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ON THE COVER



A shared competitive spirit drives Sam and Brigg Ray.

Photo by Memories by Melissa.

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Editor's Note

Hello, Corsicana!

It's time for spring break! Please, dear readers, celebrate the Absolutely Incredible Kids Day on March 15 by showing those wonderful children of all ages and stages in your lives just how much they are loved. Spring break is a wonderful week where families can take a little breather from their regular routine and reconnect.

Camp Fire USA created this day, and I grew up in Camp Fire. When my youngest daughter, Katie, joined Girl Scouts, I served proudly as her leader through her achieving the Gold Award. Girl Scouts Day is celebrated on March 12, the anniversary of when Juliette Gordon Low organized the first U.S. troop in 1912. Katie and I visited her beautiful birthplace home in Savannah, Georgia. What great memories! Take time this spring break to make new memories with your loved ones.

Have a great month!

Virginia

Virginia Riddle
CorsicanaNOW Editor
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Winning the Wally

— By Virginia Riddle





Editor's Note: While final preparations were underway for this article, CorsicanaNOW learned of the untimely passing of Roger "Pops" Tarvin, who will be deeply missed by the community in which he played such an integral role. In extending our heartfelt sympathy to his wife, Linda, their children and grandchildren, we trust the following story, which appears as originally written, will serve as a tribute to Pops' love of drag racing and his love of family and friends that was central to his life.

With her engine started, the Christmas tree changing to green and the air filled with the smell of fuel, a totally focused Sam Ray powers off the line with her car at racetracks as far flung as Colorado, Tennessee, Oklahoma and Louisiana. Closer to her home in Blooming Grove, Sam is a regular competitor at the Texas Motorplex in Ennis and the Texas Raceway in Kennedale. A racing veteran at age 16, Sam has now participated in the sport for half her life and is a third-generation member of Pops Racing Team. "I love all of it — working on my car, the speed and all the friends I make everywhere," Sam said.

Sam, short for Samantha, is not the only young competitor in this family. Her 9-year-old brother, Brigg, began racing this past year. They follow their grandfather, "Pops," otherwise known as Roger Tarvin; big brother, Cody, now serving in the U.S. Navy; Uncle Wayne Pratt; and mom, Brandy Ray, who serves as "show mom," as well as races with her car, That'ta Girl! Their grandmother, Linda Tarvin, known as "Mimi," and their dad, Jared Ray, are pit crew members and encouraging fans. "Our family has a huge influence on Sam," Brandy said.

"Winning a Wally in drag racing is the same as winning an Olympic medal or a Super Bowl ring," Brandy explained. "Every racer is after the Wally." Sam won her first IHRA Ironman in 2010. Her career totals, to date, include two Ironman trophies and seven NHRA Wally trophies. In one 2013 race, Sam went 11 rounds, which earned her two Wallys at Texas Raceway. This accomplishment was also unique because she was the first racer to win two in the same race and the first girl ever to hold the title at that track.

Brigg has already won his first Wally. The car he drives to compete against much older drivers is covered with winners' stickers earned by his older brother when he drove it. "We pull cards, and that's how the pairings are decided," Brandy explained.

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“While everyone fears Sam, Brigg is still our secret weapon. He likes the competition on the tree. Sam is outwardly driven, while Brigg is a silent, driven person. Both the kids become different people when they get the green light.”

Kids can start racing as young as 5 years of age. Races are run on a 1/8-mile track, and Sam and Brigg race in two different racing classes: Sam with a max time of 7.90 seconds and slower, and Brigg with a max time of 11.90 seconds and slower. “The track distance reduces wear-and-tear on the cars. The track is a straightaway, but kids still have to master turning the long nose of the car before they can drive,” Brandy said. Everyone must pass a driver’s test and know the parts of their car before being allowed to compete.

Brigg’s most memorable moment so far came when he raced against a 7.90 car. “I beat him and won the Wally. I like how fast we get to go,” he said proudly.

Sam works on her car with Pops who is the master mechanic for the team. He has the engines built, and he constantly maintains them. All the family members, except Brigg who races a gas-powered



car, race alcohol-powered cars. "I already know most of the stuff on the car," Sam said. She wears her grease proudly.

At the track, team members practice before races that are held on weekends. "It's the little things we do that the kids have to learn in order to get the edge on the competition," Brandy said.

Safety is always a focus from the design of the car with its roll cage to the fire suits they wear. Clothes must be fire-retardant. A neck brace, helmet and seat belts are required. Also, someone must watch how hot a driver is getting, since most of the racing is done in the summer. "Sometimes, we race at 2:00 or 3:00 in the morning because it's so hot," Sam said.

Sam designed her own car in bright, hot pink. Brigg's car is named A Very Wyld Joker, and he has a clown painted on his helmet. His car is painted with freehand art and ghostwriting that shows messages when exposed to the sun.

Race days start early and include prayers. "Pastor David at the Motorplex is an amazing guy. He prays with the kids before a race, and we go to the racetrack church on Sunday mornings," Brandy remarked.

"We run time trials before each race right before eliminations," Sam explained. Brandy crunches the numbers and gives them to Jared, who then uses them to dial the car. Pops signals when to do a burn out. "Before each of my races, I say a prayer, and when Pops grabs the roll cage and shakes my car, it's my sign to go." Brigg has his own sign to go — Brandy touches his nose with her finger.

Sam described the feeling of racing, "When I hit it, the car throws me backwards. It has a lot of power!"

"My car shakes a lot," Brigg added.

Off time at the track is fun and relaxing. Sam and Brigg enjoy time with friends they have made in the racing

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world. "Like every sport, there's some drama," Brandy said. "But win, lose or draw, everyone shakes hands after a race because there's always another race. The camaraderie is great. Everyone is close and ready to help the kids."

Back home in Blooming Grove, this family team leads a normal life. Pops and Mimi own the Taco Shop in Corsicana, Jared is a paramedic, and Brandy is a trauma nurse. Brigg is a fourth-grader at Blooming Grove Elementary School. He plays Little Dribblers and baseball during his off-season from racing. Sam is a sophomore at Blooming Grove High School and has enjoyed playing volleyball, basketball and running track at school and still plays softball and likes to "hang with friends." Studies are important since both of their parents put an emphasis on making good grades. The family worships together, and Sam and Brigg are involved in youth activities at their church. "Blooming Grove is a small town where everyone knows everyone else," Sam remarked.

Home is great, but racing runs in these kids' blood. "The thrill of racing and getting another title is everything," Sam said. "There's really no feeling like going down the track." **NOW**

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Hi, I'm Christopher Peter. I'm from Dripping Springs, TX. My experience with LTC began in high school when my family became the caregivers for my mom's parents.

I graduated with a degree in Business Administration for Lynchburg College in Virginia and was about to return to school to get my BSN and become a Registered Nurse when I was approached with an opportunity to enter into an Administrator In Training program with Senior Care Centers at Trinity Care Center in Round Rock, Texas. A year later, I haven't looked back. It's been the best decision of my life.

When I'm not at my dream job, I'm an avid outdoorsman. Camping, hiking, biking, fishing, hunting, you name it. I'm not a big skier, though; but it's Texas, so that probably has less to do with me and more to do with climate/geography.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to be here, and eager to grow with such an amazing group of people here at TCC Corsicana. Stop by anytime to say Hello!

Christopher Peter, LNFA • Administrator TCC Corsicana
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*At Home With
John & Denise Harper*

A Family's Hilltop Sanctuary

— By Virginia Riddle

Four generations of the Harper family have occupied some of the most serene and scenic acreage in Corsicana. “John’s parents built the house across the street, and then they built our house for his grandparents. This house was empty. We needed to live somewhere until we knew where American Airlines was going to move John, so we moved in 37 years ago,” Denise Harper recalled.

“We bought the property from the family, and now our son, Walt, and his wife, Hillary, live in the house across the street. This is the only house we’ve ever owned, and it’s full of love and laughter.”

The memories are many for John. “Our children grew up in this house,” he said.





John has been a pilot since age 17, when he received training through Corsicana High School's aviation class. "It was one of two such programs in the state at that time," he remembered.

After graduating from CHS, John headed to Baylor University where he met Denise who was from Texarkana. "We met in speech class during my freshman year. He asked for my notes, and the rest is history," she said.

"He was hired by American Airlines the day before our wedding, which made a nice wedding gift," Denise said. John has 37 years of experience with the airline, and also oversees the cattle and horse breeding operations on the family's ranch in Navarro County. They also have cattle on a ranch in the Texas Hill Country, and flying his private plane back and forth makes managing that property much easier for him.

Denise taught school until their daughter, Sarah, was born. Then she worked part time as the Camp Fire director and director of Camp Wanica for 14 years. She also served as a PTO president and was an active community volunteer. Since 1999, she's been selling real estate and is currently with Keller-Williams. "I see beautiful homes all the time, but I always come back to this house," Denise said.

Their home has undergone three major remodels over the years. The

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first time the couple enclosed the back porch to create a family room and study. The second remodel added the master bedroom and bath with a utility room, and the third time the couple completely gutted four rooms to raise the ceilings and create one large room. "We have lived here through all the remodels — even when we had a 6-month-old baby," Denise said laughingly.

Today, iron and wood fencing separate the home, set cozily within tall trees, from the family ranch land, barn and shop. A

circular drive leads visitors to a flagstone path and pillared porch with seating.

The entry, decorated in red and brown hues with parquet flooring opens into the gathering room with its tall ceiling and views of the backyard. "This is where we live, drink coffee and watch TV," Denise said. The room combines a seating and viewing area with the kitchen, breakfast bar and informal dining area. "We love antiquing. We found the dining room table while we were living in an apartment in Chicago. It was in pieces, and John



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put it back together,” Denise said. The cook’s kitchen reflects Denise’s love of baking and entertaining. “This space is so super functional with the work island,” she observed.

Friends and family just naturally empty out into the beautifully landscaped backyard with its porches, pergola, hot tub and swimming pool. Bird feeders attract colorful aviary visitors of all types. “I have my yard doves that aren’t fair game for hunters,” Denise said. It’s in this sanctuary that this fast-paced family finds plenty of space in which to relax, visit and read.

The den reflects John’s love of hunting. Duck tiles surround the stately fireplace, which is flanked by built-in cabinets. John’s collection of mounted deer heads look down onto comfortable seating and a wet bar. Just off the den is his office, which features a stained glass hunting scene that his great-grandfather created.

The expansive formal dining room with its fireplace and cushioned seating features a table John and Denise commissioned to be made in England. “We can seat the whole family easily or use the table as an extra buffet,” Denise said. A buffet and tea serving cart complete the room.

Leading to the bedrooms and baths is a hallway lined with closets. The guest bedrooms once were the kids’ rooms and held the trophies and other teenage years’ collections. Now, two bedrooms are made ready to accommodate the couple’s grown children and their families, so there are baby beds and dolls. Their daughter, Sarah, and her husband, Luke, have three children, and their daughter, Caroline, and her husband, Fred, have two sons. Another bedroom is decorated with a sextant lamp and pictures of airplanes and ducks. A wedding photo





of Walt and Hillary is placed on a dresser beside another wedding photo of John's parents. "We have five precious grandchildren," Denise stated proudly. "Once a year for the past four years, we've taken a family vacation with everyone. It's my biggest joy. We are really close and enjoy each other. Our children are our best friends. We are so blessed."

The master bedroom features another fireplace and sitting area and has access to the pool and hot tub through garden doors. "We've filled this room with antiques — some belong to family, and we have bought others," Denise said. The master bath has a his-and-her mirrored area and walk-in closets. The utility room is conveniently located off the bath. "How smart was this? All our clothes are here," Denise remarked.

"We have loved living and raising our family in Corsicana," Denise stated. "The people are so great here. It's a real community, and we try to give back and do what's right." Denise is on the Corsicana Main Street Advisory Board and volunteers through her work.

"Corsicana is a community that you can get involved in," John said. He served on the Corsicana ISD school board for 12 years and was the founding president of the ISD's foundation. Modestly stating his volunteer activities, John simply said, "Everything's a group effort."

The family attends Corsicana First Baptist Church and loves to travel. "We're pretty basic people," Denise revealed. "Our home is about faith and family. It's been the center grounding point for all of us. My parents' home was where everyone wanted to come home to, and that's what I wanted for this home and family." And that's exactly what John and Denise have accomplished through the years. **NOW**

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Just Being There

— By Nancy Smothermon

Have you found yourself going in different directions and getting nowhere fast? Perhaps, you have a child tugging on your pant leg, and your parent ringing a bell from the bedroom down the hall. Life can be stressing and rewarding. Being “sandwiched” between two generations is the new “normal” for many people. If you’re one of the many so called “sandwich generation” adults, feeling yourself split in two, then you might be in the right place at the right time.

More and more adults are finding themselves the primary caregiver of either an elderly and ill parent, a child with special needs or sometimes both. Well, there is a new group of caring and



Kelly Callaway Lovett, Alison Humann and Mark Thommarson are ready to lend a helping hand or an attentive ear to any caregiver in need.

“We are here to help and support each other in whatever way we can.”

understanding people gathering once a month to provide a safe place for you to share your experiences, your tears and joys among fellow caregivers. The Family Caregivers Support Group of Navarro County is here to serve you. “They are experienced, supportive, caring, good listeners and even have a shoulder to cry on if you find yourself in need of one,” a recent visitor named Jo said. Jo has found herself needing reassurance and “shoring up” as her efforts to give to her mother and communicate with other family members has begun to crumble beneath the weight of her worry and stress. The group of professionals welcomed her with open arms. “I felt at ease almost immediately,” she recalled.

“So often when a family member becomes ill and requires our help, there is that one adult child who steps up to make sure his/her needs are met,” Mark Thommarson, coordinator of the support group, shared. “Oftentimes, the other siblings or family members have opinions



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they wish to share but are not always contributing to the situation and care of their shared loved one.”

Tensions can rise, feelings can become hypersensitive, voices elevate, and the loved one, somehow lost in the shuffle, sits and waits for the family to come together. “The meetings are open to anyone who is a caregiver, will become a caregiver, or who has been a caregiver and can offer up some solid advice or tips for getting through such times smoothly and with the most effective tools,” Mark said of the support group. The group focuses on local businesses and resources that will aid those folks who find themselves suddenly thrust into the role of caregiver.

“We are here to help and support each other in whatever way we can,” Mark said. He and his wife, Lori, own Shepherd’s Touch Home Helpers. Through this support group, bonds of trust are built.

“Sometimes, we have learned from our newcomers as we have listened to them,” said Laura Tesmer, formally of Corsicana. She helped Mark form the support group, which began meeting in September. Now the group meets once a month at the YMCA community service room on the fourth Thursday of each month at 2:00 p.m. Refreshments, laughter and occasional tears are shared.

“There may be times when you want to share, other times when you have questions and need some answers, and there may be times when you just want to listen,” Mark explained, stressing that the meetings are what each attendee makes of them.

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"The plan is to have guest speakers from time to time, but for the most part, we gather to share our personal experiences and find resources with each other in a casual setting," Kelly Callaway Lovett of Bethany Home Health Services added.

Corsicana is particularly blessed to have so many resources available for those residents in need. Mark and Lori became interested in caring for others at the suggestion of their son, Adam (now deceased). Mark's parents moved here in 1997 after his father's health began to fail. "We are living out our Christian beliefs," he stated. "1 Peter 4:10 is an inspiration to our mission. We want to reach those who need help, but may not be able to afford it."

Those who are successful and able to avoid burnout are those who utilize such support from the community and make the best use of the resources available to them. "You're not alone," Laura said. "There are a lot of people learning how to be effective caregivers, learning to manage and doing it as they go."

Another closely aligned group with helpful suggestions is the Navarro County Health Care Alliance, a group of professionals in the area that network once a month at lunchtime meetings. The group invites speakers and works in cooperation with local nursing homes, home health care agencies, a Navarro County Extension agent and Navarro Regional Hospital and other area hospitals, all while keeping it fun with a meal and prize drawings.

Sitters for loved ones are provided by the support group while caregivers attend



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its meetings. “We want to grow our group,” Mark said. “There is a huge need for getting care to the caregivers.”

Meetings are made up of caregivers who gather to discuss the stresses faced as a caregiver and also how to survive the new normal for families experiencing a family illness or long-term care needs. Meetings are an informative exchange of experiences and ideas. “Everyone’s needs are different, so we are striving to provide what is needed with care and support. We are not just a support group, but a valuable resource for the community,” Mark said. “You must have compassion. The rest you can learn, or we can teach you.”

The group’s advice to Jo, and all other caregivers, is to keep your loved one involved as you help empower them on the road to recovery or to their newfound normal. “Don’t let them lose their sense of value,” Mark said, as others nodded in agreement. “Keep them engaged, which is better for all concerned.” Jo left the meeting recharged and ready to go back to her mother with a fresh attitude.

The group was successful in helping Jo. She was grateful, and looked forward to returning again in the coming year. “It helps me as a caregiver to be able to give to others,” Mark said, “and they in turn strengthen me.”

Some people don’t feel the need for a support group, and that is OK. Family Caregivers Support Group of Navarro County is here to help them in any way their current situation calls for. “We are a resource. We care. We give. We laugh together, and cry together,” Mark admitted. “Sometimes, we just share some time together, and when we part, we feel better for having been here for someone else.” **NOW**

Editor’s Note: For more information about the support group, call Mark Thommarson at (903) 641-9592 or email countrypreacher@sbcglobal.net.

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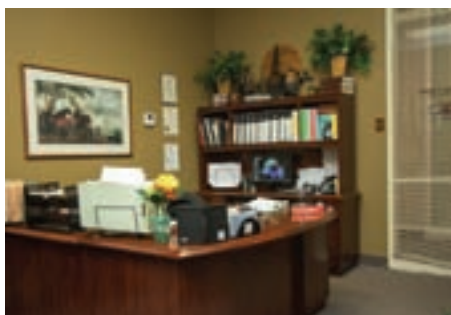


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— By Virginia Riddle

Kelly Myers always wanted to be a lawyer, even while growing up in Kerens and Corsicana. “I love people, and I love helping people,” he said. “I especially love helping those who are bullied or pushed around by others or companies that have lots of money. There are a lot of good people here in Navarro County, and sometimes they just need someone to stand up for them.”

He and his paralegal, Amy Bruckner, offer legal services that are far-ranging in scope, from family law, elder law, Medicaid issues, wills, probate and estate planning to bankruptcy, personal injury and even criminal law. “When people ask me what kind of law practice I have, I joke that I have a ‘threshold practice,’ as in whatever crosses the threshold,” Kelly said. “It really keeps it interesting when you don’t know what kind of case will come in

next. But it also requires me to be knowledgeable and up-to-date on a lot of different areas of law.”

A 1976 honor graduate of Corsicana High School, Kelly attended Texas Tech University on a Jim Collins Scholarship. “I am forever grateful for the Collins Scholarship program because without it, I would not be here practicing law today,” he said. After graduating *magna cum laude* from Texas Tech with a pre-law history degree, he applied for, and was accepted into, the Texas Tech University School of Law, graduating in 1984.

Kelly began practicing law with the law firm of Means & Means in Corsicana. “I was very fortunate to begin my law career and apprentice under Terry Means, now the U.S. District Judge in Ft. Worth,” he said. “From Judge Means I learned the value

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of honesty, integrity and hard work. He taught me that there are no short cuts in the practice of law, and you have to be perfect.”

With over 30 years of legal experience in those areas of practice, all in Navarro County, Kelly has established a large clientele of area residents, who turn to him repeatedly for his trusted advice. “I do a lot of legal work for friends and families I have known since childhood,” he said.

Having gained a reputation for assisting those who don’t have much money, Kelly always charges a low consultation fee, now only \$60. “We help so many people who live paycheck to paycheck,” he said. “Then something unexpected happens, such as illness, divorce or job loss, and they can no longer pay their bills. We help them save their homes and cars and get their creditors off their backs.”

“I love people,
and I love
helping people.”

Kelly is a member of the Family Law and Bankruptcy Law Divisions of the State Bar of Texas, as well as the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. He is also actively involved in the local bar association, of which he has served as past president and current treasurer.

Kelly’s life is dedicated to giving back to the community. “This community was good to me growing up and gave me the opportunity to go to college,” he said. “The least I can do is try to give something back as a way of saying, ‘Thanks.’ I have coached Little League baseball, delivered Meals-on-Wheels and served on most boards, but the things of which I am most proud are having served two terms on the board of trustees for First Methodist Church, two years as chairman of the Navarro County Republican Party and two years as president of the Corsicana Country Club.” **NOW**

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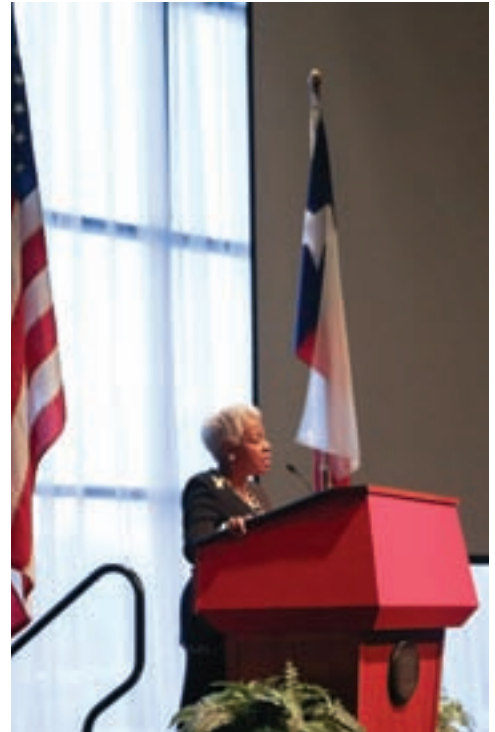
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Other loans, such as Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program loans, Federal Perkins Loans and certain health professions or nursing loans can qualify if you consolidate them into a Direct Consolidation Loan.

How to Apply

If you meet the above requirements, you can submit an Employment Certification for Public Service Loan Forgiveness form, and the U.S. Department of Education will notify you of the amount of remaining qualifying payments you need to make. When you have made 120 payments, you will need to submit a PSLF application to receive forgiveness. **NOW**

Lynda Housley is a State Farm agent based in Corsicana.

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If you are a current or former smoker living with **COPD**, which includes chronic bronchitis and emphysema, you may qualify for this clinical research study.

To participate, you must:

- Have a history of heart disease or stroke
- OR**
- Have cardiovascular risk factors such as diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, obesity or kidney disease

Qualified participants will receive the study medication and study-related care at no charge.

The Facts About Colon Cancer

Colorectal or colon cancer is the third most common form of cancer among American men and women, and the second leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States. Approximately one in three people who develop colorectal cancer die of this disease.

The colon and rectum are the last part of the digestive tract. Usually colon cancer starts out in the lining of the digestive tract as tissue growths called polyps. Polyps form when cells begin to grow, divide and reproduce in an unhealthy way, and then protrude into the colon or rectum. Risk level for colon cancer varies according to age, gender, ethnic background and overall health and lifestyle. Factors that increase your risk level include:

- Being age 50 or over.
- Having a personal history of polyps or colorectal cancer.
- Having certain digestive diseases, such as Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis or other inflammatory bowel disease.
- Having a family history of polyps or colorectal cancer.
- Eating a high-fat diet, red meat or processed meat or low-fiber diet.
- Having type 2 (usually non-insulin dependent) diabetes.

In addition, if you are physically inactive, obese, smoke, use alcohol or are African-American, you have a greater chance of developing colorectal cancer. Increasing your activity level may help reduce your risk. The good news is that with early detection — preferably through a colonoscopy — the survival rate dramatically increases.

A colonoscopy is a procedure that allows a doctor, usually a gastroenterologist, to see inside the colon and rectum. Used as either a screening test or a diagnostic tool, it can

help your doctor investigate early signs of cancer in the colon and rectum, as well as help diagnose the causes of anemia, unexplained changes in bowel habits, abdominal pain, rectal bleeding and weight loss. While you're sedated, the doctor will insert a thin, long, flexible, lighted tube (a colonoscope) into your rectum and slowly guide it into your colon. The scope transmits an image of the inside of the colon onto a screen, so the doctor can carefully examine the lining of the colon. Surgery is the most common treatment for colon cancer. As long as the cancer has not spread, surgery usually controls the disease. If the disease has spread into the bowel wall or lymph nodes, chemotherapy or chemotherapy with radiation is given before or after surgery.

Estimates state that more than 146,000 new cases of colorectal cancer will be diagnosed this year, and more than 50,000 Americans will die from the disease. To prevent colon cancer, people should know their family history; see a physician yearly for screenings; maintain a diet that is low in animal fat and high in fruits, vegetables and fiber; exercise regularly; prevent obesity; and avoid cigarette smoking and alcohol use.

March is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. If you have questions about this disease, or are interested in being screened for colorectal cancer, contact your physician. **NOW**

Remember that this information is not intended to replace the advice of your doctor, but rather to increase awareness and help equip patients with information to facilitate conversations with their physicians.

Shabzad Syed, M.D. • Gastroenterology
Member of the medical staff at Navarro Regional Hospital

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Local Drop-Off
Location

March 1 — 18

Rockin' 3 Western Art Show 2016:
Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.,
Warehouse Living Arts Center Gallery.
For more information, call (903) 872-5411

March 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24, 29, 31

VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance):
2:00-6:00 p.m., Corsicana YMCA. For more
information or to schedule an appointment, call
(281) 682-0928.

March 1, 4, 5, 8, 12, 19, 29, 31

Navarro College baseball games:
1:00 p.m., Navarro College-Corsicana.
For more information, call 1-800-NAVARRO.

March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance): 1:00-
4:00 p.m., Kerens Public Library. For more
information or to schedule an appointment, call
(281) 682-0928.

March 3

American Red Cross Blood Drive: 12:30-5:30
p.m., Corsicana First United Methodist Church.
For more information, call (903) 874-4551.

March 3 — 6

James and the Giant Peach: Warehouse Living
Arts Center. For more information or to make
reservations, call (903) 872-5421.

March 4

Piecemakers' Quilt Guild meeting: 9:30 a.m.,
Westhill Church of Christ Fellowship Hall. A
sit and sew follows each meeting. Visitors are
welcome. Visit www.pqgcorsicana.com for
more information.

United Way of Navarro County Glow Run:
6:30 p.m., I.O.O.F. Park. Call (903) 874-5253
or visit www.unitedwayofnavarrocounty.com
for more information.

March 5, 12, 19, 26

Cook Center Planetarium shows: 1:30 p.m.
"Hubble Vision"; 2:30 p.m. "The Cowboy
Astronomer"; Cook Center Planetarium. For
more information, call (903) 874-1211.

March 5, 12, 23, 25

Navarro College softball games: Corsicana
campus. For more information, call
1-800-NAVARRO.

March 10

Ladies Night Out Style Show: doors open
at 5:30 p.m., show begins at 6:00 p.m., The
Palace Theatre. See the latest spring fashions
from local merchants while enjoying wine and

hors d'oeuvres. For more information, contact
Sara Wilson, Main Street Program director, at
(903) 654-4851.

March 11

Navarro County Retired Teachers Association:
9:45 a.m., Northwest Apartments Community
Center. Michael Stewart, CEO of Navarro
Regional Hospital, will present the program.
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. For
more information or to make reservations a
week ahead, contact Connie Beal at
(903) 654-6892 or email connie_beal@chs.net.

Sweet T Vintage Market & Southern Junk
Show: **Saturday**, 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; **Sunday**,
9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., I.O.O.F. Event Center.
Admission is \$5. For more information, contact
Tammie Mineo at (979) 450-0141.

March 12

Angels of Corsicana Troop Support
packing day: 9:00 a.m., 1020 N. Business
145. Donations, especially of Easter items
(chocolate eggs, bunnies, peeps, etc.), can
be dropped off Monday through Friday from
8:00-10:00 a.m. before **March 13**. 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.

Navarro County Genealogical Society's
quarterly meeting: 10:00 a.m., Nancy
Robert's Room, Corsicana Public Library.
John Barron will present "Cotton Mill Block".
The public is invited. Call (903) 654-4808 for
more information.

City of Corsicana's Second Saturday: 11:00
a.m.-3:00 p.m., downtown sidewalk sale. For
more information, call (903) 654-4851.

March 12, 13

Texas Bicycle Racing Association Cup
Series: Competitors from all corners of
Texas and beyond will participate. Spectators
are welcome. The children's race will be
downtown on Saturday. For more information,
visit www.txbra.org or contact Mike Fankos at
(214) 676-6011.

March 14

Eclectic Readers Book Club: 6:30 p.m.,
Corsicana Public Library. *The Bookman's Tale*
by Charlie Lovett will be discussed. The club
is open to all adults ages 18 and over. For more
information, call (903) 654-4810.

March 15

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1009
meeting: 7:00 p.m., La Pradera Restaurant.
Email roy.messick@gmail.com for
more information.

March 16

Senior Circle Lunch Bunch: 11:30 a.m.-1:00
p.m., Bill's Fried Chicken. Contact Connie
Beal at (903) 654-6892 for more information.

March 21

Corsicana Art League meeting: 6:00 p.m., The
Cook Center. Helen Albritton will present the
program. For more information, email Gladys
Espenson at 65gladys53@gmail.com.

March 24

Corsicana Newcomers' Club: 11:00 a.m.,
Kinsloe House. Just in time for Easter! Guest
performer, Shellie O'Neal will perform her
one woman only play, *The Ministry of Angels*.
Members, please respond to the E-vite, but for
more information or confirmed reservations,
contact Annie Avery at (714) 345-6707.

PAL Club (People for Active Living) pot luck
meeting: 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., The Cook Center.
Call (903) 874-1211 for more information.

Family Caregiver Support Group of Navarro
County meeting: 2:00 p.m., Corsicana YMCA
Conference Room. For more information,
contact Mark Thommarson at (903) 641-9592.

Corsicana Main Street's Hop Downtown:
3:30-5:00 p.m., 101 N. Beaton. For more
information, call (903) 654-4852.

Ongoing:

Tuesdays

Story Time: 7:00 p.m., Corsicana Public
Library. This program is for children and their
caregivers to enjoy together. There is a story
and music time in the library meeting room,
followed by an activity. For more information,
call (903) 654-4810.

Wednesdays

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

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



In the Kitchen With Diane Douglas

— *By Virginia Riddle*

Diane Douglas is “big” into Sunday dinners made especially for her husband, Brett, and their three sons, two daughters-in-law, three grandchildren and friends. “Both my parents worked, but our maid, Amie Sims, took care of us and made homemade meals daily. I wanted to learn to cook like her,” Diane said.

A winner of cooking contests, Diane has collected over 100 cookbooks, mostly from church fundraisers. “We attend the Cowboy Church of Corsicana, where I’m the kitchen team leader,” Diane revealed.

A familiar face at Navarro County Abstract, Diane is known as the Corsicana Pie Lady. She bakes pies and presents them to recipients unexpectedly. “Their surprise and smiles lift my spirits,” she said. “I was raised to give to others and make God proud of me.” **NOW**

Layered Pea Salad

- 1 16-oz. bag shredded lettuce**
- 1 medium onion, chopped**
- 1 12-oz. pkg. frozen English peas**
- 2 cups mayonnaise**
- 2 Tbsp. sugar**
- 2 cups cheddar cheese, shredded**
- Bacon bits**

- 1.** Layer lettuce, onion and frozen peas in a 9x13-inch dish. Do not thaw peas.
- 2.** Mix mayonnaise and sugar; spread over peas.
- 3.** Top with cheese; then top with bacon bits.

Sausage Balls

- 2 1/2 cups Bisquick**
- 1 lb. Owen’s Regular Sausage**
- 16 oz. mild cheddar cheese, shredded**

- 1.** Preheat oven to 350 F.
- 2.** Mix all ingredients together; roll into 1-inch balls.
- 3.** Bake 30 minutes or until golden brown.

Rave Review Coconut Cake

Cake:

- 1 box 2-layer yellow cake mix**
- 1 3.4-oz. box vanilla instant pudding mix**
- 1 1/3 cups water**
- 4 eggs**
- 1/4 cup Crisco oil**
- 2 cups Baker’s Coconut**
- 1 cup pecans, chopped**

Coconut Cream Cheese Icing:

- 4 Tbsp. margarine (divided use)**
- 1 3/4 cups coconut, shredded (divided use)**
- 1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese**
- 2 Tbsp. milk**
- 1 16-oz. box powdered sugar**
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla**

- 1.** For cake: Mix first 5 ingredients well; then stir in coconut and pecans.
- 2.** Bake at 350 F for 35 minutes or until inserted toothpick comes out clean.
- 3.** Cool in the pan for 15 minutes before removing for icing.

- 4.** For icing: Melt 2 Tbsp. margarine in a skillet; brown coconut; drain on a paper towel.
- 5.** Soften remaining margarine and cream cheese; cream together.
- 6.** Add milk and powdered sugar; mix well.
- 7.** Add vanilla; mix well.
- 8.** Stir in coconut reserving some flakes for topping. Ice cake; sprinkle with remaining coconut.

Taco Soup

- 1 lb. ground beef**
- 1 12-oz. pkg. frozen chopped onions, thawed**
- 3 15.5-oz. cans chili beans**
- 1 15.25-oz. can whole kernel corn, undrained**
- 1 15-oz. can tomato sauce**
- 1 14.5-oz. can diced tomatoes, undrained**
- 1 4.5-oz. can chopped green chilies, undrained**
- 1 1.5-oz. packet taco seasoning mix**
- 1 1-oz. packet ranch-style dressing mix**
- 1 1/2 cups water**

- 1.** In a large soup pot, brown beef and onions over medium heat until onions are tender.
- 2.** Stir remaining ingredients into meat mixture. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer uncovered for 15 minutes; stir occasionally.

Corn Casserole

- 1 stick margarine, melted**
- 1 15.75-oz. can cream-style corn**
- 1 egg**
- 1/3 cup sugar**
- 1 12-oz. pkg. frozen chopped onions, thawed**
- 1 8-oz. container sour cream**
- 1 8.5-oz. box Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix**

- 1.** Mix all ingredients together; pour into a casserole dish.
- 2.** Bake at 350 F for 30 minutes or until golden brown.

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

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