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Wide open space on this 15-plus acres. Nice pond for fishing and just very peaceful. Spacious DW features 3 bedrooms, large living area and open kitchen and dining. Split bedrooms. Woodburning fireplace.

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125 W. College Ave.
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ON THE COVER



All three Malakoff Man heads now
reside in Navarro County.

Photo by Memories by Melissa.

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Editor's Note

Hello, Corsicana!

By this point each winter, I am ready for Punxsutawney Phil to appear on a cloudy day in Pennsylvania, so we can have hopes of an early spring. A tradition brought to America by Germans immigrating to Pennsylvania, the date is based on Candlemas, the day that is midpoint between winter and spring. A ground hog has been predicting the advent of spring every February 2 since 1887. The odds aren't in my favor, however, since nine out of 10 times, the ground hog sees his shadow, which means six more weeks of winter. If old Phil heads back to his burrow, we can "burrow" down under blankets with more hot tea and a great read. Also, enjoy an extra day this year. It's Leap Year! Happy birthday to all Leap Year babies on February 29.

Have a great February!

Virginia

Virginia Riddle
CorsicanaNOW Editor
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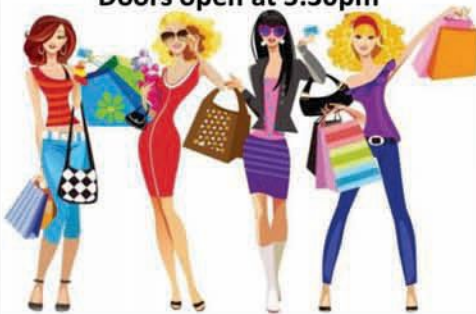
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Archaeological Fascination

— By Virginia Riddle



Mary Love Sander's family roots run deep, from Corsicana northward to Dallas. She has remained involved in Corsicana in many ways, most of which reflect her interests in archaeology, genealogy, history and the arts. "I would have majored in archeology in college, but my family thought if I did, I would end up in some crazy place on a dig and never come home," Mary Love quipped.

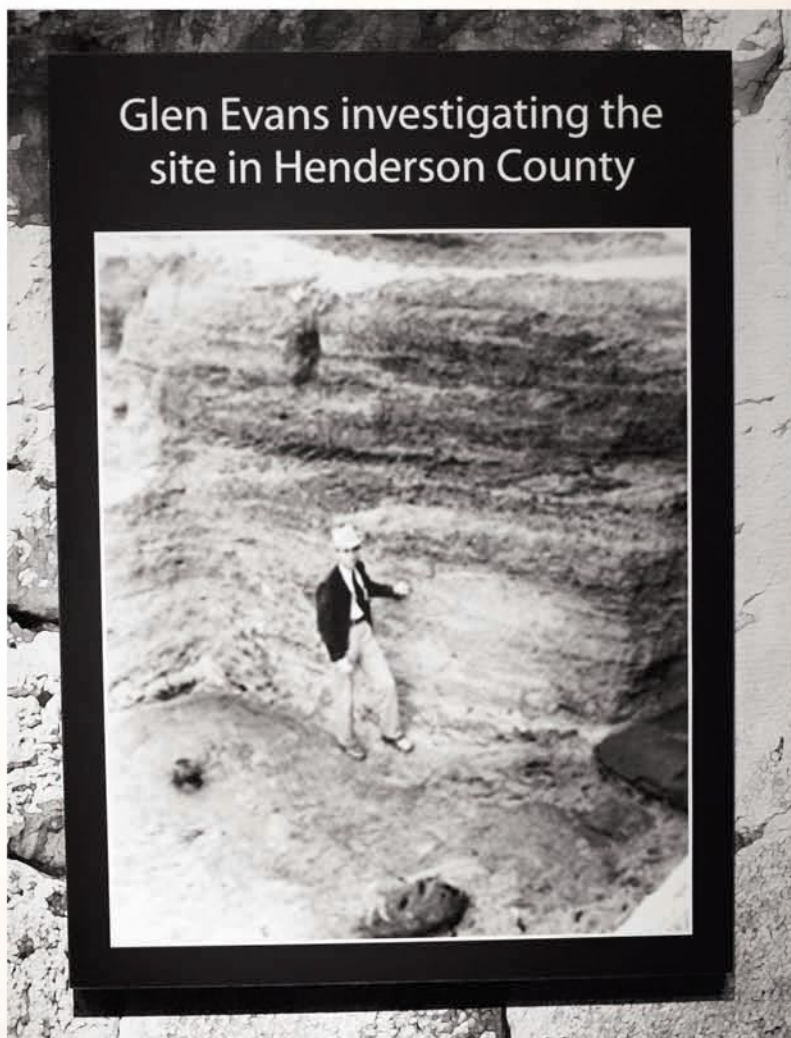
"I was surrounded by plenty of relatives here and in Dallas," Mary Love said. A descendent of some of the first settlers of Dallas, Mary Love's grandfather, Lewis T. Carpenter, was a prominent lawyer and

businessman in Corsicana and Dallas, so she grew up in both cities. A fondness of music was fostered in Mary Love by attending Dallas operas and ballets with her mother and father and through taking piano and music lessons. Childhood summers spent in New Mexico involved enjoying the out-of-doors on a ranch. Mary Love had recovered from malaria, but doctors had advised time in the cool, dry climate of New Mexico. "I grew up on a horse, practically, and had a pretty normal growing up time," Mary Love recalled.

After attending Corsicana High School and graduating with honors from Highland Park High School in Dallas, Mary Love attended Sweet Briar College in Virginia. She returned to Dallas to attend Southern Methodist University and earned a B.A. in English and history. Her interests in archaeology were furthered with summer school at SMU-in-Taos (NM) at historic Fort Burgwin. "I have good memories of my time spent in New Mexico," Mary Love said. She returned 30 years later to SMU, commuting from Corsicana, to earn a master's degree.

Mary Love married Lynn Sanders Jr. in 1942, and together they raised two sons, Lynn III and Ted, in Corsicana. "We were both from Corsicana, and neither of us could ever remember our first meeting. We were engaged a good while," Mary Love recalled. "He had gone into the U.S. Army, and World War II started." While her husband served as an officer in the China-Burma-India Theater during the war, Mary Love volunteered with the Red Cross and the American Volunteer Service.

Post war years found the couple busy raising their family, working and becoming active in their community and church, First United Methodist of Corsicana. Lynn was the owner of Sanders Grain Company. Mary Love became an active Cub Scout den mother and volunteered through memberships in James Blair Chapter, NSDAR and the Navarro County Historical Society. She also maintained her interest in archaeology through memberships in the American Archaeological Society, the Society of American



“I think the college has done a good job with the artifacts I have donated to them.”

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Ann Zembala (right), the museum's director, is highly appreciative of Mary's generous donation of the Malakoff Man head.

Archaeology, the Texas Archaeological Society and the Dallas Archaeological Society. "I never sought a job working outside our home, but I volunteered for everything that ever came along and enjoyed working on every project with so many other neighbors. We all wanted to know that we were making a difference in this community," Mary Love recalled. "I had watched Robert E. Lee Elementary School being built, raised my kids and then watched them go to school there."

Over the years, Mary Love traveled on family trips or with friends to "here, there and yonder. I've been all over the United States, and I have been to Mexico a lot," she said. Other trips have included several tours of Europe and a memorable trip to China with friends.

Friends also with the late Bill Young and the late Charles and Peggy Pearce, Mary Love has enjoyed seeing the Pearce Museum and the Cook Education Center grow at Navarro College. The Pearces donated their collection of Civil War documents, and Mary Love thought that would be a good place for her family's collection of letters and a daily accounting of activities from that time period. "My Grandfather Ferguson ran away from home and served in that war. The documents needed to be preserved correctly and be read by others and available for research," she said. Her family's letters are now part



of a collection that includes over 15,000 documents from the Civil War era.

In the Hunters and Gatherers from the Blackland Prairie exhibit at the Cook Center, a Malakoff Man head, donated by Mary Love, is prominently on display. Mary Love donated the head to Navarro College, and it was previously displayed at the Sanchez Library on campus. One of three Malakoff Man heads found between 1929 and 1935 on land then owned by Judge William Richardson Bishop and his wife, Jessilyn Carpenter Bishop, the head was bequeathed to Mary Love, Jessilyn's grand-niece. A dig, conducted by The University of Texas and Works Progress Administration in the 1930s resulted in the finding of the third head, but no other artifacts were found, leaving the authenticity of the heads one of the greatest archaeological mysteries in Texas, since the site now lies underneath the waters of nearby Cedar Creek Lake. In 1970, a Texas Historical Commission roadside marker was erected on State Highway 31 near Trinidad commemorating the nearby archaeological find.

The other two heads found by UT became part of the Texas Memorial Museum's collection and were transferred in 2002 to the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory. "I was able to see them on display in San Antonio and Austin," Mary Love remembered.

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Whether the heads are ever proven as being genuine, or fraudulent, or simply as geological oddities, they have provided controversy within archaeological circles over the years.

The two heads once owned by UT have joined Mary Love's Malakoff Man head at the Cook Center. "I think the college has done a good job with the artifacts I have donated to them," Mary Love said.

Mary Love keeps a busy schedule accompanied by Angela Rhymes. "Angela is such a help. She can talk about anything, remembers everything and brings so much comfort to me," Mary Love said. She enjoys time spent with her family which now includes daughters-in-law, three grandsons and "a bunch of great-granddaughters" and cousins. She continues to play the piano at home. Mary Love and her family were recently honored by Citizens National Bank in July 2015 for their banking and community contributions made to Corsicana. It was also a time of remembrance of her late husband, Lynn Jr., and her late son, Lynn III. "I have a happy life," Mary Love said. "It is filled with a lot of happy times and plenty of family." **NOW**

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Living Our Dream

— By Virginia Riddle

AT HOME WITH
Clinton Fontenot and
Melissa Hathcock



What does a couple who has lived and worked in foreign countries during their previous careers want in their new home? For Clinton Fontenot and his wife, Melissa Hathcock, the answer was found in an old farm house that needed a complete makeover. They were living in Fort Worth when Melissa spotted the home listed on the Internet and fell in love with the possibilities of what it could become and the new challenges and opportunities the project would bring to their lives. “We love the space we have here, and it’s so quiet and peaceful,” Clinton said. “But we have found out that roosters crow all night, not just at dawn!”

Clinton is a Louisiana native but moved around while growing up, since his dad was in the military. “My dad was always working on cars, so I learned sheet metal working and welding,” Clinton said. Those skills led to Clinton’s career in construction as a site project manager and a safety manager. Clinton and Melissa met in Houston right before he left for tours in Afghanistan and Iraq to work for a private contractor. “I was in charge of the full production of building a camp. We were building something from nothing over



there,” he remembered. “I’ve always been looking for a bigger challenge.”

Melissa grew up near Tulsa, Oklahoma, where she learned bead weaving, which is part of her Cherokee heritage. She became an international recruiter for an oil and gas company which took her to different parts of the world, and for a while, she lived and worked in Malaysia. She returned to the states due to the unrest overseas but enjoyed traveling every three months to a different European country with Clinton while he was on his R&R from working in war zones. “It was great to travel together,” said Melissa, also known as Emme pronounced as “M.”

Having suffered a bad injury on the job, Clinton returned to the states to stay, and the couple relocated to Fort Worth to be close to Clinton’s children who lived there at that time. “I am a culinary school dropout,” Melissa quipped. “I wanted to learn to cook like a chef, but I don’t care about being a chef in a restaurant business.” She was also attracting attention in Dallas and New York with her beaded jewelry that initially started as a hobby and helped relieve her stress from travel and work. Clinton put his woodworking skills into action, making wooden displays for her to use at jewelry shows, and the couple found their new avocations for which Clinton needed a home workshop and Melissa needed studio space. “The Internet allows us to work anywhere, and we needed to relocate to a rural setting, so Clinton’s workshop noise wouldn’t bother neighbors,” Melissa explained.

Their home was originally built in 1940 — about 10 years after rural electrification had arrived in the area.

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When Clinton and Melissa first toured the home, however, it had seen its best days long before their visit. "It looked like a 'ghost' home when we first looked at it," Melissa recalled. "It was full of wasps, creatures of all sizes and cobwebs." Built as a Tudor Craftsman, it also had fine "bones," a wonderful staircase, high ceilings, leaded glass framing the front door and some art deco wood trim that the couple could appreciate. "The house was old, creaky and musty, but we loved it," Melissa said.

An offer on their Fort Worth home came within the first five days, necessitating an earlier-than-planned move in August 2015 to their farm house. "We first had to make it safe," Melissa stated. The couple cleaned out the critters and their mess and fenced the backyard for their

dog, Lily, all before they could close on the property and get power and water. "We had no water for 10 days and lived in the house with 110 F heat with no air conditioning for the first three to four weeks. It was memorable when we were able to take a bath and fill the hot tub," Melissa shared.

While the home will be a work-in-progress for months to come, the couple has completely renovated Clinton's detached workshop, Melissa's studio, the living room/library, a laundry



suite and the kitchen on the first floor. From their professional spaces, Clinton and Melissa produce products for their Etsy stores, ArrayandDisplay and This One Woman Jewelry. "We had to make these spaces functional and livable quickly," Clinton explained.

The kitchen and laundry suite were most recently completed. "Everything is reclaimed, and the cabinets are solid



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oak. Clinton created a cookbook shelf above the refrigerator and a bar above on which Melissa displays her “glamour dishes.” “Going without a kitchen for nine weeks was challenging,” she said.

The living room/library is entered through French doors from the center hallway. It features a gas fireplace and comfortable seating with plenty of natural light.

A built-in bookcase is original to the staircase. “Everything in the house is solid wood and tongue-in-grooved,” Clinton said appreciatively. Upstairs the couple has decorated a guest bedroom with Clinton’s grandmother’s quilt and Melissa’s grandmother’s afghan. Clinton fashioned a bedside table from pallets, and the paneling behind the wallpaper is from recycled barn wood.

A third, smaller bedroom was in really bad shape with old ceiling tiles, carpet and paneling. “This was our throw-it-out-the-window-room while we were in the demolition stage, and it will become a more masculine guest room,” Melissa said.

Clinton is modernizing the master bedroom with a walk-in closet. Last used as a game room, the bedroom is spacious



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enough for the addition. Also, Clinton is exploring ideas for the nearby attic space.

Landscaping the tree covered front yard and old-fashioned front porch has been a fall project for Clinton. "The home reminds me of my grandmother's house when I was growing up," Melissa said. "The kids love coming here and playing in the yard."



The couple enjoys evenings sipping wine on the back porch with the hot tub, grill and seating, and spending time with their cats, Beowulf and Dexter and their dog, Lily. "We are pretty much living our dream. We wanted to feed our souls, and we have the best of all worlds. We live in the country but are really only a few minutes from town. It's incredible that we are business partners, artists and are remodeling a home all at once," Melissa said.

Clinton summed up their new lifestyle, "We get to hang out with someone we really like and have no meetings!" **NOW**



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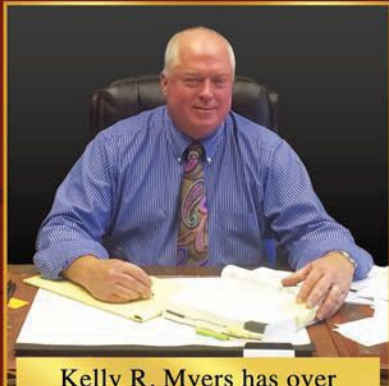
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EYES ON THE FUT

— By Nancy Smothermon

Educators are inclined to look to the future. They live their lives planning and acting on goals for the children they teach. Some begin their journey as early as high school. When thinking of educators, most of us quickly think of teachers, but there are also hardworking folks behind the scenes who contribute greatly to the successes of students and teachers alike. “We look to impact the kids the most. Our fundraising is for them,” said Corsicana Education Foundation Executive Director Kristin Zastoupil. Kristin humbly, but successfully, takes care of the day to day operation of the foundation. “We are pleased to have contributed to the agriculture program, the fine arts program, Science on the Road and other exciting measures,” she said.

Jarod Gordon, class of 2005 (and past CEF president); Misty Coles, class of 1993; and Barbara Kelley, class of 1984; are also CEF board members and Corsicana alumni. Working with Kristin, they represent a cross-section of ethnicity and ages, as does the group as a whole. Growing and sharing, determined and caring,



Kristin Zastoupil works hard with Jarod Gordon and Barbara Kelley to keep CISD alumni, students and staff connected.




URE

they are a few of the some 30 volunteers working for the success of Corsicana's schools. The organization is the official conduit through which Corsicana ISD alumni, former students and staff remain in touch with one another. "CEF strives to create and structure Innovative Grants that stay local, helping those who need it most," Jarod said.

CEF volunteers would like to increase their involvement at homecomings, athletic events and class reunions. "We're hoping this information helps get the word out, so we can become more active," Kristin said.

Corsicana ISD is proud to boast such forward-thinking and hardworking planners and doers. The district has one of a handful of alumni groups working with its teaching staff, administration, students and alumni. The alumni group was founded in 2013 as part of the Corsicana Education Foundation, which was founded in 2002. With a few of the original foundation members being CISD alumni themselves, they have taken on the challenge of fostering the impact the group can have on both current students and alumni.

They host "Throwback Thursdays" on Twitter and Facebook and have their own



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website: www.corsicanaalumni.org. “It’s a fun way for the Tigers of Corsicana to stay united,” Kristin said. “We appreciate and encourage alumni to ‘like’ our page, and if possible, post pictures of their happy days at Corsicana schools.”

“We like to hear their successes, too,” Barbara added.

Through grants given to students and teachers, CISD is benefiting from the group’s enthusiastic efforts. “We’ve sold T-shirts and handed out free decals at Derrick Days for the alumni group,” Kristin added.

The group acts as a liaison between the administration and groups coming home for class reunions. Often, they make arrangements for school tours and reserve group seating at football games. The CEF holds a yearly fundraising gala, while providing an evening of entertainment. The group also provides a yearly campus luncheon for teachers at the ISD’s schools. Additionally, school supply grants are awarded to teachers. The alumni committee is enthusiastically contributing their time and energy to these programs, while hoping to build and add programs to benefit students, teachers and alumni alike.

CEF hosts an awards banquet each May, which recognizes the Top 10 percent of the graduating senior class and educators they would like to honor. The banquet is held at the Cook Center located on the Navarro College Campus. The students and educators have their pictures taken together for a commemorative program book, and the photos often show up in the teachers’ classrooms honoring their top-achieving

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students. Students are given a gift and a copy of the photo in honor of Gioia Keeney, a founding member and huge supporter of the Corsicana Education Foundation.

The CISED Corsicana Education Foundation is actively seeking out the successes of students and teachers and looks forward to rewarding them. "I'm very proud of what we have accomplished," Jarod stated. "I am confident we will continue to offer the support to make CISED the best it can be."

Using the Internet is not only a way to keep alumni connected with each other, it is also a conduit for encouraging their involvement with CISED. Many times donations come in the form of alumni-donated goods and services. Cash donations build CEF grants, which are applied for on a yearly basis by CISED teachers.

Jarod sought out the group and worked with its members as president before becoming the father of a future CISED student, who will soon turn 2. "Such dedication to our students' success and thoughtfulness for a brighter future for CISED is to be commended," Barbara added.

Barbara has served on the Corsicana Education Foundation, CISED Board of Trustees and as an Alumni Committee member. Kristin, along with Barbara, Jarod, Misty and parents of CISED students, stress the importance of these Innovative Teaching Grants staying local. In addition to teaching grants, a new program was created this year that provides first-year teachers with supply grants of \$100 to set up their classrooms.

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The 2015 Corsicana Education Foundation's Brazilian Carnival-themed gala was top-notch fun.

"We are currently working on plans recognizing successful alumni from Corsicana schools," Kristin added.

"Some of our favorite moments are when we load up a bus for our Surprise Patrol with the high school band to award the Innovative Teaching Grant in May. "We try to do this at the end of the week because the kids are so excited the teachers have to give them time to calm down," the group said in unison.

The board would like to encourage the involvement of alumni in the successes they celebrate through their donations of time and monies. "Seventy-four percent of our students are classified as economically disadvantaged, so being able to make a difference in their educational successes is rewarding," Kristin admitted.

"Helping these kids now is a way of showing hope for their futures and showing we care," Barbara said. "It will hopefully draw in current alumni participation and build in our children a desire to help when they become alumni."

"We want to help grow our community, encourage our children to stay a part of Corsicana, its schools and become citizens who will look and work toward a better, stronger community," Jarod reiterated. "We want them to want to stay a part of Corsicana as strong leaders of the future."

Often, students go off to college and never return to contribute to the community where they grew up. The board is about the business of creating an environment where students want to succeed, but then want to return to Corsicana and help future students succeed.

The CISD Alumni group is proud of the efforts and hard work they've put forth for the future of the school district, as well as the whole Corsicana community. They are keeping their eyes and thoughts on the future. **NOW**

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Dr. Gondi is joined by Amanda Denton, DDS; Kasey Singleton; Aimee Steward; and Jennifer Garcia. "We have built a great team," Dr. Gondi said. We provide cleanings and regular check-ups, oral cancer screenings, root canal therapy, EZ White Teeth Whitening, laser gum shaping, porcelain veneers, Invisalign, Lumineers, crowns and bridges, dental implants, dentures, inlays and onlays, sleep apnea treatments, pediatric

dentistry, sedation dentistry and Under Armour Performance Mouthguards. "We try to do most of the patient's treatment in one day so they don't have to commute, which is a savings and convenience to our patients," Dr. Gondi said.

Serving in the United States Army Reserves with the rank of major, Dr. Gondi received his training at Mangalore University in his native country of India and at Boston University. "In the Indian system of education, the top tier students go into medicine or dentistry," he explained. Dr. Gondi's two brothers, as well as his wife, Silpa, are dentists also. "Silpa is now mostly a stay-at-home-mom raising our twins," Dr. Gondi added.

A dislike for her childhood dentist inspired Dr. Denton to go into dentistry and to do things differently. "I found a dentist I liked, and he mentored me," Dr. Denton explained. "I take

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it slowly with patients and explain everything with photos so patients will understand."

"We only encourage our patients to do treatment that benefits them, and we can refer them for more advanced care when needed," Dr. Gondi said. "I like to build trust, so patients will have confidence in our abilities." Preventing future problems is also an important aspect of Dr. Gondi's practice. "I educate patients as to why a problem has happened and what they can do, so it won't occur again," he said.

Dr. Denton is a 2013 graduate of the University of Missouri-Kansas City. "She brings to the practice a youthful perspective and the latest procedures, which use advanced technologies," Dr. Gondi stated.

"We're keeping this practice simple and small, and our team is focused on each individual patient's needs."

A newlywed, Dr. Denton followed her husband, David, a student at The University of Texas at Dallas, to Texas. "I love being a small-town dentist," Dr. Denton said. "Corsicana is so laid-back, and patients arrive on time," she said. "I try to give every patient compassionate care and help them."

Both dentists attend seminars because they believe it is important to stay current and advance their expertise. Dr. Gondi is working on his master's degree in oral implantology and is a fellow member in the Academy of General Dentistry. "Keeping up with technology and insurance changes, as well as becoming a business owner, is challenging," Dr. Gondi said.

"We are just doctors trying to bring quality, expertise, education and experience to a small town. We are dedicated to helping each patient, and we have put a lot into this practice. Corsicana has been good to us, and we are here to stay," Dr. Gondi said. **NOW**



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Navarro Dental Center opens their doors to visitors during the Chamber's Business After Hours.



Joanie Teel and Shirley Keith mind the store at the Piecemakers Guild annual quilt show.



The staff of Blown Away Salon & Spa are all smiles at their grand opening.



Lexie Owens meets Richard Rawlings of Fast and Loud fame at the NHRA Nationals held at the Texas Motorplex.



Karen Shoemaker and Michelle Presley's smiles greet patrons at Community National Bank.



Laura Tesmer and the Navarro County Healthcare Alliance hosts Irene Phelps and Jason Naranjo of Kindred Mansfield.



The Chamber of Commerce and Debbie Wilson welcome Joanna Fritz as their new president.



Members of the Corsicana Public Library's Eclectic Reader Book Club Skype with author Katie Gansbert while discussing her book.



Collins Catholic School's Bernie the Bear celebrates Veterans Day.

Will Your Retirement Savings Last?

Increasing life expectancies mean you're likely looking at a longer retirement than the previous generation of workers. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the average person spends 20 years in retirement — while others put the figure at 30 years or longer. And financial advisors generally suggest you'll need 70 to 80 percent of your annual preretirement income to maintain your standard of living.

Will your retirement savings be up to the test? Here's what to consider.

Picture your retirement.

Whether you're planning to travel extensively or kick back by a lake, your income will need to support your desired lifestyle. Once you decide how you'd prefer to spend your retirement days, you can map out a strategy that could help get you there.

Assess your finances.

Take a realistic look at your current financial position. Note such things as how much you've saved, the debt level you're carrying, the amount of life and disability insurance you carry and what you have available in emergency funds. Talk with a financial professional about your options.

Increase savings.

It's never too early — or too late — to add to your savings. If you've got plenty of time before retirement, save as much as you can to take advantage of interest compounding. If retirement is near, look into catch-up contributions, which can help improve your financial picture. Even small gains matter: Increasing your retirement contribution by 1 to 2

percent each year adds up over time. Evaluate your savings progress with a retirement calculator.

Knock out debt.

Most financial professionals recommend keeping debt level manageable — no more than 35 percent of your income. Getting rid of high-interest debt, such as credit card balances, is always a good idea. And before you retire, you'll want to eliminate as much debt as possible, so you aren't servicing it with your savings. Consider paying off your home before you stop working, too.

Monitor your plans.

Review your retirement plans with a financial professional at least annually to see that they still work for you. (It's also a good idea to review your insurance coverage periodically, and any time your life changes, such as when you marry or have a baby.) As you near retirement, you might decide to shift some of your savings to income-producing investments, such as annuities. Or, to keep your nest egg intact, your plan may be to continue working a few years more into retirement.

To review your insurance coverage as part of your retirement and financial strategy, contact your insurance provider. **NOW**

Neither State Farm nor its agents provide tax, legal or investment advice. Please consult your own adviser regarding your particular circumstances.

Lynda Housley is a State Farm agent based in Corsicana.




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February 1 — 29

Pearce Museum's new exhibit "Borders and Beyond: Texas During the Civil War", **Monday-Friday**, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; **Saturday**, Noon -4:00 p.m., Cook Center. Call (903) 875-7642.

February 4

Corsicana & Navarro County Chamber of Commerce 98th Annual Awards Banquet: 5:00 p.m., social hour; 6:00 p.m., banquet, I.O.O.F. Event Center. Call (903) 874-4731.

February 8

Eclectic Readers Book Club: 6:30 p.m., Corsicana Public Library. The club will discuss Letters from Skye by Jessica Brockmole. Contact Lisa Magenheimer at (903) 654-4810.

February 12

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. Contact Connie Beal at (903) 654-6892.

February 13

Heart for the House 5K & 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk: 9:00 a.m., Corsicana YMCA. This event

benefits Corsicana's House of Refuge. Register at Corsicana YMCA. Contact Kimberly Rainey at (903) 257-6353.

The Angels of Corsicana Troop Support meeting: 9:00 a.m., 1020 N. Bus. 145. To leave the name of a deployed military person or donate, contact Jean O'Conner at (903) 851-2560 or visit the group's Facebook page.

Coyote Squadron meeting: 10:30 a.m., Hargrave Memorial Hanger at the Corsicana Municipal Airport. For more information, visit www.coyotesquadron.org.

Navarro College Foundation's Dancing For Our Stars fundraiser: 6:00 p.m., Cook Center. Call (903) 875-7591 to reserve tickets.

February 16

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.

February 18 — 27

"A Night in the Theatre": The Warehouse

Living Arts Center. To reserve tickets, call (903) 872-4556.

February 20

Boots, Bling & Western Swing fundraiser: 6:00 p.m., I.O.O.F. Event Center. This fundraiser benefits James L. Collins Catholic School. Call Nikki Parker-Mazoch at (903) 872-1751.

February 21

Star Harbor Watercolor Society's 10th Annual Art Show and Sale: 1:00-5:00 p.m., Star Harbor City Hall, 99 Sunset Blvd. Free admission. For more information, contact Celene Terry at (903) 451-4016 or visit www.starharborws.org.

February 27

The Stoneleighs: 7:30 p.m., The Palace Theatre. Call (903) 874-7792 or visit www.corsicanapalace.com to reserve tickets.

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 Ruthie Woods

— *By Virginia Riddle*

Ruthie Woods grew up in a household of eight, so her mom taught the girls to cook. “Cooking is something I like to do,” Ruthie admitted. By age 12 she was cooking professionally by having become a companion to a lady in a private home situation. After marrying and starting a family, Ruthie worked occasionally at Kinsloe House and for Corsicana ISD’s food service for 40 years. “I managed the Carroll Elementary cafeteria,” Ruthie recalled. “I have always put children first — my own and everyone else’s.”

Today, Ruthie enjoys cooking for occasions at her church, Eastside Church of Christ and for her friends and family that includes two children, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren nearly every holiday. She participates in a weekly food and clothing ministry and visits area nursing home residents. Her recipes show a love for baking. “I can do it all,” she said, “but I love baking.” **NOW**

Homemade Pie Crust

1/4 tsp. salt
2 cups flour
3/4 cup shortening
1/3 cup water

1. Add salt to flour; cut shortening into flour with knife or pastry cutter.
 2. Add water; on a floured surface, knead all ingredients well; form into a ball.
 3. On the floured surface, roll dough to desired thickness.
 4. Place crust into a 9-inch pie pan; flute edges with thumb or spoon and prick bottom and sides with fork.
 5. Bake at 400 F until golden brown.
- Note: For peach cobbler recipe, double or triple this recipe, and don't pre-cook the crust.

Peach Cobbler

Makes 25 servings of 1/2 cup each, or recipe can be halved for a 12-serving cobbler.

12.75 cups sliced canned or fresh peaches
3 1/2 cups sugar
1/2 cup flour
3-4 sticks butter or margarine, melted and to taste
2 Tbsp. nutmeg, or to taste
1 Tbsp. cinnamon, or to taste
2-3 Tbsp. vanilla
Pie crust recipe or 2-3 ready-made crusts, rolled and cut into strips

1. Mix first 7 ingredients well in a large baking pan.
2. Top with pie crust strips laid out in a crosswise diagonal pattern.

3. Bake at 375 F for 40-45 minutes; serve hot or cold.

Chocolate Pie

1 cup sugar
2 Tbsp. flour
1/2 cup whole milk
1 cup Carnation evaporated milk
1 Tbsp. vanilla
2 Tbsp. butter
3 Tbsp. cocoa
3 eggs (divided use of yolks and whites)
1 pre-cooked pie shell

1. Mix first 8 ingredients, using egg yolks only, until mixture is smooth.
2. Cook on low heat until mixture thickens but remains smooth.
3. Whip egg whites until frothy.
4. Pour cooked mixture into pre-cooked pie shell; top with egg white meringue.
5. Bake at 350 F for about 5 minutes until meringue tips are browned. Serve warm or cold.

Southern Pecan Pie

3 eggs
1 cup sugar
1/2 cup evaporated milk
1 Tbsp. vanilla
1/2 cup butter or margarine
1/2 cup white corn syrup
1 cup pecans, broken into bits
1 unbaked 9-inch pie shell

1. In a mixing bowl, slightly beat eggs; add sugar, evaporated milk, vanilla, butter and corn syrup.
2. Blend mixture well; add pecans and stir well.
3. Pour mixture into unbaked pie shell.
4. Bake at 350 F for 40 minutes or until filling is puffed in the center and is well-browned. Let cool before serving.

Aunt Dell's Pound Cake

1 lb. Imperial powdered sugar
1 lb. Swans Down Cake Flour
6 sticks butter or margarine
1 tsp. vanilla
6 eggs

1. Mix all ingredients well.
2. Pour into a greased and floured tube pan; bake at 350 F for 70-85 minutes.
3. Let cool before serving.

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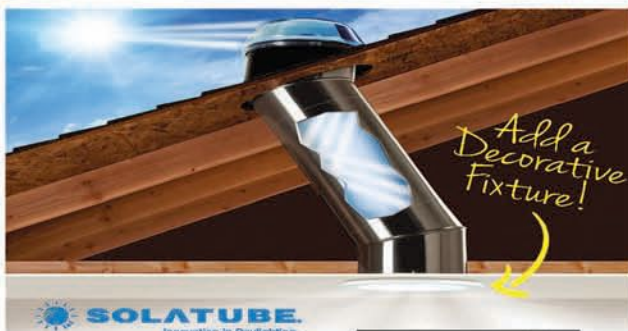
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