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NOVEMBER 2013

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2013 Holiday  
Shopping  
Guide

## Running the Course

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cross country team  
runs toward victory

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## ON THE COVER



*Family, friends and feast - it's  
November!*

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## Editor's Note

*Happy Thanksgiving!*

Oh, these happy days of getting together with friends and family! Football, turkey and dressing and a crowded house with lots of laughter and energy are just the recipe for a great holiday. And the best part of all is now that I have grandchildren, I get the day off from cooking to play with the grandkids while my kids do all the cooking and clean up. What a joy!

Many miles separate me from my children, so we can't all be together, even during the holidays. But we have discovered the next best thing — Skype. Instead of gathering around the table, we gather around computers to share our lives. No matter how we are "together," please join my family and me as we give thanks for all the joys of the past year while we look forward to the future.

## Virginia

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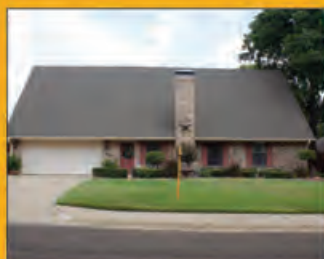
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# RUNNING

## the



Seniors Hunter Hawkins and Jessie DeVries are Blooming Groves' top cross country runners.





# Course

—By Rick Herron

*With the unofficial nickname of “The Town That Time Forgot,” Blooming Grove, Texas, in the northwest corner of Navarro County, prides itself on being able to remain a small oasis. It was that small-town feeling that first attracted Blooming Grove Independent School District Athletic Director Gary Grubbs to the town three years ago, pulling him from his roots in the Odessa Permian area. Since his arrival, he’s watched the school’s sports programs, especially the cross country program, achieve significant success, due largely to each team member’s commitment to succeed. “During competition, the boys in the Blooming Grove Lions cross country program run a 3-mile course, and the girls run a 2-mile course,” Gary explained. “What makes it difficult is the open terrain with its uneven surfaces.”*

The teams compete at seven meets a year, one of which is the district meet. “The top three teams then advance on to the regional meet, and the top two that emerge from the regional meet will go on to the state meet,” Gary explained.

Blooming Grove ISD is comprised of kindergarten through 12th grade, encompassing elementary, middle and high school, all of which are in the same general area close to downtown. According to the [bloominggrovetx.com](http://bloominggrovetx.com) website, the

**“The mental strength each of these kids has is amazing. They all have GREAT POTENTIAL.”**

town itself began “in a store established by R.J. Grady and Sam Andrews shortly after the Civil War. When a post office was established there in 1871, citizens met at the White Church Cemetery to choose a name for the community.” The final choice was based on either a grove of blooming trees in the area or for Blooming, which was the name of the son of a local doctor.

The website goes on to explain that “after 1881, the community moved a mile north to be on the Cotton Belt rail line (officially known as the St. Louis Southwestern Railway) and merged with the community of White Church. The new town grew rapidly from a population of 200 in 1884 to 800 in 1890, when townspeople sought incorporation. The city limits and boundaries were officially set on March 31, 1890.” One hundred years later, in 1990, 847 people called Blooming Grove their home.



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Gary said when the school's former cross country coach, Jodie Hawkins, left for a new position with Baylor University, the school welcomed Blooming Grove native Hayley Harrell as the new cross country and head softball coach in 2012. "Hayley came back home to Blooming Grove from the Kerens school system," Gary said.

Both the Blooming Grove Lions and Lady Lions teams have seen a steady stream of successes in the last few years. "In 2011, the girls' team qualified for regionals. In 2012, the boys won the district meet while the girls won second place, so both went to regionals that year," Gary said.



The cross country program begins workouts each year around August 1, and the kids start running in earnest in September. "We expect there will be at least 10 on each of the teams this year," Gary said.

This year, the top runner on the boys' team is senior Hunter Hawkins. "He's very dedicated, and when he's in training, he usually runs about 50 to 60 miles each week," Gary said. Hunter is the son of the former cross country coach, Jodie Hawkins. On the girls' team, the No. 1 runner is senior Jessie DeVries, followed by junior Pressley Atkisson and senior Kim Mack.





Hayley, in her first year of coaching cross country at Blooming Grove ISD, is excited to be coaching both the Lions and the Lady Lions teams. "This is my first year coaching cross country, as I've been coaching volleyball and softball prior to this year," she said.

The amount and type of training each team member does generally depends upon where they believe they are at any given time, their level of stamina and how much prior training they've done during the summer. "I know the kids on the Blooming Grove Lions and Lady Lions teams work very, very hard. In fact, most of them trained all summer. I saw them meet at the school's track at 8:30 p.m.

several nights a week to run, and I found out that many of them were running between 30 and 50 miles every week!"

The Blooming Grove Lions and Lady Lions teams began practicing officially on August 5, well before school started on August 23. "We practice five days a week, unless there's a Saturday meet scheduled, and then we will skip running on the Friday



before the Saturday meet," Hayley said. "Otherwise, we run every morning and do time runs or distance runs, depending on where each team member is in their individual training regimen."

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***Proud parents are John & Connie Lang***



Coach Hayley Harrell is excited by the potential she sees in her cross country athletes.

teams use different routes, so they can get used to running in different environments. "We train on the track, which is a flat surface, and we also have a cross country route behind the school, so the kids can train on different surfaces and hilly areas," Hayley explained.

Gary is confident that, based on what he's seen so far in the three years he's been at Blooming Grove ISD, the boys' cross country team has a definite chance to make the state meet in November. "I wouldn't be surprised if the girls' team gets to state, too," he added.

Hayley echoes Gary's sentiments. "I'm extremely excited about it, because I believe running is just as much a mental exercise as it is a physical exercise. The mental strength each of these kids has is amazing. They all have great potential," she said.

The Blooming Grove teams are part of Region 3, and according to current plans, the district meet will be held in Blooming Grove; the regional meet will be in Humble; and the state meet will be in Round Rock on November 9.

Coaching appears to come naturally to both Gary and Hayley. Gary, who is married with two boys and a girl, has been coaching for over 26 years. His family felt right at home in Blooming Grove from the very beginning. "It's a great place to live," he shared, "and working with the Blooming Grove ISD's sports programs is an awesome experience." **NOW**



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When not at work, Reggie spends his time playing with his daughter, Brooklyn, and enjoying his family. He also likes to work on cars. Wherever you find Reggie, I can assure you he will most likely be smiling, laughing and ready to lend a helping hand.

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# PLANNED *Perfection*

— By Virginia Riddle



AT HOME WITH  
**Dan and Susan Gilliland**

*What happens when a chemical engineer who loves making wine and playing golf marries a geologist who loves woodworking and gardening? Answer: They eventually build a dream home at Lake Richland Chambers, customized to fit their varied interests. That's exactly what Dan and Susan Gilliland have accomplished. Working closely with builder, Chris Partain, they broke ground on their home in December 2012 and took full residency this last August. From Dan's front yard putting green to Susan's woodworking shop, their home beautifully reflects the couple's many interests and skills. Having bought and sold nine houses in*





*their 37 years of married life, Susan said, "We had always dreamed of building a house ourselves. Picking everything out was a challenge."*

Dan and Susan met while in college at the University of Kansas. The couple has previously lived in Texas, Delaware, North Carolina, Illinois, Kansas and Massachusetts. Tired of cold winters and snow, Dan said, "We wanted to head south to Texas." Susan's brother lives on Lake Richland Chambers, so the couple rented a house and started looking for the perfect relocation spot — on a protected lake cove. Susan took a leave of absence from her career in managing hazard waste in order to build the home. Dan had planned to start an Internet business, but instead he moved from a




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The heavy stuff includes the oak breakfast bar, bathroom vanities and the cedar beams that grace the soaring ceilings. "I want our home to be eclectic, but not *tacky* eclectic. That's my goal," Susan said.

A believer in conserving resources, Susan likes to find new uses for old wood. The breakfast bar and one vanity were crafted from 3-inch thick oak slabs that were abandoned on a right-of-way in Massachusetts 30 years ago. Another vanity is made of slats that have found a new life. Susan enhanced the wood's natural grain, and then added her own sparkle to the bar.

Dan and Susan's interests are obvious in the front yard where a putting green is bounded on one side by a dry creek bed, which diverts runoff to the lake. Susan's new woodworking studio can be viewed prior to entering

career in biotechnology to becoming the plant manager of a chemical company in Corsicana.

Their home's design contains elements not normally found in residential properties, but they are part of Dan and Susan's plan for relaxed, rustic elegance; practicality; and functionality. All the structures were designed to be energy efficient with a geothermal system. "Our home is livable and pampers to our needs and wants," Susan said. Were there changes along the way? "Oh, yes!" she exclaimed.

"Susan likes to make things," Dan explained. While the house and Susan's woodworking studio were being constructed, she set up her shop in their rental home's one-car garage. Many of Susan's woodworking projects have been set in place by Dan. "Heavy stuff is my job security. I do the heavy lifting," Dan said.



# Kelly R. Myers

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the home through a massive door she refurbished. Upon entering the living room, visitors are treated to a view of the lake. "We wanted a very open plan," Susan said. "We tried to get views out of every room, and we did pretty well. A focal point of the open area is the player piano that belonged to Susan's grandparents.

The entry hall opens to a home office with pocket doors for privacy and to the staircase, which rises to the second story. The upstairs landing overlooks the entry below and gives a panorama of the lake through the game room, which opens to a large balcony. The upstairs is designed for guests and family to enjoy almost separate quarters. Two bedrooms with accompanying baths serve the needs of the Gillilands' daughter, Kelly, when she is home from Southern Methodist University where she is a senior and their son, Jason, and his wife when they visit from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Dan and Susan also enjoy cooking. Dan purchases grapes from California and enjoys making his own wine, as well as baking his own bread. "His mother was a fabulous baker," Susan explained. "We've only bought one loaf of bread in years, and that was because we couldn't find the bread machine." Their cook's-delight-of-a-kitchen flows into the dining area and living room, so they can enjoy the company of friends and family.

Functionality takes on a new meaning in the couple's utility room where Dan and Susan designed and installed a dog bath area complete with tiles that were painted with paw prints by an artist. The residential canines, Bailey, a Lab, and Penny, a Rhodesian Ridgeback, are cleaned up in this area after dips in the lake. A mud room, with built-in storage,





leads to the garage. "Where else do you put your shoes and coats?" Susan wondered. A guest bath and walk-in pantry with cork flooring completes this functional area. "I unloaded a jar that fell, and it didn't break," Susan said of the cork's practicality.

The master bedroom and bath offer the couple rest from their various activities. His and hers walk-in closets offer plenty of storage, and the walk-in shower's floor is formed from river stone.

Tea in the morning is taken out on the wide patio, which opens off both the living room and master bedroom and overlooks the pool and lake. "We spend a lot of time on our patio," Susan said. Large boulders brought from Oklahoma form part of the terraced backyard. Included in the backyard are a hot tub and salt water pool, which feature seating areas for the wet and dry bars, and the cabana, adjacent to the pool, which houses Dan's wine making efforts and an accompanying fitness center with its own bathroom. A walkway leads to the boat house, picnic table and another seating area near the lake's edge.

Dan, a pilot who recently traded his plane for a Harley, looks forward to exploring the county roads. Susan, a member of the Ellis County Master Gardeners, is planning to volunteer at the community garden near the Corsicana Boys & Girls Club. "I'm new to the community and want to become involved," she said enthusiastically. She also has many more plans for the landscaping and crafting of her new home. "We ran out of time and wanted to get moved," Susan said. Dan is looking forward to his first putt and first fermenting. Together, this couple is a welcome addition to Navarro County. **NOW**



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# Making *Dreams* Come TRUE

—By Rick Herron

*Thanks to the Go Texan Area Scholarship and people like Pat Reed, students throughout Navarro County are seeing their college dreams come true. Pat is the Go Texan Committee Chairperson for Navarro County, but her day job, at least until March 2014 when she retires, is with the United States Department of Agriculture out on Highway 22 in Corsicana. "I will have been with the USDA 30 years," she said, referring to her upcoming retirement. "It's been a good experience. Back in 1983, I came here to work for only a couple of weeks, and now it's been almost 30 years."*

Pat is the wife of Joe Reed, mother of three boys, mother-in-law to one daughter-in-law and grandmother to two grandchildren. If that sounds like a busy life, it's not even half of the story. "I've been active with the 4-H Club and Future Farmers of America pretty much all my life," she said. Every March, Pat is a fixture at the Navarro County Expo Center during the yearly Youth Expo, and it isn't likely that will change much after she retires. "I plan on playing with the grandkids and traveling after I retire," she said. "We want to go to the rodeo in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and visit Calgary, Canada."





“It’s such a good program, and it has made a lot of these kids’ dreams about attending college *come true.*”

The activity, however, that has given Pat the greatest satisfaction has been her pivotal role with the Navarro County Go Texan Scholarship Program. She is serving her third year as ambassador.

Per the [navarroexpocenter.com](http://navarroexpocenter.com) website, the Go Texan Scholarship Program is coordinated by the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and “benefits Navarro County youth through supporting college education opportunities. ... The program has made an extraordinary impact on the lives of countless young men and women in its quest to benefit the youth of Texas and support them through education. All recipients of a Go Texan scholarship must demonstrate academic potential, citizenship/leadership and financial need, and they must attend a Texas college or university, but may major in any field of study leading to a bachelor’s degree.”

Pat has been part of the Go Texan committee since 1999 and has seen dozens of local Navarro County youth win Go Texan Scholarships. “I’m what they call the ‘ambassador’ for Navarro County,” she said. “We meet in Houston



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Josh Frazier and Anna Brewer are thankful for the opportunities the Go Texan Scholarship provided for them.

twice a year, and there are representatives at those meetings from 62 counties in Texas.”

In 2001, to help raise funds, the scholarship program in Navarro County began selling raffle tickets for a Harley Davidson motorcycle, at the cost of \$125 per ticket. In addition to a chance to win the Harley, the ticket price includes a steak dinner for two. “All the money we raise goes back into the scholarships,” Pat said. “The actual raffle for the motorcycle is a reverse raffle, where we start calling ticket numbers, and the last one called wins the Harley.”





In 2013, the Go Texan fundraising event was held at Corsicana's I.O.O.F. Expo Center in January, which was the first time it was held outside Ennis. "Tickets for the 2014 fundraiser became available in October," Pat explained. "The upcoming Harley event is scheduled to take place on January 18, 2014."

Two students who received scholarships in the past, Anna Brewer and Josh Frazier, are still amazed their dreams of attending college really did come true. Anna was the recipient of a Go Texan Scholarship in 2011. "I was so excited, because I didn't know how we were going to pay for school," Anna recalled. "The cost of going to college is so high."

Anna will graduate in May 2014, and she plans to be a speech language pathologist in communication disorders. Her goal is to then start classes toward getting her master's degree in two years.

Josh won a scholarship through Go Texan in 2012. "When I found out I won, I was both excited and relieved that I would be able to go to Navarro College, thanks to the scholarship," he said. His plans are to go to Navarro for two years then transfer to Texas A&M University or Sam Houston State University to get a degree in agricultural engineering or agricultural business.

Pat believes the great thing about the Go Texan Scholarship Program is that all the money raised locally stays in Navarro County for local applicants. "We send out emails to all of the high school

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counselors around Thanksgiving each year to let them know when the students can start applying for a scholarship," Pat explained. "We had 38 applications in Navarro County last year, and the Rotary Club is the entity that makes the final scholarship selections."

For the 2013-14 school year, scholarship applications will be available this month, and the winners will be selected during the first part of 2014. Winners must have an ACT score of 17 or above. "Scholarship winners also have to maintain a grade point average of at least 2.5 and must send in transcripts in order for the scholarship funds to continue to be dispersed," Pat said. "The names of the Navarro Country scholarship winners will be announced during the Youth Expo in March 2014, and the number of winners will depend upon the number of applicants that meet the criteria, although we try to give scholarship money to everyone who applies."

Pat will soon be retiring, but it's a good bet she will stay involved in some aspect of the Go Texan Scholarship activities. "It's such a good program, and it has made a lot of these kids' dreams about attending college come true," she said. "I have really enjoyed being a part of the program." **NOW**

*Editor's Note: For more information, call Pat Reed at (903) 654-3943.*



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*A quick look at the gift items and discounts available locally.*



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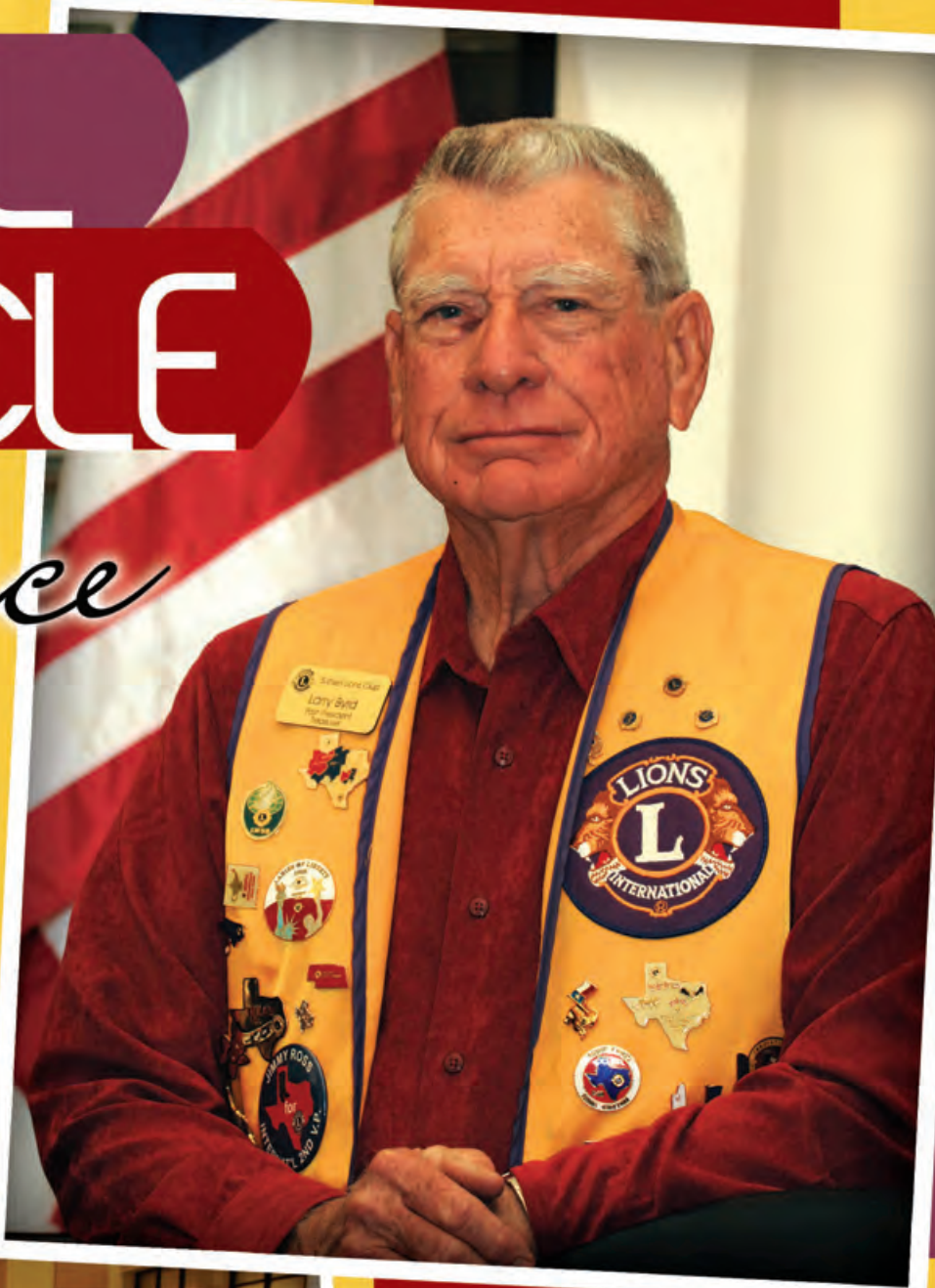




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— By Virginia Riddle

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*area military personnel who are stationed far away from home during the holidays is a focus of the members of both clubs, who purchase, sign and send Christmas cards to troops. Leo Club members also work with the Angels of Corsicana to provide care packages for troops stationed overseas. These practices honor active and reserve military personnel, and*



veterans are honored during the November Veterans Day celebration. "The students have a real desire to do community service, as well as support the troops," Rita Marie O'Brian, Navarro College math instructor and Leo Club sponsor, said.

The value of those cards and care packages from strangers back home is well-known to one Lions Club member, retired Col. Larry Byrd. The Leo and Lions Clubs' joint project is dear to him. He recalled his days away from family and

**What we were doing is old technology now. But one thing remains the same — knowing that people back home care remains important to overseas military personnel.**

home while in service to his country in the Air Force. "I never got any cards or letters from strangers, but my mother and my wife wrote regularly to me. A friendly word from a stranger is appreciated just like from family," Larry said.

Born and reared in Mart, Texas, Larry headed south, following his high school graduation, to Texas A&M University in College Station, where he served in the campus Air Force ROTC. Upon his Aggie graduation, Larry began his military career by training as a pilot. Joining him at military postings in many corners of the United States was his wife of now 54 years, Vida. "We stayed mostly in the U.S., which was nice," Larry said.

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The couple was assigned to Georgia, Michigan, California (twice), Nebraska, Washington state and, finally, they returned full circle when Larry was assigned to the ROTC at A&M. Moving often to places not of one's choice is just part of military life. From the warm South, Larry and Vida and their growing family endured five extremely cold winters in Michigan. "On the Fourth of July one year, we were scraping ice off the windshield! The lakes and streams would get totally frozen over, and some years we got over 200 inches of snow," Larry said of his years in Michigan and Nebraska. However, there were trade-offs. "In the fall, the land was orange on the upper peninsula," Larry said of the annual fall foliage.

Larry served one year in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War, and he served with the Strategic Air Command, commonly called SAC during the Cold War Era. Created in 1947 and decommissioned in 1992, SAC personnel were charged with being combat-ready on a moment's notice anywhere in the world in order to deter a nuclear attack. Headquartered at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska, its motto was: *Peace is our Profession.*

While his family was living stateside, Larry was flying long-range missions to Morocco and Spain and other locations around the globe. "You didn't see most of the world, however, flying," he said. He flew the B-52 Stratofortress, a bomber that could be used over





battlefields delivering precision direct fire munitions, and the B-47 Stratojet. During his Southeast Asia duty, Larry flew EC-47s. "We were the chauffeurs," he said. "Only the navigators knew where we were, and it wasn't anything you could talk about."

There were the highs and lows. His crew qualified as a Blue Ribbon Crew when all members flew the mission with no faults. "I made a lot of good friends and had a lot of fun. Those were the good ol' days," Larry remembered.

However, the lows included losing a navigator in a plane crash as well as other friends. Separations were numerous and full of worry for Larry and his family members, with the worry extended in both directions.

While at their final posting at A&M, Vida's father needed help on his Navarro County ranch. "Cows brought me back to the farm," Larry said. "I like the country here — the farms, ranches, cattle, small towns. I can do everything I want here and find most of what I need."

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He enjoys hunting, shooting targets and skeet shooting. Larry and Vida have two grown children, a son who served during the Gulf War and flew aircraft in Saudi Arabia and a daughter and granddaughter who live in Johannesburg, South Africa.

"What we were doing is old technology now," Larry said. "But one thing remains the same — knowing that people back home care remains important to overseas military personnel."

The care exhibited by Leo Club students is obvious. A dinner is held each year to raise money to fund the card project. The dinner gives students cooking experience and allows them to interact with area military families. This month, Christmas cards will be sent, loaded with messages of gratitude for the soldiers' service and signed by Leo Club members. November is also the month when they help the Angels of Corsicana stuff Christmas stockings to send to the overseas troops. Leo Club members provide supplies that they have collected for a semester as stuffing for the Christmas stockings. Last year, over 300 stockings were sent to the troops. Such dedication by the college students has impressed many of the Lions Club members and volunteers serving the Angels of Corsicana's mission.

Donations will be taken throughout November. Food items, such as snack crackers, popcorn, chewing gum and jerky; drink items, such as drink mixes for water, coffee and hot chocolate packs; personal items, such as soaps, socks, ChapStick, toothpaste and washcloths; and reading materials, such as magazines and paperback books, are all appreciated items for the care packages.

Leo Club membership numbered 32 last year. With the leadership of the Corsicana Lions Club members; inspiration from knowing veterans, like Larry Byrd, and their stories; the rapport built through interaction with active military families; and the development of coalitions with the Angels of Corsicana and other community service groups, these young leaders of tomorrow have found that the difference they make can be felt around the world and at home. **NOW**

*Editor's Note: For more information, contact Ms. O'Brian at (903) 875-7510.*



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# Global Citizens

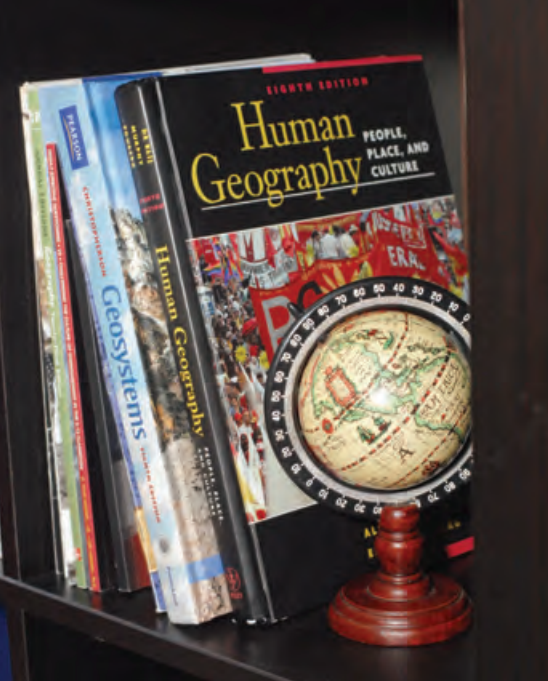
— By Virginia Riddle

*International politics is a fairly weighty subject usually discussed in great halls of government or university classrooms around the globe by learned men and women, but at Corsicana High School this subject and other international topics are studied by student members of the CHS Council on International Affairs. Led by their faculty sponsor, Ginger Pawlowski, the students actively compete with Dallas/Ft.*

*Worth Metroplex schools each year and learn to be community leaders at home through service projects. "I've tried to teach students that being a knowledgeable, responsible global citizen begins at home and grows outward from there. Information should create action," Ms. Pawlowski stated.*

The council is affiliated with the World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth as a Junior World Affairs Council. The organization's mission is threefold: to further education in world affairs, international politics and current events; to help gain insight,





understanding and information so as to keep abreast of international affairs; and to promote awareness of world affairs in the student body.

The council holds once-a-month meetings and attends Dallas WAC events that focus on historical and international topics. Students compete for coveted places on two teams comprised of four members each that participate in the World Quest annual competition sponsored by the WAC. Since the council's inception in 2007, Ms. Pawlowski estimated 98-99 percent of the members have graduated in the top 10 percent of their respective classes. She has been the sponsor of the council throughout its history of involvement on the CHS campus.

The council members operate as a service group on local, national and international levels. As school begins each year, council members choose a small scale (local) and a large scale (national/international) issue for exploration and discovery and upon which fundraising and volunteering activities will be focused for the year. Past projects have included Child Advocates of Navarro County and disaster relief programs at the various levels. "Every penny that comes in, goes out to a worthy cause," Ms. Pawlowski explained. Public relations officer and CHS junior, Leland Cook, said, "Sometimes we work with other campus groups such as AVID around a common cause. Then it becomes a big team effort."

Femy Varghese, a CHS junior, served as the council's World Quest Captain

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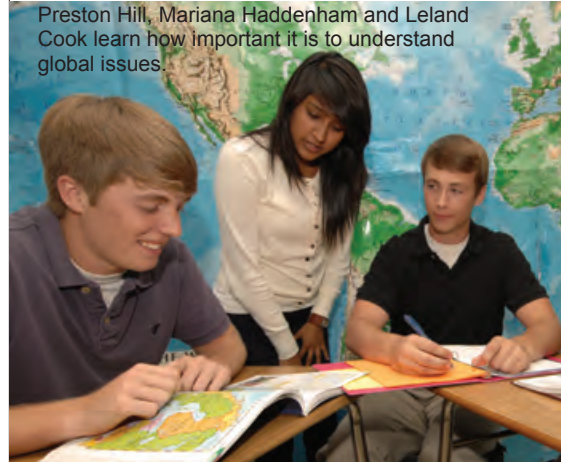
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last year. She explained the international trivia competition. Every year there is a new focus topic on which students receive resource packets of information that are inches thick. "It's hard reading that has been published by a Washington,

Preston Hill, Mariana Haddenham and Leland Cook learn how important it is to understand global issues.



D.C. think tank," Femy said. Each team member takes a different focus area on the topic. Furthermore, team members must be authorities on worldwide current events for which there are no study guides provided. "It's important to know what is going on in the world. World Quest teaches me how to study and prepares me for college studies," Femy revealed. Femy, who speaks five languages fluently, has traveled in countries of the Middle and Far East as well as Europe. "We are a club that is very diverse culturally," Femy said. She plans to eventually attend medical school.

The World Quest competition is greatly valued by Ms. Pawlowski, who enjoys meeting with other schools' sponsors. While the CHS teams have held their own in competition, Ms. Pawlowski firmly stated, "We have the teams this year that can beat Plano."

Another CHS junior, Preston Hill, who has served as the council's secretary, plans to major in engineering or law. "The



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council enables me to become a more well-rounded person,” he said. “We get to meet people from other high schools and see how we do against Dallas schools.”

Competition is stiff. “Lots of the Dallas schools are international baccalaureate schools,” Leland added.

Most of the 65-70 student members are actively involved in other campus and community organizations. The group is governed by officers — president, vice president, treasurer and secretary — who serve for a semester and meet once a week. Meeting agendas are set and posted. Student members discuss and vote on the projects the

council will support. “All of our officers work together, and everyone pitches in to help. It takes a giant group effort from everyone,” Femy stated.



“The council is very student driven,” Ms. Pawlowski added.

A teacher for 20 years, 13 of which have been spent in Corsicana ISD, Ms. Pawlowski has taught every grade in public schools. She is a graduate of The University of Texas at Tyler in interdisciplinary studies and is a teacher of world geography, pre-AP world history and human geography at CHS. Even with her interest in world events, Ms. Pawlowski is motivated primarily by all that is gained by the students from their participation in the council and World Quest competitions. “The students gain an interest in what is going on outside of CHS and Corsicana,” she said. They also gain many skills which

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will help them no matter where their lives take them.

For instance, since Leland has not yet decided what he will major in while attending college, he enjoys the many and diverse topics and people he meets through the WAC of Dallas/Fort Worth. "We learn their stories and how they got where they are in life," he said. "We actually get to interact with many different people in different professions." A visit to the council's website indicates that a recent speaker was Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction Stuart Bowen Jr., who spoke to the group on the importance of learning from Iraq. Other easily recognized names listed as speakers have included: Henry Kissinger; James Baker, III; Condoleezza Rice; U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker; former Senator Tom Daschle; former president of Mexico, Vicente Fox; Jean Chretien, former prime minister of Canada; and Olusegun Obasanjo, former president of Nigeria.

Students benefit from podcasts and documentary movies that are offered by WAC. International travel opportunities and additional resources are available to teachers. The group sponsors an International Career Day, which is designed to give students "a wide perspective on the global landscape." The board of directors reads like a Who's Who of international business and commerce.

"A lot of the time, people look at teenagers and see the problems, but these kids want to know what's going on in the world and do good for the world," Ms. Pawlowski stated. "There are really great things going on at CHS." **NOW**

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*Bangadangs offers a relaxing, big-city spa experience in a down-home atmosphere.*

— By Virginia Riddle

The staff of Bangadangs Hair Salon knows how to make every client feel special and a part of the Bangadangs family. Husband and wife owners, Bryan and Tina Fagan opened this family-centered business on August 28, 2012. “We wanted to provide a service to the community rather than invest in the stock market,” Tina said. “I really find joy in making our clients happy. That does make everything we do worthwhile.”

Salon services include: haircuts, styling, color, spa pedicures, manicures, Gelish, waxing, tanning, facials, massages and eyelash and hair extensions. In addition to Tina’s daughter, Arielle Gaynor, the staff includes: Sheree Williams, Chanda Willis,

Ashley Krajca and Monica Bugg, who was recently named Best Overall Hair and Makeup Artist at the Waxahachie Hair Show.

Bangadangs offers a slightly different business model to stylists than the norm. “All of our stylists are employees except Abby Solis who is contracted as our massage specialist. There are no booth rental fees. We pay an hourly salary plus commission and provide everything to stylists except their shears,” Tina said. Bangadangs’ growth has been phenomenal, with satisfied clients returning while bringing friends and family members with them. Walk-in clients are also welcomed.

The Bangadangs’ location was formerly Tresa Shimonek’s



Interior By Design. Tina, with a start-up business background, and Bryan who has a career in sales, saw the location as an opportunity. "We had no concern about a talent pool due to Navarro College's cosmetology program. We collaborated with Tresa on a business plan and design for the salon while receiving lots of positive feedback from area residents," Tina recalled.

Clients can relax in the elegant sitting area decorated with a very cosmopolitan black and white motif. The facial room and massage room offer privacy, and tanning is accomplished in a stand-up tanning bed. Easy-to-clean granite countertops are highlighted with a decorative metal backsplash. The salon carries several lines of beauty products as well as jewelry selected at Dallas markets by Tina.

Most people are curious about the origin of the Bangadangs name. Tina knew early in the planning and implementation stages that she wanted to use the word bangs in the name. "It's a hair word," she explained. However, other words just didn't sound right with it.

Just as a final commitment to a name was going to be required, Bryan, described as a country boy at heart by Tina, exclaimed, "You can call it Bangadangs," using the country slang phrase, "gosh dang," for inspiration.

Tina was sold. She responded, "That's it! It was a 30-second decision," she recalled.

A transplant to Texas 22 years ago, Tina met Bryan in Dallas, his home town. They moved to rural Navarro County in 2008. The couple — parents to four grown children, four dogs and with a second grandchild on the way — love their life in the country. "I like looking out the window and seeing all the wildlife. Everything looks so much healthier than in the city!" Tina stated. "We try to make time to enjoy the outdoors."

While many couples would find starting a business together stressful, Bryan and Tina have found the experience to be just the opposite. "I couldn't have done this without Bryan's unwavering support," she said. **NOW**

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A reality of business is that not everyone will succeed. Every year, some companies will go bankrupt, either due to mismanagement or to a general decline in economic conditions.

Because decline can happen so rapidly, especially if fraud is involved, the analysts and portfolio managers who work on a mutual fund won't be able to avoid them all. If a company does go bankrupt, any mutual funds that own its shares will have to take a loss, and that may affect performance.

You have some protection, though, because mutual funds have diversified portfolios of securities. Under the Investment Company Act of 1940 that governs mutual funds, a fund cannot have more than 25 percent of its holdings in any one security. The other 75 percent must be divided among at least 15 different securities so that none of them represents more than 5 percent of the total fund. Furthermore, none of those 15 securities can own more than 10 percent of the stock of any one company. That policy limits the effect on the fund if any company were to go bankrupt.

In practice, most mutual funds own more than 16 securities in total, and very few allow any investment to be more than 10 percent of its total position. This is done to try to make the effect of a total loss on one investment fairly small relative to the entire fund.

Money market<sup>1</sup> funds have more stringent rules than stock and bond funds. They

may not invest more than 5 percent of funds in any one company, and they may only purchase short-term securities.

The economy will be poor sometimes, and some companies will fail. That may affect a fund in which you invested. However, one of the benefits of diversification is that your mutual fund will hold other investments that won't be affected by the bankruptcy. An investor who buys shares in just one company may not be as fortunate.

Of course, diversification does not assure a profit or protect against loss in a declining market. However, by investing in a diverse portfolio, fund managers attempt to minimize the effects of any downturn in any particular company, country and/or sector. **NOW**

<sup>1</sup>An investment in the Money Market Fund is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency. Although the Fund seeks to preserve the value of your investment at \$1 per share, it is possible to lose money by investing in the Fund.

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Lynda Housley is a State Farm agent based in Corsicana.



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## A Painful Swallow

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

One minute you are humming along just fine. The next minute your throat feels so horrendous you practically quiver when you swallow. Your body temperature shoots into the fever zone. All you have the energy to do is lie down with the wretchedness of your misery. You may have a strep throat infection. The majority of sore throats are not from strep but from viruses. Strep throat is a bacterial infection from *Streptococcus pyogenes* bacteria. This is not to say sore throats from viruses are not also painful. They can be, but they are usually not as intense as with strep.

To be absolutely sure of a strep diagnosis, laboratory tests must be given. However, there are some clues that point to strep being the culprit. If the symptoms come on suddenly with a high fever, tender swollen lymph nodes in the neck area, fatigue and an extremely sore throat, it may be from a strep infection as opposed to a cold or other viral infection. Also, if you look at your tonsils, and they have white or yellow patches of pus on them, it is probably from a strep infection. The typical symptoms of a cold or viral infection — coughing, sneezing, congestion, runny nose — are usually absent with strep throat infection.

Even if you come to the conclusion you have strep throat without the benefit of lab tests, it still needs to be treated with antibiotics. Treatment will lessen the symptoms fairly

quickly, and you will feel better. Treating strep infections is very important, because of possible complications, such as rheumatic fever, scarlet fever and kidney complications. After taking the antibiotics for 24 hours, you are no longer contagious. If you feel well enough, you may resume your duties. If you are prescribed a course of antibiotics, take all of the medication as ordered. Stopping your treatment after you feel better can lead to relapse and still leave you vulnerable to complications. Discontinuing antibiotics prematurely also contributes to antibiotic resistant organisms.

The best way to prevent a strep infection is to hold high standards for your personal hygiene. Wash your hands frequently — particularly if you are around someone who has strep throat. Do not share personal items such as towels, cutlery, plates, drinking glasses, etc. Since the bacteria is spread by droplets, be diligent about containing sneezes and coughs in a manner that doesn't spew them into the air. If you do get strep throat, see your doctor, complete your medication, take care of yourself and feel better soon! **NOW**

*This article is for general information only and does not constitute medical advice. Consult with your physician if you have questions regarding this topic.*



## Time to Sit Back

November is a great time to sit back, browse the catalogs and take inventory of what you have and what you need to do. I like to use this time to clean up and sharpen my tools. Clippers are a real challenge and need a bit of concentration. If you have an old pair, think about refreshing them. Cleaning your clippers with light oil and steel wool is a good place to start. The best way to sharpen them depends on if they are anvil (the ones with a single blade that hits on a blunt edge or anvil) or if they are bypass (two sharp blades that move past one another with a scissor motion).

If they are anvil clippers, sharpen both edges of the sharp blade. You can use a screwdriver or a wrench to take the clippers apart to make it easier. Keep them steady or put them in a vice. File or use a whetstone to put a clean, sharp edge on one side and then the other. Just be sure that you stay with the factory bevel or angle of the blade. One way to clearly see the bevel is to take a dark magic marker and run it along the side you are working on. When the marker comes off, you know you have accomplished your goal. The flat blade will only need a bit of cleaning. It should have a groove for sap, so be sure to clean it and then test it out.

The bypass clipper really needs to come apart. Use your finger and work the spring loose, and then use your wrench and loosen the locknut to pull the blades apart. After you have cleaned them, you can sharpen the blades in much the same way as you would anvil clippers.

Having sharp tools makes working with them so very much easier. Shovels and hoes are easier to sharpen than clippers are, because you can use a file. Just clean and secure the tool, so it doesn't slip on you. The marker is a big help in maintaining the right bevel.

Enjoy your late fall and winter and know you will be ready when it comes time to dig again! Stay tuned for gift suggestions for your gardeners! **NOW**

*Nancy Fenton is a Master Gardener.*



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### November 1 — 3

Corsicana Main Street Pumpkin Harvest Festival 2012: **Mondays-Saturdays**, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; **Sundays**, Noon-4:00 p.m., Corsicana Visitors' Center in Allyn Park. For a full schedule of events and information, call (903) 654-4850 or visit [www.corsicanamainstreet.org/pumpkin-patch.html](http://www.corsicanamainstreet.org/pumpkin-patch.html).

### November 1 — 30

Annual National Juried Art Show: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., **Mondays-Fridays**; 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., **Saturdays**; Warehouse of Living Arts Center Gallery. Admission is free. The art exhibit is sponsored by the Navarro Council of the Arts. For more information, call (903) 872-5411.

"Gettysburg: Standing with Desperate Bravery": **Monday-Fridays** 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; **Saturdays** 12:00-4:00 p.m. Pearce Museum. For more information, call (903) 875-7642.

### November 1, 7, 14, 23, 26

Navarro College Basketball Games: Wolens Special Events Center. For more information, call 1-800-NAVARRO.

### November 2

Steak Dinner at the Ranch: 7:00 p.m., The Palace Theatre. Hosted by Roy and Melinda Veldman, this dinner will feature fine California wines and grass fed Texas beef. \$175 per person. For more information, call (903) 874-7792.

Sixth Annual Freedom Fund Banquet: 7:00 p.m., Martin Luther King Jr. Center. Sponsored by the Navarro County NAACP Branch 6209, Carol Wise will speak to the theme Overcoming Our Past and Embracing Our Future. Tickets are \$20. For more information or to make reservations, contact Barbara Kelly at (903) 872-7973, Rowena Winfrey at (903) 467-1558 or Dairy Johnson at (903) 654-0498.

### November 2, 9, 16, 23

The Christmas Star: 1:30 p.m. Cook Center Planetarium. For a \$2 admission viewers explore one of the most elusive astronomical riddle in history; what celestial object guided the wise men on their journey to Bethlehem over 2000 years ago. For more information, call (903) 875-7596.

The Secret of the Cardboard Rocket: 2:30 p.m. Cook Center Planetarium. For a \$2 admission, viewers may explore the planets of the solar system with two adventurous

kids. For more information, call (903) 875-7596.

### November 5

Blooming Grove Historical Society meeting: 7:00 p.m., Blooming Grove Museum, 201 S. Fordyce. Elmer (Sonny) Boyd, retired Dallas Police Department detective, will reflect on the Kennedy assignation and the 50 years since. For more information, call (903) 695-2633 or (903) 673-2635.

### November 8

Navarro County Retired Teachers Association: 9:45 a.m., Northwest Apartments. The speaker will be Jean O'Connor from the Angels of Corsicana Troup Support. All retired school personnel are invited. For more information, e-mail [pk2@airmail.net](mailto:pk2@airmail.net).

The Baggy Bottom Boys: 6:30 p.m., Cowboy Church of Ennis, hosted by the Crackpots group. The musical event is open to all ages, and you do not need to be a member to attend. For more information, contact Vicki Bell at (469) 285-4845 or Myra Morrissey at (972) 998-5868.

### November 12

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1009 meeting: 7:00 p.m., Sirloin Stockade. For more information, contact Ron Wright at (903) 229-0497.

Corsicana Emergency Corps Meeting: 7:00 p.m., 416 S. 12th St. For more information, call (903) 872-5072.

### November 14

Fifth Anniversary Celebration Boots and Bangles Expo: 5:00 p.m., dinner begins at 6:00 p.m., I.O.O.F. Event Center, sponsored by the Senior Circle of Navarro Regional Hospital. This event will feature singer Byron Haynie and photo booth. Free for Senior Circle members and \$15 for non-members. Attendees are asked to bring a non-perishable donation for the local food pantry. For more information or reservations, contact Connie Beal at (903) 654-6892 or email [Connie\\_Beal@chs.net](mailto:Connie_Beal@chs.net).

Fifth Annual Mystery Art Event: 5:30 p.m., Warehouse Living Arts Center. All proceeds from this fun-filled evening with 8x10-inch art created by local artists goes to support VOICE and the Navarro Council of the Arts. Auction prices start at \$30. Wine and appetizers will be served during the reception. No admission cost. For more information, call (903) 872-5411.

### November 15

Corsicana Newcomers Club: 11:00 a.m., Kinsloe House. Dr. Tommy Stringer, Director of the Cook Center Museum, will be the guest speaker. For more information or confirmed reservations, contact Marge Oslick at (903) 872-3508.

Senior Circle Pot Luck Luncheon: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Navarro Regional Hospital. Bring a salad, vegetable, casserole or dessert and enjoy a round of bingo after lunch. For more information, contact Connie Beal at (903) 654-6800.

### November 16, 17

Corsicana Vendors Day: **Saturday**, 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; **Sunday**, 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Pegasus Ballroom. Over 70 vendors will be available for early Christmas shopping. For more information, contact Tammie McWhorter at (903) 467-6364.

### November 21 — 24

*Annie Get Your Gun*: Warehouse Living Arts Center. This fictionalized story of sharpshooter, Annie Oakley, features the music and lyrics by Irving Berlin. For more information or to make reservations, call (903) 872-5421.

### December 7

21st Annual Jingle Bell Jog 5K run/walk: 8:00 a.m. registration, 9:00 a.m. race, Corsicana YMCA. For more information, call (903) 872-2412.

Parade of Lights Christmas Parade: downtown Corsicana. For more information, call (903) 654-4851.

### Ongoing:

#### Tuesdays

Corsicana Noon Lions Club meetings: Noon, Shrine Building, 323 N. Commerce. For more information, call (903) 654-4861.

#### Wednesdays

Story Time: 10:00 a.m., Corsicana Public Library. For more information, call (903) 654-4810.

Corsicana Rotary Club meetings: Noon, Corsicana YMCA. For more information, visit <http://www.corsicanarotary.org>.

*Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to [virginia.riddle@nowmagazines.com](mailto:virginia.riddle@nowmagazines.com).*



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## In the Kitchen With Lynda Green

— *By Virginia Riddle*

To celebrate its 75 years of history, Kinsloe House has published a cookbook that brings back some of the tried and true recipes of which Corsicana area residents are so fond. Lynda Green, a school administrator, university instructor and former home economics teacher, led a committee and members through the publishing process. “I love to cook and enjoy these recipes,” she said.

This cookbook also shares some of Corsicana’s history through photographs on each divider. The funds raised support Kinsloe House and its community charity giving. “We need to give back to the community,” Lynda shared. **NOW**

### Papa’s Eggnog

Contributor: Marsha Dameron

**12 eggs**  
**1 cup sugar**  
**Whiskey, to taste (optional)**  
**1 qt. cream**  
**1 qt. milk**  
**Nutmeg, freshly grated**

1. Separate eggs; beat whites and yolks separately.
2. Add sugar to yolks before whipping. If adding whiskey, add slowly to yolks while whipping.
3. Add cream and milk to egg yolk mixture. Fold stiffly beaten egg whites into egg mixture.
4. Chill; sprinkle with nutmeg.

### Five Minute Christmas Fudge

Contributor: Jeani Wilkinson

**1 1/2 12-oz. bags high-quality white chocolate chips**  
**1 14-oz. can sweetened condensed milk**  
**1 1/2 cups pistachios, shelled and roughly chopped**  
**1/2 cup dried cranberries**  
**1 tsp. vanilla**

1. Line 8-inch square pan with foil, allowing for overlap on sides (for easy removal of fudge from pan). Spray well with non-stick spray.
2. Mix chips and milk in large microwavable bowl. Microwave in 1-minute increments; stir after each minute until fudge is completely melted and glossy.

3. Stir in nuts, cranberries and vanilla.
4. Pour into pan; smooth; chill until set.

### Gourmet Bean Dip

Contributor: Lynda Green

**2 1/2 lbs. refried beans**  
**1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese**  
**16 oz. carton sour cream**  
**1 bunch green onions, chopped with tops**  
**1 1.5-oz. pkg. taco seasoning**  
**1 7-oz. can chopped green chilies**  
**1 8-oz. pkg. Monterey Jack cheese, sliced**  
**1 cup cheddar cheese, grated**

1. Mix first 6 ingredients together.
2. Top with both cheeses and bake 1 hour at 300 F.

### Harold’s Famous Bourbon-Baked Ham

Contributor: Lynda Housley

**14 lb. bone-in smoked ham, cooked**  
**1 cup light brown sugar, packed**  
**1 cup bourbon whiskey**  
**3/4 cup water (divided use)**  
**1 Tbsp. pepper, freshly ground**  
**1/3 cup Dijon-style mustard**  
**Fresh peach chutney**

1. Preheat oven to 350 F.
2. Skin ham; trim fat to 1/4-inch thick; score.
3. Mix sugar with bourbon; brush 1/3 of mixture over ham.
4. Bake 1 1/2 hours; basting twice with remaining mixture.
5. Add 1/4 cup water to pan after 1 hour.
6. Mix pepper and mustard; brush ham with drippings and mustard mix.
7. Bake additional hour; add remaining water as necessary to keep from burning.
8. Let ham stand 15 minutes; baste with drippings.
9. Slice; serve with chutney on side.

**To view recipes from current and previous issues, visit [www.nowmagazines.com](http://www.nowmagazines.com)**



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