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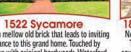
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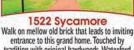






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ON THE COVER



A Corsicana Christmas tradition celebrates Jesus' birth through heavenly music.

Photo by Memories by Melissa.

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Editor's Note

Happy Holidays, Corsicana!

Merrily, many of us will be singing this season's cherished music by December 20, the official Go Caroling Day. I love this season's rich musical performances and am fortunate to have performed beautiful Christmas music with wonderful musicians throughout my years as a musician, including this year.

As a writer, I cherish the old-fashioned letters and cards from friends that are mailed during this season. December 7 is Letter Writing Day. Help the children in your family to write those letters to Santa and pick up pen and paper yourselves and write Christmas greetings to faraway friends and family. My parents always sent out a picture of their four daughters with a short "catchup" letter enclosed. I have continued the tradition, first with kids and now with grandkids. In this digital age, it's still a lovely pastime.

Virginia

Virginia Riddle *CorsicanaNOW* Editor virginia.riddle@nowmagazines.com

P.S. The publisher and staff of NOW Magazines wish you and your family a very merry Christmas and a happy holiday season!

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A THRILLING MUSICAL MESSAGE

By Virginia Riddle

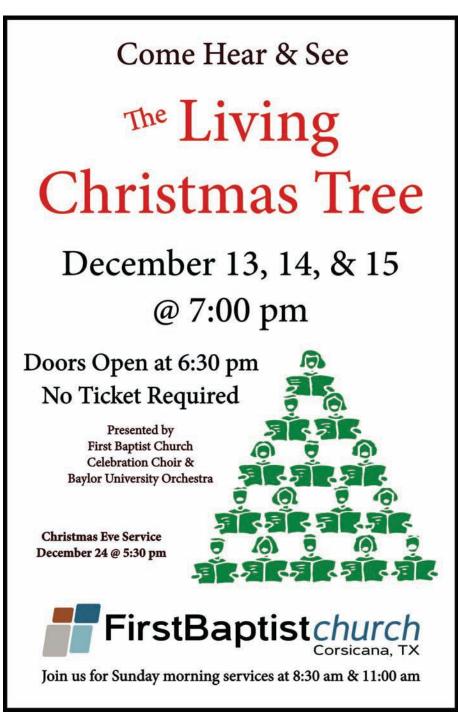
December is here, and once again crowds of area residents will pack First Baptist Church of Corsicana's vestibule awaiting the opening of the sanctuary doors and an experience that has become a Christmas tradition. Excited anticipation and music greet folks as they take their seats. A beautiful "tree" dominates the expansive sanctuary with its musicians, lights and star topper. "My joy comes from the music and seeing the faces of the people as they come in and see the tree," Becky Thurston, a choir member and church secretary, said.

The Living Christmas Tree has been performed annually since 1985 and continuously for the past seven years following an interruption due to the sanctuary roof collapse in 1999. "The tree was brought back in 2005. We've tried different things throughout the years, but we always come back to the tree," Chuck McElroy, minister of music, stated. "I try to make it an enjoyable journey for the many people who are involved and not let us get lost in the minutiae."

Selection of the music to be performed is a continuous process with final decisions made by Chuck while summer temperatures are high. "I keep a file year-round. When I hear something I think would work well, it goes into the file. I like to mix up styles — from carol arrangements to Beethoven's "Hallelujah" to contemporary. The challenge is to pick out challenging and inspiring music that is not *too* difficult. It has to hit to the heart of the gospel." Some favorite selections are repeated, but over half of the selections are new to the performers.

"MUSIC CAN TAKE THE MESSAGE OF JESUS TO PLACES IN THE HEART WHERE THE MESSAGE ALONE CAN SELDOM GO."







"Chuck does a great job of picking out our music. All the selections do a great job of telling the message of Jesus," Becky said.

Choral rehearsals are held following Labor Day during the Celebration Choir's regular rehearsals from 7:00-8:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. The choir numbers swell to 80-plus tree performers during the fall season. Performers range from 16 to nearly 80 years of age and bring a variety of skill levels to the task. The choir also commits to a few Sunday or Monday rehearsals as the time gets nearer to make up for losing the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. "We come together to form a team — it's cool!" Chuck said. "This is something that everyone anticipates."

Chuck produces a rehearsal CD for each choir member. "I sing their voice part on the CD," Chuck revealed. He also invites each section, in turn, for a rehearsal cook-out at his house.

Many other volunteers are needed to bring the production to the community each year. Chuck estimates the number, including parents who provide transportation, at about 250-275 folks. "There are a lot more people than those you see during performances," Becky said. Church members Bill and Cathy Carter bring dinner to the busy choir members during a critical extra rehearsal. There's costuming and tree construction to be done. The "box crew" works to get performers' boxes in the right place each night. Performers stand on boxes uniquely measured for them so that everyone appears at a uniform 6-foot height. The "fire and faint" crew takes care of anyone who has a fainting spell or becomes sick during the one-hour performance, and of course, takes care

of the lights on the tree. The "flashlight loaders" load the tree with performers - a task that takes patience since the lines are close. "There are bars behind us, but really if we get sick or faint, there's nowhere to go but straight down since we're so close together," Becky revealed. "We've had



people that needed help during performances, and the guys were really good at getting them down unknown to anyone in the congregation," Chuck said. "It can get really uncomfortable in that one hour, but it's worth it all when the congregation's response is so great."

A 20-piece orchestra comprised of Baylor University instrumentalists accompanies the choir. "We have strings, brass, drums and woodwinds," Chuck said. "I feed and pay these students. The first-timers are like children at Christmas when they first see the tree in dress rehearsal. They remark on how inspirational the experience is."

"It's really a neat experience when we appear and all the first-timers, whether in the orchestra or congregation, gasp audibly," Becky said.

Ushers help people to their seats after Boy Scouts have helped folks across the street from the parking lot. Lighting for the performance is designed by Chuck to enhance the music. "Our lighting system is old, but we're able to pull it off every year," he said.

"Everything works cohesively. As director, I tell the choir that I'm the window to the congregation," Chuck

explained. "As such, I don't see the congregation, but I can feel the moments that I live for as a Christian and musician. These moments come when we least expect it. They're random and thrilling when we connect with people." Becky's favorite moments come











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during "Little Drummer Boy" when the drummers start walking down the aisle and when the "snowflakes" start falling near the finale. "The flakes falling in the light are beautiful. Since we perform our music mostly from memory, we can enjoy the performance," she said.

The performance's purpose remains the same. "We want to snag people's hearts, make them think about the message and promote peace," Chuck said. "Christmas is a sentimental and reflective time. This is how we can slow down during the middle of all the busyness of the season, take a respite and make sense of everything. That's the power of music."

The Living Christmas Tree will be presented December 13-15 with seating to begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by the performance at 7:00 p.m. Admission is free. "Every year, people say, 'This year's performance was the best," Becky said.

An Oklahoma native, Chuck came to Texas to attend Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is father to two grown children and has a granddaughter. Becky and her husband, Robert, are both Corsicana natives. "My grandchildren are fifth-generation First Baptist members," she said proudly.

"When we consider that since 1985, hundreds have performed the music and thousands have witnessed the performance, it's humbling," Chuck recalled. "The tree is sentimental to generations of families, and it's both a sacrifice and a joy to be part of the team that makes each performance possible. Music can take the message of Jesus to places in the heart where the message alone can seldom go."

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DENTAL CENTER

– By Nancy Smothermon

If we are defined by what we possess, what we drive or what we live in, then Larry and Doris Glasgow have found a way to express themselves simply and richly. Their home and lifestyle are both treasures to be explored as they live "small" in what many are calling a new wave of home-ownership. Larry and Doris have moved into a "tiny house." They have found a way to downsize their living space and maintain their blessed lifestyle. AT HOME WITH Larry and Doris Glasgow

Larry and Doris have lived in Kerens, a small town east of Corsicana, since 1982. The couple has been married 51 years. You could say they enjoy living small. They appreciate their new home and treasure every memory that surrounds them. From the family photographs on the living room wall to the ceiling in their master bedroom, everywhere you look you uncover a wealth of memories.

They brought all the love they once shared in a three-bedroom house, where they raised their three children, to their new home. The walls are built from 1x12inch boards that date back 160 years. Countertops in the kitchen and bathroom are made of bricks from the old chimney, and Larry's favorite part of the house is the doors. He jiggled the old-fashioned white, porcelain doorknob on one door and shared how the doors were once part of their old home, but have since been cleaned up and are working great now.

"My favorite part of our new home is the original bricks taken from the old chimney," Doris pointed toward the darkened bricks on the kitchen countertops. "They were darkened by the smoke," she added, as her hand brushed

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The house is rich with memories. They share their home with their greatgrandson on occasion, and Eli, short for Elijah, has the run of the house. He has his own bounty of toys kept safely in a drawer in the end table next to the leather sofa. "Pappy" and Eli also enjoy the electric recliners.

Speaking of sharing, Larry and Doris both admit the house does draw attention from passersby, especially during the holiday season. Often they have visitors stop and explore. Larry has even invited them to sit a spell in his favorite rockers on the front porch or have a peek inside. People are amazed with what the couple has been able to do. "The front porch was built first and added to the original structure, a cabin, we had brought in and placed on the same block where the old house was," Larry said.

"It was hard tearing down the old house," Doris admitted.

Across the driveway from the house is the "Santa Claus House," as everyone calls it. For about 10 years, Larry has



spent most of November decorating for Christmas and for the children of Kerens. He and Doris share their joy with the community through the holidays by lighting up the city block and passing out treats to young guests. Mike Goines, Larry's brother, even puts on a Santa suit for two nights before Christmas.

A talented carpenter, Mike actually helped persuade the couple to use the reclaimed lumber when building their new house. He is responsible for the interior design of the house and built their kitchen table. Incorporating the wood from the original house throughout has proven to be both economically beneficial and has made the transition smoother for the whole family. "We built it for space. Everything has its place," Larry explained.

At Christmastime, most of their collections on display throughout the rest of the year are taken down and carefully stored away. Larry likes to share his nutcracker collection. "We have room for everyone at Christmas, the kids and grandkids," Doris smiled.

They had lots of help from friends



Larry and Doris have built a home full of love, memories and dreams.







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and family when the new home building process began. Colby, their youngest son, did quite a bit of work on the place, as did Donya, their daughter, and Rodney, their oldest son. Between their kids; their son-in-law, Robert; and five grandchildren, Dustin (25), Mason (20), twins Brett and Bailey (19) and Presley (13), everything seemed to come to completion in a timely manner. "Everyone worked hard together," Larry said with a smile.



Larry and Doris were excited to move from the smaller apartment/cabin next door last year. They were cozy and managed to keep house in the smaller abode with the luxury of a hot plate, microwave and a toaster. "It is nice to be back in my kitchen," Doris said.

Larry pointed to the light fixtures over the kitchen table. "We did a lot of eating out while we waited to move in," he said. "Doris got the idea for the aluminum buckets from our favorite steak place in Ennis."

Doris is the executive director of the Kerens Housing Authority, while Larry owns his own business, Larry's Lot Mowing. Most of his business comes from customers who live in Navarro County by the lake. Though they both still work outside their home, they enjoy their comfy and cozy surroundings.

The interior of their home is decorated with choice belongings. An antique clock hangs in the living room. Larry kept the bois d'arc stumps that supported the posts of the old house. Doris has her father's hunter's horns and her mother's watch kept safely in a shadow box. Her mother, who passed away at 92, painted an old saw, and Doris proudly displays it



over the sofa with pictures of her family. She also displays a collection of antique cans above her built-in desk just inside the kitchen.

As Larry kept a close eye on the weather, Doris was quick to share that she really likes the work Sydney Combs did on their kitchen cabinets. "You can still see the holes from the nails used at the old place," she added. "We put up burlap as a border above the cabinets."

"So much of what we have now is new," Larry added. The items with sentimental value include the dresser in their bedroom closet, the nightstands by the bed and the desk in the hallway that once belonged to Doris' father. "The kids would not let us get rid of these things," Larry said.

The home may be smaller than what they were accustomed to, but it holds so much more than many think they have to have in order to survive and be rich in happiness. Larry and Doris have built a home full of love, memories and dreams. They are looking forward to their future together in their tiny house filled with so many big memories.



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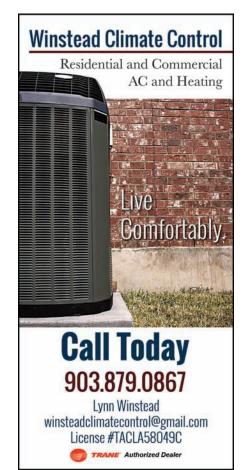




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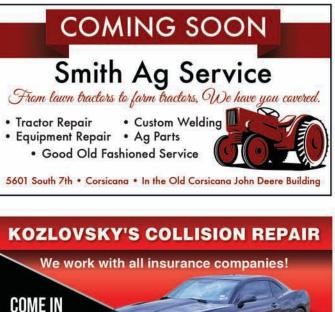
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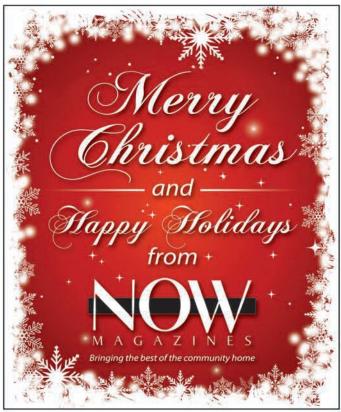
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Ty Tidwell and Kennady Betts were surprised when a letter was delivered to each of them last spring through a Corsicana High School counselor notifying them of having been nominated and selected to receive the Rotary Youth Leadership Award. The award enabled them to attend the RYLA Camp held at Bastrop State Park for five days this past summer. They joined about 90 other honorees from high schools located around the Austin area, South Texas and Houston. "We met a lot of people and did leadership strength building," Kennady said.





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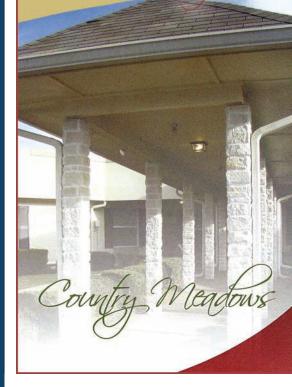


RYLA is run by Rotary International and is designed for secondary school, university students and young professionals even though there is no age limit. Local Rotary clubs work together by regions to set up the three- to 10-day long training sessions in their area. The presentations, activities and workshops cover many topics but are aimed at developing leadership fundamentals and ethics, effective communication skills, problem solving and conflict management skills and raise community and global citizenship awareness. As with the Corsicana Rotarians, participants are nominated and sponsored by local Rotary clubs.

Two members of Rotary took Ty and Kennady to the RYLA camp on a Sunday, and two more Rotarians picked them up at the end of the session the following Friday. "I didn't really know what to expect, but I didn't expect to be greeted by crazy people in tutus, who were banging on the car windows as we



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Rotary members, Pat Ann Wilson (far left) and Carole Davenport (far right) are proud of the dedication Ty and Kennady demonstrated at RYLA Camp.

arrived!" Kennady said.

Ty agreed but stated, "By that night, we could kind of figure out what the camp was going to be about."

They both agreed that the No Cliques activity was a winner in meeting the goals of RYLA. "It made us look at how we treat other people, especially about making friends with people outside our comfort zone," Kennady recalled.

"There were some emotional times at the camp, and one happened during the questioning part of No Cliques. What we discovered was that we all had similar problems and had behaved in similar ways," Ty explained.

Another one of Kennady's favorite activities was the Olympics. "Everything was done by teams, so everyone had to be on the same page," she said. The activities' challenges were met head-on by this CHS campus leader. "There were certain activities where I had to step back and let other people lead because they knew more about what was going to be helpful to our team's success than I did. That was hard for me to do." She also found it very valuable to get experience with other people from other backgrounds. "The activities gave me an actual understanding of how differently other people view the world from how I do. That led me to understand that everyone's different, so I have to lead in different ways to be effective."

"The activities made me 'step out of the box' and learn about certain aspects of leadership and how it feels to lead," Ty stated. "I began figuring out if I can lead. I learned how to treat people effectively, to push on through rough times and become a better servant leader in my community — skills that I will really use." The counselors and



assistant counselors, who are alumni of the program, are there to help. "The late night talks with the counselors focused on how we had grown during that day and gave us a perspective on each day. The counselors are true servant leaders," Ty said. Before they left the camp that week, Ty and Kennady were given applications to become counselors or assistant counselors during future RYLA camps.

Campers were housed in cabins with bunk beds, and they were given T-shirts designated to be worn on different days. "Staff did our laundry for us, and the food was good. We got sirloin steaks one night," Ty remembered.

"The enchiladas were my favorite," Kennady added. "Also, we were given binders with our daily activities for the week, so we knew what we were going to be doing each day. Everything was very well organized."

One requirement of campers would be challenging for most young adults these days. "We couldn't have our cell phones," Kennady revealed.

Ty recalled, "It was hard at first, but we learned to just 'chill out' after the first couple of days."

Kennady lives with her dad, Charles Betts, and her two younger sisters. She has two older brothers and her grandmother, Barbara Williams, all to whom she is close. "My dad sets a good example for my sisters and me," Kennady said. She is taking dual credit and Advanced Placement classes at CHS, plays varsity basketball and is in Family, Career and Community Leaders of America. She was selected for the All-District First Team in basketball last year. Kennady attends St. Andrews United Methodist Church. When she is

 For unto us a
Child is born,
unto us a Son
is given
-lsaiah 9:6

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Ty and Kennady through all their efforts.

not studying, Kennady likes to volunteer in Corsicana, play basketball or go shopping. She's traveled to the East Coast.

Ty's parents are Chuck and Melanie Tidwell, and he has an older sister. His grandparents, Lewis and Norma Tidwell, and other members of his dad's family reside locally. "My family is a support system," Ty said. He's president of CHS' Future Farmers of America. a member of the varsity football team and National Honor Society. Ty was awarded the Randy Green Heart Award in football for his dedication and was named to the Golden Circle Area Football Team and Boy's State. He attends Second Avenue Baptist Church and volunteers in the Corsicana YMCA Mentoring Program. His hobbies include doing anything outside — hunting, fishing or sports shooting. He has traveled to Cozumel, the Bahamas, Washington, D.C. and Florida.

As seniors this year, both Ty and Kennady have plans for the future. Ty plans on attending Tarleton State University and majoring in agricultural business. Kennady is planning on attending college with a major in kinesiology, which will help lead her into becoming a physical therapist. While participating in sports, both Ty and Kennady have experienced injuries to their knees' menisci. "People go through a lot when injured and really get depressed. I want to help people get through those times," Kennady said.

Before graduating from CHS, Ty and Kennady would also like to "pay forward" their experience by starting a Rotary Interact Club on the high school campus. "We were introduced to different leadership and growth programs offered by Rotary, and the Corsicana Rotarians will help," Ty stated. Now, this dynamic duo is well trained to leave their unique legacy on campus. NOW



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Friendly smiles abound at Twilight Nursing Home.

Brightly Shining Stars

Twilight Home Nursing & Rehabilitation takes pride in seeing residents regain health. — By Virginia Riddle

Happy Hour, Zumba, movie and popcorn nights and outings to local restaurants, shopping and events - this is life at Twilight Home, while residents recover from hospitalizations and prepare for their return home. "Some of our residents come with Stage 4 wounds, but it's our goal to help them regain as much independence as they can, prevent a return to the hospital and set up a home health care system, so they can go home," Administrator Jordan Golden explained.

Working together as a coordinated team, the 80-90 member staff offers skilled nursing and rehabilitation services; IV therapy; speech therapy; occupational therapy; physical therapy; wound care; and full dietary, laundry, beautician and housekeeping services. "There are many stars among our employees and residents," Jordan said.

Twilight Home was founded in 1952 and has undergone recent renovations with more to come. Plans have been approved to complete the remodeling of patients' rooms, expand the dining room, remodel and change the configuration of the common areas, add a country kitchen for residents' use, add more landscaping and purchase new furnishings. "We have already greatly expanded and updated the therapy room," Jordan said.

The ages of residents vary, but presently there is a 50-year span. "Each resident has his or her own specialized plan of care," Jordan explained. Families are an intricate part of that care. "We encourage families to visit anytime and to become very involved in all our activities. Over 350 people had Thanksgiving dinner here last year!" Jordan recalled. "We teach family members skills that will help the patient go home safely."

Business NOW

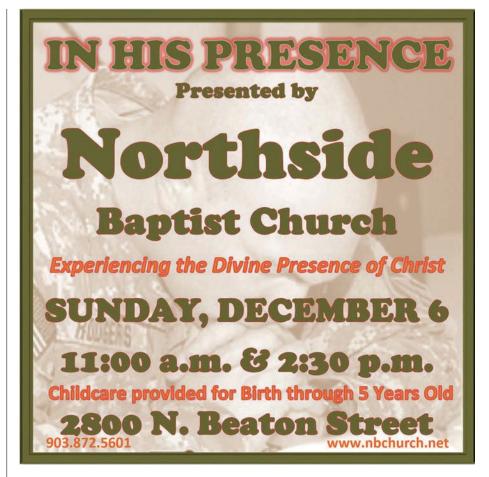
Staff also involves their own families by bringing their children to visit residents. "Knox, my 3-year-old son, knows the residents' names," Jordan said. There are family dinners, and the Twilight Cantina opens every Friday afternoon for happy hour. "We have therapy dog visits, church services, birthday parties, group exercise and crafts," Jordan added. "The Mary and Martha church group has been coming here for decades." To get ready for festivities, residents line up every week for manicures and new hairdos. "We have a very good time at Twilight," Jordan said.

"WE TEACH FAMILY MEMBERS SKILLS THAT WILL HELP THE PATIENT GO HOME SAFELY."

The home has been recognized by the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services for two consecutive deficiency free surveys, voted Best Nursing Home in Navarro County for the last four years and was recently on Fox 4 News. The staff volunteers throughout the community through Derrick Days, Relay for Life and other community events. Jordan serves on the Board of Directors for United Way of Navarro County and helped organize the 2015 Senior Olympics, which involved over 30 different health care providers. "I love what I do, and getting to do it in the community that raised me," Jordan said.

A native of Blooming Grove, Jordan knows firsthand how this community "pulls together and helps people in need." He's a graduate of Navarro College and Sam Houston State University. It was his wife, Shelley, a nurse, who encouraged Jordan to attend McLennan Community College to obtain his administrator's license. The couple are also parents to 1-year-old Kate.

"Twilight's success is the result of each and every employee that puts their heart and soul into their jobs," Jordan said. "Our team works together to make sure everyone gets the highest level of skilled nursing every day."





Around Town NOW



Several Navarro College staff members cut the ribbon to open the new Team Center designed to enhance student learning in math.



Members of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1009 award a deer rifle to raffle winner, Bill Moore.



Lakes Regional Community Center staff hosts an open house.



Pilots and other participants check in at the Corsicana Airsho.



The ladies of PALs dress for Halloween fun.



It's smiles all around at the Senior Circle's 6th Anniversary Gala.



Corsicana Art League member Polly Butler paints a Christmas stocking.



Joanie Teal works on her Three Dudes from Arizona quilt during a Piecemakers' Quilt Guild meeting.



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Estimate Your Retirement Income Needs

Have you been saving for retirement without a clear idea of how much money you'll need to live on? If so, estimating your retirement income should be an essential part of your saving strategy. A 2012 study by the Employee Benefit Research Institute found that only 42 percent of American workers said they have completed a retirement-needs calculation — the basic planning step that can help individuals determine how much money they may need in retirement and how much they will need to save to meet their retirement goal.

Plan to Maintain Your Standard of Living

Most retirees want to maintain their standard of living during retirement. To accomplish this, financial experts say you'll need between 70 and 80 percent of your preretirement income. So, for example, a couple earning \$60,000 per year would need between \$42,000 ($60,000 \times .70$) and \$48,000 ($60,000 \times .80$) each year during retirement.

Why less? Retirement typically triggers a number of changes in spending patterns. Your cost of living will change if you've paid off your mortgage and other loans, your children have finished college and moved away, or you no longer have working- and business-related expenses. Plus, you'll no longer be contributing to retirement plans. Of course, your specific situation will dictate the amount of money you'll need to live on. You may need more money than you anticipate. Health care costs have increased, and you could possibly use up a greater portion of your income than you planned to ensure your insurance needs are met. Also, you'll have more time to do the things you love, so you may spend significantly more on leisure activities, such as travel, entertainment and hobbies.

Consider Your Lifespan

In addition, you need to take into consideration how long you might live. People are generally in better health and living longer, more active lives than ever before. According to the Social Security Administration, a man reaching age 65 today can expect to live to 84 — a woman, 87. Those are only averages. One in 10 people will live past age 95.

With so many factors to consider, estimating retirement needs can be difficult. A retirement calculator is a good place to start. To see if you're on track, answer a few questions about your goals, how much you're saving now and your retirement income sources.

Lynda Housley is a State Farm agent based in Corsicana.





Thank you for a wonderful 2015! We wish you and your family happy holidays and a prosperous New Year.



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Health NOW Chronic Kidney Disease — Not as Rare as You Might Think

It's a seldom talked about disease, but 26 million American adults have chronic kidney disease, and millions of others are at increased risk. We are all born with two kidneys, each about the size of our fist. The kidneys are part of your urinary tract and, when functioning properly, perform the vital function of filtering the blood and removing waste and excess salt and water from the body. They also regulate the body's chemical balance, help control blood pressure, make hormones, help keep bones healthy and help make red blood cells.

In people with chronic kidney disease, the damaged kidneys slowly lose their filtering ability. The buildup of waste in your body can cause major health problems. Left untreated, the kidneys may fail (known as end-stage renal disease), and you will need dialysis or a kidney transplant in order to live. Unfortunately, many people aren't diagnosed with CKD until they have lost most of their kidney function.

Risk Factors for CKD

Anyone can get chronic kidney disease at any age. However, some people are more likely than others to develop kidney disease. You may be at increased risk if you:

- Have diabetes.
- Have high blood pressure.
- Have heart disease.
- Have a family member with kidney disease.
- Are African-American, Hispanic, Native American or Asian.
- Are over age 60.
- Are obese.
- Are a smoker.
- Have protein in the urine.

Some infections, inherited diseases, medicines and injuries can also cause CKD.

Symptoms of CKD

In the early stages, there may be no symptoms of CKD. The loss of kidney function may be so slow (months or years) that symptoms do not appear until kidney function is less than one-tenth of normal. As the disease worsens, you may experience:

- Less energy/sleep problems.
- A poor appetite.
- Numbness in the hands, feet or other areas.
- Muscle twitching or cramps.
- Swollen feet and ankles (edema).
- Puffiness around your eyes.
- Dry, itchy skin.
- Abnormally dark or light skin.
- · Headaches, nausea and vomiting.
- Bone pain.
- Blood in the stool.
- Excessive thirst.

Preventing CKD

- To help keep your kidneys healthy:
- Visit with your doctor on a regular basis to perform blood and urine tests to detect any problem with kidney function early on.
- Take blood pressure medicine regularly to keep blood pressure below 140/80.
- Keep your blood glucose in the target range.
- Follow the diet recommended by your doctor.
- Lose weight if you are obese.
- If you have CKD at any stage, avoid NSAIDS (non-steroidal antiinflammatory drugs) such as ibuprofen (Advil and Motrin) and naproxen (Aleve).
- Check with your doctor or kidney specialist before starting any new medicine (even over-the-counter).
- Stop smoking.

Respect your kidneys for the important role they play in your overall health. While there is no cure for CKD, the earlier it's detected, the better the chance of slowing or stopping its progression.

Shawkat Shafik, M.D., is an independent member of the medical staff at Navarro Regional Hospital.

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If you are experiencing any of these problems, you may be suffering from sciatica. Sciatica affects everything you do, from work to play and ultimately, your quality of life. If you are tired of taking drugs that only mask the problem, or you are facing surgery, we invite you to come in and find relief. We want you to know there is hope. You can get rid of your sciatica pain and get your life back. We have helped hundreds of people just like you.

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Ogden, Utah, a vibrant town in northern Utah, is a nationally recognized destination nestled within the Rocky Mountains. This old railroad town transformed itself into a Mecca for adventurists. Passion, intrigue and rich history combine to offer endless experiences. Ogden's mountain-to-metro personality is derived from a unique balance of vibrant shopping, delicious dining, exciting nightlife and backyard access to year-round, breathtaking outdoor recreation.

Don't come to Ogden expecting a typical mountain town. Al Capone is rumored to have said Ogden was too wild a town for him in the 1920s. While Ogden has recently experienced a renaissance, O-town's soul will always be a bit rowdy.

As Utah's oldest settlement, transcontinental railroad officials designated Ogden as their junction point in 1896. More than 120 trains passed through Ogden each day. Today, Ogden's accessibility makes it a gathering spot for visitors and locals alike.

The area boasts three major ski resorts — Snowbasin, Powder Mountain and Wolf Mountain. The resorts offer a combined 10,000 acres of skiing with an average of 400 inches of snow. No lift lines mar the landscape, just open terrain and access to pristine groomers and powder shots, not to mention spectacular views. *Ski Magazine* consistently ranks Powder Mountain and Snowbasin resorts in the top five for value, snow, on-mountain dining and service.

Snowbasin provides luxurious skiing with multi-million dollar lodges, 3,000 vertical feet and high-speed gondolas. Powder Mountain's 7,000 acres, one of the largest ski basins in North America, gives skiers of all abilities a true backcountry experience. Wolf Mountain is arguably the best learn-to-ski mountain in the western United States and operates the largest night skiing venue in the state.

After absorbing Ogden's 170,000 acres of national forest, three ski resorts, miles of trails or 13,000 acres of lakes connected by pristine rivers, you can head downtown for a cool place to hang with friends. Charming, historic 25th Street is injected with local love, featuring boutique shopping, galleries,







independent restaurants and bars, including Tona, voted one of the top-10 ski-town sushi restaurants by *Ski Magazine*.

Downtown Ogden offers live entertainment, museums, culture and events. Visit Fort Buenaventura for an epic sporting event or mountain man rendezvous. Tour the Union Station's numerous museums, including the John M. Browning Firearms Museum or the Utah State Railroad Museum among others. Children will enjoy the award winning George S. Eccles Dinosaur Park, Ogden Nature Center and Trechouse Children's Museum.

Experience live theater, music and dance at Peery's Egyptian Theater or browse one of the 20 fully operating galleries displaying original works of art. A number of nationally recognized events take place throughout the year — from the independent Sundance Film Festival held in Park City and Harvest Moon Celebration to the XTERRA USA National Championships and Ogden Marathon.

The town offers luxury mountain getaways, with mountain trails at your back door, to restored historic hotels located right

downtown. In addition, the Ogden-Hinckley Airport is only five minutes away from downtown or the Salt Lake City International Airport is a quick 35-minute drive.

Travel times from Ogden are more than reasonable for educational daytrips to exotic sites like Utah's Great Salt Lake, where high-salinity water is so buoyant that people can easily float. You'll find opportunities for great hiking and wildlife viewing, including bison, antelope and birds, at Antelope Island State Park. Swimming and sunbathing are also popular on its clean, white sand beaches. Freshwater showers are available to rinse off after swimming, before the 40-minute drive back to your lovely lodging in Ogden.

For more information on great escapes available throughout the year, go to www.visitogden.com. **NOW**

By Aimee Edwards. Photos by Out of Bounds Creative.

Calendar

December 1 — 19

Corsicana Art League's Art Show and Sale: Warehouse Living Arts Center Gallery. For more information, email Gladys Espenson at 65gladys53@gmail.com.

December 2, 9

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

December 3 — 6

It's A Wonderful Life-The Musical: The Palace Theater. Cinematically scored and theatrically staged, this adaptation features music along with the familiar story of George Bailey's life as featured in the 1946 film. For more information or to reserve tickets, call (903) 874-7792.

December 4

Tree Lighting Ceremony: 3:00-6:00 p.m., Pocket Park. The beautiful Christmas lights and tree will once again grace Beaton Street. There will be photos taken, fireworks, music and food. Sponsored by Corsicana Parks and Recreation Department and Main Street. For more information, call (903) 654-4851.

December 5

22nd Annual Jingle Bell Jog 5K run/walk: 8:00 a.m. registration, 9:00 a.m. race, Corsicana YMCA. There will be holiday music and a visit from Santa. For more information, call (903) 872-2412.

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

Lucky's CC Car Show/Toy Drive: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., N.W. Main Street in downtown Ennis. \$10 registration fee along with one unwrapped toy. Proceeds and toys from the event will benefit Mission Ennis – Bridge Builders Angel Tree. For more information, call Chubby at (469) 774-5692.

December 7

Piecemakers' Quilt Guild of Corsicana meeting: 9:30 a.m. fellowship; 10:00 a.m. meeting; Westhill Church of Christ, 3400 W. Highway 22. Visit corsicanaquiltguild.com for more information.

December 9

James Blair Chapter, DAR meeting: 3:00 p.m., Kinslow House. A Children's Christmas program will be presented. For more information, email Suzanne Smith, Regent, at suzannesmith@corleyfuneralhome.com.

December 10

Michael Martin Murphy's Cowboy Christmas: 7:30 p.m., The Palace Theatre. For more information or to reserve tickets, call (903) 874-7792.

December 10, 22

Moncrief Cancer Institute Mobile Cancer Survivor Clinic: Navarro Mall parking lot. For more information or to secure an appointment, call 800-405-7739.

December 11

Corsicana Newcomers' Club: 11:00 a.m., Kinsloe House. This is a membership social and luncheon at which year-end checks to local charities will be presented. For more information or confirmed reservations, contact Annie Avery at (714) 345-6707.

Corsicana's Downtown Snowfest: Free real snow hill and tubing, live music and concessions. Sponsored by Corsicana Parks and Recreation Department and Main Street. For more information, call (903) 654-4850.

December 12

Second Saturday: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Downtown Corsicana. Eat, shop and stroll. For more information, call (903) 654-4850.

1st Annual American Legion Lane Brown Toy Run and Food Drive: 10:00 a.m., Toy Run begins at College Park Mall; Noon-5:00 p.m., BBQ lunch served at American Legion, 632 N. Beaton St. Bring a donation of a wrapped toy, a nonperishable food item or a cash donation. For more information, call (903) 872-3938.

When Are We Going Home Ministry Christmas Party and S'mores: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Break N Free Camp, 4719 NE CR 1040, Rice. This event is open to all medically challenged, special needs, disabled children and foster children and their immediate siblings up to age 21. For more information or to RSVP, call (903) 345-9333.

Navarro County Toy Run: 11:00 a.m., VFW, 4609 W. Hwy 31. All bikes, cars and clubs are welcome. For \$10 per person or a donation of one new unwrapped toy, enjoy a scenic ride, food, drinks, music, 50/50 drawing and auction. For more information, contact Marty at (903) 654-8944 or Pete at (903) 641-1180.

Corsicana Opry Show: 215 E. 5th. Featured artists are the Corsicana Opry Band and Bella Voce performing Christmas favorites. For more information or to reserve tickets, call (903) 872-6779 or email corsicanaopry@gmail.com.

DECEMBER 2015

December 13 — 15

Living Christmas Tree Musical Presentation: Doors open at 6:30 p.m., presentation begins at 7:00 p.m., First Baptist Church of Corsicana. Free admission, and no ticket is required. For more information, call (903) 872-7473.

December 14

Eclectic Readers Book Club: 6:30 p.m., Corsicana Public Library. The club will discuss *Miss Carter's War* by Sheila Hancock. For more information, contact Lisa Magenheimer at (903) 654-4810.

December 15

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1009 meeting: 7:00 p.m., La Pradera Restaurant. For more information, contact Roy Messick at roy.messick@gmail.com.

December 17

Ladies Night Downtown Corsicana: 5:00-8:00 p.m. Pop into your favorite shops for holiday shopping and treats. For more information, call (903) 654-4850.

December 19

Corsicana Opry Vendor Market: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., 215 E. 5th. Local craftsmen and representatives for various products will have their goods/services on display in this historic building. For more information, call (903) 872-6779.

3rd Annual Community Expo & Taste of Navarro County: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., I.O.O.F. Event Center. Local business and food vendors will feature their products for this one-stop-shopping opportunity. Free tasting from 10 local restaurants and caterers is a plus. For more information, call (903) 874-4731 or email jfritz@corsicana.org.

Ongoing:

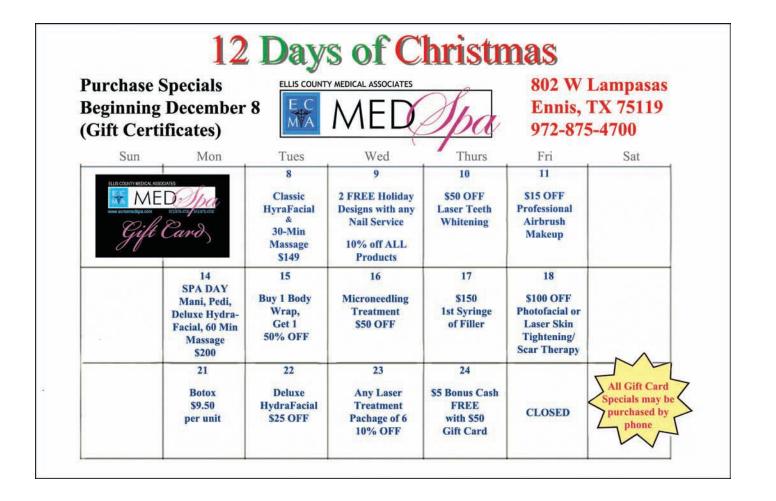
Tuesdays

Story Time: 7:00 p.m., Corsicana Public Library. This program is for children and their caregivers to enjoy together. For more information, call (903) 654-4810.

Wednesdays

Story Time: 10:00 a.m., Corsicana Public Library. This program is for children and their caregivers to enjoy together. For more information, call (903) 654-4810.

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to virginia.riddle@nowmagazines.com.









Cooking **NOW**



In the Kitchen With Laura Martinez

— By Virginia Riddle

The Martinez family celebrates Christmas by preparing traditional Mexican food and beverages. "I learned to cook from my mother, Maria; my mother-in-law, Margarita Alcaraz; and my husband, Ramferi Martinez's grandmother, Aurelia," Laura Martinez said. Cooking is such a part of this family's life that Laura and Margarita co-own Juliette's Tacqueria.

The celebration of *Feliz Navidad* centers around, *El Niño Jesús*. Food preparations begin during the nine days of *Las Posadas* and culminate with a feast on *Noche Buena* (Christmas Eve). It is a joyous family- and friends-filled time of the year. "Everyone comes together with their favorite recipes," Laura said. "We love spending time together." Laura's most time-honored recipes are being passed on to future generations in her family including Laura and Ramferi's children, Rhy and Scarlett.

Arroz con Leche (Rice Pudding)

Can be served warm or refrigerate for 2 hours to serve cold.

I cup long-grained rice I cinnamon stick I/4 tsp. salt 3 cups water 4 cups milk I/2 cup raisins (optional) I cup sugar Ground cinnamon, to taste

I. In a medium saucepan, bring rice, cinnamon stick, salt and water to a boil on medium-high heat.

Cover the saucepan; reduce heat to low; let simmer for 15 minutes or until rice is tender.
 Add milk and raisins; cover and simmer on low heat, stirring occasionally until mixture bubbles.

4. Stir in sugar; simmer uncovered for an additional 10-15 minutes.
5. Remove from heat. Cover; let cool for 15 minutes. Top with ground cinnamon before serving.

Champurrado

- 1/2 gal. milk
- 1/2 gal. water plus 2 cups (divided use)
- I cup MASECA
- 2 round tablets of Abuelita Mexican chocolate
- 1/2 cup sugar

I. Bring milk and 1/2 gal. of water to a boil in a large pot.

2. In a bowl, mix MASECA with 2 cups of water; stir until smooth.

3. Add MASECA mixture to boiling milk

while constantly stirring.

4. Add chocolate and sugar; mix well; serve hot.

Tamales Makes 4 dozen.

6 lbs. pork shoulder roast 1 onion, sliced in half 2 garlic cloves (divided use) 2 cups salt (divided use) 1/2 cup cilantro 48 corn husks Guajillo peppers, to taste 1 cup water 1/2 cup cumin powder 4.4 lb. pkg. MASECA corn flour 1 cup vegetable shortening

I. Place pork shoulder roast in a roasting pan with 1 inch water. Add onion, 1 garlic clove, 1 cup salt and cilantro. Cover; simmer until meat is tender; let cool.

2. Remove meat from broth; place in a large bowl; reserve broth. Shred meat, letting it cool further.

3. Put corn husks in a water-filled bowl to soften.

4. Blend peppers, I cup water and I garlic clove slowly in a blender until chili mixture is smooth. Pour into a saucepan; simmer on medium for 5 minutes.

5. Add meat and cumin powder; mix well. Cover; bring meat and chili mixture to boiling; remove immediately; let cool.

6. To make masa: Mix MASECA, vegetable shortening and 1 cup salt well. Hint: To add flavor, slowly add broth until masa is softened to consistency of cookie dough. Do not add too much or mixture will be ruined.
7. Remove corn husks from water; shake off any moisture. Working masa with hands, take 1/3 cup of masa and spread it evenly to cover each opened husk. Add 1/3 cup meat and chili mixture to each husk.

8. Fold sides and then ends of husks toward center. Arrange prepared tamales in a large pan with 2 inches of water, so tamales won't burn while steaming.

9. Cover; cook for 2 hours on medium. Add more water as needed. Remove, drain and cool.

To view recipes from current and previous issues, visit www.nowmagazines.com.



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