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ON THE COVER

The OTHERS stand tall and play proudly.

Photo by
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EDITOR'S NOTE



Virginia

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School bells are ringing!

The heat's still on outside, but school and all the many other associated activities are "heating" up, too. Stay cool, dear readers, in your daily rush through this month. There's so much to do throughout Navarro County. Let's get going and enjoy these wonderful times together.

My gardens, dog and horse are ready for fall's cooler days after last month's scorching times. I love my heritage tomatoes, but even they can't get enthused about putting on new blooms until our cooler fall nights arrive. Albert Camus, a French philosopher, author and journalist, said it best I think: "Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower." I do enjoy our "Indian summers," when all my plants that have barely hung on through summer start thriving gloriously again.

This season also brings my annual rock climbing pilgrimage to the Sandia, Sangre de Cristo and La Sal mountain ranges before the snows begin, giving me a chance to also be enveloped in the aspens' golden glow, as each tree's leaves really become as beautiful and brilliant as flowers. Our Texas Hill Country and Hot Springs, Arkansas, are closer destinations, so even a long weekend away enjoying forests clothed in fabulous fall colors will be worth every mile and moment.

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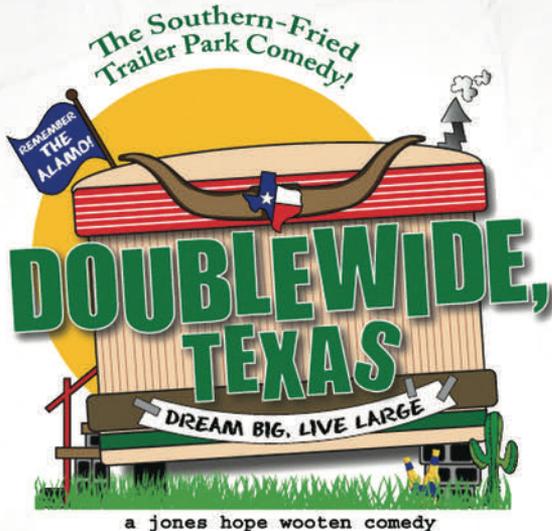
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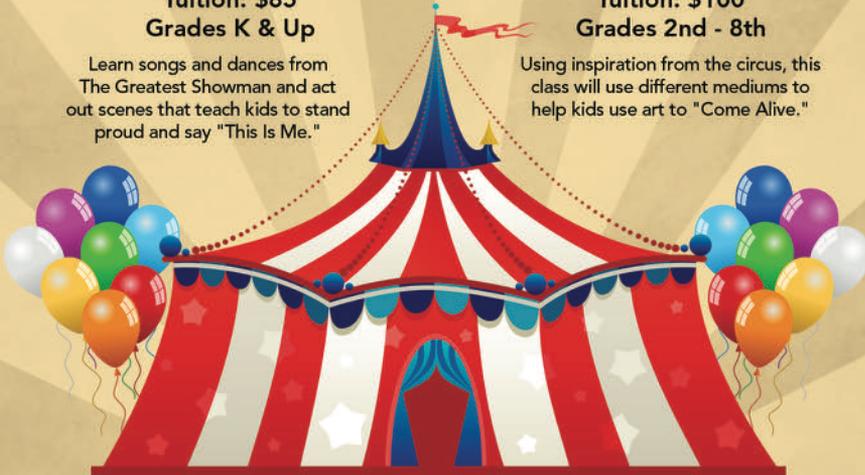
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FRIENDS A



The year was 1967. War and political strife abounded around the world. Conversely, teenagers were at peace listening to newly released Beatles' songs such as "Nowhere Man" and "Yesterday."

Corsicana's Rick Chavoya, Pat Gibson, Brian McDaniel, Mike O'Neal and Bob Rosen didn't miss the fact that three years prior, on The Ed Sullivan Show, the Beatles had changed music forever, by performing "She Loves You ... yeah, yeah, yeah." As 14-year-old students, their newly formed band,

The OTHERS, soon developed friendships that have stood for 50 years.

"What a time that was," Mike recalled. "We never thought that years from then, when we're in our 60s, we'd be sitting together on a park bench ... but here we are, still performing!"

With roots reaching back to early grade school (even back-to-back birthdates for Bob and Brian), the group gradually formed as a garage band, but eventually practiced in Brian's family's barn. "We lived in the

country," he explained. "I entered the band without knowing how to play the piano. Mike taught me chords over the phone. We talked every night. I helped him with math, and then we worked on music."

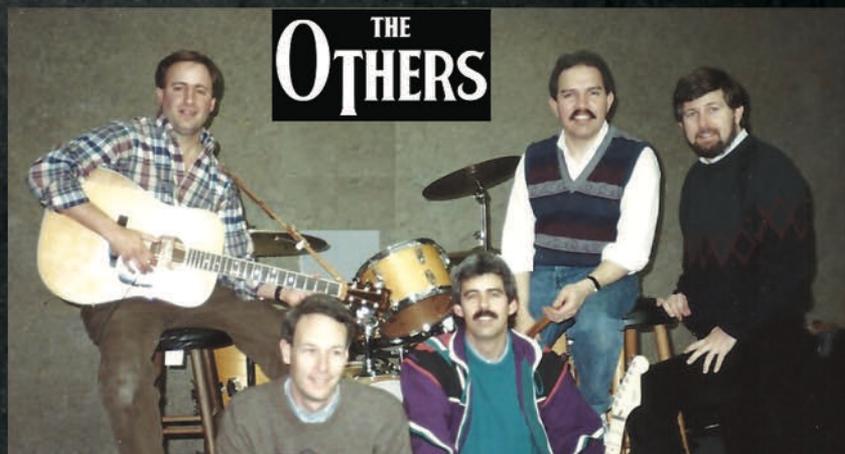
"Brian got competent on the keyboard quickly and started learning music on his own," Mike added.

"We made the barn our home, knocked out walls and maintained a practice schedule," Brian said. "We even made up a name for our practice room 'The Stixionboif.' Playing was fun from the very first jam session. We quickly created our own sound."

Their chosen name came from

FOR FIFTY

— By Virginia Riddle



being “the other” band at that time in Corsicana. “The Bassmen were five years older than us. We would ride our bikes to where our heroes practiced and listen outside. We considered naming our band The Chessmen, but our English teacher thought that was ‘too normal.’ We wanted to be different with a unique sound, so The OTHERS name was born,” Brian remembered.

By ninth grade, The OTHERS were performing gigs for money, not only at private parties and dances at school, but at area high schools and even colleges like Southern Methodist University, Navarro College and

Tarrant County College. Rick played drums; Pat, Mike and Bob were guitarists; and Brian was on keyboards. “We’d built a solid reputation beyond our young age, learned harmonies and were improving constantly,” Brian said.

As Corsicana High School sophomores, they played a full-school assembly concert, then performed on The McChord Music Stage at the State Fair of Texas — all in the same weekend. That summer, the band entered a state-wide battle-of-the-bands contest in Dallas, winning first place, and was awarded a sizeable cash prize, Fender P.A. and a trophy. “It was a crazy time of excitement and a proud accomplishment,” Brian said.

The OTHERS was their sole job and quite literally their business throughout their high school days, with them working hard and earning top dollar for their performances throughout an area ranging from Dallas to Tyler to Waco at colleges, high schools, National Guard armories and even roller rinks. Brian’s dad drove the band, with its custom-made trailer full of gear, to their out-of-town gigs, serving as their official chaperone.

The end of their high school days coincided with the end of The OTHERS. “We literally went out in a ‘blaze of glory,’” Mike remembered. “We were returning home from playing a gig near Texarkana, when



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a tire exploded along the highway and the car caught fire. We saved the trailer and instruments.”

After graduation, the boys in the band went separate ways to college and on to careers, marriage and parenthood. “I thought it was over the day I graduated, so I sold my electric guitar, but we were genuine friends to begin with, so we traveled through life together — weddings, babies and, sadly, even deaths. Each of us has brothers, but being musical brothers was different and special,” Mike said. “We’ve always been there for each other through everything in our lives. Our musical life together has just been the best.”

To their classmates’ delight, the band re-formed, for their 20th high school reunion in 1990, and since then, they have continued to play, with some changes. “Sadly, we had to bury our musical brothers, Rick and Pat,” Brian said. “That’s been the hardest thing to overcome. Having the history we had, the band’s not the same, but carrying on has helped heal those wounds of loss. Our treasured mates are still at the heart of every performance we make.”



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Mike agreed, “Both Rick and Pat told me, in their different ways, to keep the music going. We quit for several years, but we had another request to play.

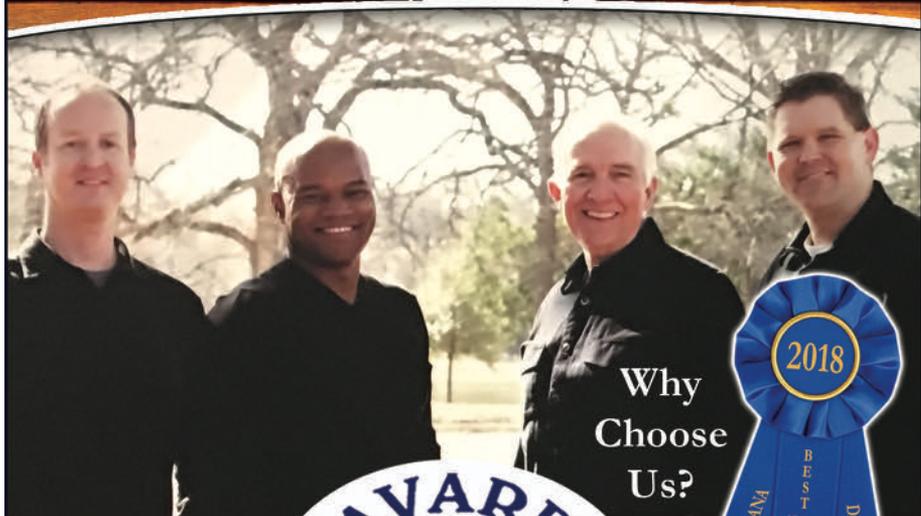
“Our parents were in their 60s when we reunited for our 20th reunion performance. And as they had supported us throughout our younger music careers, they relished in the experience and reunion. “Dr. G” [Louis Gibson] videoed the whole reunion gig,” Mike shared.

Their families are still involved today as regular groupies. Some are retired now but stay busy with traveling and grandkids. “Now the big challenge is to schedule five grown men for gigs and rare rehearsals. However, it’s still fun when we ‘nail’ a song, and everyone loves it. We’re all decent, experienced musicians, none great, but together, we’re something special,” Mike added.

So, the beat goes on these days with Bob on bass, Mike on guitar and Brian on Hammond organ. Although Rick and Pat are irreplaceable, the newest OTHERS include Dan Clower on guitar and Jim Rosenthal on drums and/or Corsicana natives, drummer H.M. Davenport and bassist Chuck Carpenter. The members perform in and around Corsicana and the Metroplex.

Both Brian and Mike agree that the band and the resulting lifetime friendships have been the best thing they ever accomplished together. “The popular guys at CHS were always the football players,” Mike said, “They don’t play much ball anymore, but after more than 50 years, we’re still rocking.” **NOW**

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Was it providence that led Derwood Phillips to look in The Dallas Morning News' commercial property listings that morning? It may have been, since the home Derwood and his wife, Barbara, have fashioned out of a former church building has turned out to be the perfect place for their return to their Corsicana roots. "We have some land and had thought about building and had looked at other properties, and then I saw this small ad," Derwood remembered.

A Corsicana native and Corsicana High School graduate, Derwood met Barbara, who had grown up in Richardson, Texas, during their days as Navarro College students. Barbara was living with her grandparents in Coolidge, Texas, while attending college. "We met while standing in line to register for class," she recalled. The couple has been married for 55 years.

Barbara continued her education at the University of North Texas and taught school in the Dallas area until she joined the family's business. Derwood became an insurance agent, eventually opening his own company, Insurance One Agency, which has 21 Texas offices, including Corsicana's and the home office in Dallas. Today, he remains the president/CEO, and Barbara is the business marketing liaison. Their son and daughter both work for the business in the Metroplex, and the couple have four grandchildren, ages 9-20.

"I did work for another insurance company in IT and marketing and learned a lot," Barbara added. "I interviewed for that job after telling Derwood I was looking for a job that paid!"

"We have a busy life in Dallas, but coming back to Corsicana and reacquainting ourselves with people we knew as well as meeting new people has been fun. We're just who we are," Derwood said. "This is a small-



At Home With
Derwood &
Barbara Phillips

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— By Virginia Riddle



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town environment and the quality of entertainment is good — it's a fun place.”

Barbara agreed, “Corsicana’s a slower pace than Dallas. Derwood’s social group welcomed me during our college days and again now. Getting on the tractor and mowing gets Derwood’s mind off the business.”

They’ve jumped right into volunteering and joining organizations in Corsicana. As members of the Corsicana Country Club, they enjoy the social activities, and Derwood can be found on the links occasionally. He



likes to hunt and volunteers through Compassion Ministries and the House of Refuge. Their business is a member of the Corsicana & Navarro County Chamber of Commerce.

Social issues drive Barbara’s volunteerism. “I like working with charitable, nonprofit foundations,” she explained. Derwood and Barbara have worked with the National Day of Prayer and brought the Young Life program to Richardson ISD as a campus club. “It’s still there,” she said proudly. Barbara also likes to read and admits to loving shopping for shoes.

“Barbara’s real hobby is being around me,” Derwood joked. The couple has traveled throughout Europe and the U.S., including Alaska and Hawaii. “One of our favorite places was the Palace of Versailles where we had dinner and watched fireworks from the terrace,” Derwood recalled.

It took a little doing to convert a church to a home, but with Judith

Steely helping as decorator and by engaging a contractor, the couple completed their repurposing project in time to host Barbara’s mother’s 95th birthday celebration. There was plenty of parking with the church’s paved lot and a circular drive with a portico entrance.

The front doors are still those used by the church. Since there were no windows due to religious beliefs held by the congregation, Derwood and Barbara enjoy an exceptional element of safety and climate control. “When we turn out the lights at night, it’s really dark and quiet,” Barbara said. “We sleep so well.”

The wide entrance hall still welcomes all who come, along with Miss Kylie, the family dog, otherwise known as “our remaining at-home daughter.” The pastor’s study is now the master bedroom suite. This room sports a cathedral ceiling instead of the soaring ceilings in the remainder of the home. A family heirloom quilt



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dresses the bed, which was handmade on a Dallas-area ranch. The bathroom rug from the 1920s came from a Dallas estate sale. “We like to use lots of things like this,” Derwood said.

The open living/dining and kitchen area was once part of the sanctuary. “All the tacks for the pews had to be removed from the floor that’s hardwood now,” Barbara recalled. Her mother’s recliner, leather seating and comfy rockers are welcoming.

The couple collects art which adorns the spacious, soft-yellow walls. A rack holds a neat collection of hats. “We’ve bought lots of the furnishings locally, especially at estate sales,” Barbara said. Originally the men’s bathroom, the bright kitchen’s red/black theme is reminiscent of Barbara’s friend’s kitchen.

The guest bedroom suite and utility room were created out of the original ladies’ bathroom and the HVAC closet. “We had fun designing this area,” Derwood said. “We left the



original lighting in the bedroom.”

Self-described as a “project kind of guy,” Derwood enjoys working on his collection of vintage automobiles, so he created a showplace garage out of the remainder of the former sanctuary. A newly installed overhead door and an HVAC system make the work easier and more comfortable.

Car-themed posters, gasoline signs and neon lights line the walls. But the real pleasure is viewing the four cars starting with Firefly II. A buyer and seller, Derwood’s looking for a ’31 Model A to replace a previously owned vehicle called Annabelle, that

his daughter dearly loved. “We’ve been going to car auctions for years,” he said.

Their closeness to town is convenient, but their home’s country setting is great for listening and relaxing to music out-of-doors. “We still have our home in the Metroplex, but we love coming here,” Derwood concluded. “I was raised in the country with all those chores. If you don’t know the difference between pullin’ and pickin’ cotton, you weren’t raised in the country!” Their “country souls” have brought Derwood and Barbara back home. **NOW**



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Digging Their Work

— By Rick Mauch

It was a normal day for Phil Wilbanks as he was in the wooded area that makes up part of nearly 39 acres of property he and his wife, Jane, own behind their home in Frost. Then, he was reminded that at one time millions of years ago, he would have been underwater on that site, facing one of history's greatest predators. "At first, I thought it was a stump. I kicked it, and I said to myself, *I've never seen a rock like that before*," Phil said. "I dug some out and took it to Tom Vance, professor and paleontology specialist at Navarro College."

Phil had found some bones from a mosasaur, a marine lizard that lived during the Cretaceous Period. They were the apex predators of the Western Interior Seaway, which covered much of Texas.

The mosasaur resembled a cross between a shark and a crocodile, weighed between 2 and 3 tons and was about 25-30 feet long. There's one hanging in the Perot Museum in Dallas that is 32 feet long. "This gives us an idea of what was swimming through our backyard 80 million years ago," Tom said. "They were the T. rex of the ocean."

Tom put a group together, and each Saturday, weather permitting, they are at the site of Phil's discovery, digging. They've been doing so since last year, finding more than 100 bones and fragments of the creature they've named Frosty. "I wasn't here long at all before I found a vertebrae bone," Christy Barham said. Christy, one of Tom's students, is the author of a report on the dig. "I was hooked on paleontology after Tom told me my hands were the first human hands to ever touch that bone."

Christy's husband, Tracy Barham, often joins her on the digs. "It's amazing. You keep digging and just keep finding bones," he said.

Debbie Speed of the Dallas Paleontological Society joined the dig this year and drives all the way from Plano to participate. "They were talking about it at a meeting. I

said, 'That sounds fun,' and here I am. This is a very exciting thing to share,' Debbie said.

Heather Strauser is a former student of Tom's. She jumped at the chance to join the team, even bringing her mother, Janet Strauser, along. "I used to be an art major. I'm going to illustrate the book they're making," Heather said. "All kids like dinosaurs, and this makes me feel like a kid again."

Janet recalled the initial time she participated in the dig with her daughter. "The first time I pulled up a bone, it was so exciting. I told my husband, 'These hands held bones millions of years old,'" she explained.

The group continues to dig, as they have not found enough bones to make a complete skeleton. In fact, much of what they have found are fragments, but proof, nonetheless, that there was indeed a mosasaur on the site. They must map, clean and identify each bone or fragment, which is done by team crew chief/cartographer/curator Roger Fry at his home in Arlington.

Tom is the project director. Along with the aforementioned participants, the rest of the team includes liaison coordinator Sunday Crider; onsite paleontologist Nathan Van Vranken; and fellow excavators Cole and Michelle Ames, Bob Crider, Brandon and Jennifer Ford, C. Ethan Fulbright, Gilbert Gatlin, Stephan Gozdecki, Michael Horvath, Katherine Guertler, Dawn Maus, Matt McClellan, Elizabeth McDaniel, Chris Parker, D'Ann Sellers, Teresa Thornton, Jenna and Stephanie Watson, Brian Wicker, Dr. John, Karen and Jordan Halladay and Syndney Lowenthal.

Phil said he and Jane will likely donate the bones to Southern Methodist University once the expedition is complete. He can't help but wonder what else might be lying underground on their property. "It's amazing to think something like that was right here," Phil said. "It's a special feeling to find something no one has ever come across before." **NOW**

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CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With MORIAH AND GINA WOUT

— By Virginia Riddle



For both Gina Wout and her daughter, Moriah, cooking's a "family thing." Gina left the insurance world to be a stay-at-home mom, homeschooling her children and teaching them how to cook. "Now my kids bring recipes and ideas home, and we try them together," Gina said.

Moriah, Gina's daughter, works in retail in Corsicana and is a Navarro College student. She caught the baking bug from her mother. "One of my favorite memories growing up was helping to cook and getting friends together to help decorate Christmas cookies. Then we handed the cookies out to friends and family," Moriah recalled.

Gina's studying to be a fitness trainer. "I really want healthy options," Gina explained, "and I love the ability to make something unique and special. Cooking's truly an art form." **NOW**

Chicken Pot Pie

Filling:

- 3 Tbsp. olive oil**
- 1 onion, chopped**
- 2-3 carrots, chopped**
- 2-3 celery stalks, chopped**
- 3-4 chicken breasts, skinless and boneless**
- 1/4 to 1/2 cup flour**
- Salt, to taste**
- Garlic powder, to taste**
- Lemon pepper, to taste**
- 1 14-oz. can chicken broth**

Pie Dough:

- 2 sticks butter, softened**
- 2 1/2 cups flour**

- 1 tsp. sugar**
- 1/3 cup milk**

- 1. For filling:** Put olive oil in a large pan; add onion, carrots and celery; sauté until tender.
- 2.** Cut the chicken into bite-size pieces. Place in a plastic bag; add flour and seasonings.
- 3.** Seal the bag; shake to coat the chicken well.
- 4.** Add the mixture to the oil and vegetables; cook on medium heat until done. Pour in broth; cook until thickened.
- 5. For pie dough:** Mix butter, flour and sugar together until crumbly. Add milk; mix and knead until smooth.
- 6.** Roll the dough into a ball; place in a bowl. Refrigerate for 30 minutes.

- 7.** Remove from the refrigerator. Divide the dough ball in half; roll it out on a floured counter.
- 8.** Line a pie plate with the bottom crust; pour in the filling. Top with the other half of pie dough.
- 9.** Bake at 350 F until the crust is lightly browned.

Classic Creamy Cheesecake

Crust:

- 2 cups graham crackers, finely crushed**
- 8 Tbsp. unsalted butter, melted**
- 3 Tbsp. granulated sugar**

Filling:

- 3 8-oz. pkgs. cream cheese, softened**
- 1 cup granulated sugar**
- 3 large eggs, room temperature**
- 1 1/2 tsp. vanilla**
- 1 Tbsp. freshly squeezed lemon juice (1 lemon)**
- 1 cup heavy cream, room temperature**

- 1. For crust:** Crush graham crackers in a food processor. In a medium-size bowl, combine butter, graham crackers and sugar; stir until ingredients are moist.
- 2.** Press the mixture into the bottom and sides of an 8 1/2- to 9-inch springform pan; double wrap the pan with aluminum foil.

3. For filling: In a large bowl, combine the cream cheese and granulated sugar; blend with an electric mixer for 3 minutes on medium speed until mixture is light and fluffy.

4. Add eggs, one at a time; blend on medium speed until well combined.

5. Add vanilla, lemon juice and heavy cream; blend on low speed until smooth and creamy. Note: Batter may be slightly runny.

6. Pour batter into the springform pan. Place the pan in a larger baking dish; use a large cup to pour hot water halfway up into the baking dish.

7. Bake at 325 F for 1 hour, 20 minutes; turn the oven off, and crack its door. Leave the cheesecake in the oven for an additional 30-45 minutes.

8. Remove; wipe excess water from the foil. Remove the foil from the pan's bottom.

9. Cover the pan's top; refrigerate for at least 8-10 hours. Carefully run a knife around the pan's edges prior to releasing the cheesecake. Store refrigerated.

Sugar Cookies

- 1 1/2 cups butter
- 2 1/4 cups sugar
- 6 eggs
- 1 1/2 tsp. vanilla
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 1 Tbsp. baking powder
- 6 3/4 cups flour

1. In a bowl, mix all ingredients; roll and cut into slices.

2. Place slices on a nonstick cookie sheet; bake at 350 F for 8-10 minutes until cookies are fluffy, not doughy looking, and bottoms are browned.

Powdered Sugar Frosting

- 1/2 cup butter, whipped
- 1/2 cup evaporated milk
- 1 lb. powdered sugar
- Food colorings of your choice (optional)

1. Whip the butter and evaporated milk until stiff, adding the powdered sugar as needed; divide the frosting into jars to color, if desired.

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Kelly R. Myers, Attorney-at-Law

— By Virginia Riddle

Kelly R. Myers, Attorney-at-Law

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For more than 33 years, Kelly R. Myers has been helping his fellow Navarro County residents with their legal needs. “Our clients can trust us to give them sound legal advice,” Kelly said. “That’s why many of them have been with us from the beginning of my practice. They can always count on us. I was born and raised in Kerens and Corsicana. I’m going to be here, and I really enjoy working for our clients.”

His practice is a general practice with a focus on elder law. “Many of my clients have aged with me,” Kelly said.

“Estate planning is very important. We stay current with the changes in Medicare and other laws affecting senior citizens and their families. It’s very necessary for seniors to see a financial planner and other elder law specialists. By planning ahead, thousands of dollars of an estate can be saved for a relative few dollars in fees. Our clients leave our office with a huge burden lifted.”

Planning usually includes creating updated wills, deeds, guardianship and life estates. Most major credit cards are accepted, along with checks and cash for payments for service. Aiding Kelly is Kristin Elliott, legal assistant, and Danielle Dominguez, the practice’s bilingual English/Spanish receptionist/secretary.

Kelly attends law conferences on a regular basis to keep up-to-date with his chosen profession’s constant changes. “Being a general practitioner, we cover many different fields of law,” he explained.

Wanting to stand up for people, especially those who can't do so on their own, was Kelly's inspiration to go into the practice of law. "Growing up, I saw people who took advantage of others. I didn't like the bullies. I wanted to help the underdog and give something back to my community."

He serves his community in other ways such as helping with fundraisers. Kelly has been a First United Methodist of Corsicana trustee, Navarro County Republican Party chairman and is a past-president of the Corsicana Country Club.

Professional memberships include the State Bar of Texas and the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. He's served as the past-president and treasurer of the Navarro County Bar Association.

A 1976 honor graduate of Corsicana High School, Kelly treasures friendships made through his CISD school days. "Many of my fellow graduates are clients and friends," he said. Kelly earned a bachelor's degree in pre-law/history from Texas Tech University, graduating *magna cum laude*. He then earned his law degree from Texas Tech School of Law.

He and his wife of 31 years, Carol, along with many of their family members, live in this area, and a daughter lives in Amarillo. Kelly and Carol have two grandchildren.

Kelly counts astronomy, gardening, sail boating and travel as hobbies. "Carol and I have traveled to four continents, almost around the world," he said. He has also officiated at football games for more than 30 years. "I enjoy working with the kids," he added.

"I learned integrity and honesty from Terry Means, my partner when I started my practice," Kelly recalled. "From my family I gained a service mentality, and along the way, I've met a lot of good people in the Corsicana area. I love people, and I love helping them." **NOW**

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TravelNOW

A Canadian Adventure

— By Alf Blanchard

From the stunning red cliffs, the miles of red and champagne beaches and the vibrant small-city scenes, there is only one way to describe Prince Edward Island — magical. If driving, you will be pleasantly surprised at the beauty of the highway. It takes you through towns and villages, scenic landscapes and coastal views. Every journey on the island is as special as the destination. Driving along the highway or one of the designated coastal drives, you will see a small glimpse of life on Prince Edward Island, and it will make you feel the need to explore.

Prince Edward Island is also known as Canada's Food Island. Once you take a bite of what the island has to offer, you will undoubtedly understand why. Not

only is the island abundant with fresh ingredients such as mussels, oysters and potatoes, artisanal cheeses, breweries, wineries and distilleries, its views will also take your breath away. Every September, you can attend Fall Flavours Festival, which includes the International Shellfish Festival. Visitors from all over the world come to enjoy these festivals.

The size of Prince Edward Island is one of its greatest assets. You can taste fresh seafood in a small fishing town and still only be a short drive to the capital city of Charlottetown for experiencing live music, theater and bars.

Visitors can spend their time basking in the sun on one of the 90 beaches, listening to the waves crash and

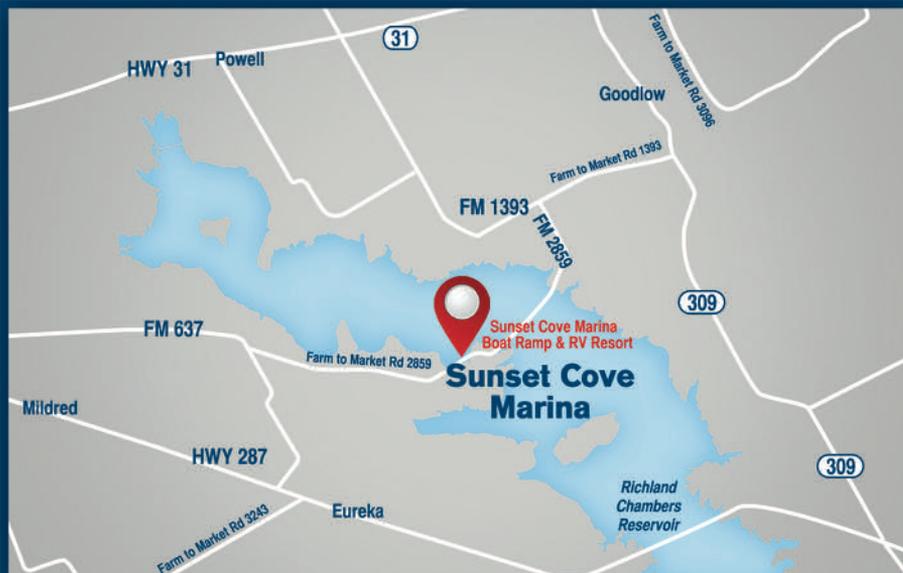
digging their toes in the sand. Prince Edward Island isn't just for relaxation though. Get your heart racing with paddleboarding, kiteboarding, hiking or cycling. The Confederation Trail is built on an abandoned railway that goes across the entire Island. It's 269 miles of rolled stone-dust surface — an incredibly unique way to experience Prince Edward Island.

If all that adventure isn't enough, Tourism Prince Edward Island offers hands-on activities led by local community leaders. Jigs & Reels, where you join Captain and multi-instrumentalist J.J. Chaisson onboard his boat, *Chaisson A Dream*, is one such activity. Learn about traditional music, step dancing and how to play a musical instrument.

At the Table Culinary Studio in New London, one can take classes or have an experiential meal. For instance, Marilla's Table — A Taste of the Past, begins with a visit to the birthplace of L.M. Montgomery, author of *Anne of Green Gables*, to see what life was like in Anne and Marilla's time, and ends with an authentic meal made from locally grown organic vegetables, while listening to stories from a historian who specializes in Montgomery history.

Speaking of Anne, if the book holds a special place in your heart, you will enjoy visiting the island. Head over to Green Gables Heritage Place and feel like you are part of the story, or visit the Anne of Green Gables Museum (operated by relatives of Lucy Maud Montgomery and part of the inspiration for the world-famous novel). In Charlottetown, see Anne on stage at the Confederation Centre of the Arts in *Anne of Green Gables — The Musical™*, or watch love bloom at the Guild in *Anne & Gilbert*.

Love and magic await you in Canada. Come find your adventure on Prince Edward Island. For more details, visit www.tourismpei.com. **NOW**



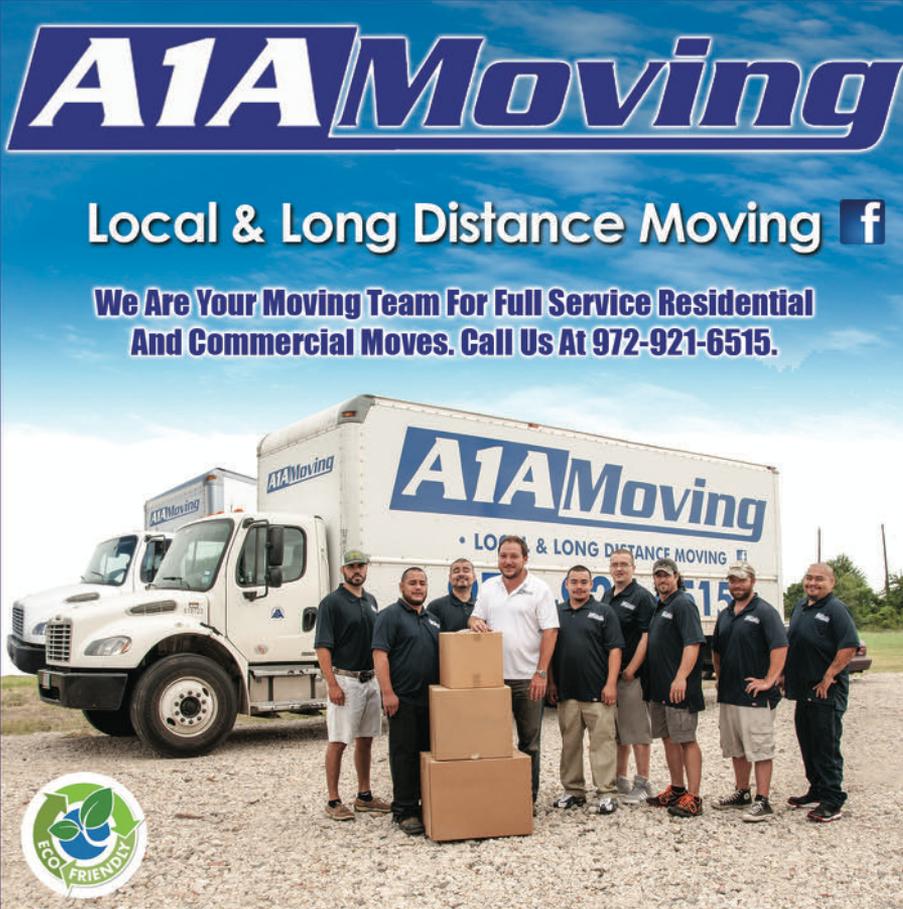
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A New Way to Landscape

— By Zachary R. Urquhart

Landscaping can be one of the most time-consuming tasks for homeowners. Pulling weeds and trimming bushes are jobs that are seemingly never really finished. Instead of planting flowers, consider adding hardscapes, decorative structures or materials that add a different kind of beauty to your yard.

Patios and Walkways

• *Create a Walkway.* One of the simplest ways to enhance part of your property is with a patio or walkway. The most permanent route is to pour concrete, possibly even covering your new space with an awning or gazebo. For a simpler DIY project, you can lay stones to make your new walkway or patio.

• *Do It Yourself the Right Way.* If you decide to lay your own stone, there are some important choices to make.

You can buy square or rectangle stones and lay them end to end, leaving no space between. Or, you might want a more irregular stone, which necessitates putting a material like pebbles or crushed granite in the gaps. Whatever your finished product is, your first step should be laying down weed blocker. And the key to a solid, level walking surface is getting a good foundation of sand before you put your stones down.

Build What You Need

• *Add Form to Function.* Sometimes, hardscapes can be as much about necessity as beauty. If you need to build a retaining wall, you will want to carefully plan your project. Including pipe for drainage is essential, as is tamping down the soil while you backfill to cut down on the land's settling making your wall uneven. And to improve the aesthetic value, spread out any stones that are slightly discolored to give the wall a more artistic look.

• *Check for Codes and Cables.* If you decided to build stairs, retaining walls over a few feet or are pouring a new driveway, do not start the work on a whim. For some larger projects, city codes may dictate size restrictions and what materials you can use. For projects that require significant digging or trenching, you should always call 8-1-1 first, so you can ensure there are no pipes or cables underneath your project area.

Accent Pieces

• *Create Some Counterspace.* If you admire your friend's outdoor kitchen, but building something that large is not an option, consider building an outdoor island. Find a space, get your measurements and use simple right angles to design a counter for food prep. Large hardware stores and lumber suppliers will generally make cuts for you, so you will only have to put the wood together yourself. And if you want to add a small refrigerator underneath, it is easy enough to install an exterior outlet by tapping into an existing outlet inside.

• *Create a Buzz With a Blaze.* If you want to add something fun that can be a conversation piece, fire pits are a great and relatively simple project idea. Unless your pit is going on top of existing hardscape, you should dig about a foot into the ground, then add sand as a foundation for the stones. Be sure your stones are at least 12 inches above ground level to ensure a safe barrier between your fire and your yard.

If you need design help for whatever hardscape ideas you have, sites like Pinterest are flush with pictures and plans perfect for builders of all levels. With all the options available, hardscaping your lawn is a great way to put your personality into your property. **NOW**

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Zoomed In: Sirvella Monie

By Virginia Riddle

Described often by Corsicana residents as a city's treasure, Sirvella Monie has lived in her adopted hometown for the past 29 years and serves on the city's planning and zoning board. She's often seen volunteering at Corsicana's Boys and Girls Club or around town at Opry and Main Street events. "I'm a people person," Sirvella explained. "I love to help, especially with people who have no jobs."

A smile, a friendly greeting or a dance when the music starts playing — that's Sirvella! A licensed massage therapist, she professes to love old books and things. At 82 years young, with no other family living in Corsicana, to Sirvella, everyone's family. "I just love working and living here," she concluded.



Ruth Slovak enjoys Princess Day at Glenda's Beauty Salon and Gifts.



John Beck, Chapter 1009 Vietnam Veterans of America scholarship recipient, is congratulated by Vernon Strebeck.



The Congirls of CCC's 2018 Summer Event are a rousing success.



Meg Funderburk and Harley Elise host the Christmas in July Main Street event at Turquoise Pistol Boutique.

NOW



Even the veggies are a work-of-art when the Corsicana Art League gathers for a day of painting.



Nikki Humphries, Bella Garcia, Shawn Humphries and Murphy the dog stroll through I.O.O.F. Park.



It's food, fun and fellowship at Senior Circle potlucks.



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1 — 15

June Cade: Artist Retrospective: 5:30-7:30 p.m., Pearce Museum. Free admission reception will be held on **September 13**. For more details, visit pearcemuseum.com.

4

Adult Knitting Circle: 6:00 p.m. Corsicana Public Library. Bring your needlework of any kind, drink tea, listen to music, relax and unwind. Call (903) 654-4810.



7

Senior Circle Pot Luck: 11:30 a.m., Navarro Regional Hospital Classrooms. Contact Connie Beal at (903) 654-6892.

The OTHERS Concert: 7:30 p.m., Corsicana Opry. For more details, visit www.corsicanaopry.com.

Adult Summer Reading Achievement Party: 6:00-8:00 p.m., Corsicana Public Library. Call (903) 654-4810.

8

Angels of Corsicana Troop Support packing: 9:00 a.m., 1020 N. Bus. I45. Call Jean O'Connor at (903) 851-2560 or visit the group's Facebook page.

Mimosas at the Market: 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., downtown Corsicana. This event is sponsored by the Main Street Program and Miles Furniture. Call (903) 654-4852.

13

Ben and Noel Haggard in Concert: 7:30 p.m., The Palace Theatre. For more details, call (903) 874-7792 or visit www.corsicanapalace.com.



13 — 22

Doublewide, Texas: 7:30 p.m., Warehouse Living Arts Center. Call (903) 872-5421.

15

MLK Center's Country Breakfast Fundraiser: 8:00-11:00 a.m., MLK Center. Tickets are \$5. Contact Ruby Williams at (903) 467-7156.

Navarro Fiber Friends meeting: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Corsicana Senior Activity Center. Contact Beth Barrows (210) 422-1775 or visit their Facebook page.

100 Years: A Chamber Anniversary Gala: 6:00 p.m., I.O.O.F. Event Center. Call (903) 874-4731.

17

Corsicana Art League meeting: 6:00 p.m., Warehouse Living Arts Center. Visit the groups Facebook page.

18

Navarro Regional Hospital Senior Circle 10th Anniversary Diamonds in the Sky Gala: 4:00-5:30 p.m., vendors; 6:00-8:00 p.m. Contact Connie Beal at (903) 654-6892.



Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1009 meeting: 7:00 p.m., LaPradera Restaurant. Email Roy Messick at roy.messick@gmail.com.

22

A Taste of Corsicana: 6:00-9:30 p.m., downtown Corsicana. Enjoy culinary samples. Purchase tickets on FB at Taste of Corsicana.

Corsicana Newcomers' Club 4th Annual Denim & Diamonds Social: 6:30 p.m., Corsicana Opry. Call Annie Avery at (714) 345-6707.

Neal McCoy: 7:30 p.m., The Palace Theatre. For more details, visit 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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Corsicana Newcomers' Club 4th Annual Denim & Diamonds Social: 6:30 p.m., Corsicana Opry. Call Annie Avery at (714) 345-6707.

Neal McCoy: 7:30 p.m., The Palace Theatre. For more details, visit 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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