Vanilla ice cream, to taste

1. In a baking dish, melt the butter; add the peaches, including the juice.
2. In a bowl, mix the flour, 1 cup sugar and the milk; pour this mixture over the peaches. Sprinkle the other 1 cup of sugar over the top.
3. Bake at 350 F for 45 minutes, or until the cobbler is golden brown; serve with vanilla ice cream.

Strawberry Surprise

Note: This is delicious, and the onions are the surprise!

- 1 cup onions, diced
- 1 1/2 cups sharp cheddar cheese, shredded
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 to 1 cup strawberry preserves
- Ritz Crackers, to taste

1. In a bowl, mix the onions, cheese and mayonnaise, adding more mayonnaise, if needed, to hold the mixture together when molded.
2. On a serving dish, mold the mixture into a circle around a middle opening. Fill the opening with the strawberry preserves. Serve on the Ritz Crackers.

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

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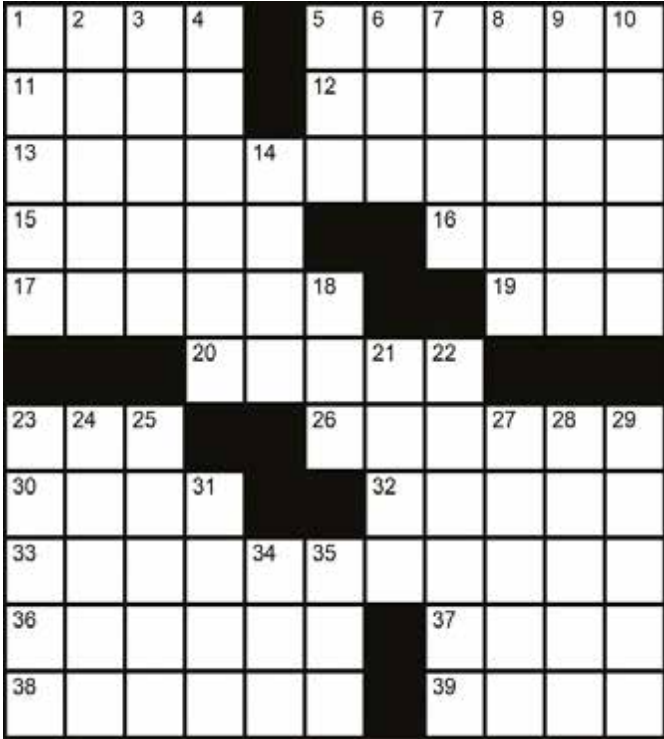
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Across

- 1 Preceded by E, it can cause illness
- 5 Wields the gavel
- 11 Undoing
- 12 Elton's collaborator
- 13 Currently
- 15 Lieu
- 16 Drop the ball
- 17 Early screen Jean
- 19 Salt Lake City letters
- 20 Soft tissue
- 23 Old Ford model
- 26 Shakes led Sue astray
- 30 "Bearded" bloom
- 32 Overhead
- 33 Its occupants look for a catch

- 36 Site of a famous "galloping" bridge
- 37 Bring to naught
- 38 Mushy
- 39 Complaint

Down

- 1 Collide
- 2 "I Think I'm --- Here" (Carroll O'Connor, autobiography)
- 3 A quart, and then some
- 4 Right down the middle
- 5 It owns Simon and Schuster
- 6 "--- So Fine" (The Chiffons' hit)
- 7 Skills
- 8 As a whole

- 9 Inflexible
- 10 Oozes
- 14 Image of a deity
- 18 Itsy-bitsy
- 21 Smelting by-product
- 22 Racket
- 23 Boosts
- 24 Experiment
- 25 "Saturday Night Fever" genre
- 27 Blackmore's Lorna
- 28 Dodge
- 29 Play by a different --- rules
- 31 Hit the mall
- 34 Little terror
- 35 Dissenting vote

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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8/1-8/2

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8/1-9/5

Corsicana Parks and Recreation Department Spray Parks:
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8/2, 8/9, 8/16 and 8/23

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

8/17

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

Tuesdays

GriefShare:
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Fourth Thursdays

Corsicana Newcomers Club Luncheon:
\$20. 11:00 a.m., Kinsloe House, 618 W. 3rd Ave. Make reservations by **previous Monday**. For more information, call Annie Avery at (714) 345-6707.

First Saturdays

Rainbow Girls & Pledges Masonic Youth Meeting:
New members welcome. 10:00 a.m., Corsicana Masonic Lodge, 201 N. 15th Street. ddean45@hotmail.com.

Second Saturdays

Mimosas at the Market:
10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Downtown Corsicana. (903) 654-4850.

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