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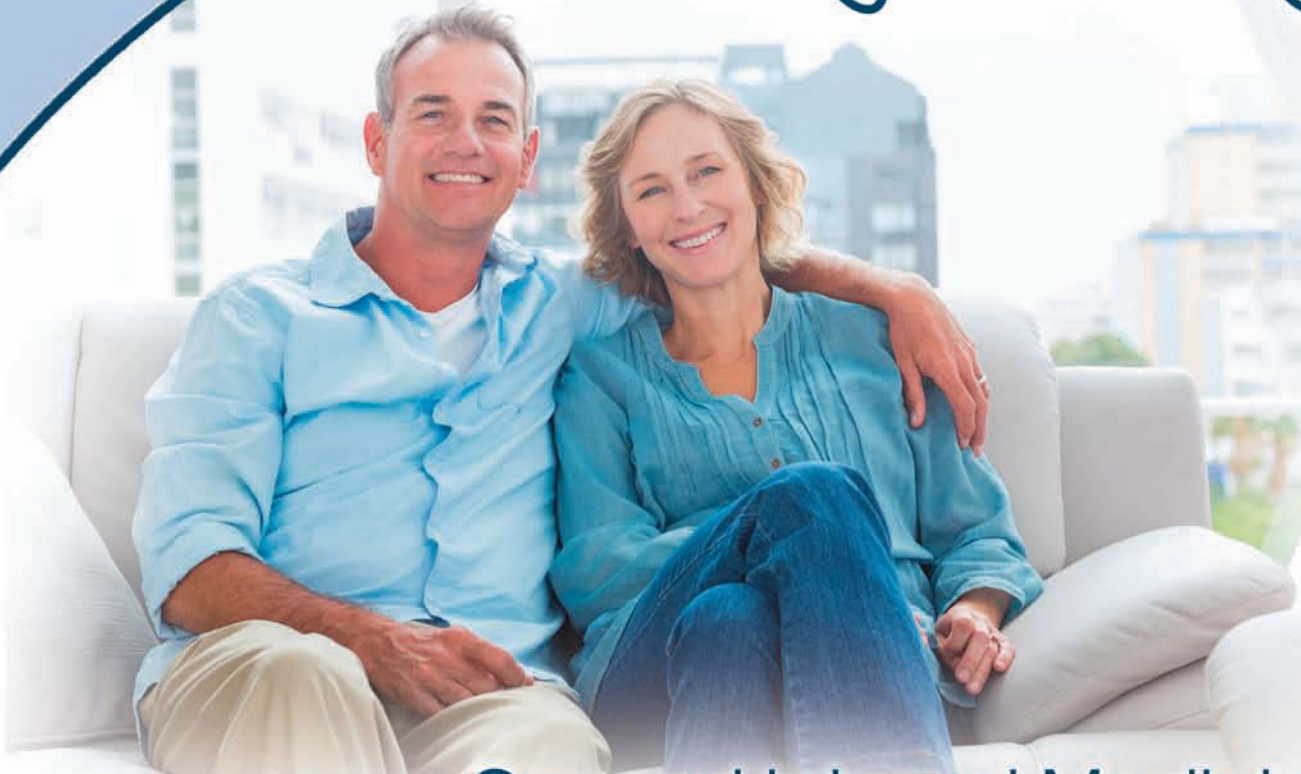
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A large group of nine people, including adults and children, are gathered around a birthday cake. The group consists of four adults and five children of various ages. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. In the center, a woman with blonde hair is seated, flanked by a young boy and a young girl. Behind them stand three more adults and a young girl. In the foreground, a large rectangular cake with white frosting and colorful candles is on the table. Several wrapped gifts are also visible on the table. The setting appears to be indoors, possibly in a kitchen or dining area.

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ON THE COVER



A winning attitude works for these Corsicana swimmers.

Photo by Memories by Melissa.

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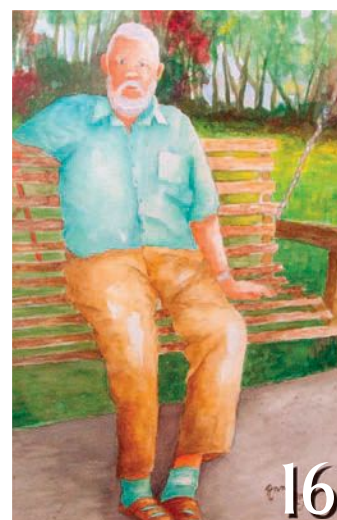
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Editor's Note

Hello, Corsicana!

The dog days of summer are again, literally bearing down on us since August 26 has been declared National Dog Day. Around my household, every day seems to be dog day for my three rescued canine darlings, Buddy, Houdini and Jazz, who seem to have the easiest job description in the world — to sleep, eat, take walks, chase cats and, occasionally, ride sidekick in my SUV. I encourage everyone who can to rescue a dog this month

by letting a special canine friend-to-be into your heart and home.

In my family, V-J Day is remembered on August 14. My father served in America's Office of Strategic Services as an Army officer in China and Japan during WWII. Americans celebrated a return to peace and could look forward to welcoming the troops home.

Have a great August!

Virginia

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CorsicanaNOW Editor
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Dividing In

— By Callie Revell



From left to right:
Elena and Audrey Herrin
have found success on
the Corsicana YMCA's
competitive swim team.

While many students have trouble finding a way to be productive and active after school, one group chooses to dedicate their afternoons to getting exercise and training to win state titles. The Corsicana YMCA's competitive swim team is comprised of students of all ages who desire to improve their strength and endurance, sharpen their technique and learn important values like determination and sportsmanship. By teaching them to be great swimmers and strong athletes, the program also teaches them how to achieve goals and strive for excellence. However, the program also promises an element of fun that keeps students excited and ready to push themselves.

Coached by Dave Robertstad and Holly Smith, the team is currently comprised of 17 talented swimmers, but four dedicated athletes have made significant accomplishments in the past year. These two sets of



"It's good because it gives them a goal to accomplish."



siblings show that practice and patience can reap big rewards.

Elena Herrin, a fourth-grader at Bowie Elementary School, and her little sister, Audrey Herrin, a second-grader at Bowie Elementary School, have been swimming since they were babies under the direction of their mother, Laura Herrin, the aquatics and fitness director of the Corsicana YMCA. Elena was comfortable with the water and began swimming lessons at the age of 3. Audrey began with parent/child swim lessons

and continued through her age group with lessons until she turned 5, when she was good enough to be placed on the competitive swim team.

Elena brought home two medals from the annual state swimming competition in 2014 and just finished the 2015 state competition. She has been competing for most of her life. "I have around 40 to 50 ribbons," she declared. "I counted!" She is driven by her competitive spirit, especially in her favorite stroke, the breaststroke. "I like beating the boys in the breaststroke," she laughed, and the other girls agreed that it is their favorite

stroke as well. The swim team practices after school three to four times a week during the school year and five days a week during summer break. "We don't get home till 6:00 p.m. most days," Elena said. "You have to do everything perfect, or else you have to do it again."

Audrey, has a more subdued competitive nature than her sister. "Swimming is just fun," she said. To her, the hardest part about swimming is perfecting her technique. "You have to do everything correctly," Audrey said. She brought home two medals at last year's state swim meet. She has also won two trophies at champs meets and has earned

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an impressive collection of ribbons over the past few years.

The other set of siblings are Joshua Monroy, an eighth-grader at Collins Middle School, and Joselyn Monroy, a fourth-grader at Sam Houston Elementary School. Joshua started swimming when he was 3 years old, and he started in the same pool where he now



practices. As one of the older members of the team, he acts as a mentor to some of the younger members, particularly to his little sister, Joselyn. She followed in his footsteps and started lessons at age 3, too, and is now one of the fastest members of the swim team.

Joshua is an independent teenager who prefers to work alone, so swimming is the perfect outlet for him. The sport is a great fit for his personality. "It's an individual sport," Joshua said. "It all depends on you. If you do badly, you've failed yourself. That's one of the main reasons why I like it." Joshua is very self-motivated, and his hard work has helped him keep going even when the



work seems too difficult to manage. "This isn't an easy sport like most people think," Joshua said. "You don't get any help. It's just you." Joshua appreciates the challenge the different strokes pose. "Most people are either good at breaststroke and freestyle or butterfly and backstroke," he said. "My favorite is freestyle." He has gone to the state meet for the past three years. He earned one medal at his first meet and five medals last year.

Naturally, the younger swimmers are more excited about the competitive nature of swimming and the immediate rewards it provides for doing well. "The awards are really fun," Joselyn said. "That's the best part." Like her older brother, she has qualified for the state swim meet three times and earned a gold medal in 2014. Swim meets are an exciting chance for her to prove her skills and gain recognition as a young swimmer. However, they also pose challenges she doesn't face in swim practice. "You can get disqualified in the meets," Joselyn pointed out. Breaststroke is her favorite stroke, and butterfly is the hardest. Even through difficult practices, she still returns week after week and finds herself disappointed when friends her age quit the swimming program. "I tell them whenever they quit, we're so lonely," she said, gesturing to herself, Elena and Audrey. "There's only three of us girls."

The state swim meet was held the last week of July in Frisco, Texas. The Corsicana team was fairly small compared to other teams, which averaged around 40 members. Eleven members of the Corsicana team attended the meet. In addition to Elena, Audrey, Joshua and Joselyn, the state qualifiers for the Corsicana team included: Christian Perritt, Jacob Reese, Sarai Rivas, Isaac Rivas, Alexandro Rodriguez, Jaycee

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Simmington and Bailee Williams.

Laura Herrin, Elena and Audrey's mother, works at the YMCA and knows the swimmers well. "In most of their meets, Elena and Joselyn come in first and second in their strokes," she said. "They compete against each other." Laura is glad her daughters are remaining actively involved with the swim team. "It's definitely good exercise for them, and they enjoy it," she said. "It's fun to go to the meets as a family. It's also been



fun to get to know all the kids on the team and really cheer for all of them. At the state meet last year, everyone was cheering and yelling for each other, so that was neat to see." Her hope is that the sport of swimming will become more popular in Corsicana in the coming years as more YMCA swimmers excel.

Joshua and Joselyn's mother, Adriana Monroy, believes swimming has positively impacted her children and improved their work ethic. "It's good because it gives them a goal to accomplish," she said. "When they come and practice, it motivates them."

The four swimmers have a bright future ahead of them, and they have big goals to match. Joshua is already making plans to swim in college, hoping for financial aid to accompany that. The younger girls are considering swimming all the way through high school, though Elena is setting her sights even higher. "I want to go to the Olympics!" she declared. **NOW**



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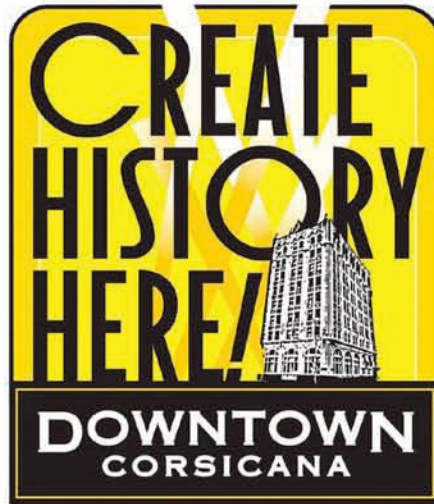


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A Stylish Downsize

— By Virginia Riddle

At Home With Ann Moyer



Ann Moyer (seated) with her daughter, Dianna Hester.

An accomplished artist, pianist and writer, Ann Moyer was living in nearby Athens, Texas, when her granddaughter, Michelle Smith, called her nearly four years ago to say, "I think you need to see this place." Ann had not thought of moving in years, even though she had considered relocating to Corsicana in 1995. Instead, she had a three-bedroom home in Athens with two big shops and a 24-foot artist's studio that collectively held her life. "Things have changed for the better so much in Corsicana since that time," Ann said. So move she did.

"That place" Michelle wanted her to see was an apartment in Cambridge Crossing. "I knew when I saw it that it would go quickly, so I put a deposit down right then," Ann said. She enjoys being near her daughter, Dianna Hester, who lives just outside of Corsicana. "My son-in-law, Thomas, grew up in Corsicana, so he wanted to return



The move necessitated downsizing through multiple sales. “I figured out what I wanted to sell, and then I told the kids they could have anything on which I didn’t have a tag attached,” Ann remembered. Married for 57 years to her late husband, Harold, she met her husband in Illinois where Ann had grown up on a farm. Harold’s calling to the Baptist ministry kept them on the move, serving churches in Kentucky, Tennessee, Illinois and Hawaii. However, it was the children on whom Harold really wanted to focus, so he worked



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for Buckner Children's Home in Dallas and the Masonic Home for Children in Alexandria, Louisiana. Much of what Ann decided to keep holds memories of the various places the couple served.

Ann's artwork is exhibited throughout her two-bedroom, two-bath apartment. "I think I'm one of very few people who have works of art in their bathrooms," she quipped. A walker stands outside her front door, but she is quick to note that she doesn't use it as such usually, but it does come in handy for toting groceries and art supplies. Entering into the spacious apartment, guests and family

members are treated to a view through the kitchen and living area straight out French doors to Ann's private balcony, which overlooks green lawns. "I can sit out there and see that green grass I don't have to mow," Ann remarked.

The in-kitchen dining table is perfectly set for two. Angel door pulls decorate the cabinets. "They are all souvenirs and gifts from here and there," Ann stated. She has traveled to all the 50 states with the exception of Alaska. "We drove everywhere and always attended the Southern Baptist conventions," she said.

A very special book, *Well Bless My Soul*, sits on Ann's coffee table in the living room. "Every time I said something, the kids would tell me, 'Mom, you need to write that down,' so I did," Ann explained. "It's a general book about my family." Having caught the writing bug, Ann is writing a sequel,

while she enjoys discovering more limbs on her family tree.

A piano that was a gift from her father holds several of the clocks Ann has collected. She started playing the piano as a child and became a church accompanist when she was in the seventh grade. "The minister saw that I played and offered me the job. I told him I only knew a few songs, and he said we would sing those until I learned some more," Ann remembered. A plaque presented to her from the Lake Athens Baptist Church honors her for 11 years of service as the accompanist for that congregation. Ann now serves as the organist for Westside Baptist Church in Corsicana.



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In the hallway connecting her guest bedroom and bath, Ann has hung art created by a Waco artist over a trunk covered with quilts made by her mother and others that have been given as gifts. The art is special because it still carries a smudge from the fire that burned down the Lake Athens church, which was rebuilt. "A retired Dallas businessman and his wife bought a hand-built organ from Holland and donated it to the church after the fire. I loved playing that organ," Ann said. The trunk is also a survivor, having been in a covered wagon that moved her father's family from Arkansas to Tennessee when he was a boy.

The guest bed is covered with Ann's mother's hand-embroidered quilt. Ann's collection of dolls is comfortably situated on pillows. The middle doll is actually a music box. An antique oil lamp converted to electricity serves as a reading lamp. It was a gift from a church Harold pastored in Illinois. Linens in the guest bath are stored in a repurposed buffet that belonged to Ann's mother and father. Her mother's sewing kit is displayed atop the buffet. "Bet you've never seen a buffet used in a bathroom," Ann said laughingly.

Separated from the guest bedroom by the living room, the master suite displays a shadow box containing some

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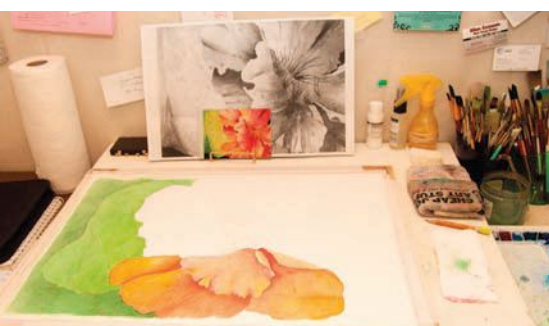
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remembrances from Ann's mother and grandmother — gloves, a hairpin and jewelry. A framed watercolor Ann painted of Harold is the last thing she sees at night and what she awakens to each morning. The master bath has a painted decorative cabinet and mirror created by Ann.

A former storage room has become her art studio, which features over and under storage units. "My kids told me



I would never get everything in there, but I have made it work. I don't have room for other people in this art room, but it works for me," Ann said. Working mostly now in watercolors depicting flowers, Ann teaches lessons and gives demonstrations. She will be working in Creative Focus Studio in Corsicana. Ann is a member of the Star Harbor Watercolor Society where her art and artistic accomplishments are listed on the group's website.

"I started drawing early in life," Ann said of her artistic passion. However, she didn't take formal lessons until living in Louisiana. "There was a studio that brought in people from all over the world. I had to go back to work to support my art habit," she admitted.

This multitasking lady is enjoying a very full life. A transplant that can bloom wherever she grows and no matter how far she travels, Ann can say, "This is home now." **NOW**

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A Century of Service

— By Virginia Riddle



Mutt Dorsey and Dortha Phillips are proud members of the Kerens Pioneer Literary Club.



Let's step back in time to May 1916 when a group of Kerens ladies met at Mrs. E.P. Norwood's home to address needs in their growing community. Mary Pickford was the silent movie darling of that era, and Pancho Villa had just invaded the U.S. in March. Events in Europe were escalating into WWI, and women's suffrage was a hot topic. At home, cotton was king and the railway brought even more prosperity. "It was the cream of Kerens that founded the Kerens



Pioneer Literary Club,” present day member, Mutt Dorsey said.

Following the style of the day, the ladies were most likely wearing suits with skirts raised to a daring calf length and accented with long strains of pearl necklaces, lace trimmed hats and gloves. They might have arrived by horse and buggy or in the Maxwell, the “Wonder Car” advertised for \$655, competing well with Chevrolet’s Baby Grand and Ford’s Model T Speedster.

With no other Kerens ladies’ club formed at that time, these women added the word *pioneer* to their club’s name. They also made other decisions that have stood the test of 100 years. The club’s mission continues — to promote the

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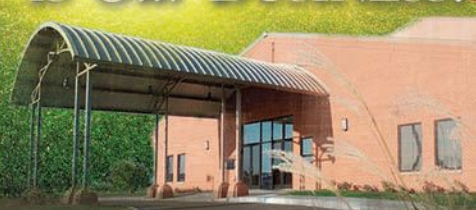
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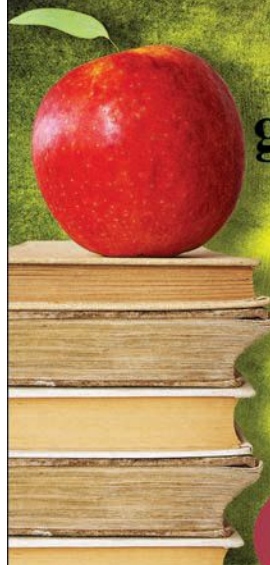
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literary culture and a community spirit of cooperation. Club colors are white and gold, and its flower is the yellow rose. The motto of the club is:


"Look up — not down,
Look forward — not backward.
Look out — not in,
And lend a hand."

With that motto in mind, the club started its first project — a cleanup campaign to improve sanitary conditions in the town. By 1917, the population of Kerens was about 1,500 with over 100 "boys" having left to fight in WWI. The club members made and sent surgical dressings to the war effort and joined the rest of Kerens in the purchase of over \$500,000 of Liberty Bonds.

The literary aspect of the club's mission has continued through the years. Literacy starts with children during their early years at home and at school. With that in mind, past fundraising efforts of the Kerens Pioneer Literary Club have sponsored contests with prizes awarded to Kerens ISD children for their prose and poetry selections and allowed club members to award scholarships to promising Kerens students wishing to further their education. Today, the club members sponsor local spelling bees with dictionaries awarded to the winners.

In 1988 the Kerens community was feeling the need of establishing a local library. Books were donated, bake sales raised funds and county prisoners helped with the refurbishing of an old building that could act as a starting point. Sponsoring the library became a major project for club members, Friends of the Library and the community in general. Today this community can be justifiably proud of its relatively new facility located in the heart of downtown Kerens at 121 South Colket Street. There is no mortgage on the property, but funds continue to be raised to support its ongoing programs and maintaining the building. Club members focus their efforts on two annual events: the Cotton Harvest

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Festival and the Author's Luncheon. Vice President Betty Partain, is instrumental in making arrangements with area authors to speak each year, and Cindy Carnegie is the club treasurer for all the fundraisers.

Additionally, grants and donations are gladly received. "Volunteers still help to staff the library, but the festival affords an income that supports a full-time employee," Mutt remarked. Once staffed solely by volunteers, six volunteers still help staff the facility.



Like most libraries today, the Kerens Library is a centralized gathering and meeting place. Its spacious private meeting room is used by many groups, including the Kerens Pioneer Literary Club with meetings held on the third Thursday of most months at 4:00 p.m. In addition to the traditional stacks of available books to check out, the library also has magazines, newspapers and other media and eight computers. Patrons can sit comfortably at desks or in oversized stuffed chairs. Free Wi-Fi access, computer classes, a children's summer reading program and weekly children's activities are just some of the library's regular services. Judy Baker, club secretary and former Kerens ISD librarian, is the volunteer who keeps the children's section of the library up-to-date with the latest popular "reads." Barbara Latta, a library board member, and Scarlet Cludeis, a club member, ordered 60 new children and youth selections that were used in the 2015 summer reading program.

In celebration of their 100th anniversary, club members joined with the Kerens Garden Club last February to host a fashion show in which the club members modeled fashions from each decade of the past century. Mutt and her best friend and fellow club member and president, Dortha Phillips, modeled



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fashions from the 1980s to the song “Young At Heart.” Dortha has been a member of the club for 10 years and served as president twice during that time. Mutt, a member for six years, quipped, “I’m still a newcomer. I sit in the corner and stay quiet. I joined because these are lovely, kind and beautiful ladies.”

Dortha agreed and added, “We have fun and develop great friendships.”

Beautification of their community is still a mission for the Kerens Pioneer Literary Club. They help wherever needed throughout the city, but focus primarily on the rose garden that adorns the library’s grounds.

Neither Dortha nor Mutt is a native of Kerens, but together they enjoy going to church, eating out, going on area excursions and gardening. Dortha was introduced to Kerens residency by her husband who was a native born son. She has resided in her Kerens home for the past 45 years. “Kerens is peaceful, and there’s plenty to do here,” Dortha said.

Mutt and her husband, Don, were residing and working in Dallas when he saw an advertisement for 80 acres for sale outside of Kerens where they now live. “We’ve been accepted by Kerens folks who are so friendly. Unlike living in Dallas, we’ve gotten to know everyone here,” Mutt said.

Founded in 1897, the Texas Federation of Women’s Clubs, still the largest voluntary association of women in the state, listed the Kerens Pioneer Literary Club in its 1919 list of local clubs. Dortha, Mutt and the other members are proud of the club’s 100 years of service to the community and invite new prospective members to drop in on a meeting. “It’s great to serve our town and children while enjoying the fellowship,” Mutt said. **NOW**



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Richard Medina, Roxanne McManus and Rudy Medina aim to please their customers with great food, beverages and ambience.

A NEW PLACE TO BE!

Great food and drinks, prepared to order, are found at Under the Bridge.

— By Virginia Riddle

Brothers Richard and Rudy Medina, are experienced restaurateurs. Their parents owned Corsicana's Pac 'N Go and the Jalapeño Grill, and on October 22, 2014, the brothers joined together with Roxanne McManus and opened Under the Bridge Steak and Seafood Restaurant. The restaurant has a down-home, family-style atmosphere and offers Texas-size choices of steaks, burgers, sandwiches, salads, seafood, homemade pizzas and Tex-Mex food. From a full-service bar, customers can enjoy their favorite beer, wine or mixed drinks, while watching their favorite shows on large screens set strategically around the dining room. Special events and local entertainment acts round out the fun times.

Pleasing the customer with great food, beverages, service

and ambience is the goal. "We can grill instead of fry to accommodate special requests and dietary needs, such as diabetic and gluten-free diets. We even have gluten-free pizza dough," Richard said. "We always want to hear customers' comments, so we can continue to improve and provide what customers want," Richard explained.

Roxanne agreed. "If I notice that a customer is not finishing all of his or her food, I'll ask if everything was OK, and 99.5 percent of the time, they'll reply, 'Oh, yeah, everything was great. We're just full.'"

The restaurant sports a decor reflective of its location under the I-45 Business overpass in downtown Corsicana. Photos of bridges line the walls. Richard and Rudy oversee the kitchen.

Business **NOW**

Amberlie Burns oversees the bar, and Roxanne fills in wherever needed. The business employs 10 people who cook, serve and wash dishes.

It was longtime customers, now friends, John and Judy Baker, who suggested the restaurant's name. "Judy was just ecstatic when we chose her suggestion," Roxanne remembered. John and Judy and many other regulars from Richard and Rudy's days at another area eatery, were coming into Under the Bridge even before the restaurant had a chance to open.

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Richard has been in retail and restaurant management for 15 years, formerly commuting to work at Mariano's Hacienda Ranch in Dallas. "I learned a lot of successful strategies that I am applying to Under the Bridge," he said. The restaurant business is a risky one, but these owners are confident of their recipe for success. "Knowledge and experience is the key, and we have both," Richard said.

On some weekends, the restaurant becomes a showcase of local talent, such as Byron Haynie and Sandy Bates, to name a few, and karaoke nights give customers a chance to share their talents. Upcoming events are posted on the restaurant's Facebook page and its new website. Some of the recent special events have included Bloody Mary Saturday and Wine Down Wednesday, which was introduced during Derrick Days.

After each busy week, the staff takes Sunday off for family time, and Monday is a day to accomplish business and resupply. "In addition to our downtime, we like to use those days for research," Roxanne said. "We love our returning customers because we get to know them as friends, so we strive to bring new ideas home to them." **NOW**



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What Is a Credit Union?

A credit union is a nonprofit, member-owned cooperative that provides financial services to its members. Credit unions focus on saving and borrowing, but they may offer other common banking services.

Credit union membership is based on a certain field. These membership fields can be occupational, associational or geographical. If you qualify, your first deposit also counts as your

first purchased share. This makes you a member and partial owner of the credit union.

You might choose a credit union if:

- You or a family member qualifies for the field of membership.
- The rates and fees are better for your budget.
- Your financial needs are relatively basic. Not all credit unions offer advanced financial planning or online financial tools.

What Is a Bank?

A bank is a commercial entity that offers deposits, withdrawals, savings and loans. Banks generally have bigger budgets, as they are for-profit entities. This allows banks to offer more conveniences, such as multiple ATM locations. Banks do not require membership, though some require a minimum balance to have an account.

You might choose a bank if:

- You prefer mobile and online banking. These services are not always available through credit unions.
- Your financial needs are complex. For example, if active investing is your passion, a credit union may not have the resources you need. **NOW**

Lynda Housley is a State Farm agent based in Corsicana.



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Perimenopause: The Prelude to Menopause

Women regard menopause with mixed emotions. Some look forward to the ease of not having a monthly period, while others experience sadness about the end of their childbearing years.

The signs of menopause are frequently discussed among women — hot flashes, mood swings and menstrual irregularities, to name a few. You may be surprised to learn that these symptoms are actually not hallmarks of menopause, but of perimenopause, the transition period before menopause. According to health experts, menopause is not a time span, but a single event — the cessation of the menstrual cycle.

Perimenopause can last anywhere from two to eight years and usually begins in the 40s, but for some women it can begin as early as the mid-30s. Symptoms of perimenopause include: irregular menstrual cycles, hot flashes or night sweats, sleep disturbances, mood swings or depression, changes in sexual desire or vaginal dryness and bladder problems such as incontinence or frequent urinary infections. Many of these symptoms are caused by fluctuations in your body's production of the hormones estrogen and progesterone. An important change is your body's declining production of estrogen. Lower estrogen levels mean your body loses bone at a higher rate than it can generate new bone mass, which contributes to osteoporosis, or brittle bones. Your cholesterol levels are affected, too. Declining estrogen levels contribute to an increase in your body's supply of LDL, or "bad" cholesterol, and a decrease in HDL, or "good" cholesterol.

Although perimenopause is inevitable, certain health or lifestyle factors can bring it on early: smoking, the age your mother or sisters experienced

menopause, not having delivered a baby, childhood cancer treatment or a hysterectomy. If you believe you're entering perimenopause, begin a diary of your symptoms over several weeks or months. Keep a record of your menstrual cycle — when it begins and ends, the lightness or heaviness of bleeding, as well as any other symptoms. Sharing the information with your gynecologist at your annual exam will help evaluate whether you are entering perimenopause. Your doctor will consider your age, menstrual history and symptoms and may also order a thyroid test. Thyroid problems can mimic several symptoms of perimenopause: mood swings, weight gain and menstrual irregularity or fertility problems.

Your gynecologist can recommend various treatment methods for the symptoms of perimenopause, from lifestyle changes to medication, such as hormone replacement. Regular exercise — at least 30 minutes per day — and medication or yoga help with stress management and also protect your bone health. It's important to eat a diet that includes whole grains, fruits and vegetables and calcium-rich foods to guard against osteoporosis. A daily vitamin D supplement along with calcium, and avoiding caffeine and alcohol, can help reduce hot flashes. If you're experiencing unusual menstrual symptoms and suspect that you're approaching menopause, see your gynecologist or family doctor. **NOW**

Neal Green, M.D., is an OB/GYN with Medical Associates of Navarro County.

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August 1

Child Advocates of Navarro County Annual Fundraiser: 6:00 p.m., dinner; 9:00 p.m., concert, I.O.O.F. Event Center. The concert will feature Jamie Richards and a cash bar. Open to the public/\$10 per person. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (903) 872-3772.

August 3

Piecemakers' Quilt Guild of Corsicana: 9:30 a.m., Westhill Church of Christ Fellowship Hall, 3400 Highway 22. For more information, visit www.corsicanaquiltguild.com or email pqcorsicana@gmail.com.

August 5

Navarro College Small Business Development Center Lunch: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Cook Center. For more information, call (903) 872-8105.

August 11

Navarro Regional Hospital Community Health Fair: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Cook Center. This free health and wellness event is for all ages. For more information, contact Anna Paul at (903) 654-6870.

August 14

Senior Circle Pot Luck Luncheon: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Navarro Regional Hospital. For more information, contact Connie Beal at (903) 654-6892 or email connie_beal@chs.net.

August 15

Back to School Stay in School Rally: 9:00 a.m.-noon, I.O.O.F. Event Center. For more information, call (903) 874-2821.

August 16

Pooch Paddle: 2:00-5:00 p.m., Jester Park Pool. Calling all dogs to cool their paws at this annual dog swim party. For more information, call (903) 654-4874.

August 18

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

August 19

Senior Circle Lunch Bunch: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Across the Street Diner, 125 N. Beaton. For more information, contact Connie

Beal at (903) 654-6892.

August 20

Collins Middle School Schedule Pick-up/Meet the Teacher Night: 4:00-6:00 p.m. For more information, call (903) 872-3979.

Drane Intermediate School Meet the Teacher Night: 6:00-7:00 p.m. For more information, call (903) 874-8281.

August 21

CISD's Elementary Schools Meet the Teacher Night: 4:00-6:00 p.m., all elementary campuses. For more information, call (903) 874-7441.

August 27

Corsicana Newcomers' Club Annual Style Show: 11:00 a.m., Kinsloe House. For more information or confirmed reservations, contact Annie Avery at (714) 345-6707.

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

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In the Kitchen With Roxie Pierce

— *By Virginia Riddle*

Roxie Pierce learned to cook recipes that had been in her family for generations. “I just saw folks cooking and tried to follow them,” Roxie said. Holiday celebrations, weddings and birthdays are just some of the occasions that Roxie has made more special for friends and family through her cooking. “Cooking is pleasing to the soul and body. When you cook for yourself, you know all you’ve put into the food,” she said.

A retired teacher and collector of Coca-Cola themed memorabilia, including everyday useful household items, Roxie also cooks with the popular cola. “Businesses and restaurants have Coke items for advertisements. I love to collect them,” Roxie said. **NOW**

Crawfish Étouffée

1/2 cup butter
1 cup yellow onions, chopped
1/2 cup bell peppers, chopped
1/2 cup celery, chopped
3 cloves garlic, minced
2 Tbsp. flour
2 1/2 cups water
1 1/4 cups tomato puree
1/2 tsp. thyme
1/4 tsp. cayenne pepper
1/4 tsp. black pepper
2 bay leaves
1 lb. crawfish tails
2 green onions, chopped
White whole grain rice

1. Melt butter in a large skillet over medium heat.
2. Add yellow onions, bell pepper, celery and garlic; sauté until golden brown.

3. Add flour; stir continuously until flour turns slightly brown.
4. Add water, tomato puree and spices. Reduce heat; simmer covered for 20 minutes.
5. Add crawfish tails and green onions; cook covered for 10-15 minutes. Serve over rice.

Old-fashioned Tea Cakes

Makes 6 dozen.

1 cup solid all-vegetable shortening
2 cups sugar
2 eggs
1 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. baking soda
1/2 cup buttermilk
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. vanilla
4 cups all-purpose flour

1. Preheat oven to 350 F; grease cookie sheets.

2. Cream shortening, sugar and eggs in a mixer until fluffy.
3. Stir in baking powder. Dissolve baking soda in buttermilk; stir into creamed mixture.
4. Add salt and vanilla; stir in flour gradually until a soft dough forms.
5. Drop dough by spoonfuls onto prepared cookie sheets; press flat with the bottom of a glass wrapped with a damp cloth.
6. Bake 10-15 minutes or until golden brown; cool on wire rack.

Diet Coke Chocolate Cake

Cake:

1 cup self-rising flour
3 Tbsp. cocoa powder
1 tsp. baking soda
3/4 cup brown sugar
3/4 cup butter, melted
1 cup Diet Coke
3/4 cup buttermilk
2 medium eggs
1 tsp. vanilla

Frosting:

1/2 cup plain chocolate pieces
3 Tbsp. Diet Coke
3 Tbsp. buttermilk

1. *For cake:* Preheat oven to 350 F; grease the sides of an 8-inch, spring-release cake pan and line the bottom with parchment paper.
2. Sift flour, cocoa powder and baking soda into a bowl; stir in sugar.
3. Heat butter and Diet Coke in a saucepan; do not boil.
4. Beat buttermilk, eggs and vanilla. Whisk cola mixture into dry ingredients; followed by buttermilk mixture.
5. Gently mix well; pour mixture into the cake pan. Bake 15 minutes; turn out onto cooling rack.
6. *For frosting:* Heat chocolate and Diet Coke in a saucepan on low heat; stir until chocolate is dissolved.
7. Remove from heat; stir in the buttermilk.
8. Place cooled cake on plate; spoon chocolate frosting over cake and allow it to set.

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

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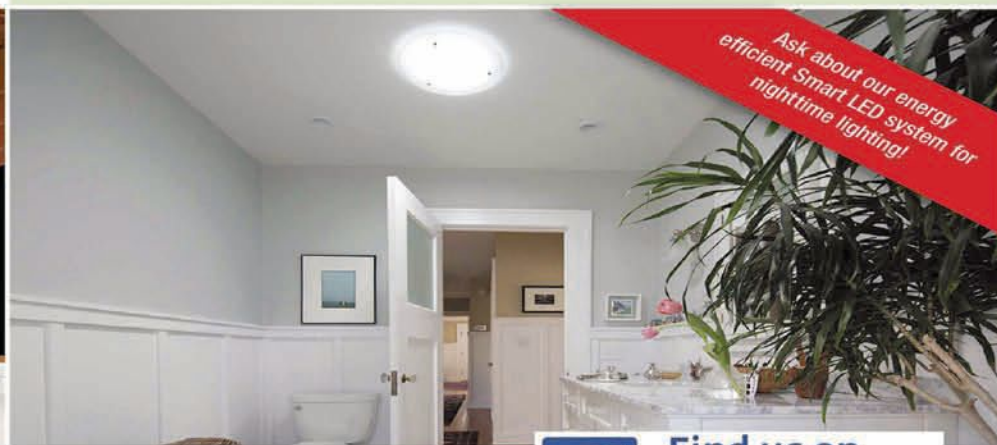
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