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M A G A Z I N E

SEPTEMBER 2024

Bonds Beyond

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conversations pair well

In the Kitchen With
Erin Plyer

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt

Crossword

Featured Business:
Tonja Barnebee CPA, PC

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ON THE COVER



For 30 years, this group has explored culinary delights together.

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

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

PHOTOGRAPHY
*Photography Director, Chris McCalla
Photographer, Anthony Sarmienta*

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*Advertising Representatives,
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EDITOR'S NOTE



Virginia

Virginia Riddle
CorsicanaNOW Editor
virginia.riddle@nowmagazines.com
(903) 875-0187

Hello to fall!

And to all my fellow grandparents! Aren't we privileged to be a part of future generations in our families? The first Sunday following Labor Day each year is Grandparents Day. I love seeing all the photos on social media that week of grandparents eating lunch with their grandkids at schools.

During every summer, for at least one month, our church choir "takes off" and doesn't sing, which allows for some of us to fill in with solos or duets during the special music time. It was my turn recently. I chose to honor my Great-grandmother Fannie Madora Webb Crunk at my church by singing one of her favorite hymns, "Blessed Assurance," and telling a little bit about my great-grand and Fanny Crosby, that hymn's lyricist. Born two years after the Civil War, Grandmother Crunk, as we all called her, grew up on our family's farm/ranch near Waco when west of Waco was still truly Texas frontier. By the time I was born, she was 80 years old and bedridden from a farm accident, but that didn't stop us kids from climbing into her hospital bed every morning after farm chores and breakfast. She told us stories from living those many years and from the Bible. We played stacks of RCA Victor 45 RPM recordings of Southern gospel hymns, including "Blessed Assurance." Before she died at age 88, I knew, as I still do, *all* the verses to all those hymns. What a treasured time that was!

My youngest daughter grew up to those hymns, which I sang as her lullabies. She wears Grandmother Crunk's wedding ring as a pinkie ring these days. I hope you, dear readers, have treasured moments with grandparents, and that you may continue to make new memories among your families' generations.

Have a wonderful month!



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BONDS BEYOND

— By Virginia Riddle

The polished table glows softly, lit by flickering candles. The silver, crystal and china place settings gleam as the men take their places around the table. This is often the scene the nine current members of Corsicana's Men's Food Group have enjoyed over the past 30 years since the group was organized. "The group at first was really into gourmet, but now we don't like to spend that much prep time, so it's more fellowship," John Yates, a longtime member, explained. "Also, our diet is getting affected by age. We need to buy more blenders!"

"We were organized by the infamous Dr. Joe Glicksman," Dr. Harold Housley, an original member, said. Joe liked food and liked to eat, so for several of those first years, we met every Tuesday evening, then every other Tuesday and finally have settled on monthly meetings due to the work involved." The current membership includes Harold, John, Hugh

Stroube, Joe Erwin, Steve Keathley, Miran Sedlacek, Mark Jordan, Mickey Hillock and Jim Pannell.

"We come from all different walks of life and like to invite men as guests and members who have different perspectives," John added. "However, this is an expensive commitment, and we want it to be good and enjoyable for all members."

The organization operates loosely with Joe, the secretary-scribe, producing a schedule of meetings/hosts each year after the January meeting. Conflicts and changes after that are texted to group members. Every member gets an assigned monthly dinner to plan and host in the coming 12 months. "We take December off to host one special travel meeting for our wives who do so much of the work," John said.

"Joe Glicksman's original thought was to collectively gather to cook the food," Harold recalled. "He liked to discuss how things were paired and the herbs used." For over 30 years, however, it's worked for the host to choose the venue, select the food and wines and plan a unique and quality dinner with appropriate decor, dinnerware and a bar. "The host can choose a restaurant, club or host the dinner at their home," Harold added. "The meal can be prepared by the host and/or his wife or be catered."

Typically, the group is treated to a reception bar and champagne with hors d'oeuvres, followed by a multicourse meal paired with exceptional wines. Dessert may be served on the patio or poolside with port wine and cigars. "Lively conversations and discussions of current events; local, regional and worldwide politics; individual philosophies, assessments and recommendations are the monthly entertainment," Harold explained. "We might prevent another COVID outbreak, solve world hunger and save the planet. Our discussions become more profound and confusing as the evening wears on."

"Through our monthly meetings and conversations, we've become a band of brothers," John revealed.

"We help each other solve problems, face medical issues and enjoy watching football, including the annual Super Bowl game," Harold said. Some traditions have been created over the



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30 years. Harold always serves oysters, and Steve serves a watermelon salad everyone looks forward to partaking.

While each host does some of the work, these members all wisely recognize and appreciate their wives who bear much of the planning, preparation, serving and cleaning duties. Once a year, the “meeting” becomes an out-of-town trip for the wives to enjoy. Hugh and his wife, Pam, have the “Road Show” travel contacts and suggestions. “We look for a scenic place with shopping, great food and wines and stays,” Hugh stated. “We want to thank our wives for all they do and share time with them, and they share time with each other.” The destinations have included the Texas Hill Country, San Antonio, New Orleans and Pagosa Springs, Colorado.

“Each husband/member picks up the cost for himself and his wife,” John explained. “And 99 percent of the time, there’s no skimping on expense.”

Hugh, a Corsicana native and businessman, has traveled to six continents, but always returns home. “There are people here I know I can

count on, and everything I need is here,” he said. “I joined the men’s group because of the diversity of friends and to have a men’s night out with great food.” Hugh has volunteered through many service and professional boards over the years, and he enjoys golfing,



John, owner of a five-generation building firm, transplanted to Corsicana when he married his wife, Carolyn, 29 years ago. “I loved the small-town charm, but I didn’t know many people. Since I like food, fun and fellowship, I joined the men’s group and have felt

part of the community.” John has sat on city boards, worked with the Boy Scouts at the regional level, is a Rotarian and Corsicana Historical Society board member. He loves to travel, snow ski and hunt.

Harold, and his wife, Lynda, came to Corsicana 45 years ago with Harold’s work. He then started his 22-year career with Navarro College. Now retired and working for Lynda Housley, State Farm, the couple enjoyed raising their children here. “Glicksman and I were good friends,” Harold recalled. “He was special, and I was easy to recruit. Glicksman had a saying, ‘Too much is not enough,’ and he applied that to everything he did.” Harold volunteered in the community through the college and serves through Kiwanis and Meals on Wheels. He enjoys traveling, hunting and time spent at the Hide Out, his and Lynda’s, country place where he has hosted the men grilling steaks.

The purpose of the group is classic. “This men’s group is sincere and comfy,” John stated, “and no matter how we come to each meeting, we leave happy.” **NOW**

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Robyn McGraw, winner of \$50 cash, said, "I enjoy reading *CorsicanaNOW* to see the local happenings, do the puzzles, and try out the scavenger hunt."



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Zoomed In: Wanda Peters

By Virginia Riddle

Formerly of nearby Tool, Texas, Wanda Peters has enjoyed meeting and making new friends in Corsicana during her two years of residency here. “I moved to an apartment to be nearer to my three grandsons, who live in Corsicana,” she said. “I like riding the community transit.”

Wanda has been a homemaker, and she worked for Walmart in California and the *Dallas Times Herald*. “I was also a pilot car driver for oversized loads and worked at a gas station. I’ve done a little of everything,” she recalled.

A cancer survivor, Wanda enjoys people and playing games, especially Mexican Train and Bingo at the Senior Center. She said, “I love going to garage sales to see what interesting things people have.”



Senior Center lunch attendees celebrate Shark Week with Emily Lawhon and a visiting shark!



The Rotary Club of Corsicana presents the Paul Harris Award to members Susan Wilson and Brenna Butler.



Hungry grape harvesters chow down and cool off.



G.W. Jackson-CHS 1971 Class members collect and donate needed supplies to Mary Peterson Child Care Center.



Cool summertime celebrations are happening at the Corsicana YMCA.



Car shows bring visitors to downtown Mexia.



Barbara Kelly enjoys helping harvest grapes at Angelita Winery's Harvest Party.



Even the adults have fun with Corsicana Public Library's magician, James Wand.

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— By Bill Smith

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With over 30 years practicing accounting, Tonja Barnebee and her employees have the experience to be of significant assistance to any small business or individual with their bookkeeping and tax filings. “We encourage people to come to us before they make their next investment, make an asset sale or decide to retire, to discuss what the tax consequences might be,” Tonja advised. “It is important that your investment adviser and CPA work together.”

Tonja and her firm formerly performed a significant amount of audit work that involved travel and a lot of



time. Having made the decision recently to focus on small businesses, nonprofit organizations and individuals, the office has a more relaxed atmosphere. “I love accounting. Since we stopped our audit work, I am actually able to be home on Saturdays now, and tax season is not as stressful,” she continued. “We are able to build great relationships with our clients, and I am very happy that some of them have been with me for 30 years.

“My employees are so important to the firm, and we are like family. When we first opened in Ennis, we had two telephone lines. Phyllis Hammond Stewart, who retired a few years ago just after tax season, used to joke that she had to call one line from the other one just to make sure the phones were working!” Today, the staff has grown with the practice, and includes Office Manager Troy Bullard, Kimberly Spence and Judy Lee.

Small businesses use Tonja Barnebee and her staff as their bookkeeping or payroll department. It helps many of them avoid the extra expense of hiring an in-house bookkeeper. “Businesses come to us with questions, and we will have a

brief interview with them at no cost. We will consider what they need done and may then quote a monthly fee. The monthly fee includes completing their tax returns. Many small businesses like our approach, as it helps them budget their bookkeeping and tax filings more consistently. They do not have to be concerned that there will be a large bill once a year at tax time for forms preparation.”

Tonja continues to give back to her community in various ways. She is a member of the Lions Club, the Chamber of Commerce and her church choir. She also likes to speak to high school students about the need for good bookkeeping and accounting, including pursuing accounting as a career. “I tell them that if they really want to go to college, they can. Much of my education was completed with Pell Grants and other assistance. The opportunity is out there if they want to pursue it.”

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CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With

ERIN PLYER

— By Virginia Riddle

An outdoors girl, Erin Plyer said, “If it’s a nice day, and I don’t have work, you will likely find me in the sunshine.” She enjoys hiking, gardening and riding her motorcycle when not serving as head chef at her mom’s Olive Branch Eatery.

Erin started helping in their home kitchen around age 12. “I use Google for recipe ideas,” she said. “I make it first according to the original recipe. Then I experiment to see what I can do.” She enjoys teaching others to cook and loves creating foods from what she has in her home pantry when cooking for herself. “It’s fun to find new, unexpected pairings,” Erin shared. “I enjoy the creativity of cooking and enjoy making people smile and connect through foods.” **NOW**

Easy Apple Dumplings

Dumplings:

- 2 large Granny Smith apples, peeled and cored**
- 2 10-oz. cans refrigerated crescent roll dough**
- 1 cup butter**
- 1 1/2 cups white sugar**
- 2 tsp. ground cinnamon**

1 12-oz. can or bottle Mountain Dew

Whipped Cream Topping:

- 1 cup heavy whipping cream**
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon**
- 3 Tbsp. powdered sugar**
- 1 tsp. nutmeg (optional)**
- Ice cream, to taste (optional)**

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F. Grease a

9x13-inch baking dish. Place a metal bowl into the freezer to chill. (It will be used for making the whipped cream topping.)

2. *For the dumplings:* Cut each apple into 8 equal wedges; set aside. Separate the crescent roll dough into triangles. Roll each apple wedge into a crescent roll triangle, starting at the smallest end of the triangle. Pinch to seal the triangle; place each triangle into the prepared baking dish.

3. In a small saucepan, melt the butter over low heat. Stir the sugar and cinnamon into the melted butter until the mixture is well combined; pour it over the apple dumplings, followed by the Mountain Dew.

4. Bake the apple dumplings for 35-45 minutes or until golden brown.

5. *For the whipping cream topping:* While the apple dumplings are baking, add the heavy whipping cream to the already chilled metal bowl.

6. Add the cinnamon, powdered sugar and nutmeg, if using; whisk on medium until the cream reaches stiff peaks.

7. Remove the apple dumplings from the

oven; serve them warm with the whipped cream topping and/or favorite ice cream.

Ginger Garlic Noodle Soup

- 1-2 Tbsp. olive oil
- 3 shallots, diced
- 1 bunch green onions (divided use)
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 Tbsp. fresh ginger, minced
- 5 1/2 cups low-sodium chicken or vegetable stock
- 2 whole star anise
- 2 Tbsp. soy sauce or Tamari for gluten free option
- 10-oz. crimini or baby bella mushrooms, sliced
- 6-8 oz. cooked chicken, shredded (optional)
- 6 oz. rice noodles, uncooked
- 1 1/2 heads bok choy, roughly chopped
- Sesame seeds, to taste
- Red pepper flakes, to taste (optional)

1. In a medium-sized stockpot, heat the olive oil over medium heat. Add the shallots; mix well. Cook over medium heat, stirring often, for 4-5 minutes or until the shallots turn translucent and start to soften.
2. Chop the end off each green onion; divide the white parts from the green parts. Chop the green parts for the topping; set aside. Finely chop the white part of each green onion.
3. Add the white part of the green onions, minced garlic and ginger to the shallots; mix well. Cook the mixture, stirring occasionally, for 1-2 minutes or until the garlic and ginger are fragrant.
4. Carefully pour the chicken or vegetable stock into the pot; bring the mixture to a simmer. Add the star anise and soy sauce. Cover; continue to simmer the mixture for 10 additional minutes.
5. Remove the lid; carefully remove and discard each star anise from the soup. Add the mushrooms; chicken, if using; noodles; and bok choy. Simmer for another 5-8 minutes, or until the noodles and bok choy are tender; add any additional favorite seasonings to taste.
6. Divide the soup into bowls; garnish with the sesame seeds, green parts of the green onions and red pepper flakes, if using.

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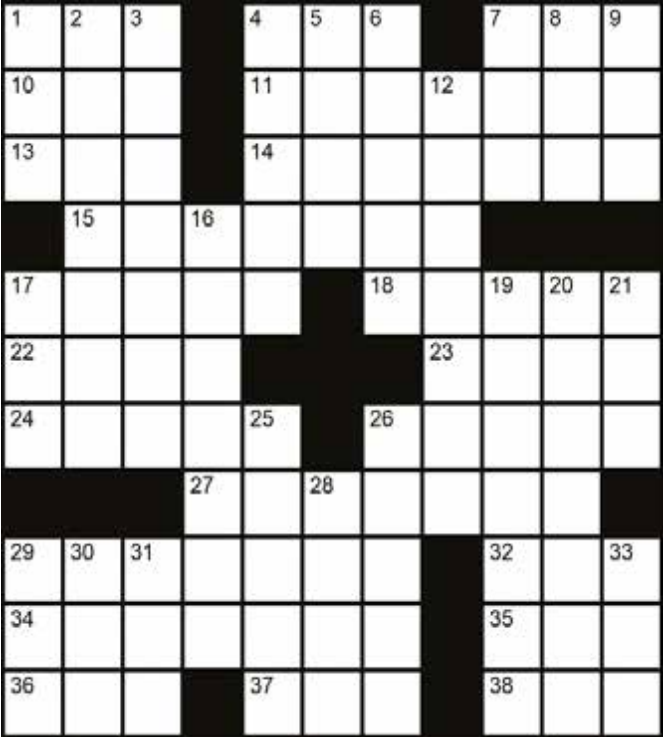
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Crossword Puzzle



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Across

- 1 Tire measure
- 4 Amount of game killed
- 7 Untwisted fiber bundle
- 10 100 cubic feet of a ship's capacity
- 11 Flying fee
- 13 "Cakes and ---" (1930 Somerset Maugham novel)
- 14 Scoffed
- 15 Satellite
- 17 Saturn's largest moon
- 18 Personal belongings
- 22 "It's pretty, but --- Art?" (Kipling)
- 23 Showing unusual talent
- 24 "60 Minutes" reporter
- 26 Tiler's mortar
- 27 Boring mix-up outside
- 29 Supermodel Schiffer
- 32 And not
- 34 Two female Oscar winners share this surname
- 35 CSI evidence
- 36 "The Bottle ---" (R L Stevenson)
- 37 Favorite
- 38 Baste

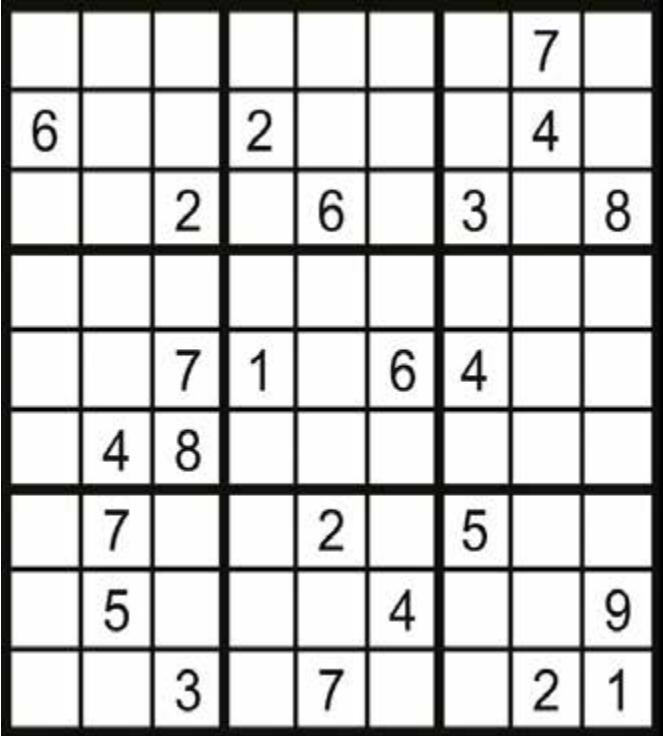
Down

- 1 Bake-sale org.
- 2 Aria singer
- 3 Sluggishness
- 4 Area drained by a river
- 5 "You --- seen nothin' yet!"
- 6 Address
- 7 Cigarette gunk
- 8 Galena, for example
- 9 Tie the knot
- 12 Mondale's 1984 running mate
- 16 Where Marat was murdered
- 17 "--- better to have loved and lost ..." (Tennyson)
- 19 Teens
- 20 "With partner" on some invitations
- 21 Fix
- 25 --- the garden (deceived)
- 26 Huge
- 28 Dreadful
- 29 Greek X
- 30 The only man-carrying Moon lander
- 31 Smartphone download
- 33 Unrefined

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.

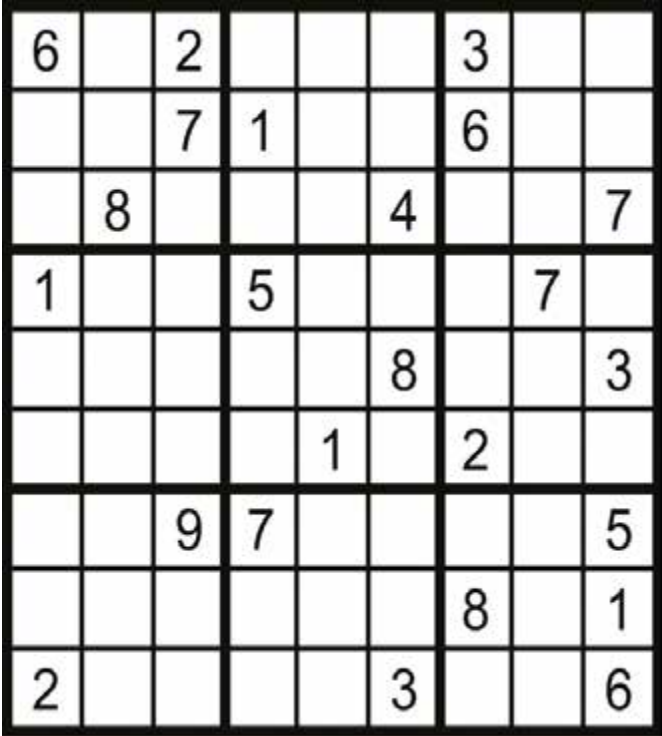
Sudoku Puzzle

Easy



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Medium



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SEPTEMBER

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.

9/3-9/30

Corsicana Public Library Special Events:

Check out the yoga, stitch society, perils and pages, art for the rest of us and book club weekly and monthly offerings. Facebook: Corsicana Public Library.

9/4, 9/11, 9/18

Kinsloe House Luncheons:

Noon, Kinsloe House,
618 W. 3rd Ave.
Reservations required.
www.thekinsloehouse.com.

9/7

Havana Nights:

Proceeds benefit Corsicana
Education Foundation.
6:00-11:30 p.m., I.O.O.F.
Event Center, 601 N. 45th St.
cef@cisd.org.

Vinyl Radio:

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

9/12

Angelita 5K Wine Run:

9:00 a.m.,
254 Shady Creek Lane.
Facebook: Angelita Winery.

9/18

Health Fair:

Free admission. 10:00 a.m.-
2:00 p.m., Cook Center, 3100
W. Collin St. (903) 874-4731.

9/21

Gene Watson:

7:30 p.m., Palace Theatre,
112 W. 6th Ave.
www.corsicanapalace.com.

9/27

Col. Paul Bennett & Eddie Hambrick Golf Tournament:

The Oaks Golf Course,
2509 N. Business 45.
(903) 875-5462.

Tuesdays

Corsicana Lions Club Meeting:

Noon, Sirloin Stockade,
2508 W. 7th St. Facebook:
Corsicana Lions Club.

Wednesdays

Preschool Storytime:

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

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, Corsicana. For details, call
(903) 872-2521.

Third Wednesdays

Senior Fun Day:

For seniors 60-plus years old.
11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., MLK
Center, 114 E. 6th Ave.
(903) 874-4731.

Second Thursdays

Savvy Seniors:

Complimentary lunch, games.
11:30 a.m., Senior Activity
Center, 919 W. Park Ave.
(903) 654-4980.

Fourth Thursdays

Corsicana Newcomers Club Meeting:

11:00 a.m., Kinsloe House,
618 W. 3rd Ave. Annie Avery
(714) 345-6707.

Ladies Night:

5:00-7:30 p.m.,
Downtown Corsicana.
www.visitcorsicana.com.

Second Fridays

Navarro County Retired Teachers Association:

9:45 a.m., Northwest
Apartments Community Center.
glyn84@hotmail.com.

Third Fridays

Better Garden Club:

9:00 a.m.,
Corsicana First Methodist
Church, 320 N. 15th St.
Facebook: Better Garden Club.

First Saturdays

Rainbow Girls & Pledges Masonic Youth Meeting:

New members welcome.
10:00 a.m., Corsicana Masonic
Lodge, 201 N. 15th St.
ddean45@hotmail.com.

Second Saturdays

Mimosas at the Market:

10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.,
Downtown Corsicana.
(903) 654-4851.

Coyote Squadron Meeting:

10:30 a.m., Corsicana
Municipal Airport. Facebook:
Commemorative Air Force
Coyote Squadron.

*Submissions are welcome and
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virginia.riddle@nowmagazines.com.*

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