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AUGUST 2026



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ON THE COVER



Wins are stacking up in the pocket for these ladies.

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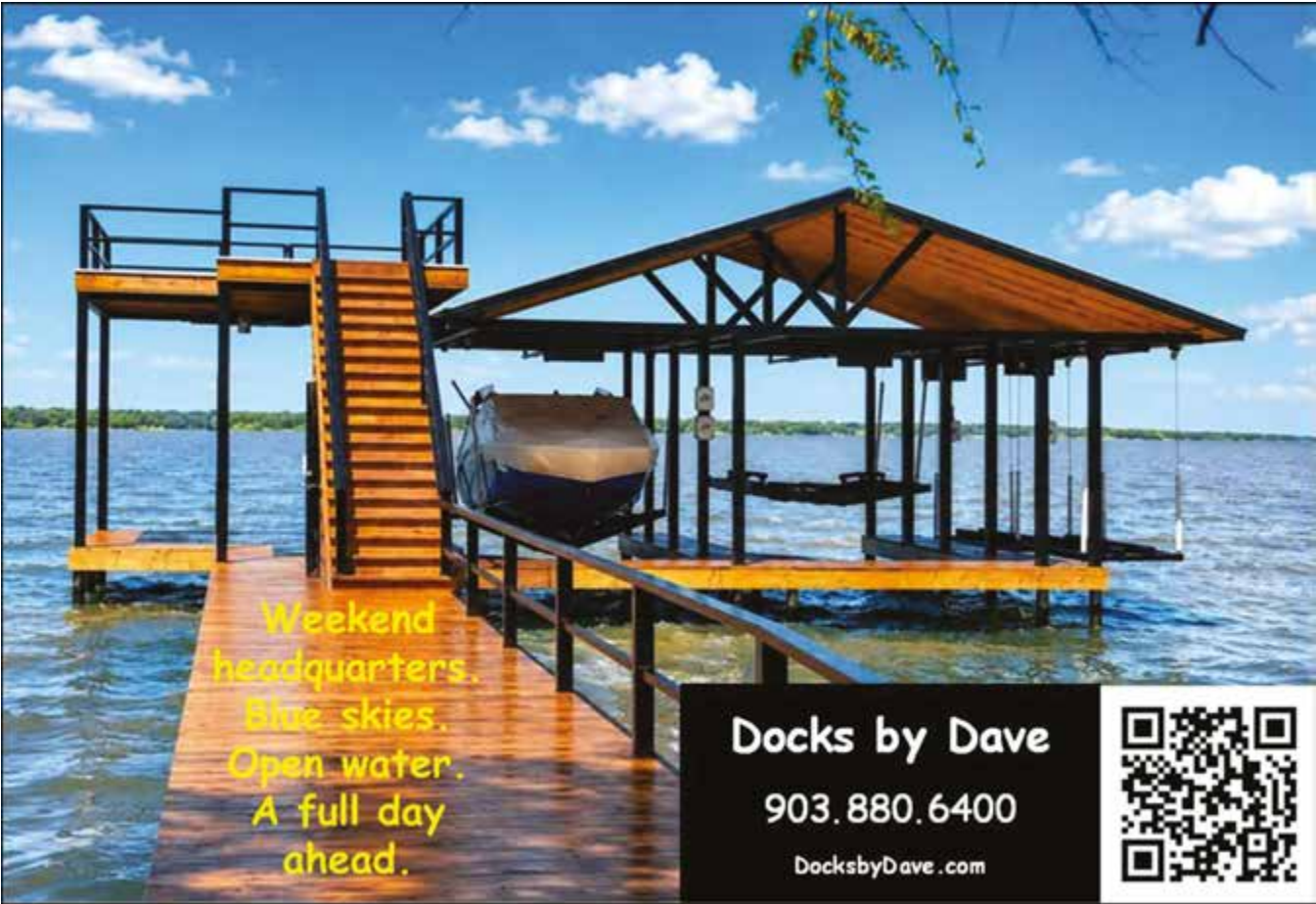
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ON A Run

— By Virginia Riddle

For Geather Weeks, her days of playing pool competitively began in Lufkin, Texas, when she would sneak out of Bible studies at First Baptist Church at age 8 to play pool. “My mom did find out,” she recalled. An upset mom at that time didn’t deter Geather’s nearly lifelong pool playing passion.

It was in 2023 that Geather and fellow team member, Karla Gorbet, started the Tighten Up Your Straps Team, one of the four ladies’ teams sponsored by Navarro County’s VFW Post 3366. Other team members include Sheryl May, Kelly Owen and Brittany Owen. “We’ve had others to come on the team and leave, but these ladies are our current members,” Geather said. “Kelly lives in Italy, and I live in Fairfield. Between work, distance and other commitments,

it’s hard to find practice time, but our playing comes together in the end. We know each other like the front and back of our own hands.” They can be found playing as a team at the VFW every other Thursday, but they also play on other teams in the area in between practices at the VFW. “We sometimes even play against each other elsewhere, and we’re very competitive,” Geather revealed.

“The experience gained by playing at different tables and with different people helps us win when we compete together,” Geather explained. “For instance, the table can be a 6- or 7-footer. That foot difference makes a huge difference. We also have bunches of coaches, since in pool playing the higher skill level folks tutor the lower-level players. At the VFW, we have Jackie Sterling, Chance Burleson and many more.”

The team competes through the American Poolplayers Association, which sets the place/dates of competitions and the rules. “Our best memory to date has been winning the South Dallas APA which qualified us to represent Navarro County and South Dallas APA in Las Vegas,” Geather said. “I love Vegas anytime, but this was special. We were nervous at first,



but we got over that. Playing pool is about 90 percent mental and 10 percent skill. In pool, there are no participation awards, and we don't know who we're playing until right before the competition. But out of the 350 teams that qualified, we ranked at 165 in Vegas. There were even teams from other countries there."

To help defray travel expenses to Las Vegas, the VFW hosted 50/50 pool benefits. "APA paid for the flight and hotel, but in Navarro County and throughout the pool player community, everyone is taken care of," Geather said. "In Navarro County and the VFW, everyone takes care of everyone, and the pool player community is great, too."

The camaraderie among the team members and other pool players is part of what keeps

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these ladies coming back to the tables. "Each of us has something competitive in us, but we play the right way without cheating. We're from Corsicana and the South," quipped Geather. "You wouldn't normally see us team members together in a social setting without pool involved because we're each so different from each other, but while playing pool, we're a team representing Navarro County and the VFW."

The team members all have their signature shots that come in handy in the crunch. "Kelly is our coach, and she, Karla, Sheryl and Brittany are great at cut shots," Geather

said. "I like the bank shots, and it makes playing together fun. Everyone on the team has her own strengths and weaknesses, and we all have our share of good and bad days."

Geather, an account executive at Elara Home Health, plays pool about four nights a week. Her mom supports Geather's interest in pool by helping at fundraisers. When not at work or playing pool, Geather likes to travel, having been to Mexico, the East Coast and Las Vegas.

Sheryl's husband, Brock, plays pool also. Sheryl is a hairdresser and retailer. Kelly works for Performance

Car Auto and is a part-time travel agent. Kelly's mom also helps at fundraisers and comes to competitions. "Karla's son, Landon, plays pool and competes," Geather remarked. "They are cutthroat in competition."

Brittany works as a retailer and plays in several leagues as well with great cue ball control. "Pool is what we all do," Geather added.

Geather found a job in Corsicana at the urging of an uncle with whom she lived in Corsicana for a while. "What better county anywhere could I have found!" she recalled. Through Geather's work in health care, Dr. Kent Rogers and his wife, Donna, became her friends. "I called him my Corsicana Dad," she added.

As a team, the ladies volunteer at the Navarro County VFW. "We give back because the VFW gives us so much," Geather explained. "Its members help so many people. It's truly a diamond in the rough, and we're proud to represent them." **NOW**

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	N	E	W		F	I	R	M	S			
9	L	I	M	A		10	A	B	E	A	M	
11	B	R	I	T		12	U	N	C	L	E	
13	S	O	L	E	M	N		15	T	I	L	
				17	R	E	A	D	A	B	L	E
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23	S	T	A	R	T	I	N	G				
25	A	T	N	O		26	N	A	U	G	H	T
	30	A	D	O	B	E		32	L	A	I	R
33	W	A	F	E	R			34	A	L	L	Y
35	A	S	S	E	T			36	R	A	T	

Easy

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

Medium

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

— By Virginia Riddle

Creating something new is a challenge for all artists, writers and actors. Sharing thoughts and feelings while bringing hard, personal subjects to light for discussion through characters or nonfiction can be daunting. Creating, especially writing, is often a solitary action, so there's a reorganized group of writers who find it advantageous to come together monthly to share their stories through CORS-I-CAN Writers.

Writer and entrepreneur, Sherry Clark, first joined a local online writers' group during COVID, which kept going when in-person meetings were possible. "By then it was Virginia Riddle, Julie Mitchell and me," she shared. "We read what we were working on, did a joint writing prompt and encouraged one another. It was there I first read the prologue to my novel."

"And we can't remember who came up with the group's name, but everyone seems to love it," Virginia added.

Julie, who was a newspaper columnist, has published her novel and a series of one-act plays, and Sherry, a former freelance writer and newspaper columnist, has her novel in editing stages for publication. Virginia, a retired public school educator and administrator, college educator, newspaper writer and sports photographer and current *CorsicanaNOW* editor, continues working on four long form projects and is a two-time recipient of the University of North Texas Mayborn School of Journalism Ten Spurs Award for her UNT Press published award-winning nonfiction writings and is a member of UNT's Tribe of Writers.

The busy threesome had discontinued meeting until Virginia contacted Sherry suggesting that the group be reformed into a public writers' group with a goal to welcome ages 16-plus writers and want-to-be writers of all genres. Dr. Marianne Wilson, library director at Corsicana Public Library, agreed to give the group a home at the library. The first meeting attracted 13 poets, screenwriters and novelists and several want-to-



be writers with ideas to explore. The beginning format remains — sharing readings, followed by positive critiques, ideas and encouragement. The group has grown, and now meets in the library's "big room" on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. To further writers' readings and discussion, the Bookstore, part of 100West, hosted CORS-I-CAN Saturday workshops this past summer. "I love seeing how everyone encourages one another and is kind even when asking questions or giving the person sharing a piece something to consider to improve his/her work," Sherry added.

Victoria Wright moved to Corsicana three years ago with her husband, Gil, whom she met while doing "theater work" in Dallas. "I've written on and off my whole life. The writers' group has inspired me to dust off a monologue and the first few chapters of a novel I was working on," she related. "I'm writing fiction, although suspense is a more apt description. I'm not tied to facts other than those of my own making, which allow my characters to act and speak as their authentic selves. Opening my imagination and letting it lead me is an awesome experience."

Business case studies, graduate school writing and memoir essays have honed Sherry's writing skills, but her favorite genre is fiction. "I loved working with a team of other writers on scripts and now crafting my first novel," she said. "I never know where the story is going to take me!"

Sherry and her husband, Houston, have a couple of business ventures, The Patio and The Loft. When not working at one of them or on her writing, being with friends, traveling solo or with Houston or listening to

audiobooks while working jigsaw puzzles occupies her free time. "One hobby I began many years ago with my mom is thrifting," Sherry stated. She serves on the Corsicana Main Street Executive Board and attends Grace Community Church.

Tennis is Victoria's game, and she has been painting in watercolor and acrylic for over two years. She recently became local artist, Deb Miller's, student. Victoria is a member of SAG-AFTRA and Equity actors' unions. Retired, she enjoys the Corsicana art scene through Corsicana Artist and Writer Residency and Bookstore, local art galleries and the WLAC with "its impressive lineup of talent."

Best advice to future writers: "Write, share, take criticism with good grace and a grain of salt. Lather, rinse, repeat," Victoria said.

Sherry added, "Just do it. Journal or do what our fellow group member, Tracey Frederick, does — write a sentence a day. And join a writers' group!" **NOW**





Zoomed In:
Ruth Chamberlain

By Virginia Riddle

On a sunny, hot day, Corsicana citizens and visitors alike know where to keep cool. While visiting in town from their home in Prosper, Texas, Ruth Chamberlain and her two sons, Paxton and Maxwell, found Community Park's Spray Park a refreshing and fun event before attending a wedding at a Kerens area event center.

"My husband, Peris, became licensed to officiate at this wedding since he had become a spiritual mentor to the groom while coaching him in track and field," Ruth explained. "Peris ran track and field while attending Iowa State University."

An employee at Raytheon, Ruth grew up in the city but finds Corsicana's "country vibe" refreshing. She shared, "I'm used to the hustle and bustle of the big city, but I'm liking Corsicana's quietness."



A kingsnake visits with young and old at the Corsicana Public Library.



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Zoomed In:
Joanie Teel

By Virginia Riddle

Having made 35 moves, mostly during her youth following her dad's highway construction jobs, Joanie Teel returned to Corsicana nearly 23 years ago. Her husband, Lain, constructed highways in their early years together, and is now the minister at Emmanuel Baptist Church. "I love our church members and have volunteered at the pregnancy crisis center and the Corsicana Public Library's Genealogy Department," Joanie stated. The couple raised two children, have two grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Retired from working in medical offices and being a Little League team mother, Joanie enjoys quilting, genealogy and traveling. "I've traveled mostly in the U.S. from Stone Mountain, Georgia, to Carlsbad, New Mexico," she shared.

"Volunteering is a great way to meet people," she added. "I needed Dana Stubbs and this genealogy library in my life."



Brooke Johnson, Brody Johnson and Jasmine Rivas are part of the lifeguard crew at Jester Pool.



Ashton Kantor and artist, Randall Cogburn, welcome art enthusiasts to his WLAC opening reception.



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For 20 years, a visitor to the Six Flags over Texas amusement park could enjoy a 10-minute river boat excursion known as La Salle's River Adventure. The ride commemorated one of the six flags, that of the French. The flag of France briefly flew over Texas in the late 1600s, when the French explorer René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle, got lost looking for the mouth of the Mississippi River. La Salle had sailed from French-occupied Florida and overshot his goal, landing somewhere near today's Garcitas Creek.

TALES OF TEXAS

The Early Entrance to Texas

— By Bill Smith

The Spanish were not at all pleased with the possibility of a French settlement in the territory and sent numerous expeditions in search of the French fort. Their early ventures were unsuccessful, until ruins of the fort were found. In 1722, historians believe, Garcitas Creek was likely the stream along which La Salle established Fort St. Louis, and upon the remains of the fort, the mission Nuestra Señora del Espíritu Santo de Zúñiga, also known as La Bahía, was constructed.

However, this was not the first Spanish mission to be built in Texas, as soon after the French colony was discovered, word was delivered to the Spanish that the Tejas Indians were seeking Christianity. The legend of "The Lady in Blue," who seems to have been a miraculous incarnation that visited the Tejas, led the Spanish in 1690 to send a military and evangelical expedition to establish missions among the Tejas. Soon after, the foundation for San Francisco de los Tejas mission was laid, and the first mass was celebrated. This would be the beginning of the establishment of El Camino Real de los Tejas.

"El Camino" translates to "the way" or "the road" in English. One of the earliest recorded uses of the road by a citizen of the United States was Moses Austin, as he traveled along the way westward to San Antonio, with plans to establish a colony. Of course, we know that Austin died before his plan could come to fruition, although he did meet with Baron de



Bastrop, and soon after his meeting, Governor Antonio María Martínez endorsed the idea. His son, Stephen F. Austin, picked up his father's mantle and traversed the path to San Antonio to complete the contract with the Mexican government.

Settlers coming to Texas from the east typically crossed the Sabine River at Gaines Ferry and then continued on through Nacogdoches and along El Camino Real de los Tejas to the interior of the southern part of the state. As the colonies expanded and relations between the settlers and the Mexicans deteriorated, the road was a valuable route for the volunteers who came from the United States to the various battles around San Antonio de Béxar, including San Antonio de Valero, better known as the Alamo.





Texas heroes Sam Houston and David Crockett would certainly have followed the road when they came to Texas. *The Handbook of Texas Online 2001* indicates Crockett's route "was ... across the Red River, through Clarksville, to Nacogdoches and San Augustine; and on to San Antonio." Had Crockett not met his fate at the Alamo, history records that his plans included traveling farther down the road to the Rio Grande.

Today, one can travel El Camino Real de los Tejas and see a number of historic sites along the National Historic Trail as designated by the National Park Service. Villa Antigua Border Heritage Museum in Laredo showcases the region's history, culture, industry and populations through a series of changing exhibits and educational seminars.

The NPS.gov website states, "This restored two-story brick building was once home to two early Laredo merchant families. With its size and pivotal location on the banks of the Rio Grande, this Italianate-style residence is representative of the grand houses that populated the San Agustín District in the early 20th century."

The Stone Fort Museum in Nacogdoches previously served as a trading post, private home, church, jail and saloon. While the original structure was torn down in 1902, the Texas Centennial Commission built a replica in 1936 on the Stephen F. Austin University Campus.

Other sites along the way include Caddo Mounds State Historic Site near Alto, Mission Delores State Historic Site at San Augustine, Mission Tejas State Park

at Grapeland and McKinney Falls State Park near Austin. You would be hard pressed to visit all these historic sites in one trip, but there is a lot of Texas history scattered along El Camino Real de los Tejas. Every piece is a state treasure Texas has proudly preserved. NOW

Sources:

1. <https://www.elcaminorealdelostejas.org/trail-history/>.
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Refreshing Summer Recipes

Summer calls for light, refreshing dishes that celebrate the season's bounty of fresh produce and bright flavors. These recipes are designed to keep you cool and satisfied, featuring crisp vegetables, juicy fruits and vibrant herbs that capture the essence of warm-weather dining at its finest. **NOW**

Watermelon Feta Salad

- 6 cups seedless watermelon, cubed
- 1/4 cup fresh lime juice
- 2 Tbsp. honey
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1 cup crumbled feta cheese
- 1/2 cup fresh mint leaves, chopped
- 1/4 cup red onion, thinly sliced
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper

1. Place the watermelon cubes in a large serving bowl.
2. In a small bowl, whisk together the lime juice, honey and salt until well combined.
3. Drizzle the lime dressing over the watermelon cubes.
4. Sprinkle the feta cheese evenly over the watermelon. Add the mint leaves and onions.
5. Gently toss all the ingredients together until evenly distributed. Season with black pepper.
6. Chill in the refrigerator for 15-20 minutes before serving for best flavor.

Lemon Herb Grilled Chicken Skewers

- 2 lbs. boneless chicken breast, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 1/4 cup olive oil

- 1/4 cup fresh lemon juice
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 Tbsp. fresh oregano, chopped
- 1 Tbsp. fresh thyme, chopped
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. black pepper
- 1 red bell pepper, cut into chunks
- 1 yellow bell pepper, cut into chunks
- 1 red onion, cut into chunks

1. Place the chicken cubes in a large bowl.
2. In a separate bowl, whisk together the olive oil, lemon juice and garlic.
3. Add the oregano, thyme, salt and black pepper to the marinade.
4. Pour the marinade over the chicken cubes; toss to coat evenly.
5. Cover; refrigerate for at least 1 hour or up to 4 hours.
6. Soak wooden skewers in water for 30 minutes to prevent burning.
7. Thread the marinated chicken onto the skewers, alternating with chunks of red bell pepper, yellow bell pepper and red onion.
8. Preheat a grill to medium-high heat; oil the grates.
9. Grill the skewers for 10-12 minutes, turning occasionally, until the chicken is cooked through and the vegetables are slightly charred.
10. Remove from the grill; let rest for 3 minutes before serving.

Strawberry Sorbet

- 2 lbs. fresh strawberries, hulled and halved
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/4 cup fresh lemon juice
- 1 tsp. lemon zest
- Pinch of salt

1. Place the strawberries in a blender or food processor.
2. In a small saucepan, combine the sugar and water over medium heat, stirring until the sugar dissolves completely.
3. Remove the sugar syrup from the heat; let it cool for 10 minutes.
4. Pour the cooled syrup over the strawberries in the blender.
5. Add the lemon juice, lemon zest and salt.
6. Blend on high speed until completely smooth and no chunks remain.
7. Pour the mixture through a fine-mesh strainer to remove any seeds, if desired.
8. Transfer to a shallow container; freeze for 1 hour, then stir with a fork.
9. Continue freezing, stirring every 30 minutes, for 3-4 hours until the sorbet reaches a scoopable consistency.
10. Serve immediately or store in an airtight container in the freezer for up to 2 weeks.

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Find puzzle answers within this magazine. Online versions and solutions are also available at www.nowmagazines.com.

1 "Brave --- World"	23 Getting going
4 Outfits	25 47 for silver or 79 for gold
9 Bean in Peru?	26 Cipher
10 Crosswise, nautically	30 Sun-dried brick
11 Prince Charles or Tony Blair, for example	32 Bandit's refuge
12 Auntie's other half	33 Thin cookie
13 Grave	34 Supporter
15 Cash box	35 Slashed seats for something valuable
17 Legible	36 Informer
19 Momma's partner	
22 Occupied	

1 Iron out actor's last name	9 A kg. is about 2.2 of these
2 "--- and the Detectives" (1964 Disney movie)	14 Flesh
	16 Downwind
	18 "Saw" actress -- Meyer
3 Makes impervious to the rain	19 Snappers' org.
	20 Capital where Senators skate on thin ice
4 The animal kingdom	21 Bamboo-eaters
5 "Son of" in Arabic	24 Lifeless
6 Urgent! Clara must organize shape	27 Festive occasion
	28 Fencer's grip
7 Coconut liqueur	29 Have a go
8 Bouquets	31 Gathering for a specific purpose

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