

CorsicanaNOW

M A G A Z I N E

AUGUST 2024

Crafting the Story

Julie Mitchell passes her knowledge of theater to the next generation

In the Kitchen With
Kathy Meisetschleager

Also inside:
Scavenger Hunt

Crossword

Featured Business:
ARCpoint Labs of Corsicana

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ON THE COVER



Julie Mitchell starts with a blank page or stage and tells a story.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Hot time in the old town!

As the dog days of summer quickly wind down this month and all minds start turning toward busy back-to-school preparations and shopping for supplies and clothing during the tax-free weekend, I'm remembering my granddaughters and their mother, my daughter, Katie, who will be transitioning to new heights this fall. As this summer began, I spent time with them while Katie graduated with honors in pre-med studies from Texas Tech University. With this, her fifth earned degree, she "walked" for the first time since her high school graduation, so her daughters could experience the pomp and ceremony of a college graduation. A *magna cum laude* graduate with three areas of medical specialization who's holding two honor society memberships, Katie will continue onward to earn some coveted letters after her name. A wife, mom, hospital surgical lab tech and American Cancer Society volunteer, she took over 22 semester hours every term so she could graduate a year early. There were times in the past two years when it "took a village" to get everything done, but Katie was the one pulling the hardest job.

Two weeks later, her two daughters matriculated from fifth to sixth grade and from Pre-K to kindergarten. I was on hair/makeup duty for the granddaughters' two-day dance recital and stayed to see the oldest off to her first residential camp stay and the youngest to her church's VBS and swim lessons. We journeyed in July to camp in the welcoming cool of Colorado, where we hiked, rode the Durango-Silverton train and explored old western mining towns. I'm proud of my girls' accomplishments and hope everyone has had a wonderful summer full of experiences. I look forward to all students everywhere growing in knowledge and experiences this coming year.

Have a great summer's end!



Virginia

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crafting the story

— By Virginia Riddle

The theater is dark and cool, just waiting to come alive with action, words and emotions brought to life by actors and crew members. Such is the world of Julie Mitchell, theater teacher, director, playwright and now author, and, oh, let's not forget wife, mom and daughter! No matter her role each day, at Ennis Public Theatre or Mildred High School, Julie is creating a future for other aspiring actors and writers much as was done for her. "I'm honored to get to be a small part of this generation's growth and lives," Julie said.

Early in her school studies, Julie knew what she wanted to do in life. "I was in the third grade and had to fill out a book titled *What Do You Want to Be*," she recalled. "I said writer and actor." Julie experienced rejection in the theater early, too, but learned a valuable lesson from it. "I didn't get an acting part in *Annie* at the Warehouse Living Arts Center as a child, while my two sisters did," she stated. "My mom encouraged me to work backstage or as an understudy. That changed everything for me. I learned that sometimes it's your part. Sometimes, it's not. But being part of the theater in any way is being part of something magical. Theater is like a watch. Every gear has to turn to make the watch come to life."

Texas Tech University was Julie's next stop after graduating from Corsicana High School. "I started as a creative writing major, and then switched majors to theater," she said. "I loved college because I got to be part of shows all the time." Upon graduation, California seemed to be the place to be, so she headed to Los Angeles and appeared in commercials, television and films. She found time to teach dance, theater and improv and teach at the WLAC drama camps. "I learned I enjoyed teaching," Julie said.



She met and married Markus Baldwin, a fellow thespian, and the two decided to move to Corsicana to raise their two children. Markus and Julie are co-artistic directors for EPT, and Julie serves on the Film Corsicana Committee. "I have my parents and one sister living nearby, and our two kids are being raised in the theater," Julie added. "It's great being near family, and I appreciated life in a smaller community when my cancer crisis and treatment happened. We feel we're able to serve our community and make a difference."

Her teaching and writing skills intertwined and grew during the last two years as Julie, already with two years of previous teaching experience, became the theater teacher at Mildred High School. She wrote and directed the one act plays for both contest years and guided her plays through the UIL approval process successfully. "It's challenging, and there's always a doubt whether you are doing the right thing or not, but I struggled to find plays that fit the exact demographics of our students, so I wrote them," Julie explained. "I like this generation of students at school and at EPT. They give me hope. They work hard. They are smart, creative and fun."

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cousin, Jamey Pritchett, of WLAC and EPT fame. Her favorite role was that of Megan in the eighth grade. "Megan struggled with herself and had challenging problems and hardships," Lillie explained.

"It's all about getting out there. I want to be an actor," Parker added. "I like the OAP competitions. This is my sport." He's been in church productions and school talent shows and has been a ventriloquist "since I was young," he said. "My favorite role has been as the lead, Jack, in *Boxes*. It was my first time playing the lead. It gave me a ton of confidence."

Lillie enjoys Mildred HS because, "everybody knows everybody, and you get to do everything." She loves to write and sing, is an artist, and she competes in cross-country, volleyball, track, UIL prose and is in the Spanish and Drama clubs.

Parker participates in cross-country, track and is in the Spanish and Drama clubs. He and Lillie are officers in the Drama Club. Additionally, Parker writes plays.

Parker and Lillie see working with

Julie, the playwright, director and teacher as a benefit. "She can help create characters that fit our strengths, and she writes in more characters," Lillie said. Her most memorable moment on stage came during the second round of OAP competition when she lost her voice. "I still got best actress," Lillie recalled.

"It's hard to find a play that can be cut to the required OAP time, so it helps in competition to have a complete story told in the time limit," Parker added. His most memorable moment on the boards? "My best performance was in my eighth grade OAP, and it lit a flame in me."

In addition to writing OAP plays, Julie recently published her first novel, *A Very Okay Love Story*. She has other stories in the works and is a member of Cors-I-Can writing group. "If I try to define what I do," Julie said. "I think it's to help people find their voices. Everybody has something important to say, and if I can help them, that's a great honor. Life is short. 'Do what you love' isn't just a cliché. If it brings you joy, you can make a living." **NOW**

Two of her Mildred students, Parker Durham, a junior, and Lillie Burnett, a senior, shared their experiences. "I was very shy, even though I've been acting since I was 10. However, I want to be a theater teacher. I love getting on the stage and theater in every way. Every day is different in the theater," Lillie stated. She's known Julie since drama camp days and through her

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— By Virginia Riddle



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“We have lots of family in the medical field,” Ann said. Don and Ann also have two sons who are firemen/paramedics, and another daughter who isn’t currently in the medical field. They enjoy their three grandchildren and boating together in their spare moments.

Don and Ann have Navarro and Freestone county roots. “My mother, Connie Hayes Lane, was from Richland, and my father, Jim Lane, was from Wortham,” Don recalled. Ann’s family were all from the Roane area. Don has been a businessman here in Navarro County for over 37 years.

Ann said, “Our business goal is to help people and businesses make informed decisions and be in control of their health, safety and well-being, making tomorrow better than today.” **NOW**



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Zoomed In: Donna Lee and Ann DeMoss

By Virginia Riddle

It all started 16 years ago when Ann DeMoss wanted to have fresh beans one summer. “We started a garden for mom, and it grew too good, so we came to the farmers market to sell,” Donna Lee recalled. The mother, daughter and now granddaughter enjoyed it so much, they have continued to garden. “I love to talk with people and share recipes,” Donna said. A former special education teacher, she has owned a restaurant and repaired houses. Donna spends her time minding grandchildren and volunteering through her church.

Ann, now retired from being a Drane Intermediate School “lunch lady,” enjoys the good people and family here. She shared, “I loved my grandbabies, but my great-grandbabies are really special.”



Amanda Munoz, Cheryl Blanton and Raquel Lindemann-Nguyen celebrate July 4th in Corsicana's Pocket Park.



Corsicana Parks and Recreation Director Sharla Allen keeps members of the Ellis-Navarro Chapter 1191 NARFE informed on future events.



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CookingNOW *In the Kitchen With* KATHY MEISETSCHLEAGER

— By Virginia Riddle

A native of Monroe, Louisiana, Kathy Meisetschleager was the youngest of six children. “We all helped Mom in the kitchen,” she recalled. “It was fun and filled with laughter. Mom cooked without recipes, using handfuls of flour and pinches of salt, and I still do the same.” Kathy enjoys planning, cooking and entertaining friends and family. She raises a summer garden, as did her grandparents.

Kathy graduated from the University of Louisiana with a bachelor’s in nursing and entered the U.S. Air Force, where she met and married Wamie Meisetschleager. “He was a C-9 pilot, and I was a flight nurse,” Kathy recalled. She retired from the service as a colonel. The couple have two sons living in the Metroplex and a daughter stationed at Tinker AFB as an E-3 (AWAC) instructor pilot. **NOW**

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2 tsp. baking powder
1 cup nuts, chopped

1. In a bowl, mash the bananas to a pulp. In another bowl, cream the butter; add the sugar. Cream the mixture; add the eggs and mashed bananas.

2. In a third bowl, mix the dry ingredients; add them to the banana mixture. Add the nuts; mix well.

3. Bake in a well-greased loaf pan at 325 F for 45 minutes to 1 hour, or until the bread shrinks from the pan’s sides.

Vanilla Wafer Cake

This is a very rich cake, but oh, so delicious!

1 12-oz. box vanilla wafers
2 cups sugar
2 sticks butter
6 eggs
1/2 cup milk
1 cup nuts, chopped
2 cups flake coconut

1. In a gallon Ziploc bag, crush the vanilla wafers with a rolling pin or glass.

2. In a bowl, cream the sugar and butter; add the eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition.

3. Add the milk and vanilla wafer crumbs;

fold in the nuts and coconut. Bake in a well-greased and floured tube pan for 1 hour and 15 minutes at 325 F.

Strawberry Pecan Layer Cake

- Cake:*
- 1 box white cake mix
 - 1 3-oz. box strawberry flavored JELL-O
 - 1 cup oil
 - 1/2 cup milk
 - 4 whole eggs
 - 1 cup frozen strawberries, thawed and drained
 - 1 cup coconut
 - 1 cup pecans

- Frosting:*
- 1 stick butter
 - 3 1/2 cups boxed confectioner's sugar
 - 1/2 cup strawberries, drained
 - 1/2 cup pecans, chopped
 - 1/2 cup coconut

- 1. For the cake:** In a bowl, blend the cake mix and JELL-O. Add the oil and milk; beat for 2 minutes. Add the eggs; beat until well blended.
- 2.** Fold the strawberries, coconut and pecans into the batter; divide the batter equally into three 9-inch pans that are greased and floured. Bake at 350 F for approximately 40 minutes; cool before frosting.
- 3. For the frosting:** In a bowl, cream the butter and sugar. Add the remaining ingredients; blend well. If the frosting is too thick, add a few drops of strawberry juice or milk.

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

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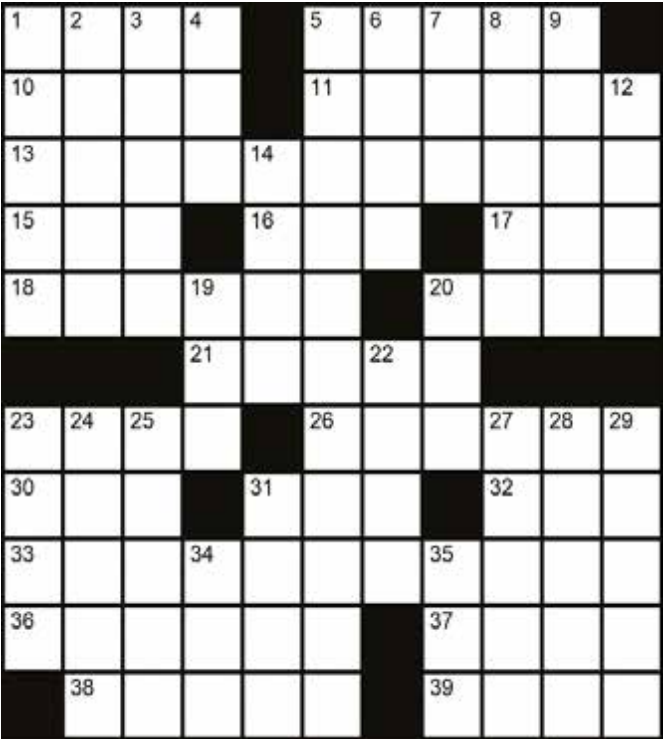
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Crossword Puzzle



Crosswordsite.com Ltd

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.

- Across

1 Dance movement

5 Galley drudge

10 Libya neighbor

11 "Stranger Things" actress --- Ryder

13 Constraining

15 Ingested

16 Seek to know

17 --- bono (who profits?)

18 French aperitif

20 Football Hall of Famer, "Old Indestructible" Mel ---

21 They built Machu Picchu

23 Honshu seaport hit by earthquake in 1995
- Down

26 For a while, part of the world revolved round his Axis

30 Stock market launch

31 Dart board section

32 "Call him drunken --- Hayes ..." (Johnny Cash)

33 On which disorganized dancers rely for their clothes

36 They're dressed for dinner

37 Above

38 Equivocate

39 Consecrated
- 1 Fragment

2 8th letter of the Greek alphabet

3 Relaxes

4 San Fran setting

5 Food renowned for its holes

6 Attack a popsicle

7 Hill dweller

8 Express

9 Boredom

12 Opposed, in Dogpatch

14 Drops from the sky

19 Railroad track element

20 Atomic bomber, briefly?
- 22 Opera set in Memphis

23 Young goats

24 Kosciusko's most famous daughter?

25 Gas law pioneer Robert ---

27 Remain stationary at sea

28 Elderly Harry Potter owl

29 Hoarse

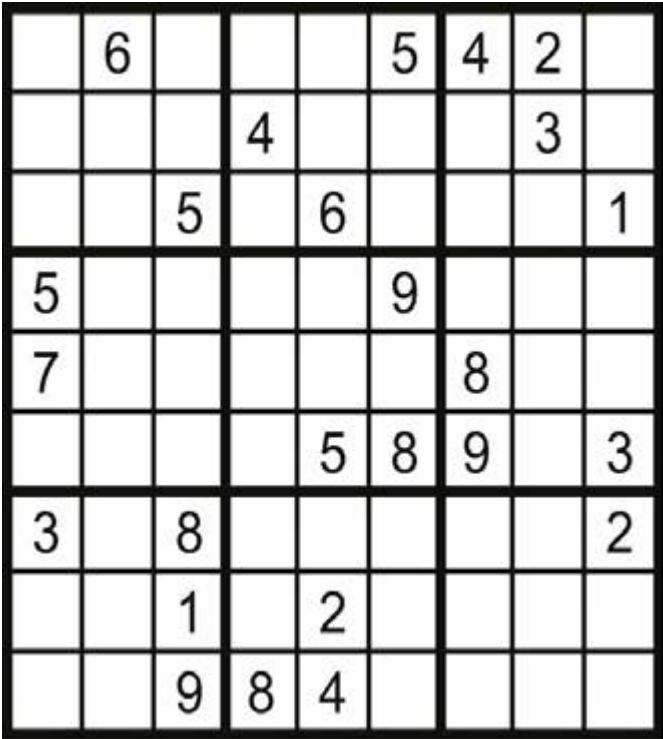
31 Edifice, briefly

34 Scoundrel

35 Pass

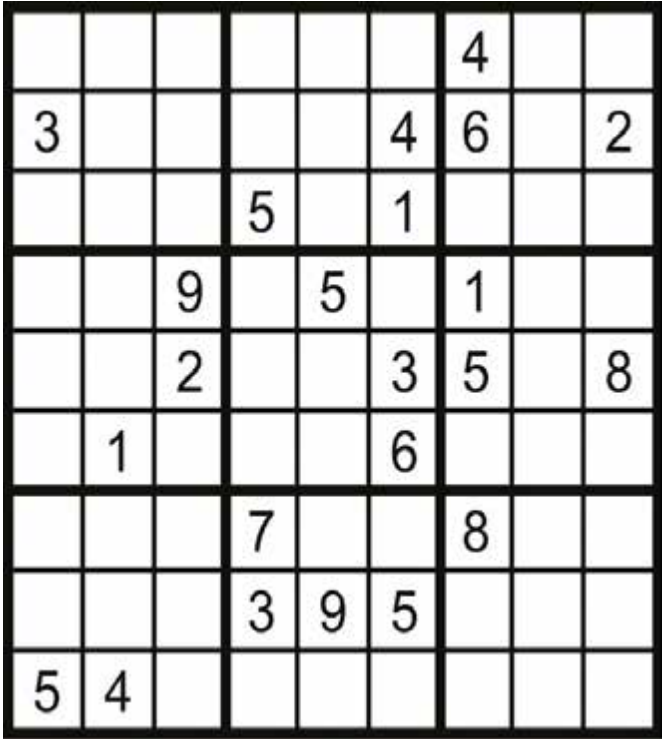
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Easy



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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.

8/3

Navarro County & City of Corsicana Clean Up Day:
7:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Corsicana Regional Landfill, Jester Drive on E. Hwy. 31. www.cityofcorsicana.com.

Back to School Rally:
Food, fun, giveaways, booths and prizes. 9:00 a.m., CHS Commons. (903) 874-2821.

Summer Reading Program:
Last day to turn in summer reading logs. Also, join in the library's Art for the Rest of Us, Puzzle Swap, Book Club and Stitch Society needlecraft group. Calendar activities listed on Facebook page and at library's entry. Corsicana

Public Library, 100 N. 12th St.
(903) 654-4813.

8/7, 8/14, 8/21
and 8/28

Preschool Storytime:
10:30 a.m., Corsicana Public Library, 100 N. 12th St. Facebook: Corsicana Public Library.

8/10

Texas Historical Marker Dedication Ceremony Honoring G.W. Jackson:
10:00 a.m., G.W. Jackson Legacy Park at the corner of MLK Blvd. and S. 5th Street, Corsicana. Reception to follow at the Bethel

AME Church, 105 N. 4th Street, Corsicana. www.visitcorsicana.com.

8/14, 8/15, 8/16
and 8/17

Red:
Tony Award winning biographical drama directed by John S. Davies. 7:00 p.m., Fator Studio, WLAC, 119 West 6th Ave. www.thewlac.com.

8/16

Corsicana Ministerial Alliance Back to School Concert & Dinner:
\$40 for individual tickets or \$500 for VIP tables of 6. Shoes will be distributed on 9/28 at the

Corsicana Cowboy Church. Doors open: 5:30 p.m., Cowboy Church of Corsicana, 5864 W. State Hwy. 31. Tickets may be purchased through Ticket Master. (903) 874-8000.

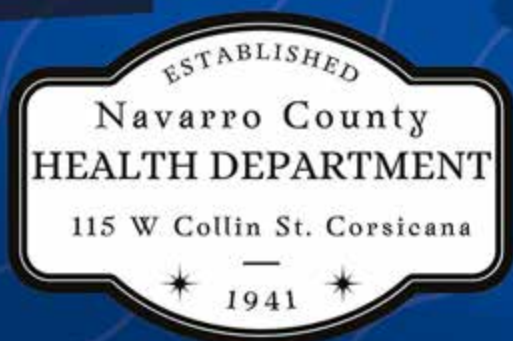
First Wednesdays

Community Senior Day:
Bingo and lunch. 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., First Baptist Church of Eureka, 8718 S. U.S. Hwy. 287. (903) 872-2521.

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

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