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A festive Christmas scene featuring a wire basket with red ornaments, a Santa Claus figurine, and a green tin box with "WINTER HEART" text. The background is warm and decorated with lights and more ornaments.

M A G A Z I N E
DECEMBER 2017

A Country Christmas

At Home With Brian
and Danielle Pillans

Remembering Our Seniors

The Golden Gifts of Love
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Traditional treats greet Santa at this home on the range.

Photo by Memories by Melissa.

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Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

Winter solstice is approaching, and that's about the only thing about this time of year that I don't like. Its shorter days, lack of sunlight and cold temps aren't my cup of tea.

However, I've found abundant ways to enjoy this season. Christmas with family and friends, especially any of my grandchildren with whom I share time, is wonderful. I enjoy my usual indoor escapes from the cold — reading, playing card

and board games, cooking, bowling and visiting museums.

This year, though, I'm challenging myself and completing another bucket list item. It's been a year in planning. I want to try snowshoeing! I've bought a pair of waterproof boots and have my senior citizen's national parks free pass. Valles Caldera National Preserve's rangers better watch out, 'cause here I come!

Best wishes for a safe and most wonderful holiday,

Virginia

Virginia Riddle
CorsicanaNOW Editor
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P.S. The publisher and staff of NOW Magazines wish you and your family a very merry Christmas and the happiest of holiday seasons!

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Remembering Our Seniors

— By Virginia Riddle

As so often happens when a need arises, Navarro County residents find a way to fill that need. It all goes back to that old saying, "Where there's a will, there's a way." One day three years ago, Kami Ward-Matthews, home health coordinator with Guardian Home Health; Kelly Bell, sales and marketing manager with Brookdale Senior Living; and Alicia Rogers, home health & hospice liaison with Family First Home Health, Hospice and Palliative Care got together and brainstormed about something they could do for the senior citizens in Navarro County during the holidays. "We decided to have a tree similar to the angel tree projects for kids — only the gifts would be for seniors ages 55 and over," Kelly said.

The result was the Golden Gifts of Love Tree that's been located at the Corsicana Senior Citizens Activity Center each Christmas since. This project is unique as far as Kami, Kelly and Alicia know. They came up with the name and have been the guiding angels who have made the program a success. Anyone may nominate a senior needing extra Christmas cheer this year by December 12. The necessary forms are available at the center. The nominated senior must be a resident of Navarro County. Individuals wishing to sponsor the giving of a gift to one or more seniors can visit the tree this month and bring gifts for their golden seniors by December 15. Gifts must be nonperishable, and they must be boxed or bagged and returned to the senior center by the due date. "All three of us work with seniors, and we want them to feel loved during this time of year," Kelly said.



Golden Gifts of Love presents Mary Lewis with a gift.



Kelton Bell, Fred Biltz, Alicia Rogers, Kami Ward-Matthews, Kelly Bell and Keegan Bell gather around the Golden Gifts of Love Tree.

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"Many of our elderly residents see family only once a year," Kami explained. Often, that once-a-year visit to a grandparent, great-grandparent or older sibling doesn't include the Christmas holiday because everyone's schedule gets a little busier, and folks must hustle to get everything done.

"So many of our elderly in Corsicana and surrounding communities depend on us in the health care industry for socialization," Kami said.

Last year, only about 12 people were nominated for a golden gift, but as the word gets out, the program will grow, allowing more seniors to be remembered. "It's been a challenge getting the nominations. We have more people and businesses that want to give gifts than we have nominations," Kelly explained.

The forms carry space for those nominating the senior citizen to request a needed gift. Heated blankets, favorite perfumes, toiletry items, socks, some clothing items and pillows have been requested in the past. "We limit the cost to about \$25 per gift," Kami stated.

The senior center's staff, including director, Fred Biltz, join Kami, Kelly and Alicia in decorating the Golden Gifts of Love tree with gold, silver and white balls; white lights; and a big white bow to brighten seniors' lives, as they enjoy spending time at the center. Nomination forms are hung on the tree with care.

The gifts brought in by donors are wrapped in cheery Christmas colors, ribbons and bows or enclosed in holiday gift bags. Kelly's children, Kelton and Keegan, step in to help the staff and volunteers. Then it's onward to play Santa



Eddie Cooper receives a gift from Golden Gifts of Love.

as the ladies, Fred, Kelton and Keegan deliver the gifts. "The kids wore Santa hats and loved doing this," Kelly said. "It was the best experience for them because they got to see what true giving is all about. The gift and our visit is a surprise to the recipients."



The gift is only part of the visit. "We take the time to be that someone who gives hugs and talks with the senior recipient," Kami said.

"The priceless smiles and tears on their faces bring joy to us and tell us that this program is needed. One lady we surprised just cried. She didn't think anyone would think about her last year," Kelly remembered. "One guy had no family and no Christmas tree. He had hung a picture of a Christmas tree on the wall. Our gift and visit were something simple that told him and the other recipients that they were loved."

This awesome threesome would like to expand the Golden Gifts of Love Tree program by adding trees in other locations. More volunteers, more trees and more decorations all equal more cheer for seniors. "We know there are more seniors in Navarro County who need to be nominated," Kelly said. Everyone is welcome to get involved. "The seniors at the center help us, too. We would love to have more trees to decorate every year."

Kami is from Corsicana and lives in Dawson with her husband, Kris, and their three children, Stormi, Jace and Jaxon. She combined her previous work experience at the medical arts clinic with marketing experience when she went

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into the health care business. She also volunteers through the Meals on Wheels program and at the senior center. "I've always liked meeting people and talking and making sure people are taken care of," she said. Kami enjoys living and working in Navarro County. Between her work and all her family activities, she is one busy lady.

Kelly, a native of Blooming Grove, lives in Navarro Mills with her husband, Brett, and their children. She attended Navarro College, and her previous work experience has included "a little bit of everything." Kelly's a past member of the Kiwanis Club and also volunteers at the senior center. When not working or volunteering, she enjoys crafts and family time spent following her kids' sports. "I love living here. Having several relatives here and growing up in Navarro County has helped me be successful," she said. "God put me here for a reason, and making sure these seniors know someone cares and loves them is priceless." **NOW**

Editor's Note: For more information or to participate, contact Kami at (903) 874-4777 or Kelly at (903) 872-8400.



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ABOVE — and — BEYOND — the — HONORS

— By Alexandra Allred



On paper, Jackson Andrews' résumé is impressive. Recipient of 46 UIL medals, in such events as chess, Ready Writing, editorial writing, dictionary skills, spelling, math, maps and science, Jackson was also the president of the National Junior Honor Society at Rice Middle School, vice president of the Rice Junior High School band and a straight-A student. He played basketball, ran track and was honored with an American History Award by the Woodmen of America Foundation. In fact, because of these successes, the Texas House of Representatives sent him a flag that was flown over the state capitol in honor of his achievements in UIL academic contests.





It is who he is in person, however, that is most impressive. Almost obsessive in his need for order of certain things, he can also be whimsical and carefree. While some things have come to him quite naturally, he has had to work hard for others. He is driven, determined and relentless. He is brooding, optimistic and fun.

"I've never known quite what to make of him," Angie Newman said. As Jackson's mother, "every parent thinks their child is special, but I *knew* there was something special about him."

He began reading at the age of 3. At just 6 years old, he was reading the *Harry Potter* series and displayed what could only be described as photographic memory skills. As a student of routine, Jackson needs order. From kindergarten to the eighth grade, he ate the exact same lunch throughout his academic career. He is not, however, perfect. "If you only saw his room," Angie sighed heavily. In ways such as his love of gaming and his messy room, he is quite typical.

Rarely can life stay the same, and as Jackson entered his freshman year

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Jackson Andrews poses with his mom, Angie Newman.

at Rice High School, he was presented with change. As a student in elementary and middle school, he entered UIL competitions at the urging of teachers who saw his potential.

"A teacher kind of walked up to me and asked me to try out for the chess team," Jackson said. "I knew absolutely nothing about it, but I said, 'OK.'" The teacher, Mr. Lewis, had actually wanted Jackson to compete in public speaking, but since he was the chess team coach, he asked Jackson if he wanted to join the team. "I ended up really liking it," Jackson said.

While the end result is what appears on paper, a chess champion and winner of many UIL awards serving as just two examples, it is Jackson's willingness to dive into new things that has made him who he is today. It is not the awards and prestige that most drives him. Rather, it is what remains to be seen. It's what is on the horizon that motivates him.

"My biggest fear of facing high school this year," Jackson said, "was not doing enough. I don't want to look back and regret not doing more." With his UIL competitive days behind him, Jackson is already looking ahead to college preparation and what course of studies he should investigate. "I want to try a variety of subjects," he said.

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In the past, he has expressed interests ranging from being an attorney to a comedian. "I have always told him, from a very young age, that he needs to do something he will enjoy," Angie said. "If you find something you enjoy, you'll never work a day in your life. It's not



Jackson's numerous achievements in fifth grade were reason to smile.

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about money or what other people would deem successful, it's about what makes *you* happy."

Jackson is stepping into the next four years playing the saxophone, perhaps playing basketball and always willing to take on new chess opponents. He also serves as a mentor to younger students. "One thing I would always tell other students is to study no matter what. Be thankful for our teachers. They're all trying to help us, but no matter what, prioritize."

It is something that Jackson did even as a toddler. From flashcards and toys to learning to read and write, he had a sense of what would most benefit him through the years. And though he jokes that today he can sometimes forget this quality while playing videogames, his mission has not changed. "You have to put things in perspective. A lot of people, especially in middle school, struggle with social life. They think that to succeed in social life means it must be more important than school topics and grades, but long term, school has to come first."

Even as Jackson ponders what he wants to do in life, what he wants to study and what college he might like to attend, there is no question in his mind how much his successes in UIL and academics improved his life. "My friendships, the relationships I have with teachers, most of the things I can do are because of it," Jackson said. But the journey, he knows, has only just begun. **NOW**

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- I.O.O.F., Holiday Market (10:00-1:00) • Dec. 2nd

- Navarro College/Cook Center: (9:00-10:00) Staff Only Photos with Santa;
(10:00-2:00) Students and Public professional photos with Santa • Dec. 7th

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A COUNTRY

AT HOME WITH BRIAN AND DANIELLE PILLANS

CHRISTMAS

— By Virginia Riddle



Through the farmland and over the creek — Santa, visitors and family arrive at the 5P gate, the entrance to Brian and Danielle Pillans' farm. Forget about making a quiet entrance. Popcorn, Ore, Lizzie and Pipi, all rescue dogs, are training puppy, Mabree, to sound the alarm. However, a warmer welcome comes from a sign that reads, Welcome to the Farm. "We were looking for a place while we rented the home next door after selling our home in Corsicana," Brian recalled. "I looked around and thought, Everything we want is right here already. I was heading to work when, an hour later, the owner of this home called telling me he wanted to sell."

For two years before moving into the rent home, they had been renting the accompanying barn for their children's show animals. Eighth-grader Ryan (14), sixth-grader Hunter (11) and their 8-year-old sister, Addie Burke, are students at Mildred Junior High and Mildred Elementary School. Together, the kids show steers and rabbits through the Mildred FFA program. Cats, Catness and Kitty-Kitty, rule the roost, and cattle and horses graze across pastures.



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"We love the peace and quiet," Danielle, Hope Center's executive director, said. "There's very little through traffic on our road."

It is as if the home was meant to be theirs, and the family has loved making it a country dream place for all to enjoy during the holidays. They had a little help from interior decorator Tresa Shimonek, who creatively featured Brian and Danielle's vintage and antique finds as decorations.

As visitors enter, the warm, wood-paneled walls and soaring tin ceiling in the open living, kitchen and dining areas

glow and reflect the many decorations. A magnificent Christmas tree is decorated with antique treasures the family collects to honor their heritage. The tree is set in a water trough, with metal and wooden farm tools surrounding it. A snowman beams atop the tree. Nearby, 5P hangs on a wooden ladder, which once stood in a barn.

Above the stone fireplace hangs a lighted wreath. An old washbowl, filled with a dish towel and Santas sit on the turquoise-colored antique door that serves as a coffee table. "The door hung in the five-and-dime store, which is now B&G Auto Parts. It was the Pillans family's store," Danielle said. Christmas cards are hung by clothespins on a line strung across the fireplace. Blue Dresden-patterned arm chairs on either side of the glowing fire invite folks to sit and warm their toes for a spell. An antique wooden trunk serves as a footrest or table. Antique picture frames and farm signs are hung over comfortable leather couches and chairs. A law library bookcase holds family pictures and treasures, and a church pew is a backdrop for flour sacks with each child's name and can provide additional seating. "This pew is from the church where I was baptized.

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We also have one on the porch that came from the church where we were married," Danielle explained. "These green theater seats came from the Waco Hippodrome Theatre, where I performed while an undergrad student in Baylor University," she added. Danielle, a Corsicana High School graduate, earned her bachelor's from Baylor University and her master's from Amberton University.

A chalkboard with messages and a colorful display of coffee cups stored in wire baskets hang over a handy coffee bar. A sign says it all: *Coffee Shop open 24 hours*. "We're coffee fanatics," Danielle said.

A metal chicken coop holding elves nestled in greenery tops the farm-style dining table. Turquoise and red holiday settings match the turquoise dining room chairs. Spicy holiday scents hint of cookies baked during the holidays, and Santa's cookies are ready on his special holiday plate. The kitchen features the couple's collection of old tins of all sizes, shapes and colors; a minnow bucket Brian used as a boy that is now repurposed as a drink dispenser; meat grinders; Danielle's grandmother's jelly makers; and Brian's grandparents' cast-iron cookware. "We run down antiques from all over," Danielle explained.

Brian's collection of scales, big and little, each have their own special seasonal decoration. "Brian's a fanatic about scales. We have scales for food, babies and money!" Danielle exclaimed. The bright red pantry door stands out against the elegant newly installed cabinets. An old washboard belonging to Danielle's grandmother is displayed in the laundry room.

Every bedroom and bath has its own Christmas tree. "Danielle's big on Christmas trees. She starts the first week of October putting them up and decorating," Brian revealed. The hall in the children's wing leads to their shared bath. A wall plaque spells out family rules, such as: *Be Happy and*





Dream Big. A photo of Brian and Danielle on their wedding day in front of an old chapel in College Station hangs on the hallway wall.

Ryan's room features bunk beds, trophies and ribbons from showing animals and sports. Hunter's room is decorated with all things western and dog-themed. Hunter defended his decor. "One day my stuff will be worth a lot."

Addie's room is girly in pink and violet frills. She has a fashion runway across the floor marked in lights. Her piano and a make-up table, which holds her snow globe collection, completes her decor. "I get a snow globe everywhere I go," she said.

The master bedroom is decorated in blues and tans complemented by white Father Noels. Stacked milk crates from Danielle's Baylor days still hold treasures, and a chicken poop pan has been repurposed. Now it holds her jewelry. "My mother-in-law is a quilter, so we all sleep under quilts made by her and my great-grandmother," Danielle said.

After graduating from Mildred High, Brian graduated from Navarro College and The University of Texas at Tyler. He manages one section of operating rooms at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas. The couple met in 2009 through Brian's cousin, Justin Pillans, DDS, who knew Danielle. Brian won Danielle's heart when he took both her and then baby Addie into Chili's on a date. They've been married seven years.

"Farm life's never dull. We still laugh about my running down the road in my heels while chasing cows," Danielle quipped. But their country Christmas is special. "On Christmas Eve, the kids get a new pair of PJs to wear in the morning," Danielle said. "Then both our families come here for Christmas Day. We all write our favorite Christmas memory and put our writings into a memory book." It's another country Christmas shared. **NOW**

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City Real Estate prides itself in professional values and offering real estate solutions. — By Virginia Riddle

A dream home, first-time buyer's work-in cottage, a downsizing home or wide-open spaces of land — whatever the need or want is, the agents of City Real Estate can lead buyers or sellers through the complex world of real estate and mortgage lending. "We actively recruit local, seasoned real estate agents who are knowledgeable and experts in their fields of residential, commercial and farming/ranching real estate," Amelia Valdez, broker-associate and managing agent, stated.

Since last March, City Real Estate and its agents have been a presence in downtown Corsicana, but they have been serving the Navarro County area from the company's Ennis office for 10 years. Wayne Norcross, real estate broker and owner of City Real Estate, stated, "We are very excited about moving into the

Corsicana market, and we are actively recruiting other agents for this office." Wayne has been active in the real estate business since becoming licensed in 1988.

Amelia and six other sales agents — Linda Blake, Tina Bow, Tammy Carter, Leslie Melton, Traci Pryor and Shellie Smiley — handle the needs of customers and clients. They assist with real estate transactions ranging from residential properties, metal barn homes, land and farm/ranches to commercial properties. "These ladies have really good ties to this community and are from families that have contributed to Corsicana," Amelia said. City Real Estate is a member of the Navarro County Board of Realtors and the Corsicana & Navarro County Chamber of Commerce.

Business **NOW**

Most buyers of real estate need loans. By partnering with in-house Guild Mortgage, these real estate agents work hand-in-hand with mortgage lenders, Ashley Johnson and Shane Widener, who are also able to re-finance existing loans. "Loans are available through Guild Mortgage on residential and farm/ranch properties. Guild Mortgage is a direct lender through FHA, VA and bond programs. There are no investor overlays," Amelia explained. Buyers can opt, however, to seek their mortgages through any lender. These sales agents are trained to help buyers through the complexities of lending with whatever lender they choose. "Mortgage financing is challenging. For instance, there are so many FHA requirements and guidelines," Amelia said. "Appraisals can also become challenging."

Growing up in the family home-building business in Ennis inspired Amelia to become a real estate sales agent in 1998 and a broker in 2009. "I have loved helping people find a home or build one that they would love living in," she said. Her success is evident. She's earned the coveted ABR (Accredited Buyer's Representative) and the SRS (Seller Representative Specialist) designations from the National Association of Realtors. Additionally, Amelia was named one of the Top 250 Hispanic Realtors in the U.S. in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2016. Bilingual in English and Spanish, she also is listed as one of the Top 100 Hispanic agents in Texas.

"We love being a part of Corsicana's active downtown. People are living and working in the downtown area, so it has a busy and good hometown feel. Lots of the buildings are occupied and are beautifully restored," Amelia said.

City Real Estate and Guild Mortgage have jumped right in and volunteered and supported the recent wine stroll, Derrick Days events and various Halloween happenings. "We were able to get the big screen for the recent Beaton Movie Spooktacular sponsored by CORE, the young professionals group," Amelia said. "We're really looking forward to fully experiencing downtown Corsicana during this Christmas season. We love being on Beaton Street in Corsicana, Texas!" **NOW**

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Navarro College's Bean's Big Band and Big Red Jazz perform in concert.



Toledo Finance's Amanda Brown and Tomas Luevanos treat kids during Boo on the Block.



Gladys Espensoon models winter fashions at the Corsicana Newcomers meeting and style show.



Visitors and members of Corsicana's Civil Air Patrol salute the color guard at the group's hanger open house.



Kids enjoy old-fashioned fun at Keren's Cotton Harvest Festival.



A happy group of Senior Circle members enjoy Bowlarama at the Bulldog Lanes.



Emery Thompson draws the winning Vietnam Veterans Chapter 1009 raffle ticket at the Keren's Cotton Harvest Festival.



Margarita Arreola and Alejandra Espino with Corsicana Pediatric Dentistry offer teeth saving goodies at Main Street's Pumpkin Patch.



Corsicana Art League members are busily painting stockings to be presented to overseas military personnel.

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The Amazing Liver

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

The largest organ inside the body reveals remarkable regenerative properties. You can lose a majority portion of your liver, and the remaining tissue can grow into a whole organ once again. Amazing! This vital organ performs numerous functions, and without it, the body would perish.

It is located in the upper right side of the abdomen and below the diaphragm. One of its more important jobs is to remove waste products from the bloodstream by performing as a filter. Drugs, alcohol and environmental substances are just a few of the substances removed or neutralized by the liver. The liver produces and regulates cholesterol and manufactures clotting factors for the blood and other proteins. It helps to maintain the balance of hormones. Making and secreting bile and storing some vitamins and minerals are among the more well-known functions. The liver also helps to regulate blood sugar levels by storing glycogen.

There are many things you can do to keep your liver healthy. Excessive intake of alcohol is the leading cause of liver disease, so drink in moderation. Use over-the-counter medications and herbal or natural remedies with caution. Your liver still has to process these, whether they are man-made or “natural.” Even high doses of certain vitamins can be harmful. Follow your physician’s instructions on any prescribed medication. Limit or avoid any exposure to environmental hazards and toxins, such as certain cleaners and insecticides. If you

can breathe it, consume it or have it penetrate your skin, it will eventually reach your liver. So, use gloves and a mask in a well-ventilated area when handling hazardous chemicals. Try to avoid foods that are high in unhealthy fats. Hepatitis A, B and C can cause significant damage to the liver, but there are vaccines available for Hepatitis A and B. Since the virus is spread by contact with another’s bodily fluids or blood, try to avoid contact with these substances.

Although it can regenerate itself, the liver is not indestructible. Some of the signs and symptoms that your liver could be headed for trouble may, at first, be too vague for a diagnosis. Nausea, weakness, lack of energy and a change in appetite can be attributed to a host of diseases. The more specific indications that are cause for alarm are yellowing of the skin, eyes and urine (jaundice). Advanced cases would present with symptoms such as unexplained itching of the skin, abdominal pain and swelling, in addition to the previous presenting symptoms.

These symptoms are cause for concern and warrant monitoring by your physician. Many liver ailments can be treated. The best course of action is to protect yourself and keep you and your liver safe. **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.

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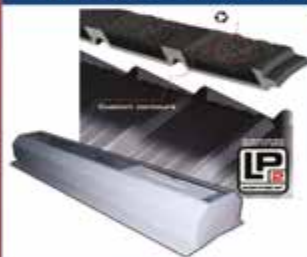
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December 1

Navarro County Retired Teachers Association: 9:45 a.m., Northwest Apartments Community Center. Celebrate Christmas! Refreshments will be served. All retired school personnel are invited. For more information, email pk2@airmail.net.

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

Tree Lighting & Chocolate Walk: 4:00-7:00 p.m., Beaton Street. Sponsored by Corsicana Parks and Recreation Department and Main Street. For more information, call (903) 654-4851.

December 1, 2

Christmas Market & Gift Show: 6:00-9:00 p.m., **Friday**, preview party; 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., **Saturday**, main event, Waxahachie Civic Center, 2000 Civic Center Ln., Waxahachie. The event is sponsored by the Waxahachie Junior Service League. Tickets for the VIP Shopping Party on **Friday** are \$25. They may be purchased online at www.waxahachiejls.org. Tickets at the door **Saturday** will \$8, and children under 10 are free.

December 1 — 3

Mary Poppins: Warehouse Living Arts Center. For tickets and additional information, call (903) 872-5421.

December 1 — 31

"Dreamer of Places and Parables: Artwork by Ross Edwards": Pearce Museum Western Art Gallery. For more information, email Ann Zembala, Pearce Museum director, at ann.zembala@navarrocollege.edu.

December 2

Angels of Corsicana Troop Support packing: 9:00 a.m., Corsicana First Baptist Church. All ages are welcome. To leave the name of a deployed military person or donate, call Jean O'Connor at (903) 851-2560 or visit the group's Facebook page.

Holiday Market: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., I.O.O.F. Event Center. For more information, call (903) 641-6607.

Navarro County Toy Run & Food Drive: 11:00 a.m., VFW, 4609 W. Hwy. 31. Enjoy a scenic ride, food, music and auction. For more information, call (903) 654-8944.

Holiday Hoopla: 1:00 p.m., family movies; 3:00 p.m., crafts (ages 5-12) and cookie recipe swap (adults), Corsicana Public Library. For more information, call (903) 654-4810.

Festival of Lights Christmas Parade: 6:00 p.m. For more information, visit www.festivalparadeoflights.com.

December 4

Piecemakers' Quilt Guild meeting: 9:30 a.m., Westhill Church of Christ. Visitors are welcome. For more information, visit corsicanaquiltguild.com.

December 5

Carter Blood Drive: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Navarro Regional Hospital. For more information, call (903) 654-6892.

Navarro College Choir Christmas Concert: 7:00 p.m., Cook Education Center. For more information, call (903) 875-7530.

December 6

The Eureka, Mildred, Navarro and Richland Chambers Lake Crime Watch Christmas Potluck luncheon: 1:00 p.m., Eureka UMC. For more information, email Patty Knauth at pk2@airmail.net.

Lego Club: 4:00 p.m., Corsicana Public Library. Thousands of Lego and Duplo blocks will be available to build all kinds of projects will be available for free play (Don't bring Lego or Duplo blocks from home.) How-to books and Lego storybooks will be available. For more information, call (903) 654-4810.

December 6, 12

Navarro College Basketball: 7:00 p.m., Wolens Special Events Center. For more information, call (903) 875-7483.

December 6, 13, 20

Storytime at Corsicana Library: 10:00 a.m. Come enjoy Christmas at the library. For more information, call (903) 654-4810.

December 7

Business After Hours: 5:32-6:32 p.m., Community National Bank. Call (903) 874-4731 for more details.

Navarro College's Jazz Christmas Gala: 7:00 p.m., Cook Education Center. For more information, call (903) 875-7530.

Bellamy Brothers: 7:30 p.m., The Palace Theatre. For more information, visit www.corsicanapalace.com.

December 8

The Polar Express, the movie: 5:00 p.m., The Palace Theatre. Free to the public. Sponsored by the City of Corsicana Main Street Office. For more information, call (903) 654-4851.

December 9

Mimosas at the Market: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Victorian Sample and other downtown merchants. For more information, call (903) 654-4851.

Cowgirls of CCC Christmas Event: 6:00 p.m., Cowboy Church of Corsicana. Special guest is Candice Myers. Free admission. Bring a Mexican food dish to share. To RSVP, email cowgirls@cowboychurchofcorsicana.com.

December 11

Eclectic Readers Book Club: 6:30 p.m., Corsicana Public Library. *The Women in the Castle* by Jessica Shattuck will be discussed. For more information, call (903) 654-4810.

December 13

Senior Circle Lunch Bunch: 11:30 a.m., Café 22, Hospital Dining Room. For more information, contact Connie Beal at (903) 654-6892.

December 14

Couples' Night Out Shopping Event: 5:00-7:00 p.m. For more information, call (903) 654-4851.

The Texas Tenors' "Deep in the Heart of Christmas": 3:00 and 7:30 p.m., The Palace Theatre. For more information, visit www.corsicanapalace.com.

December 15

Corsicana Newcomers' Club Christmas Social: 11:00 a.m., Kinsloe House. Lunch is \$15. For more information or confirmed reservations, contact Annie Avery at (714) 345-6707.

December 18

Art for the Rest of Us: 6:00 p.m., Corsicana Public Library. Fun for ages 16 and up. All materials are provided. For more information, call (903) 654-4810.

December 19

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

Teddy Bear Time: 7:00 p.m. Corsicana Public Library. Wear PJs, grab a favorite Teddy bear and blankie and come to the library to hear bedtime stories and songs. 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.

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In the Kitchen With Jot, Jason and April Grant

— *By Virginia Riddle*

Raising Jot right is Jason and April Grant's goal, and that includes learning to cook. "Cooking gives us a chance to spend time with family and friends around the fire, laughing and telling stories," Jason said.

The holidays bring out the spices. "We celebrate one holiday with traditional foods and one with Mexican food," April said.

At age 8, Jot won a chili cook-off at the Chatfield/Tupelo Community Center, and at 9, he placed fifth at Derrick Days. Then he got serious. "Andy Williams and Terry Bowling showed me how to *really* cook chili," Jot said. Now 10, he took first place in the 48th Annual Texas Men's Chili Championship's junior division last March and followed that up with a second-place finish at Derrick Days. That was really cool," Jot remembered. **NOW**

Jot's 1st Place Chili

2 lbs. 80/20 ground beef
2 14-oz. cans beef broth
1 8-oz. can tomato sauce

1st set of Mild Bill's Secret Spices, or:

1 Tbsp. onion granules
1 Tbsp. garlic granules
1 Tbsp. chicken granules
1 Tbsp. beef granules
1/4 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. cayenne pepper
2 Tbsp. dark chili powder
1 Tbsp. light chili powder

2nd set of Mild Bill's Secret Spices, or:

1 Tbsp. cumin
2 Tbsp. light chili powder
1 Tbsp. dark chili powder

1/4 tsp. cayenne
1 1.41-oz. packet Sazón GOYA

1. With ground beef, make meatballs that are a little smaller than a tennis ball. Brown meatballs; drain.
2. In a saucepan, mix broth, tomato sauce and first set of spices; bring mixture to a boil.
3. Add meatballs; simmer for 40 minutes.
4. Break up the meatballs. Add the second set of spices; simmer for another 40 minutes, thickening chili with heat.

April's Salmon Patties

Makes 12.

1 15-oz. can Honey Boy pink salmon
Salt and pepper, to taste
1 egg, beaten
1 Tbsp. mustard

Saltine crackers, to taste
Vegetable oil, for frying

1. Drain salmon; remove bones and blackened skin.
2. Break up salmon. Add salt and pepper, egg and mustard; mix well.
3. Add enough crushed crackers to make the mixture into oval balls that stay together.
4. Roll balls into additional crushed crackers; fry in oil until golden brown. Drain and serve.

Jot's Blackberry Fool

2 1/2 cups fresh blackberries
1/2 cup sugar (divided use)
1 tsp. vanilla
1 1/2 cups heavy whipping cream

1. Mash the berries with a potato masher or large fork; press the crushed berries through a sieve to remove the seeds.
2. Sprinkle the fruit with 1/4 cup sugar.
3. In a separate bowl, mix the remaining sugar, vanilla and cream.
4. Using a whisk, whip the mixture until it makes soft peaks that aren't stiff; fold the sugared berries into the whipped cream.
5. Add more sugar if needed; mixture should have streaks of white and purple.
6. Cover; refrigerate for at least 3 hours before serving.

Jason's Breakfast Tacos

12 eggs
1 16-oz. pkg. bacon
1 lb. sausage
1 10-ct. pkg. tortillas
1 onion, diced
1 jalapeño, diced
1 8-oz. pkg. shredded cheese
1 15.5-oz. jar salsa

1. With a propane cooker and big disc (wok), scramble eggs while cooking the bacon and sausage.
2. On the side of the disc (wok), heat the tortillas.
3. Sprinkle onions and jalapeño on top of the eggs and meat mixture; add the cheese and salsa. Serve wrapped in tortillas.

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

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4/3.5 custom home on 1 acre. 750 sq. ft. upstairs bonus room with a deck for entertaining. 4-stall horse barn workshop with electricity and water.



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3/2 ready for your family! Open living-dining, 2nd living with corner fireplace, fenced backyard with trees, open patio. UPDATED!



PRICE REDUCED!

3209 Francisco Bay

3/2 custom home located at Richland Chambers Lake in the gated subdivision of Francisco Bay. Home sits on 1.6 acres. Boathouse with lift & retaining wall.



Relax and entertain in style in one of the 3 fire-lit family rooms or 2 dining rooms! This majestic home has everything you could dream of in five bedrooms, 3.5 baths. Leaded glass front windows, built-ins, walk-in closets, vaulted ceilings, granite countertops.



Two-story contemporary creates visual excitement! Beautiful 4-bed, 3.5-bath in exclusive Drane Estates. Lovely backyard oasis with pool and full bath in 3-car garage for easy access to fun in the sun. Formal dining and living for extra entertaining space.



4 BEDROOM

Welcome home to this beautiful 4-bedroom, 2-bath home located at the end of a tree-lined cul-de-sac. Formal dining room, kitchen and game room or extra family room all have great views of a beautifully landscaped yard.



TOWNHOME

A charming 2-bed, 2-bath townhome that highlights easy living! This darling home features a great floor plan for entertaining and a formal living room with wood-burning fireplace and large sunroom.



This traditional home features brick floors throughout the entry, dining room and 1 of 2 living rooms. The kitchen boasts granite counters, stainless steel appliances and tons of storage with open access to family room, dining room and den.



Freshly painted, redone sheetrock wall and flooring, all lighting updated, recently replaced AC. Hardwood on floors, spacious and lovely kitchen with island, granite counters, top appliances.



Calling all investors and first-time owners. This is a great place to call home! Totally redone, with a super cute kitchen! Listed \$65,000



PRICED TO SELL! Beautiful lot with trees in Francisco Bay with lake views. Clubhouse, pool, boat launch just a short walk from lot. Build your dream home!



206 N. Cactus Ave., Hubbard
Charming 2-bedroom, 2-bath home on large corner lot. Guest house has full kitchen and bath, large front porch.



Cozy cabin on Richland Chambers Lake. 2/2 with over-sized carport, boathouse and retaining wall. Come enjoy lake side living in this quiet cove. Mildred ISD.



Wonderful home on 1.5 acres in Powell, TX. 2,400 sq. feet of awesome. Ready for your family to enjoy country living. Kerens ISD.



Large 3/2.5 beautiful home on Richland Chambers in Paradise Bay Subdivision. Move in ready. Motivated sellers. Mildred ISD.



REDUCED!

808 Northwood

Wow! 4/2/2. Totally renovated. New windows, SS appliances, flooring, fixtures, kitchen cabinets.



I-45 South-Angus
7-plus acres with south and northbound exits. Only minutes from new loop around Corsicana.



Large Building in Blooming Grove, TX!

This building has so much potential. Sits on approximately 2 acres.



2004 SE PR 2163
3/2 doublewide on 4.114 acres with 215' waterfront. 30X40 shop with electricity.



Looking for a large lot in an awesome neighborhood? Look no farther! Super clean, neat and nice home. This property features 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 living areas and a HUGE extra space that you could use for anything of your choice.



Well-maintained building, this property could be used for anything. This property is in a great location on a corner lot. There are many windows great for retail. Two 5-ton units with gas heat, 200 of amp electric services, large restroom, tons for storage and a large office area.



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