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Mike and Janie Goodman enjoy the views from their dock.

Photo by Opaque Visuals.

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Editor's Note

Celebrate Freedom, Corsicana!

The Fourth of July is here along with the dog days of summer. Hot dogs and hamburgers sizzling on the grill, frothy ice cream floats, watermelon seed-spittin' contests, swim races, diving for coins and magical shooting-to-the-stars fireworks, followed by chasing fireflies to "wind down" and tire us out were all part of my growing up celebrations of Independence Day. My children and their cousins all have the same memories of this special day. What

a privilege it is to grow up in America where family traditions like these have been celebrated by generation after generation. Let's honor those men and women who fight for our freedom and allow us to pass on to future generations our memories of fun summer times.

Virginia

Virginia Riddle CorsicanaNOW Editor virginia.riddle@nowmagazines.com (903) 875-0187







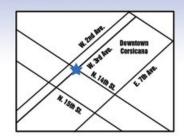
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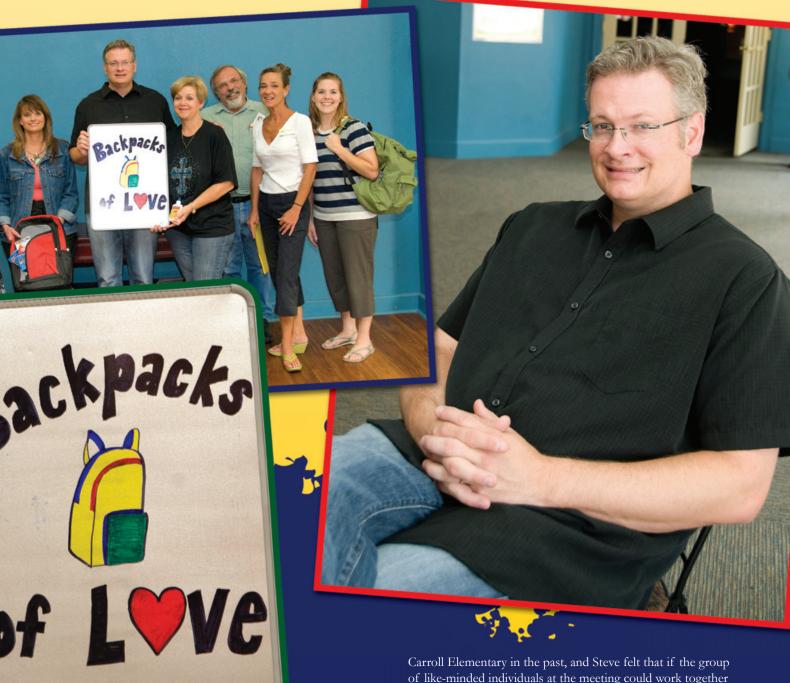
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It happened on a warm April day in 2011, during a local meeting sponsored by United Way. A small group of people found themselves sharing ideas about a way to join forces and do something really effective to help families in the Navarro County community who had been affected by the recent economic downturn. Out of that first informal meeting of the minds on an otherwise uneventful April day came the foundation for a collaborative effort known as Backpacks of Love, now going on its second year of operation.

Steve Hayes, senior pastor at Grace Community Church, was there and his memories of that meeting are crystal clear. "We started talking about something we could accomplish as a group, something we could collaborate on, and the idea of doing a school supply drive — particularly backpacks — came up," Steve said.

The group immediately knew they had found a potentially winning idea. Grace Community Church had done similar drives for



We believe that many of the students who received backpacks that first year walked into school with better self-esteem, thanks to having school supplies. toward a unified goal, "the potential for success was huge."

The idea of doing something to help economically disadvantaged Navarro County families was one Steve had thought about before. He had already talked to teachers and administrators about the lack of resources available to lowincome families, and he knew the idea of providing backpacks was the right thing to do. "We saw many organizations and churches helping with school supplies and believed that a collaborative effort would serve a greater number of kids." This collaborative effort would also assist with a fair distribution of the goods.

The minds behind Backpacks of Love, in addition to Steve's, are group leader Kimberly Stutts of Northside Baptist Church, Stephanie Elkins of Community Bank & Trust, Pam Crawford and Crystal Shepherd of Westminster Presbyterian Church/ PCHAS, Rob Ludwig and Elizabeth Thompson of Corsicana Independent School District, Tracy Watson of Rainbow Room, Mark Luera of Family Service Association, Amy Carr

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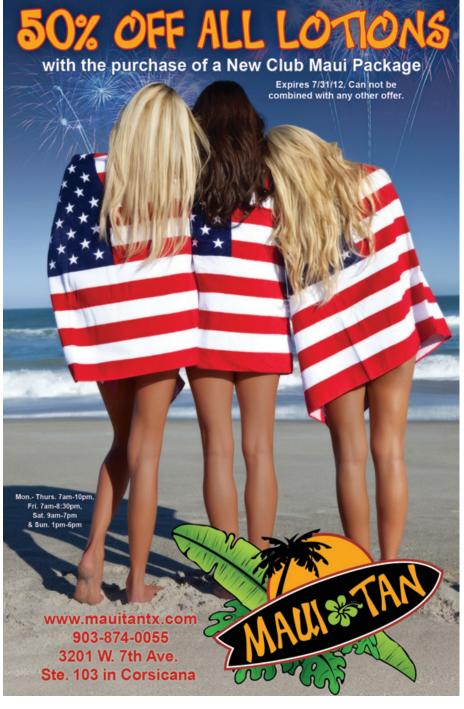
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of Kerens Independent School District, Kari Ivey of Blooming Grove Independent School District, Becky Melton of Frost Independent School District, Alvis Reeves of IMPACT Navarro County and Becky Thurston of First Baptist Church.

The group's goal for 2012 is the same as it was in 2011: to stuff 2,100 vibrantly colored backpacks with the "basics" - notebooks, paper, pencils and pens and more at a cost of \$12 per backpack. "We



figure it will take about eight to 10 hours to stuff all the backpacks, sort them by grade level and get everything ready to distribute them," Steve said, adding that Corsicana ISD and other county school districts were extremely helpful in getting the group supply lists to work from.

The backpacks will be available for Navarro Country kids who qualify for the program and who are Pre-K through 12th grade. "If a student's parent or guardian can provide proof of income that matches the state requirement for a

free or reduced lunch, that student will be eligible to receive a free backpack," Steve said. Backpacks will be distributed August 8-10 at Drane Intermediate School.

Steve said the program was an immediate success when it was introduced at the start of the 2011 school term. "We were absolutely blown away with how well the program was received by the community," he said.

During the three days of distribution, in August of 2011, the group distributed approximately 1,800 of the backpacks to students all over the county. About 75 percent of the students were from the Corsicana ISD and the remaining 25 percent were from Blooming Grove, Rice, Kerens, Mildred, Dawson and Frost school districts. Additional backpacks went to individual schools throughout the county to be distributed at the school's discretion. "We believe that many of the students who received backpacks that first year walked into school with better self-esteem, thanks to having school supplies," Steve said.



Funding for the Backpacks of Love program comes from a variety of sources. "We get our funding from churches, local companies, grants and trusts," Steve explained. "We look at just about every way you can possibly get funding, which is one of the ways that I try to help."

Steve, a Louisiana native, grew up in a single parent home after his dad died when Steve was just 6 years old. He and his wife, Kim, first came to Corsicana in 2001. "Back then, I worked with the youth here at Grace and led the music," he remembered. "I left in 2005 to

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become the associate pastor of a larger church in Irving."

In 2008, Steve, his wife and five kids returned to Corsicana, and he became pastor at Grace Community Church. "I've always had this goal of creating and leading the kind of church that if it burned to the ground, the whole community would think enough of it to want to rebuild it," he said. It is an underlying principle that has guided him most of his professional life. "I want to be a person concerned not only with what goes on inside these walls but with what can be done to benefit the entire community."

Admittedly not a "suit and tie" kind of guy, Steve loves people and enjoys volunteering his time on several area committees. He's on the board of the Hope Center, the Food Pantry and is the current president of the Main Street Advisory Board, a busy schedule by anyone's book, especially for the pastor of a major Corsicana church.

Steve's work with Backpacks of Love, however, has given him, as well as the rest of the team, the great satisfaction of knowing they are making a huge impact in the lives of thousands of Navarro County kids. "We started out as a team of people who wanted to see something positive happen for the children," he said, "and I think we've accomplished that goal." NOW

For more information, contact Kimberly Stutts at Northside Baptist Church at (903) 872-5601.



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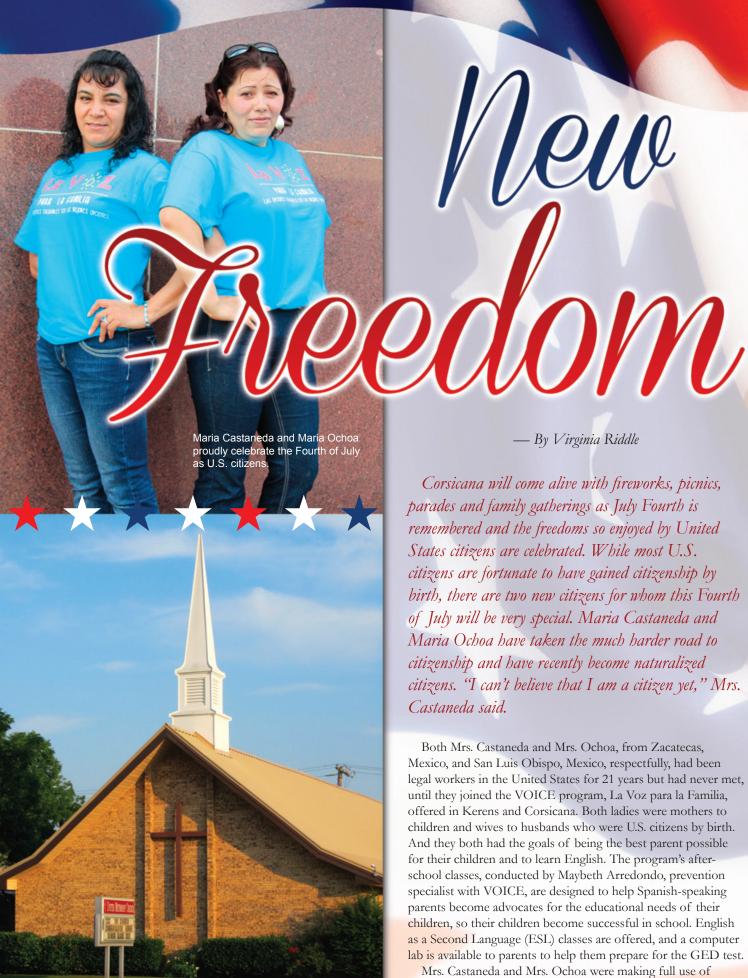
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the program, but they both had one more dream to fulfill. They asked Ms. Arredondo if someone could help them apply for citizenship and prepare for the required passage of the exam. The request was forwarded to John Goodnight, VOICE program director. After funds were obtained through a grant; a meeting location was secured (through Pastor Leslie Byrd of Kerens United Methodist Church); and instructor, Steve Dieterichs, volunteered to teach, the first citizenship course became a reality in February 2011.

The course was held weekly for six weeks, with one to two sessions each week for several hours. Steve taught the course in English and used the workbook, Learn About the United States, as a curriculum guide. Both ladies worked through the workbook on their own, as well as during study sessions together. An accompanying CD helped them with the English pronunciation of unfamiliar words. "The book helped a lot," Mrs. Castaneda remembered. They







"I can't believe that I am a citizen yet."

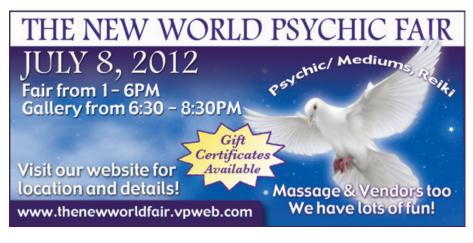


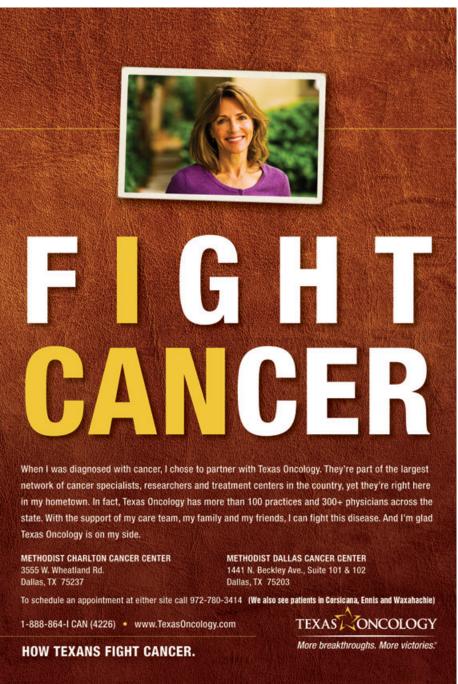


also used other available technology by texting and testing each other and recording information on MP3 players. Unlike many young people, these older, nontraditional students used texting to practice correct spelling and capitalization, while the MP3 players were useful for pronunciation practice. Note cards helped, as did tutoring sessions, in which their children became the teachers.













"Hearing and reading the workbook lessons at the same time helped," Mrs. Ochoa said.

The process to become a naturalized citizen is challenging, but Mrs. Castaneda and Mrs. Ochoa were undaunted and very goal oriented. While they had both heard how hard the test would be, they also had to meet all required obligations of applying, supplying necessary documents, paying a fee of \$675, getting fingerprinted, undergoing an interview, testing and, finally, taking the Naturalization Oath of Allegiance to the United States of America.

While VOICE staff helped with some of the required paperwork, the fees were paid and most of the steps to citizenship were accomplished through Mrs. Castaneda and Mrs. Ochoa's determination. Spare moments are rare for these busy mothers and wives who also have jobs. Mrs. Castaneda works in Ole's meat department and Mrs.



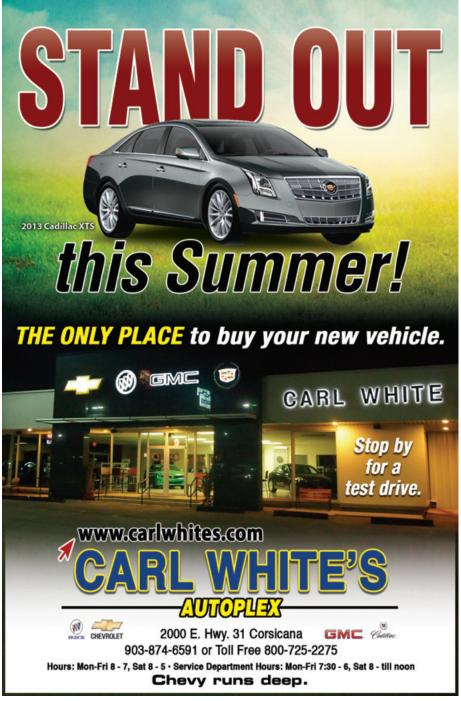
Ochoa works as a housekeeper. Breaks from work and chores found the ladies studying for the exam.

At different times and dates, both ladies had to report to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Office in Irving, Texas, for their test sessions and wait for their names to be called. They each used their wait time for last minute cramming sessions. Both passed the test the first time. Immediately following announcement of the results, they were each ready to take the oath.



Mrs. Castaneda and Mrs. Ochoa had relied on each other for much of the studying, but they are very quick to add that having Steve as their instructor was a major factor in their success. "Steve and VOICE gave us the push to take the test," Mrs. Castaneda said. Steve is understandably proud of his students. "The Mexican people, for the most part, share many of the same conservative family and religious values that I have.









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They're hard workers and believe in personal responsibility," Steve noted.

"Seeing these adults achieving something they have been seeking for a long time is a joy," John added.

A second citizenship course was formed with 11 students: 10 women and one man. They have completed the course and are now in the process of taking the steps toward citizenship. A third course was begun in May 2012. While not publicized in any way other than word-of-mouth, the demand for citizenship classes remains constant. Steve continues to be the instructor. "The La Voz course is very successful, I believe, at eliminating [testing] fears and preparing students, not only for the exam, but for life as a United States citizen. We teach American civics, not just answers to the exam questions. I, only half-jokingly, tell the students at the end of the course that they now know more about civics than 90 percent of natural-born Americans. I learn something new in almost every course I teach," Steve said.

The future is much brighter now for these two trailblazing new citizens. Mrs. Castaneda and her 21-year-old daughter, Erika, are excited about voting for the first time in this election year. Erika helped both her mom and Mrs. Ochoa by asking questions. "I never could find a person who would help me out before," Mrs. Castaneda said. "Now I want to give back and be a mentor to someone else." Erika and her two brothers, Robert and Saul, are very proud to have been a help.

Mrs. Ochoa, a true role model to others seeking citizenship, has already spoken encouraging words to the second class. "I feel more confident," this mother of two children said. Both ladies are looking forward to furthering their education, perhaps going to college and want to achieve success in the business world. Mrs. Castaneda and Mrs. Ochoa's dedication to learning more about their adopted country and mastering English will continue to pay dividends not only for themselves and their children, but also for other future students who will most certainly continue to follow in these ladies' footsteps in seeking U.S. citizenship. NOW

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— By Virginia Riddle

One of the few things Mike and Janie Goodman couldn't agree on during the early years of their 37-year marriage was where they were going to retire. Mike wanted to live on a lake in a country setting, preferably with a golf course in the backyard. 'Janie always said that she would never live in the country," Mike revealed.

A compromise was reached when the couple semiretired to their waterfront lot at Lake Richland Chambers. "We really miss the sunsets when we aren't home," Janie said.

Mike and Janie met at a party in Dallas shortly after Janie, a Fort Worth native, had returned to Texas following her graduation from the University of Oklahoma. Mike saw Janie

and asked her for a dance. Before long, he was pulling out his little black book to add her name and number.

Life in Dallas revolved around work and rearing their son, Alan. Mike, originally from Alabama, worked as an engineer with Reynolds Aluminum and then owned his own business, Dallas Window & Glass, which he has since sold. Janie, a CPA, still works in Dallas three days a week and adds, "I now have five jobs, most of them associated with accounting and QuickBooks consulting. I tell people I have to support Mike's habits."

"Mike's habits" include playing golf, fishing and hunting. He works as a Texas Association of Sports Officials (TASO) baseball umpire and used to referee basketball. The couple enjoys bridge, tennis, waterskiing, boating and jet skiing. Using their ownership in a time share, Mike and Janie have vacationed at popular golf spots, allowing Mike a chance to enjoy famed courses in Myrtle Beach and Hilton Head Island in South Carolina; Carmel, California; and the Augusta National Golf



Club in Georgia. His hole-in-one ball hangs in a place of honor in the breakfast area.

When this couple began thinking seriously about bringing Mike's dream of life on a lake to reality, they loaded up their boat. "We started looking at a lot of lakes in Texas. Everyone had told us that the best way to find a waterfront lot was to see the lake from the water," Mike said. They fell in love with the enormity of Lake Richland Chambers. "This lake is one of the best kept secrets in Texas," Mike added. Their search settled first on one lot, but after realizing they would only get a sunrise view, they decided on the lot upon which they now reside.

"We are never up in time to watch the sunrise," Janie explained.

An architect friend started drawing house plans. Janie nixed the first plan, which looked like a fishing camp to her. She also turned down a two-story plan. Once the plan was agreed upon, Mike

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became the contractor and also built much of the home himself. He stayed in a neighbor's garage apartment during the construction and grew a beard to be shaved off only when the home was finished. "Mike is very talented in areas like electrical, plumbing and carpentry. I see Mike's labor in so much of the house," Janie said. They moved on Super Bowl weekend 2008. "We amazed everyone by having a party that Sunday," Janie remembered.

"Our friends in Dallas think we live in the Wild West," Janie said. "At night, our neighborhood goes on armadillo patrol with search lights." Snakes are also a fact of life. "But this is a great neighborhood," Janie revealed. Alan and his wife, Nikki, along with their children, Braden and Bailey, love to visit, ride in the golf cart and enjoy the lake. The children especially love riding their toys down the long, sloped driveway.

The driveway provides access to a

three-car garage and extra parking for guests. The cedar and brick home is perfectly situated to take advantage of sunsets and lake views from every room. Mike keeps the yard beautifully landscaped and has added lighting in the tall trees. Janie's wind chimes and the perfume of jasmine and other flowers complete the restful ambience. Mike and Janie often enjoy drinking a second cup of coffee on the cedar-pillared front porch.









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A leaded glass door reflects Mike's expertise in all things glass. It leads into the great room comprised of the formal and informal dining rooms and den. Cedar, stone and hardwood floors combine in beautiful harmony. The mantel holds many family heirlooms to which are attached memories. Mike's dad's violin is hung on the wall, and his mother's needlepoint covers the formal dining chair seats. "We love to see things in our home that remind us of family and friends," Janie said. Being the frugal CPA, she hunted for bargains online to furnish the home. The kitchen, with its island, granite countertops, breakfast bar, large pantry, ice maker and warming drawer, is built with entertaining in mind. A passthrough window to the dining room is one of Janie's favorite features.

French doors swing open to the master bedroom, which has a view of the American flag fluttering in lake breezes. Parents' and grandparents' photos decorate the walls. The master bath is able to accommodate a wheelchair with a curbless glass shower. "I knew a guy in the glass business," Mike joked.

Two guest bedrooms with baths





occupy the opposite side of the great room. Walk-in closets provide great storage space. Janie's Hammond organ is in the guest bedroom, while her office space is just off of Alan and Nikki's bedroom. "I love this office," Janie said of her work space with its full, panoramic lake view. Connecting the two guest rooms is a "hall of fame" that displays family photos.

The pièce de résistance is the back veranda on which the couple grills and sits to take in the sunsets. "In the mornings, we have coffee here," Janie said. "When the grandkids visit, the veranda is like a big playpen. There is so much they can safely do" she added. Built over a huge basement, due to the pier and beam foundation, the veranda is a combination of practicality and beauty. A pier and boathouse complete the sunsetfilled lake view.

Janie has changed her view of country and lake living. "After we moved here, she took off in the golf cart and made friends quickly," Mike said.

"This is the perfect life for us," Janie added. "During Christmas, before we cleared the lot, our kids asked what my

favorite Scripture verse was. My life verse has become Jeremiah 29:11, which is engraved on their gift — a plaque by the front door. We know that this home is a gift from God, a blessing to be shared with friends and family." NOW







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The responsibilities that come with the job of city engineer pose no worries for Elizabeth Borstad. Problems come with the territory, but so does dedication. 'It's a dream job," Elizabeth said of her position with the city of Corsicana. "I love it, and I couldn't work with a finer bunch of people who also love what they do."

The diligent professional is originally from Vermont by way of South Carolina but came to Texas a decade ago and has worked for her new hometown for the last six years. "I went back and forth for a while, but I'm where I want to be now," she said. "Corsicana is a great place to work."

The complex issues Elizabeth faces in her position — developing public infrastructure and responding to a wide range of residential and commercial property concerns — are all in a day's work, and she doesn't sweat it. "The work is hard. But it's also rewarding, because you know you are helping people by making life better for them," she said.

Sharing a common goal of success is at the heart of teamwork, and Elizabeth's staff steps up to the plate every day in that regard. The 11 members of her department, which encompasses Planning and Zoning, Code Enforcement and other units of expertise, are equally devoted to serving the city's 26,000 inhabitants, a sometimes overwhelming obligation but one that each embraces with pride and gusto. "You know, the truth is, nobody wants to get out of bed at midnight and fix a broken sewer line,"



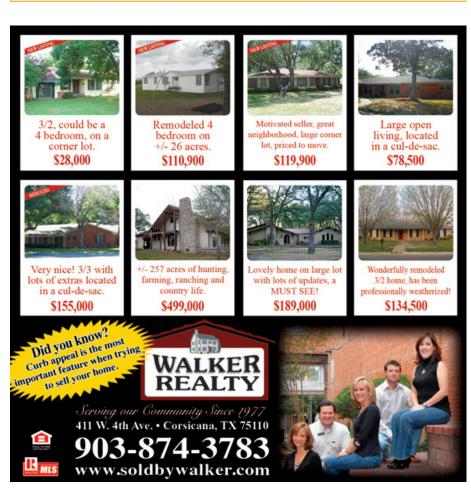
"The neatest people live here, and thanks to my job with the city, I get to meet them all."

Elizabeth admitted. "But our people do it as a matter of course because they care. This is their home — our home — and we are all neighbors."

Elizabeth's job comprises a wide assortment of duties, from conducting inspections of homes and businesses to supervising burials at local cemeteries. "It's a big grab bag, but I enjoy it all," she said. Even the grimiest toil is a matter of satisfaction. "Laying new waterlines recently in an older section of town was very fulfilling," she offered as an example. "It means something to the people who live there, so it means something to me."

The engineering department so excels in its routine — and not so routine — improvement projects that some citizens











may never even realize the work put into them. "We like to say, 'We build them in the sky and place them when everyone's asleep," Elizabeth laughed. People may complain from time to time about logistics or an unsalvageable structure, but for the most part, the public is on the side of the city in its efforts toward betterment of streets, sidewalks, parks and other welltraveled locales. "We can't please everyone, although we try," she said. "But really, the public here is very supportive of progress."



Elizabeth and her crew networked, in particular, with the Warehouse Living Arts Center, postponing scheduled repairs to accommodate play openings and other events. When high winds

recently brought down the brick awning of a building on Fourth Avenue, Elizabeth's department was joined by firefighters and police officers in responding to the danger; all worked in unison, some blocking off traffic while others cleared debris from the street.

Working collaboratively is a specialty for the engineering department, as demonstrated lately in its shared coordination with state resources of the Seventh Avenue drainage project. The city completed all necessary preparations for the state to start excavating the street for the placement of 12-foot, storm-water drains under the busy thoroughfare. Elizabeth's department, which worked in tandem



with a contractor, was responsible for relocating utilities, including water and sewer lines. It was a 120-day project that was often plagued by bad weather, but spirits were far from dampened.

Some of the most rewarding labor Elizabeth and her crew have invested was in building new homes last year on the former site of five dilapidated houses. The city was able to conduct the demolition and reconstruction through a state grant for low-income housing. Qualifying residents for the HOME Program have to be in need of assistance, must own their homes and must complete an in-depth application process. Another batch of grants is expected this year to provide new structures for eligible homeowners.

One new homeowner said members of the city engineering department were helpful, courteous and "even seemed to











like doing the work," adding that she had never expected to have repairs made to her old residence, much less be given a totally brand new home. "They allowed me a chance to have a new life," she said. "I will always be grateful for the blessing the city has given me."

It's making a difference in the lives of the people of Corsicana that drives Elizabeth, and she couldn't be more passionate about her work. But she enjoys her home life, too, and avails herself of the joy to be found amongst family, friends and the animals she loves — especially her horse. Elizabeth lives in the beloved bluebonnet hotspot of Bristol, where this year the state flower bloomed more extensively than ever, dotting roadsides and filling pastures. With husband, Brad, and her four daughters, she makes the most of country living, a respite from the busy streets of Corsicana.

On their land near Ennis, the family spends time with Elizabeth's mother and sister who visit from Corsicana. Elizabeth's daughters, who range in age from 9 to late teens, are involved in school activities and sports, and she's proud of their independence and achievements.

They are definitely following in the talented footsteps of their mother whom Corsicanans revere for more than her resourcefulness. City staffers and the public alike have taken to Elizabeth for her caring and considerate heart. A woman may accomplish the same goals as a man, but she goes about it with a charm unequaled, and that's where Elizabeth's appeal lies for her customers and coworkers. The city engineer, wife and mother returned the compliment. "The best thing about Corsicana, for me, is the people," she insisted. "The neatest people live here, and thanks to my job with the city, I get to meet them all." NOW













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Making the Best

By Rick Herron

Move over Paula Deen, Nigella Lawson, Emeril Lagasse and Paul Prudhomme. There's a small local group of chefs-in-training who have real potential to become household names in the not-so-distant future.

Haylee Arteaga, Katie Sutton, Forrest Wigington and Ryan Dillman are members of the Emhouse 4-H Club's Wiskers Team and compete in food challenges throughout the year, more often than not taking home first place. "We meet once a month, usually the second Monday of every month, at the Emhouse Community Center," Forrest said. The four-member team competes in food challenges where they take a bag of groceries and make an entrée within an allotted period of time. The Emhouse 4-H Club, which has an average of 15 to 20 regular members, has been an active outlet for area youth for nearly 60 years, according to Lisa Dillman, the group's leader.

The Wiskers team geared up for the 4-H State Competition that was slated for June 10-15 at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, where they participated in a food challenge on Wednesday, June 13. "It was our first time there as a group, and we were really excited about going," Katie said. "We met all kinds of talent that week in various contests, in addition to the food challenge we competed in."

Earlier this year, the Wiskers team attended a 4-H district Team Food Challenge competition in February at Belton, Texas, and in March, they competed in the Navarro County Youth Expo and won first place in their division. "It's always fun to go to the Youth Expo and see people you haven't seen in a year,"



well as embroidered blankets."

At the Youth Expo food challenge, the Wiskers team had 40 minutes to take a bag of food — the contents of which were previously unknown — and make a meal. They are given a brief list of ingredients with the amounts, but no directions. This was followed by a five-minute oral presentation, where each team member gave brief explanations of various aspects of the created dish, such as calories, presentation and preparation. In March 2011, the Team Food Challenge was a brand new addition



WI wanted to be involved in something where I could meet other kids around my age."

to the Navarro County Youth Expo, according to published news reports, and it was there that the Emhouse 4-H Wiskers won the senior division, a feat they repeated again in 2012.

According to its Web site, 4-H is a youth organization administered by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) with the mission of "engaging youth to reach their fullest potential while advancing the field of youth development." The



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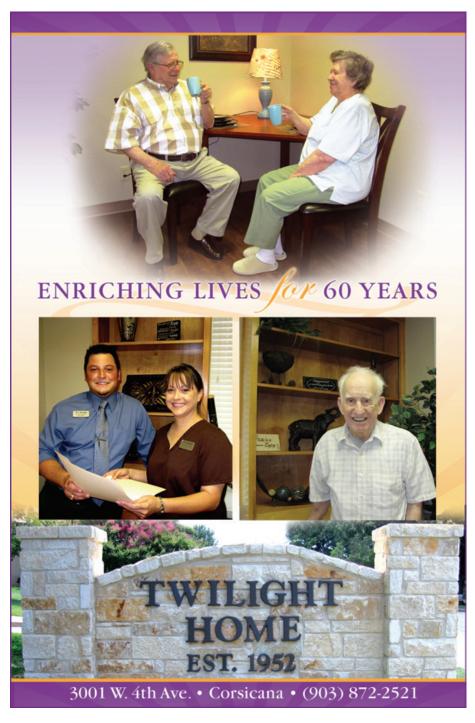


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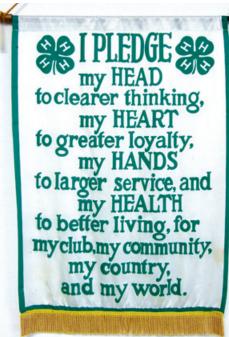
name 4-H represents four personal development areas of focus for the organization: head, heart, hands and health. The organization has over 6.5 million members in the United States, from ages 5 to 19, in approximately 90,000 clubs. The 4-H Club motto is "To make the best better."

The late Tressie Langston, who wrote extensively about Navarro County history, noted that Navarro County 4-H got its start in 1907, thanks to a county agricultural agent who worked with the local 4-H boys, and a home demonstration agent was added in 1915 to work with 4-H girls. Tressie was a Navarro County extension agent for 33 years who retired in 1992 and passed away in 2000. Following her death, the Tressie Lacy Langston Memorial Foundation was established in her honor to award scholarships to local youth.

Currently, there are 10 area clubs under the 4-H banner: Emhouse, Frost, Mildred, Boys & Girls Club, Blooming Grove/Barry, Corsicana, Kerens, Dawson, Rice and CCS Discovery. There are also three specialty clubs: Horse Club, Archery and Shooting Sports.

Haylee became involved with the Emhouse 4-H Club and the Wiskers team after she moved to Blooming Grove from Corsicana three years ago. "I wanted to be involved in something where I could meet other kids around my age," she said. "Everyone said how great the 4-H Club was, so I joined in 2009, and have loved every minute."





Forrest gives credit to his friend Ryan for introducing him to the Wiskers team. "Ryan knew I liked to cook and asked me if I wanted to join the food challenge. I've been involved with it continually ever since 2009," he said.

Katie, currently a senior at Blooming Grove High School, moved to Blooming Grove seven years ago from Barry. "I've been in 4-H since my seventh-grade year, and joined after Haylee told me how great it is to be a member," she said.

The Emhouse 4-H Wiskers team participates in food challenges throughout the year that always follow specific steps, which are strictly



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monitored by participating judges. "We get a set number of minutes to cook, as well as prepare speeches," Ryan said. "Within that time frame, we also have to put the newly created meal into a serving dish and garnish it appropriately."

Immediately after the cooking period has officially ended, the team gets five minutes to talk to the judges, and each team member has his and her own individual areas of expertise. Katie discusses measurements, costs and the mathematical aspect of the prepared food. Haylee explains food safety and the importance of cleanliness in the handling and preparation of food. Forrest talks about the actual preparation process, while Ryan provides the judges with an explanation of the type of food used, nutrient values and number of servings in the complete meal.

Not only does the team learn about the culinary arts from the many food challenges they compete in during the year, they are also paving the way toward possible scholarships for which they can apply that are funded by food-related companies. Two of the Wiskers team members, Katie and Forrest, said they plan to focus on careers in the world of cooking after graduating from high school, so the possibility of winning a scholarship is always a dangling carrot, so to speak. Haylee is thinking seriously about becoming a veterinarian or speech therapist.

No matter which career path they ultimately select, the Emhouse 4-H Wiskers team is enjoying an unprecedented winning streak on the competition circuit. And, at the same time, they're also learning a valuable recipe for success in the competition called life. NOW









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Managing the Risks of Life

Lynda Housley, State Farm Agent, provides personalized, caring service every day to every customer. — By Virginia Riddle

For 33 years, Lynda Housley has been offering Navarro County area residents and businesses the service that reflects State Farm's motto, re³markableTM, which stands for every State Farm associate offering remarkable service to customers every time. "State Farm has a national catastrophe team that goes into action to restore people to normalcy, which is important in a state like Texas with diverse weather patterns. Our mission is to help people manage the risks of everyday life, recover from the unexpected and realize their dreams," Lynda said.

A multi-line agency, State Farm offers 107 different products to customers. The State Farm Bank offers home and auto loans, checking and savings accounts and CDs. Investment and

retirement financial tools, such as mutual funds and annuities, are also available. Lynda is licensed to sell all products, and her two employees, Heather Miller and Norma Gonzalez, are licensed insurance agents. Norma offers bilingual translation service to Hispanic customers. "I am very proud of the both of them,"

Lynda moved to Corsicana in 1978 with her husband, Harold, due to a job transfer. A Florida native with a degree from The University of Southern Mississippi in social work and business management, Lynda had never been to Texas and knew no one in Corsicana other than her real estate agent, Carlene Langford. Carlene steered Lynda toward a secretarial job with a State Farm

Business NOW

agency manager. It wasn't long before Lynda was recommended to enter the two-year training program to become an agent. Lynda became a State Farm agent on June 1, 1980. Coincidentally, State Farm celebrated its 90th birthday on its Founders Day, June 1. "State Farm offers a seamless transfer when a person or family is moving," Lynda said.

The awards that decorate the walls of Lynda's office demonstrate how successful she and her staff have been at satisfying customers' needs. She has earned the State Farm Life Ambassador Award for many years and the Golden Triangle Award, which represents 15 consecutive years of membership in the Legion of Honor indicating continuous profitability in addition to numerous industry Quality Awards. "I have been blessed, but it also says a lot about the quality of people that we have in Navarro County. It all comes back to the agent. In this Internet era, our company keeps the agent in the forefront of servicing the customer," Lynda said.

A spirit of giving back to her adopted community and background in social work has led Lynda to become an active civic leader in Corsicana. She volunteers through the American Cancer Society/Navarro County, Children's Advocacy Center of Navarro County, Corsicana & Navarro County Chamber of Commerce, Navarro County Board of Realtors, The Kinsloe House and the First Baptist Church of Corsicana.

Corsicana is home to Lynda and Harold, who are the proud parents of two adult children, Melissa and Hal, who were reared in Corsicana. Melissa and her husband live in Midland, TX, where she has followed in her mother's footsteps by becoming a State Farm agent. Hal is a JAG attorney with the U.S. Army and will depart soon for a 12-month tour of duty in Seoul, South Korea. Lynda and Harold enjoy traveling, gourmet cooking, reading and viticulture (the study of winemaking).

"Being an agent is still as challenging now as my first day. You have to have the ability to adapt and change, with a willingness to continue to learn," Lynda reflected. She invites customers to "call in, click in or walk in."

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Fibromyalgia is a chronic disorder characterized by widespread musculoskeletal pain, fatigue and multiple tender points. These "tender points" refer to sensitivity that occurs in precise localized areas, particularly in the neck, spine, shoulders and hips.

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Around Town NOW



Ronnie Sims, John Dozier, Gene Tyra and Johnny James enjoy an afternoon round of golf at Oak Trail Golf Course.



Mark Bowden, Cherry Baker and Blu and John Daniels take a break from competing for the best beans honors at the Annual Dawg Daze of Summer Chili Cook-off.



Debbie Shimonek and Lisa VanLoocke joyfully dish out the treats at the Taylorosa Trade Days.



Jadarrius and Jaidyn Strahan cool off while playing at the Community Spray Park.



Renee and Adam Ramirez enjoy a summer day's game of putt-putt golf with their daughters, Emily and Madison.

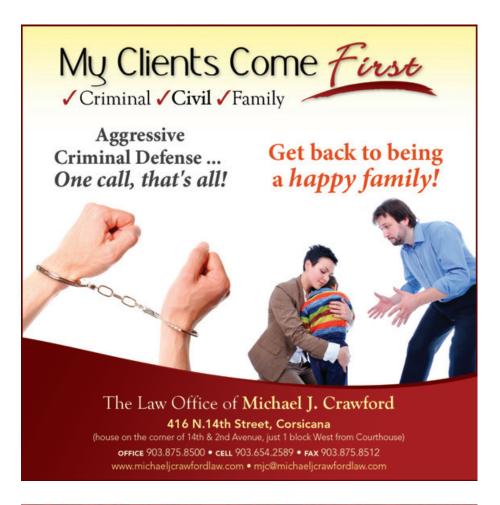


Nathaniel Thomas, Dewayne Tyler, Anquanae M., Kevin Murphy, Chris Evans and Xavier Logan enjoy the sunset at IOFF Park.











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Choosing a Primary Care Provider

When it comes to maintaining good health, it takes a village — a multidisciplinary team of experts — to provide comprehensive health care. It's not unusual for your preventive care regime to include regular visits to more than one doctor: a family physician, an obstetrician or gynecologist, and any specialist involved in treating chronic conditions: an allergist, dermatologist, orthopedist or cardiologist, for example.

However, it's important to have one team leader quarterbacking your health care, so to speak. This person is your primary care physician, and he or she serves as the main gatekeeper for your care. Choosing a primary care physician may be the most important step in caring for your health.

What is a primary care physician?

Your primary care physician (PCP) is the doctor you typically see for an annual physical, i.e., your main health care provider for non-emergency care. A PCP is typically a family practitioner or an internist, although some obstetricians may function as a PCP for their patients. Your PCP performs routine tests that are needed at various stages throughout your life to monitor your health and diagnose and treat medical problems. If needed, your PCP can refer you to a specialist if a serious illness requiring special management is necessary. A PCP serves as the chief facilitator for other physicians involved in your care, making sure that all the components — from treatments to

prescribed medications — work together effectively for your good health. A PCP will provide preventive care, based on their knowledge of your unique health history, heredity and other factors. He or she will also provide you with health education, so that you can make informed decisions about your lifestyle, nutrition and physical activity.

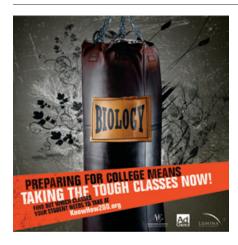
The advantage of having a PCP over using a walk-in clinic or urgent care center for routine health maintenance is continuity: an ongoing relationship with a single medical professional will have in-depth knowledge about you and your health history, family background, past injuries or illnesses, allergies and risk factors for certain diseases.

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 and facilitate conversations with your physician that will benefit your health.

Sources:

National Institutes of Health, www.nlm.nih.gov. Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research, www.ahrq.gov. WebMD, www.webmd.com. American Medical Association, www.ama-assn.org.

Melissa McFadden, DO • Family Medicine • Member of the medical staff at Navarro Regional Hospital







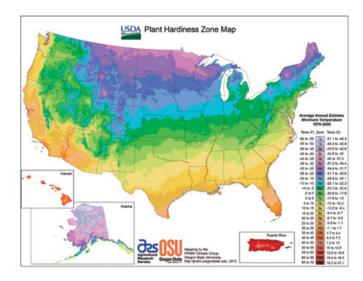


Know Your Zone

— By Nancy Fenton

Do you wonder what those numbers on the plants you order and buy mean? The numbers are to give us an idea of the minimum cold temperature, which certain plants can tolerate. In this region of North Texas, we are now in what is called hardiness zone 8. We have been in 7b, but things are "a changing." The scientists at the National Arboretum in cooperation with USDA have tweaked the 2012 map a bit. The specialists don't think it is a result of global warming, but it does reflect a warming trend.

The new map carves up the U.S. into 26 zones based on five-degree temperature increments. Our counties were a good solid 7b where the very coldest day would average between 5 and 10 degrees. Now we are in 8a where the coldest average day will be 10 to 15 degrees. This makes a difference in what we can plant and when we plant it. It will make a large difference if you are ordering plants. Look for zone 8 in the information. I buy lots of bulbs, and a great many will not do well year after year in our warmer alkaline areas, so I look for zones 8 and 9. You can always buy any plant from any zone, but this information can be vital for survival outside a greenhouse. You can get the specific zone information for your ZIP code on the USDA Web site.



Next month, we will talk more about neat Web sites where you can find lots of great information.

Nancy Fenton is a Master Gardener.



Invest Child Care Money in Your Child's Future

— By Lynda Housley

Is your child one of more than 11 million U.S. children under the age of 5 in child care? If so, the cost is likely a significant line item in your budget.

Reliable child care can be difficult to afford. Full-time center care for an infant ranges from \$4,650 to \$18,200 annually; for a 4-year-old, \$3,900 to \$14,050, according to the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies.

Saving Is Not An Impossible Task

Saving for college may seem impossible while paying for child care along with other fixed expenses, such as housing, utilities and food. You can take solace in the fact that there is light at the end of the tunnel. When your child begins elementary school and no longer requires full-time child care, you'll see a significant increase in your discretionary income each month. But before you convert those child care dollars into disposable income, consider investing in your child's college education. After all, you're already accustomed to living without that income.

Investment Options

A number of investment opportunities are available that offer tax advantages while you accumulate funds to help pay for future education expenses. One is the Coverdell Education Savings Account (ESA), a trust or custodial account with a \$2,000 annual contribution limit that can be used for your child's elementary and secondary education, as well as post-secondary education, such as college, graduate school or vocational school. You can invest in a Coverdell ESA account regularly,

if your income is under a certain amount, with current year contributions accepted until that year's tax-filing deadline.

If you'd like to invest more toward your child's education, consider a 529 college savings plan for qualified higher education expenses. An individual can contribute as much as \$65,000 to a 529 plan and treat the contribution as made ratably over a five-year period. For federal gift tax purposes, a \$65,000 contribution is treated as having contributed \$13,000 (the amount of the federal gift tax annual exclusion) per year for five years. Also, a husband and wife could each make a \$65,000 contribution.

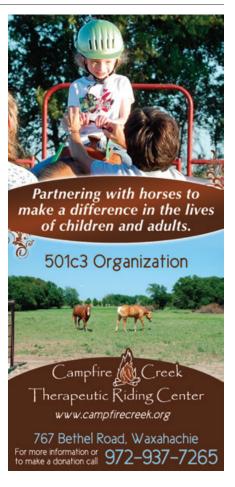
A quality education may be one of the most important factors in determining your child's future. It's never too early to begin saving, and dedicating funds you previously used for child care may be a great way to start.

Investing involves risk, including potential for loss.

Diversification and asset allocation do not assure a profit or protect against loss. Foreign investments involve greater risks than U.S. investments, including political and economic risks and the risk of currency fluctuations. Bonds are subject to interest rate risk and may decline in value due to an increase in interest rates. The S&P 500® Index tracks the common stock performance of 500 large U.S. companies.

Lynda Housley is a State Farm agent based in Corsicana.







July 2-August 11

Night Lights and Bad Astronomy: 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. showings at the Cook Center Planetarium, Mondays-Saturdays. Admission is \$2 per person, per program. For more information, call (903) 875-7596.

July 2-August 10

Summer Day Camp: 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Corsicana YMCA. For more information, call (903) 872-2412 or visit www.corsicanaymca.org.

July 4-August 18

Jester Park Pool Swim Season: 1:00-6:00 p.m., Wednesdays-Sundays. \$2.50 for ages 12 and under, \$3 for ages 13 plus. For more information, call (903) 654-4872.

July 4-August 19

Bunert Park Pool Swim Season: 1:00-6:00 p.m., Wednesdays-Sundays. \$1.50 for ages 12 and under, \$2 for ages 13 plus. For more information, call (903) 654-4872.

July 4

Rotary Club Freedom Festival Celebration: IOOF Park. Live music, games, food vendors and fabulous fireworks. Free to the public. For more information, call (903) 654-4874.

July 5

Summer Reading Club: 11:00 a.m., Corsicana Public

Library. The program is Dan Gibson: Stories and Banjo. For more information, call (903) 654-4810.

Rock-N-Roll Up Your Sleeve Community Blood Drive: noon-5:30 p.m., Martin Hall, First United Methodist Church. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 1-800-RED CROSS.

July 2

Pearce Museum Summer Art Classes: 1:00-2:30 p.m. For more information or reservations, call (903) 875-7420.

July 9-13

Chess Camp: 1:00-3:30 p.m., The Annex. For more information, call (903) 654-4874.

"X Marks the Spot": CISD Integrated Math and Science Camp: 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Navarro Elementary School. For more information or to register, contact Kim Yukon at (903) 602-8136.

July 9-19

Youth Swim Lessons: 30-minute class sessions begin at 8:15 a.m. and go through 7:25 p.m., Corsicana YMCA. For more information, call (903) 872-2412 or visit www.corsicanaymca.org.

July 12

Flower Arranging: 9:00-11:00 a.m., Cason's Flowers. For more information, call (903) 654-4874.

July 12-22

The Boys Next Door: Warehouse Living Arts Center. For more information on show times, contact (903) 872-5421 or visit www.warehouselivingartscenter.com.

July 16-19

Mertz Tennis Summer Pay Session I: 9:00-10:00 a.m., ages 10 and under; 10:15-11:45 a.m., ages 11 and up. \$40 for session or \$15 per day. For more information, contact Cecil Easley at (903) 654-4845.

July 2

Pearce Museum Summer Art Classes: 1:00-2:30 p.m. For more information or reservations, call (903) 875-7420.

July 23-27

"Get Energized": CISD Integrated Math and Science Camp: 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Navarro Elementary School. For more information or to register, contact Kim Yukon at (903) 602-8136.

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









In The Kitchen With Jeff Golden

— By Virginia Riddle

Twenty years of wonderful smells have wafted from the cowboy hat-topped pit since Jeff Golden's dad, Phil, started the family tradition of cooking for good causes, fellowship and family. The Golden Band cooking team — Jeff; Phil; brother, Jordan; brother-in-law, Tony Aguado; and lodge brother, Chris Brandy — are regulars at cook-offs in Corsicana, Shulenberg and the Houston Livestock Show Go-Texan. During events benefiting their hometown of Blooming Grove, members of the volunteer fire department, Masonic Lodge and First United Methodist Church assist them. "We sell 50-60 briskets by the pound for the Lord's Acre," Jeff said. Jeff and his wife, Ashley, are passing the family tradition on to their sons, Logan and Landon. "I enjoy the fellowship of people," Jeff revealed, "and nibbling as I go."

Brisket

2 Tbsp. paprika2 Tbsp. brown sugar2 tsp. onion powder1 Tbsp. garlic salt

I tsp. black pepper

1 brisket

- **1.** Combine first 5 ingredients. Rub mixture over the entire brisket.
- 2. Cover brisket and refrigerate overnight.
- **3.** Put brisket on pit to cook, fat side up

throughout the cooking process. Cook brisket 1 hour per pound at 250-275 F.

4. Halfway through cooking time, wrap the brisket in foil. Use multiple layers, if needed, to hold in juices. Brisket is done when it can be cut across the grain with ease.

Armadillo Dip

1 pkg. bacon 1 to 1 1/2 lbs. breakfast sausage 1/2 cup jalapeños, chopped 1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese

I cup cheddar cheese, grated

- **1.** Cook bacon until crisp. Crumble and set aside.
- **2.** Cook sausage. Add jalapeños during last 5 minutes of cooking.
- **3.** Add cream cheese, bacon and cheese. Mix well.
- **4.** Serve warm with chips or crackers.

Sweet and Spicy Ribs

2 slabs St. Louis cut ribs

3 cups barbecue sauce

1/2 cup jalapeños, finely chopped

3 shots whiskey

3 Tbsp. brown sugar

- **I.** Remove membrane from underside of ribs. Set out at room temperature while preparing marinade.
- **2.** Mix marinade of barbecue sauce and jalapeños. Spread over ribs; set out for one hour.
- 3. Mix remaining ingredients for sauce.
- **4.** Cook ribs for 4-5 hours in a pit at 250-275 F. After third hour of cooking, brush heated sauce over ribs. Remainder of sauce can be used for dipping.
- **5.** Meat is done when it starts to tear between the 3rd and 4th ribs.

leff's Pork Loin

1 pork loin, 8-10 inches long 3 whole jalapeños, diced 1/2 whole onion Salt and pepper, to taste 20 slices of bacon, thickly cut 1 cup barbecue sauce

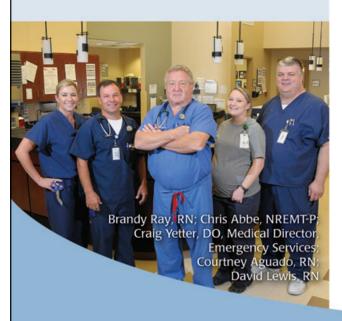
- **1.** Make a pocket in the pork loin by cutting a slit from one end to the other, lengthwise down the middle.
- **2.** Stuff pocket with jalapeños, onion, salt and pepper.
- **3.** Lay out 10 strips of bacon side by side; form a square.
- **4.** Lay the other 10 strips crossways, weaving them in and out to complete the square, woven bacon wrap.
- **5.** Carefully roll bacon wrap around the pork loin, enclosing it fully and brush with barbecue sauce.
- **6.** Place on grill. Cook for 2 hours at 275-300 F with indirect heat so bacon does not burn. Do not turn pork loin.
- **7.** Meat is done when an internal temperature of 165 F is reached and bacon is crispy.

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