# Corsicanalo

Eclectic Entertainer

SEPTEMBER 2020

Easy, relaxing music is raising this local artist's star

> In the Kitchen With McKenzie Olsen

> > Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt

Kids' Fun Page

Crossword/Sudoku

Featured Business: Goin' Postal

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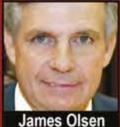
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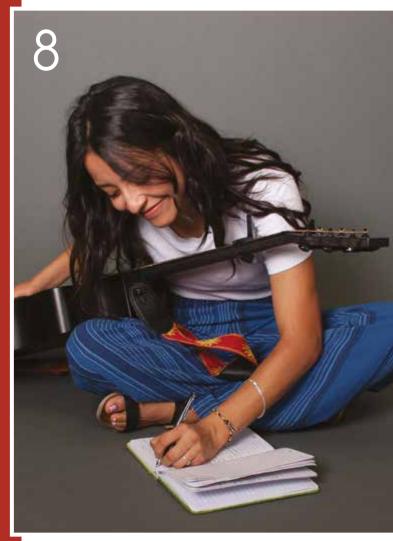
**ECLECTIC ENTERTAINER** 

Performer, composer and teacher— Veronica Reyes is busy.

BUSINESSNOW Goin' Postal

16 AROUND **TOWNNOW** 

20 COOKINGNOW McKenzie Olsen



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#### ON THE COVFR

Veronica Reyes loves jamming in Corsicana's pocket parks.

#### Photo by

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











Annie, thank you for your many years of service. You will forever be missed.

Happy Retirement!







Chasity, see you in a year!
We are proud of you and know you will do great as a Navarro College LVN student. Good Juck!





### **EDITOR'S NOTE**

Welcome to September's sizzle!

Stay cool, calm and well this month, while drinking in the early morning and evening sun. Fall temps are around the corner. In the meantime, I want to relish homemade peach ice cream and watermelon. How are those tomatoes and herbs everyone planted last spring doing? Water is the key to getting your tomato vines to last through this heat until the cooler October days. Tomato plants will give you one more round of tasty treasures.

As I venture out a little more after my self-isolation, I'm not as easily recognized. No, I didn't get a facelift, but I did take time to have cataract surgeries on both eyes, so I don't have to wear glasses for distance for the first time since second grade. Going it alone due to COVID-19 restrictions was a little nerve-racking, but the medical staff couldn't have been more wonderful in every way. Friends who had had the surgery told me the experience of seeing enhanced colors and the leaves on trees again would be miraculous, and they were right.

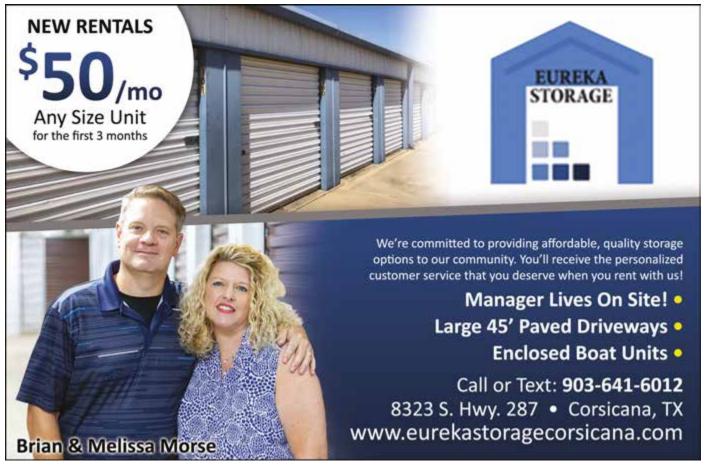
One of the advantages of our changing lifestyle due to COVID-19 is more patio time. I have always enjoyed patios, and often work from mine, surrounded by nature and music. Patio dining is popular in the Southwest and one of the things I love about the region. Now I see more restaurants offering sidewalk and patio dining here. It's a little warm for a late lunch or early dinner, but we have anytime dining to look forward to in this coming fall.

Enjoying the world through new eyes!



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From her covers of Frank Sinatra to The Cranberries' music, this local artist's star is rising in Corsicana's art scene. Veronica Reyes, a bilingual third-year kindergarten teacher at Carroll Elementary School, is also steadily working on her own portfolio of music and is beginning to collaborate with other area musicians to create new sounds. "I'm pretty eclectic when I select songs, but everything I select or compose is good to listen to," Veronica said. "I love when my audience gets involved in the mood."

A Corsicana native and daughter of Armando and Juana Reyes, Veronica doesn't remember when she first started singing but does recall singing the usual kids' songs during the "fuzzy" memories of her toddler days and singing in church. "Then I learned Whitney Houston songs, "My Heart Will Go On" from *Titanic* and my dad's music," Veronica recalled. She covers Fleetwood Mac, Aerosmith and Sinatra songs still today. "Blue Bayou' is my favorite out of all my Dad's music that 'sprinkled' on me," she added.

Along the way, Veronica learned to play the guitar and ukelele with a thumb pick, having been born with only a thumb on her right hand. Her pastor tutored her and let her borrow the church's old guitar until Armando recognized her talent and how serious she was and bought her one. However, she's self-taught, mostly from practice and Googling what she needed to know. Veronica can also play keyboard and the harmonica. "I have learned to play whatever instruments I need for my sets," she said. "I tell people I dabble with a lot of instruments but am a master of none."

A product of Corsicana ISD, Veronica is a member of the CHS Class of 2014. She started learning to relate to her audience through Frances Dodd's drama classes at Collins Middle School. During her high school days, however, Veronica chose sports — volleyball and cross-country — over drama classes until her senior year. "I was in the One-Act play directed

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by Mrs. Mac," Veronica recalled. "Thanks to her I learned composure, being aware of my entire body and making eye contact — all things that transfer into other lifetime activities. I sang at the CHS talent show and even my friends were surprised."

Veronica's first paying gig came when she was invited to play at a bookstore in downtown Nacogdoches during her days at Stephen F. Austin State University. "I didn't even have the tip jar idea, but I recieved \$14 in tips that day!" she remembered. Since returning home to teach, Veronica has contiued singing at church, weddings, open mic nights at coffee shops and at Angelita Vineyard and Winery, Mimosas at the Market and the Moontower at a Hull Creative Arts Foundation fundraiser. "I love performing when I can get really comfortable and see others feeling the music," she said. "It's all about communicating."

Covers are great, but Veronica is venturing into the world of composing. "Composing is hard, and I'm my biggest critic," she explained. "However, I like telling a story about myself or someone else. Everyone in the audience gets a different message from the story." When asked if the lyrics or the music came first, she replied, "The first time I composed it was the lyrics, like poetry, that came to me, but then with another song, it was the chords that came first. I asked a friend if I could tell her story, and she loved the song I wrote."

Balancing teaching, performing, composing and decorating her newly purchased home had been a timemanagement challenge for Veronica until COVID-19 quarantine orders came.





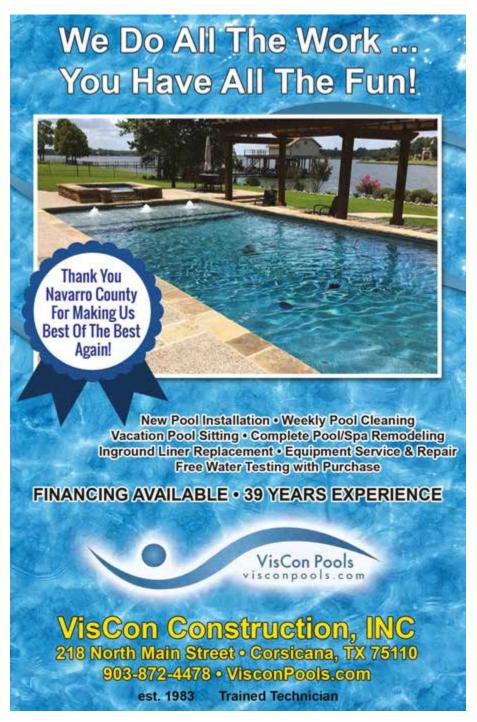
"Teaching online was a hard transition," she related. "Kindergarten isn't meant to be experienced via computer, but mostly, I just missed my kiddos. We were having such a great year, and I was looking forward to finishing it out strong with them." Returning to her classroom this month may be equally difficult. "Being near to share, explore and nuture is how we thrive in kindergarten," she added.

Musically, with her scheduled shows cancelled and collaborating in person with other musicians forbidden, Veronica found solace beyond her frustration by doing more "taking in." "I started really listening to music again and playing and singing for myself," she said. "I've been meeting my talented friend, Noe Sanchez, to play music together at places like Pocket Park, where we practice social distancing. I hadn't realized I had been needing to be poured into after so much pouring out."

Her family, including her five siblings, are close. "I love Corsicana's hospitality; its downtown, parks and sunsets; and just crossing paths with people I've known," Veronica said. In her spare time, she enjoys doodling, cartooning, painting and journaling. She visits Mexico annually to visit family and has traveled to Costa Rica, New Mexico, California, Arkansas and Colorado. "My goal is to experience New York City, Europe and Africa someday," she added.

Music's a shared experience in her classroom. Veronica performs at Carroll Elementary events and uses music's sound, energy, vibrations and lyrics to communicate with her students. Selfdescribed as a work-in-progress, Veronica advises others, "COVID-19 has really shaken up our worlds, but the more I evolve and adjust to this new normal, the more I feel in control of my life again. Love each other and yourself, and give yourself permission to be you." NOW











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### **BusinessNOW**

# Goin' Postal

By Virginia Riddle

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Have you become an online shopper during COVID-19? Stressed with merchandise that needs to be returned and the fact that some of the companies use UPS and some send returns by FedEx and USPS? Goin' Postal answers this problem by being Corsicana's one-stop shop for shipping by UPS, FedEx, USPS and DHL, and drop-offs are always free. "We offer service through all these shippers and find the best rate for

each customer," Deanna Kirk, store manager and owner, said. "We're your friendly neighborhood shipping center."

Other services include making vinyl banners and adhesive vinyls, binding, photo printing, packing, certified and regular mailing, mailbox rental, laminating, printing, copying, shredding, scanning and notary service. "We carry Leanin' Tree greeting cards and puzzles, packing and mailing boxes, bubble wrap, packing peanuts, stamps and a few gift items," Deanna added. "We're authorized by the carriers, and the company we use for shredding is licensed and bonded. They shred documents in their truck while parked at our store." Goin' Postal accepts cash, checks and most major credit cards. The business is a Corsicana & Navarro County Chamber of Commerce member.

Sporting the red, white and blue American flag theme, Goin' Postal's one-story building and curbside parking give customers ease of access with packages. There's even a parking space reserved for U.S. military veterans! Customers are greeted by

Deanna; her daughter, Kate Pawlowski, the assistant manager; and Aaron Hanes. Deanna's mom and stepfather, Nancy and Haskell Dighton, are partners in the business. "My family came to Corsicana in the early '70s, and my father worked at First National Bank," Deanna recalled. "Four generations of my family live, work and go to schools in Navarro County. Goin' Postal loves to support our community and especially our youth in various ways."

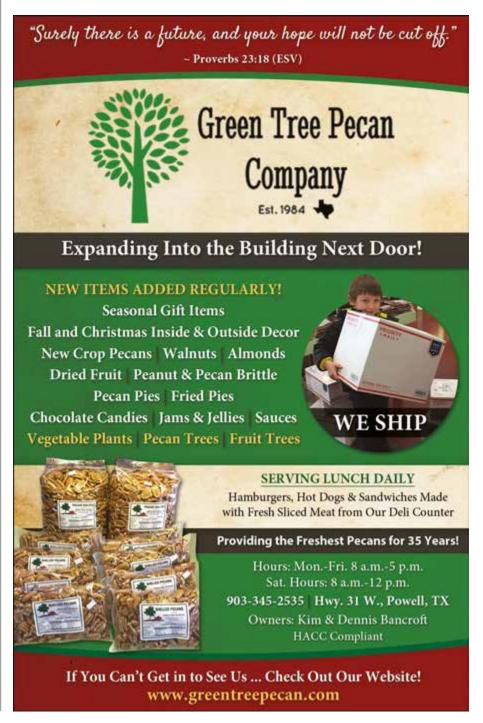
### We're your friendly neighborhood shipping center.

For 17 years, Deanna worked for the Corsicana Daily Sun, and Kate worked for Corsicana Bedding for seven years. "We were ready for a change," Deanna remarked. "Through the newspaper and now in this position, I enjoy meeting people I otherwise wouldn't have known. Kate and I feel our particular gifts of remembering people and paying attention to detail are especially useful in this business." While solving customers' needs can be daunting, Deanna and her staff enjoy the challenge.

A franchise headquartered in Zephyrhills, Florida, Goin' Postal was started in 2002 by a British fellow, Marcus Price, who sought the American dream. "The Dightons; my husband, Will; and I spent a week in the Zephyrhills store training to operate the business," Deanna recalled. She and her family looked at other shipping service opportunities but found Goin' Postal a perfect fit and opened their location in May 2019. "With Goin' Postal, we could offer Corsicana competitive service through all four carriers," Deanna said.

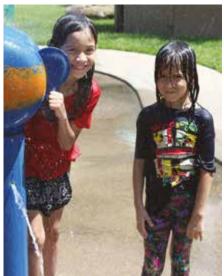
"We strive to create a quick, courteous convenience for our customers, while living up to Goin' Postal's slogan, 'Delivering the Best of America.' If you're in a rush, that's our priority, but if you like to linger and visit, we'll put on a pot of coffee!" NOW







# **Around Town**



Genisis and Adriana Noguez enjoy Community Spray Park on a hot summer day.

# **Zoomed In:** Lindsay Dornak

By Virginia Riddle

When the Corsicana Public Library reopened for patrons to come through the doors, Lindsay Dornak, a librarian, was happy. The librarians kept working through COVID-19 restrictions, but Lindsay stated, "I was tired of quiet! Everyone's going to enjoy the newly catalogued materials and the relaxing, open reading areas." Upon moving to Corsicana three years ago, Lindsay found her perfect fit at the library. "I've always been an avid reader, along with my mom," she revealed. "I applied for the job, and the rest is history.

An El Campo, Texas, native, she enjoys veggie gardening, working on her house, hanging out with her boyfriend and dogs and camping. "People are so welcoming here," Lindsay said. "When I go into stores, I feel like I've lived here all my life."



Kamar and Kisha (not pictured) Chambers, owners of K&K Bar-B-Que, were the winners of the 2020 BBQ Taste Off.



Masks and gloves become standard staff attire at CISD.



A ribbon cutting was held at The Browsery Co. located at 312 N. Beaton.



Just in time for school to start, seamstresses learn to make backpacks at Sarah Mae Fabrics.



United Methodist Women members, Anne Shelton and Lana Stites, mail boxes of donations to the Good Neighbor House at the Texas border.



Zane Faulhaber shares his talents with Saturday guests at the Butcher Block Market & Cafe.



Corsicana Art League members celebrate the Outdoor Painters Society's art exhibit at the WLAC Gallery.







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After becoming a mother, Corsicana native McKenzie Olsen became passionate about cooking. "Growing up, I spent time with my Mema and remember watching her take leftovers and create something wonderful," McKenzie said.

During COVID-19 stay-at-home days, those memories inspired McKenzie to create two online cooking groups, Cooking During Quarantine and The Daily Dinner Bell-VIP Group. "I tend to get a recipe in my head and put a spin on it to make it kid-friendly," she stated. McKenzie is a Pampered Chef consultant and owns a pet sitting business.

McKenzie loves watching her kids work with their show steers and play sports. She also works in the garden with her husband. "Cooking for my family is my love language," she said. "I love teaching my kiddos how to be independent and confident little chefs."

#### **Semi-Sloppy Joe Sliders**

- 1 lb. hamburger meat, or more to make the sliders meatier
- 1/3 cup ketchup
- 1/3 cup water
- 2 Tbsp. tomato paste
- 2 1/2 Tbsp. brown sugar
- 1/2 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce Garlic salt, to taste (optional)
- Onion powder, to taste (optional) Salt, to taste (optional)

- Pepper, to taste (optional)
- 1 12-count pkg. Hawaiian rolls or potato roll sliders
- 6 slices cheese (3 pepper jack/
- 3 American)
- 1 cup shredded Mexican blend cheese Melted butter, as needed
- **1.** In a skillet, brown the hamburger meat; drain. Add the ketchup, water, tomato paste, brown sugar, Worcestershire sauce and any preferred seasonings to meat; mix well.

- **2.** Cut the rolls in half; place each roll's bottom half in a 9x13-inch casserole dish; add cheese slices to each roll.
- **3.** Cover the cheese slices with the meat mixture; top with shredded cheese; add each roll's other half.
- **4.** Brush roll tops with melted butter. Cover with foil; bake at 350 F for 20 minutes, or until the cheese is melted and the rolls are toasted.

#### My Family's Favorite Banana Pudding

- 3 cups cold milk
- 1 3-oz. pkg. Jell-O Instant Banana Cream Pudding & Pie Mix
- 1 3-oz. pkg. Jell-O Instant White Chocolate Pudding & Pie Mix
- 1 14-oz. can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 8-oz. tub Cool Whip, thawed
- 1 11-oz. box Nilla Wafers (divided use)
- 5 bananas, sliced
- **1.** In a large bowl, mix the milk, pudding mixes and sweetened condensed milk with a hand mixer set on low.
- **2.** Add the Cool Whip; continue mixing until smooth. Set mixture aside to set up before pouring into the dish.

- **3.** Line the bottom and sides of a 9x13-inch casserole-style dish with Nilla Wafers. Add a layer of bananas to the dish's bottom and sides. Tip: More or less bananas can be added as preferred.
- **4.** Stir pudding mixture again before pouring into the prepared dish.
- **5.** In a bowl, crush the remaining Nilla Wafers; top the pudding mixture with the crushed wafers.
- **6.** Cover the banana pudding; chill in the refrigerator. It will be ready to eat within the hour, but if chilled longer, it will be softer.

## Pumpkin Chocolate Chip Cookies

I cup canned pumpkin

1 cup white sugar

1/2 cup vegetable oil

1 egg

I cup all-purpose flour

2 tsp. baking powder

2 tsp. ground cinnamon

1/2 tsp. salt

1/2 tsp. baking soda

1/2 tsp. bak 1 tsp. milk

1 Tbsp. vanilla

2 cups semisweet chocolate chips

- **I.** In a large bowl, combine the pumpkin, sugar, vegetable oil and egg.
- **2.** In a separate bowl, stir together the flour, baking powder, ground cinnamon and salt.
- **3.** In a third bowl, dissolve the baking soda with the milk; stir into the flour mixture.
- **4.** Add the flour mixture to the pumpkin mixture; blend well. Add the vanilla and chocolate chips.
- **5.** Drop by spoonfuls onto a greased cookie sheet; bake at 350 F for approximately 13-18 minutes, or until lightly brown and firm.

#### **Cast-Iron Skillet Potatoes**

6-8 gold potatoes, peeled and cubed 8 slices bacon
1 stick butter
1/2 Tbsp. garlic salt
1/2 Tbsp. onion powder
1 tsp. Season-All salt
Salt, to taste
Pepper, to taste

- **I.** In a large pot, boil the potatoes on the stovetop for approximately 8 minutes.
- **2.** Cook the bacon by preferred method. Drain; reserve the grease. Chop the bacon into bite-size pieces.
- **3.** Potatoes should be cooked but not overly soft; drain. Add potatoes to a large bowl.
- **4.** Add the remaining ingredients, bacon and grease to the potatoes. Thoroughly mix until

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the butter is melted. Tip: Don't mash the potatoes too much, but they are good no matter what.

**5.** Add the mixture to a cast-iron skillet; place the skillet on a grill over high heat (approximately 400 F) for 15-20 minutes.

## Slow Cooker Chicken and Chips

- 4-6 frozen chicken breasts
- 1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese 1 15.25-oz. can whole
- kernel corn, undrained
- 1 10-oz. can Ro-Tel tomatoes

# I 1-oz. pkg. taco seasoningI 1-oz. pkg. ranch seasoningI 13-oz. bag tortilla chips

- **1.** Place the chicken breasts into a slow cooker; add the cream cheese, corn, Ro-Tel tomatoes and two seasoning package contents.
- **2.** Cover; cook on high for 4 hours. Remove the chicken; shred the meat. Return it to the slow cooker. Mix all ingredients well; cook for 30 additional minutes. Serve over tortilla chips.

### Pepper, to taste 40 pepperoni slices

- **1.** Preheat the oven to 350 F. Prepare a 9x13-inch casserole dish with cooking spray.
- **2.** Combine the spaghetti squash, marinara sauce, ground beef and sausage and 2 cups mozzarella cheese. Season with salt and pepper. Stir well; pour mixture into casserole dish.
- **3.** Top mixture with remaining mozzarella cheese; add a single layer of pepperoni slices.
- **4.** Bake for 25-30 minutes, or until hot and bubbly. Remove from the oven; let cool for 5 minutes before serving.

#### Spaghetti Squash Pizza Casserole

#### **Cooking spray**

- 4 cups spaghetti squash flesh, cooked
- 1 24-oz. jar marinara sauce
- 1/2 lb. ground beef, cooked, drained and crumbled
- 1/2 lb. ground sausage, cooked, drained and crumbled
- 3 cups mozzarella cheese, shredded (divided use)

Salt, to taste

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### **Crossword Puzzle**

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
11	1	+	+	1		12		$\vdash$	T	1
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Solutions on page 28

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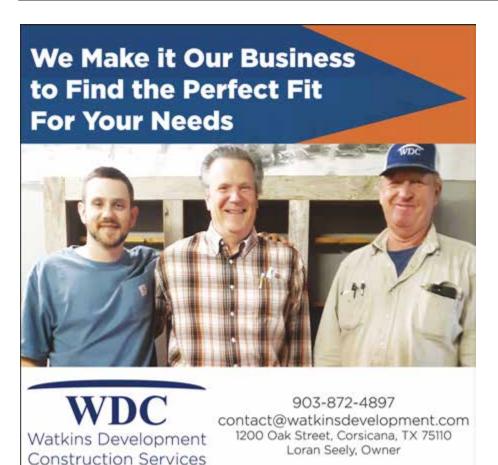
#### Across

- 1 Taffylike
- 6 Nautical entrance
- 11 What the Jumblies went to sea in
- 12 03
- 13 Belief of more than a billion
- 14 Promotable chessmen
- 15 Czech runner -- Zátopek
- 17 Mountain plant
- 21 TV trophy
- 25 Country on the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf
- 27 Easterly projection of a church
- 28 Neutralize
- 29 Sends up
- 31 Solo employer of old
- 34 Mournful verse
- 39 What not to build a dam on
- 40 In Montreal, it's "voir"
- 41 Follows orders
- 42 Ahead

#### Down

- 1 Hit CBS forensic series
- 2 That man's
- 3 Fish which might shock you
- 4 Mountain state
- 5 Likely to be an adherent of 13 Across
- 6 Squash blossom tribe
- 7 Acid-loving shrubs
- 8 Unspun fibers
- 9 Wolf Blitzer's channel
- 10 Guys
- 16 Maryland fort
- 17 Hungry bear
- 18 Lick
- 19 Sign of infection
- 20 In the best of all possible worlds
- 22 Bus. deg.
- 23 "Peace", which fell to earth in 2001
- 24 Sweet potato, in the South
- 26 the occasion
- 30 Darlings
- 31 "The X-Files" topic
- 32 Arrest
- 33 Stimulus
- 35 Wolf Man --- Chaney
- 36 Superlative ending
- 37 Former GM marque
- 38 Not nope

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### Sudoku Puzzle

Easy Medium

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

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

For online versions, visit nowmagazines.com

Crosswordsite.com Ltd

Solutions on page 28



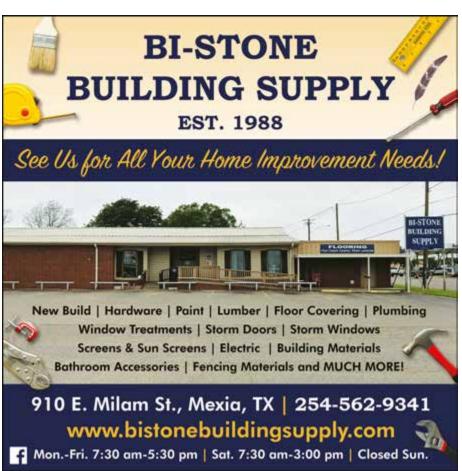






TREC #23469 TPCL #0819776

Reveal the Unknown with a Home Inspection.



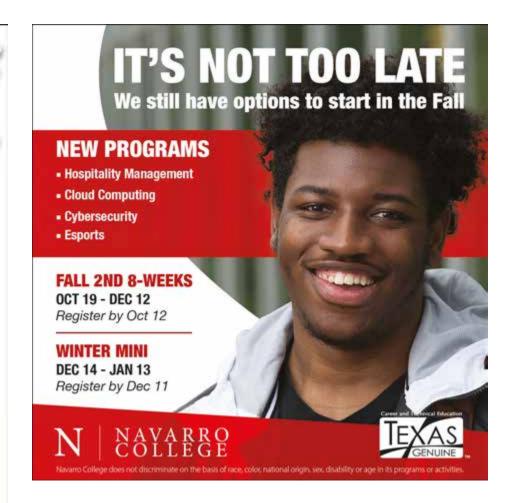
# **SCAVENGER**



Chris Carroll, winner of S50 cash, says, "I like reading CorsicanaNOW to keep up with the community and to see all the stuff going on around town. I always look forward to the magazine every month."



Tracy Watson, winner of \$50 cash, says, "I look forward to getting my CorsicanaNOW each month and playing the Scavenger Hunt game, I enjoy reading about the people and businesses that are featured as well as the recipes. Thank you."



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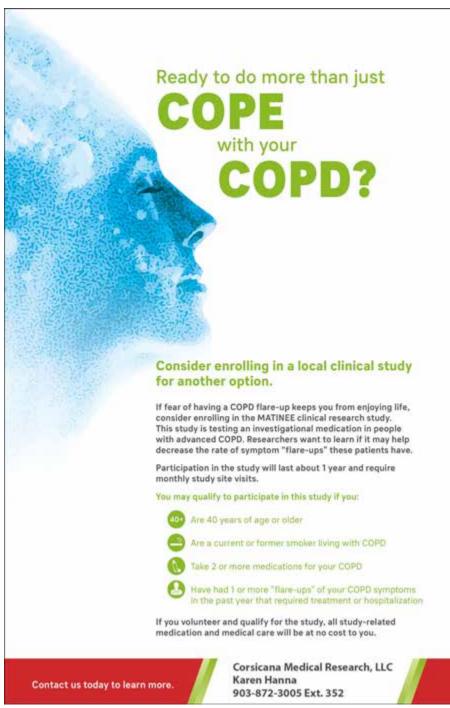




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# Crossword Sudoku Solutions



#### Easy

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

#### Medium

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

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