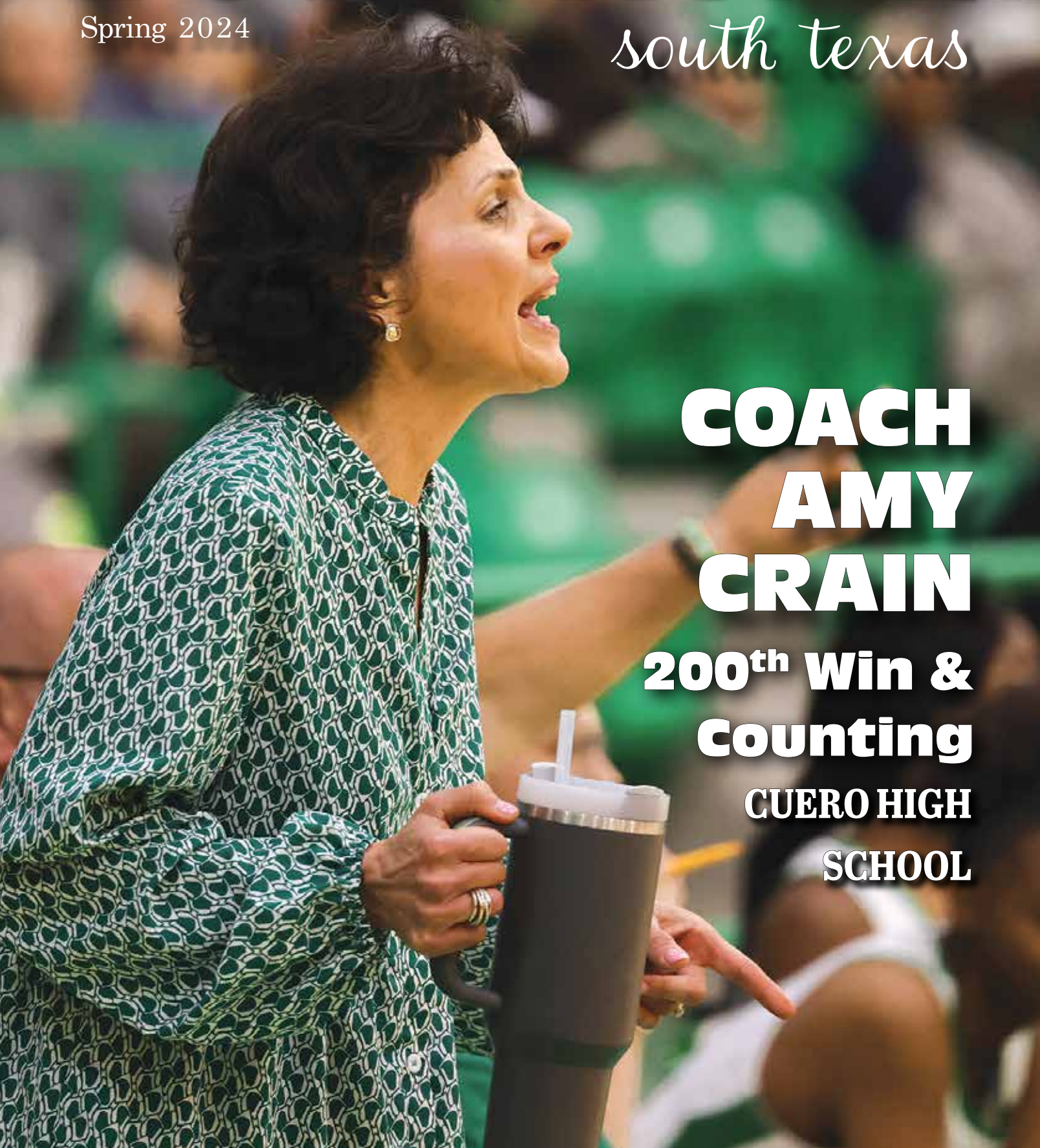


DOWN HOME

Spring 2024

south texas



**COACH
AMY
CRAIN**

**200th Win &
Counting**

**CUERO HIGH
SCHOOL**

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Down Home South Texas Magazine Welcomes You!



Dave Shabaz
PUBLISHER

Welcome to the very first issue of Down Home South Texas Magazine! I want to thank the advertisers, local columnists and everyone who allowed us to interview you for our very first stories. It took an enormous amount of trust and faith in us to jump on board this brand new lifestyle magazine totally dedicated to DeWitt County, Texas.

I brought the idea for Down Home South Texas Magazine with me when I transferred here from one of our sister newspapers in Northeast Texas. In Northeast Texas, Down Home East Texas was a proven magazine I published with years of history, so advertisers and local citizens wanted to be a part

of it. So to get people on board with Down Home South Texas Magazine, it took an incredible amount of faith from those here in DeWitt County and I can't thank them enough. All they had was my word that it was going to be a gorgeous magazine and I hope everyone finds this first magazine to be a beautiful, fun and interesting read, something that DeWitt County can be proud of.

I also hope you enjoy reading about Coach Amy Crain and The EVThing, a brand new, groundbreaking, first of its kind business here in DeWitt County, and Davy Ranch Supplies, a story about an amazing local couple who keep growing their business. Please support the advertisers who helped support our first magazine and look for Down Home South Texas Magazine to come out four times each year. The next edition will be in June of 2024. Thank you again and God Bless the wonderful people here in DeWitt County.



ON THE COVER

Coach Amy Crain

Photo by: Michael Cantu

Down Home South Texas is a publication of The Cuero Record & Yorktown News-View and is published four times per year.

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16 PAGES • PLUS INSERTS • \$1

DEWITT BRIEFS

CEU Event

The DeWitt County SWCD is sponsoring a CEU program for Private Applicator License holders on March 26, 2024. We have TA approval for 6 CEU credits. It will be held at the DeWitt County Veterans Center at 901 Hwy 72 E, Yorktown, TX. We will start with sign-in at 7:30 AM and finish around 3:00 PM. We provide lunch for all attendees and the cost is \$30.00 for the day. For additional information or to register please call Velinda Geffert at 361-935-6848 or Clem Waskow at 361-275-4095. You can also email dewittcountyswcd@texas.gov to register there.

Travelers Association

Travelers Association regular meeting on Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 8:00 AM at the Bahnhof Cafe, 119 E. Main, Cuero. All members and prospective members are invited to attend.

AGGIE MOMS

Cuero ISD Education Foundation Grants Funding for Take Flight Retraining to Support Dyslexic Students

The Cuero ISD Education Foundation is pleased to announce the funding of a significant grant aimed at enhancing support for dyslexic students within the Cuero Independent School District. The grant, totaling \$1,817.58, will facilitate specialized training in the Take Flight program for Project Coordinator Stephanie Dickens at Cuero Junior High. This initiative will benefit all dyslexic students across the district, spanning grades K-12 and impacting over 150 students.

Stephanie Dickens, a certified Cognitive Academic Language Therapist (CALTS), will undergo comprehensive retraining in the Take Flight program, a proven intervention that addresses the five components of effective reading instruction: phonological awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and reading compre-



ing exercises throughout the program.

The Take Flight Retraining program will be integrated into every class/grade taught by Stephanie Dickens, ensuring consistent and comprehensive support for dyslexic students across Cuero ISD.

Stephanie Dickens expresses gratitude to the Cuero ISD Education Foundation for their unwavering support in advancing dyslexia intervention within the district. "This grant will enable us to provide tailored, evidence-based instruction for dyslexic students, empowering them to overcome obstacles and achieve academic success," says Dickens.

The Cuero ISD Education Foundation remains committed to fostering innovative initiatives that promote inclusivity and academic excellence for all students within the district.

CALL 361-275-3464 FOR MORE INFORMATION

[HTTPS://WWW.DEWITTCOUNTYTODAY.COM/](https://www.dewittcountytoday.com/)

119 E. MAIN STREET, CUERO, TX 77954

imately, reading comprehension. Measurable Objectives:

• Continual skill development as students repeatedly engage in fluency/decoding to achieve academic excellence and long success.

Two Cuero

DeWitt County Commissioners Court Meeting

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COACH AMY CRAIN, 200 WINS AND COUNTING

STORY BY: DAVE SHABAZ

PHOTOS BY: MICHAEL CANTU

The regular season for the Cuero High School Lady Gobblers varsity basketball team ended on a high note. The team finished with a 32-3 regular season record, and they went undefeated in District, finishing 12-0 and winning the District Championship. They followed that up with a Bi-District Championship and the Area Championship, before falling to Fredericksburg in the Regional Quarterfinals.

But that final regular season victory was so much sweeter because it was Coach Amy Crain's 200th career coaching victory. In the ten years that she has been coaching high school basketball, Coach Crain has only experienced a losing season once. At the rate she is going, the skies are the limit for this amazing Coach/Teacher.

Coach Crain is no stranger to winning. After winning the 1982 5A State Championship at Victoria High School and with a scholarship in hand, Amy left for The University of Southern California where she played on the second of their back-to-back NCAA National Championship teams. In fact, they are to this day, the only two National Championships that the USC women's team has ever won. She played at USC for two years and finished up her college education at UT San Antonio.

After college, Amy decided to take on the world of finance. She worked for four years as a Certified Public Accountant and then spent twenty years in the banking industry in Victoria. During her time in the financial world, she never lost her love for basketball. She coached youth sports for many years, but it was a blind date with a friend of a friend from Cuero that would change her life and put her on the path to coaching greatness.

Amy met her husband, James Crain on a blind date. James was from Cuero, and it wasn't your typical blind date or even a typical first date. What would you do if your first date was with a championship winning athlete? Well, Amy and James played tennis on their blind date and let's





COACH CRAIN'S		
WINNING RECORD		
WINS	LOSSES	
2014 - 2015	19 10	★
2015 - 2016	4 21	
2016 - 2017	24 9	★★
2017 - 2018	18 16	★★
2018 - 2019	23 9	★★
2019 - 2020	24 11	
2020 - 2021	16 6	★★
2021 - 2022	21 12	
2022 - 2023	19 14	
2023 - 2024	32 3	★★



just say the final score was Love/Love. (yes, pun intended). James soon after served up a proposal and on March 3rd, 1997, they tied the knot and settled down in Cuero, where James is an attorney.

Once getting married and moving to Cuero, Amy commuted to Victoria for her banking job, and she did this until being offered a job to teach U.S. History and coach basketball at Cuero High School in 2013. It was then she officially became Coach Crain, starting as an assistant coach on the girls' basketball team as well as coaching junior high volleyball, basketball, and track. She officially became the Girls' Varsity Head Coach in 2014.

During her rookie coaching season, 2014-2015, Coach Crain finished with a very respectable record of 19-10. The 2015-2016 season has been her only losing season, finishing 4-21. Since then, her teams have been competitive and finished each year with winning records. But this 2023-2024 season has been a special one according to the Coach. "This year's team is very special," she said. "It's a mixture of incredibly skilled athletes who know how to play the game."

This year's team consists of players who are also stronger and faster than many other teams they've faced. "The girls are committed, they're driven and they're passionate, the effort they've put in really shows," said Coach Crain. "They have really grown and are basketball savvy, they really get it," the Coach explained. She also appreciates the support the team gets from not only the school, but also the community. She said, "Cuero is a special place to be, and I love the passion the parents, students and fans show us."

When asked about the playoffs this year, Coach Crain knows that they will be facing some tough competition but remains confident and is staying positive. In the past her teams have won the Bi-District Championship, but haven't won the Area Championship, something we're all hoping for this year. At the rate Coach Amy Crain is winning games the first ten years of her coaching career, if she decides to do this for a long time, she will surely finish as one of the best in Texas history. But one thing is for sure, she's already cemented her status as the best ever in Cuero.

Yorktown News-View

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A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR OF CUERO

WELCOME to DeWitt County! And WELCOME to this first issue of Down Home South Texas Magazine, featuring recreational activities, unique businesses, and historical finds of our area.

If you're a HISTORY buff, visit the several museums—in Cuero, the DeWitt County Historical Museum, a house museum features collections from early Cuero settler families; the Pharmacy Museum of Texas spotlights the historical development of medicine and pharmaceuticals; the Cuero Heritage Museum houses exhibits of Cuero's involvement in WWII and Brayton Field along with a great history of the Cuero Gobblers and Cuero Turkey Trots; and the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum tells the story of the cattle drives from DeWitt County to the railheads in Nebraska and Missouri. The Yoakum Heritage Museum, a house museum, shares the history of the development of Yoakum and its leather industry and its tomato production. In Yorktown, its Main St museum features local collections sharing the history of the settlement of Yorktown and Captain York. Cuero's historic homes are featured in a driving tour available at the Cuero Chamber.

The HERITAGE of DeWitt County features the railroad prominently with all three towns a stop on the rail line from the coast to San Antonio or Houston during the 1870s for the next 80 years. Those who settled in each community mainly arrived on the train bringing with them their families, their business acumen, their religious beliefs, their need for an education, and their determination to 'make a go of it' in this wild, wild west. As you wander the downtowns, you'll find family names on most of the buildings. As you drive through the towns, you'll see familial street names—Reuss Blvd., French St., Riedel St., Lott St.

All of DeWitt County is known for—HOSPITALITY. In Springtime, the County comes alive with over 3000 species of wildflowers, thus the moniker THE Wildflower Capital of Texas; from bluebonnets to Indian Pinks, from Antelope Horns to Baby Blue Eyes, and all colors of the rainbow, the wildflowers are showy. Stop by any of the Chamber offices to pick up your map of the byways for best viewing. In June enjoy Yoakum's Tom Tom festival which features the historical importance of the tomato industry as well as today's leather industry. In the Fall enjoy Cuero's turkey race with Ruby challenging Paycheck (nothing goes faster than a paycheck!) of Worthington, MN the second weekend of October followed by vendors and musical entertainment in Cuero's Municipal Park. The following weekend travel to Yorktown for its Western Days and Parade spotlighting its history along with musical entertainment. And during December each community celebrates the holiday season with tree lighting on the Grand in Yoakum, Cuero's Christmas in Downtown the second weekend of December, and Cuero's Christmas in the Park features over 275 lighted holiday displays in Cuero Municipal Park Monday before Thanksgiving through the New Year; and Yorktown's Lights on the Creek throughout the month.

Be sure to spend time SHOPPING in the unique boutiques, DINING at the several restaurants, and ANTIQUING in our 'step back in time' shops. Most importantly, ENJOY your time in DeWitt County and THANKS for Coming!

Sara Post Meyer, Mayor, City of Cuero



Upcoming Chamber Events

Wildflower Trolley Tours

Saturday, March 23rd 10am-2pm

1hr guided trolley tours \$20 ea.

call the chamber for more information 361-275-2112

Bunco & Boards Networking Social

Wednesday, March 27th 5:30pm-8pm

@ Cuero Country Club

Enjoy fun, food, and great networking

\$25 for members and \$30 for nonmembers

for more information 361-275-2112

Agriculture Business Luncheon

Wednesday, April 24th 11:00am-1pm

@ The Anne Friar Thomas Homemaking Building

Catered lunch with guest speakers to update us on the latest in Ag Business

tickets \$25 for members and \$30 for nonmembers

for more information 361-275-2112

Destination Bingo

Friday, April 26th 6:00pm-10:00pm

@ The Anne Friar Thomas Homemaking Building

Catered meal, drinks and 12 fun games of bingo for chances to win certificates to local restaurants, and weekend getaways tickets \$50ea or reserved tables for 8 \$500

for more information 361-275-2112

Taco'bout Business Networking Social

Wednesday, May 1st 5:30pm-8pm

@ Cuero Country Club

Enjoy fun, food, and great networking

\$25 for members and \$30 for nonmembers

for more information 361-275-2112



A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR OF YORKTOWN



Good Day Yorktown,

It is hard to believe Spring is right around the corner as we see nature's signs throughout our small, vibrant community. The City Council and I as Mayor wish each and every one of you a fun-filled and family-oriented Spring and Summer.

Please remember our local attractions to enjoy such as the Yorktown Historical Museum, the Yorktown Public Library, and the Yorktown City Park. Certainly, our local restaurants and various businesses would appreciate seeing you and your family as well.

We are fortunate to have made the choice to live in a small town that

offers a safe haven for our families away from the hustle and bustle of the big city. Let's make the most of it Yorktown!

Bill B. Baker, Mayor
City of Yorktown



Around the County...

UPCOMING EVENTS IN DEWITT COUNTY

Yorktown, Texas

Happenings in Yorktown

Yorktown Chamber: 141 S Riedel St., Yorktown · 361-564-2661

www.yorktowntx.com/chamber-of-commerce

March

Community Easter Egg Hunt - Saturday of Palm Sunday

April

Annual Awards Banquet

May

Celebration at Veterans Helicopter Monument - Memorial Day

August

Back to School Bash

October

Yorktown Western Days the 3rd FULL Weekend in October

Trunk-or-Treat on October 31

November

Veterans Day program with YISD students, Local Business Punch Card Promotion

December

Christmas with Santa - 1st Thursday of December

Majestic Lights

HIGH SCHOOL SPRING SPORTS

CUERO GOBBLERS



2024 CUERO HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY TRACK & FIELD SCHEDULE

DATE	SITE	LOCATION
APR. 3-4	DISTRICT MEET	CUERO
APR. 10	AREA MEET	NEW BRAUNFELS CANYON
APR. 19-20	REGIONAL MEET	KINGSVILLE
MAY 2	STATE MEET	AUSTIN

2024 CUERO LADY GOBBLER SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
APR. 2	KENNEDY	KENNEDY	7PM
APR. 5	LA VERNIA	CUERO	7PM
APR. 9	MEMORIAL	MEMORIAL	7PM
APR. 12	GONZALES	CUERO	7PM
APR. 16	NAVARRO	CUERO	7PM

2024 CUERO HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY TENNIS SCHEDULE

DATE	SITE	TIME
APR. 4	CUERO	7AM
APR. 10	DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS	TBA
MAY 8-11	REGIONAL MEETS	TBA
MAY 16-17	STATE MEET	TBA

2024 CUERO HIGH SCHOOL GOLF SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	BOYS/GIRLS
APR. 1-2	DISTRICT 28-4A	RIVER BEND GOLF CLUB-FLORESVILLE	BOTH
APR. 15-16	REGIONALS	COLONY CREEK-VICTORIA	BOYS
APR. 17-18	REGIONALS	COLONY CREEK-VICTORIA	GIRLS
APR. 29-30	STATE TOURNAMENT	LEGENDS GC-AUSTIN	GIRLS
MAY 5-7	STATE TOURNAMENT	LEGENDS GC-AUSTIN	BOYS

2024 CUERO HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY BASEBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
APR. 2	SA MEMORIAL	CUERO	5PM
APR. 5	LA VERNIA (LITTLE LEAGUE NIGHT)	CUERO	7PM
APR. 9	LA VERNIA	LA VERNIA	7PM
APR. 12	NAVARRO	CUERO	7PM
APR. 16	NAVARRO	NAVARRO	7PM
APR. 19	GONZALES	GONZALES	7PM
APR. 23	GONZALES (SENIOR NIGHT)	CUERO	7PM
APR. 26	POSSIBLE DISTRICT SEEDING GAMES	TBA	TBA
MAY 2-4	BI-DISTRICT PLAYOFFS	TBA	TBA
MAY 9-11	AREA PLAYOFFS	TBA	TBA
MAY 16-18	REGIONAL QUARTER-FINALS	TBA	TBA
MAY 23-25	REGIONAL FINALS	TBA	TBA
MAY 30-JUN. 1	STATE SEMI-FINALS	TBA	TBA
JUN. 6-8	STATE FINALS	TBA	TBA

HIGH SCHOOL SPRING SPORTS

2024 YORKTOWN HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
APR. 2	PETTUS	PETTUS	6PM
APR. 5	REFUGIO	REFUGIO	6PM
APR. 9	WOODSBORO	WOODSBORO	6PM
APR. 12	SKIDMORE	YORKTOWN	6PM
APR. 16	PORT ARANSAS	PORT ARANSAS	6PM
APR. 19	KENEDY	YORKTOWN	6PM

2024 YORKTOWN HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY BASEBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
APR. 2	REFUGIO	REFUGIO	7PM
APR. 5	RUNGE	YORKTOWN	7PM
APR. 9	THREE RIVERS	THREE RIVERS	7PM
APR. 12	WOODSBORO	YORKTOWN	7PM
APR. 16	KENEDY	YORKTOWN	7PM
APR. 23	SKIDMORE	YORKTOWN	7PM
APR. 26	PORT ARANSAS	PORT ARANSAS	7PM

2024 YORKTOWN HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY TRACK SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION
APR. 4	DISTRICT @ WOODSBORO
APR. 11	AREA @ TEXAS A&M KINGSVILLE
APR. 19-20	REGIONALS @ TEXAS A&M KINGSVILLE
MAY 3	STATE @ AUSTIN

2024 YORKTOWN HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY BASEBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	BOYS/GIRLS
APR. 8	DISTRICT	BOTH
APR. 15-16	REGIONAL @ LOZANO	BOYS
APR. 17-18	REGIONAL @ LOZANO	GIRLS
APR. 29-30	STATE @ LIONS MUNICIPAL	BOYS
MAY 6-7	STATE @ LIONS MUNICIPAL	GIRLS

YORKTOWN WILDCATS



NORDHEIM PIRATES

2024 NORDHEIM HIGH SCHOOL TRACK MEET SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION
APR. 4	DISTRICT TRACK	RUNGE
APR. 8	AREA TRACK	FAYETTEVILLE
APR. 19-20	REGIONAL TRACK	JOURDANTON
MAY 4	STATE	AUSTIN

2024 NORDHEIM HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY TENNIS SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION
APR. 2	TILDEN TOURNAMENT	NORDHEIM
APR. 17	TILDEN TOURNAMENT	NORDHEIM
APR. 22-23	DISTRICT	AUSTWELL-TIVOLI
MAY 8-11	REGIONALS	BRYAN

Crispy Parmesan Crusted Chicken

JANIE HILL

Being volunteered by my husband to provide recipes for this publication was flattering but also a bit scary. The standards for selecting a recipe were: did it sound tasty, was it easy, and was it economical. This recipe met the three criteria, in my humble opinion. This meal was just tad over \$1.50 per person. I hope you will enjoy it!

Prep Time: 7 minutes
Cook Time: 8 minutes
Total Time: 15 minutes
Servings: 4
Calories: 378cal
Author: Nagi
Courtesy of: <https://www.recipetineats.com/>

INGREDIENTS:

500 g / 1 lb chicken breast (2 pieces)
(Note 1)
1 egg
1 garlic clove, minced (optional)
Salt and pepper - I suggest 1/4 tsp. salt
and 1/8 tsp. pepper
125 g / 4 oz / 1 1/4 cups shredded
parmesan (Note 2)
2 tbsp butter (or more oil)
1 tbsp olive oil





INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Cut each breast in half horizontally to make 4 steaks. If they are much thicker than 1.75 cm / 3/4" thick (at the thickest point), pound a bit.
2. Place egg, garlic, pinch of salt and pepper in a bowl. Whisk with fork.
3. Place parmesan in a shallow bowl.
4. Dredge chicken in egg, then place in parmesan CUT SIDE DOWN (Note 3). Press, then turn. Coat with extra parmesan, press. Shake off excess. Repeat with remaining chicken.
5. Melt butter and heat oil in a large skillet over high heat.
6. Place chicken in non-stick skillet (or well seasoned cast iron skillet). DO NOT MOVE chicken otherwise the cheese will slide off surface before it adheres! It adheres once it turns crispy.
7. Press down lightly with spatula. Lift a corner to take a peek and turn with tongs when it's deep golden brown (4-5 minutes each side, depending on the thickness of the chicken).
8. Cook the other side for 3 minutes or until also deep golden brown and crispy (again, do not move until golden). Lightly press down with spatula. Don't cook longer than 6 minutes in total - dries out the chicken.
9. Serve immediately! I served mine with lemon slices, Cauliflower Mash and a Fennel Slaw with Yoghurt Dressing (Note 5).

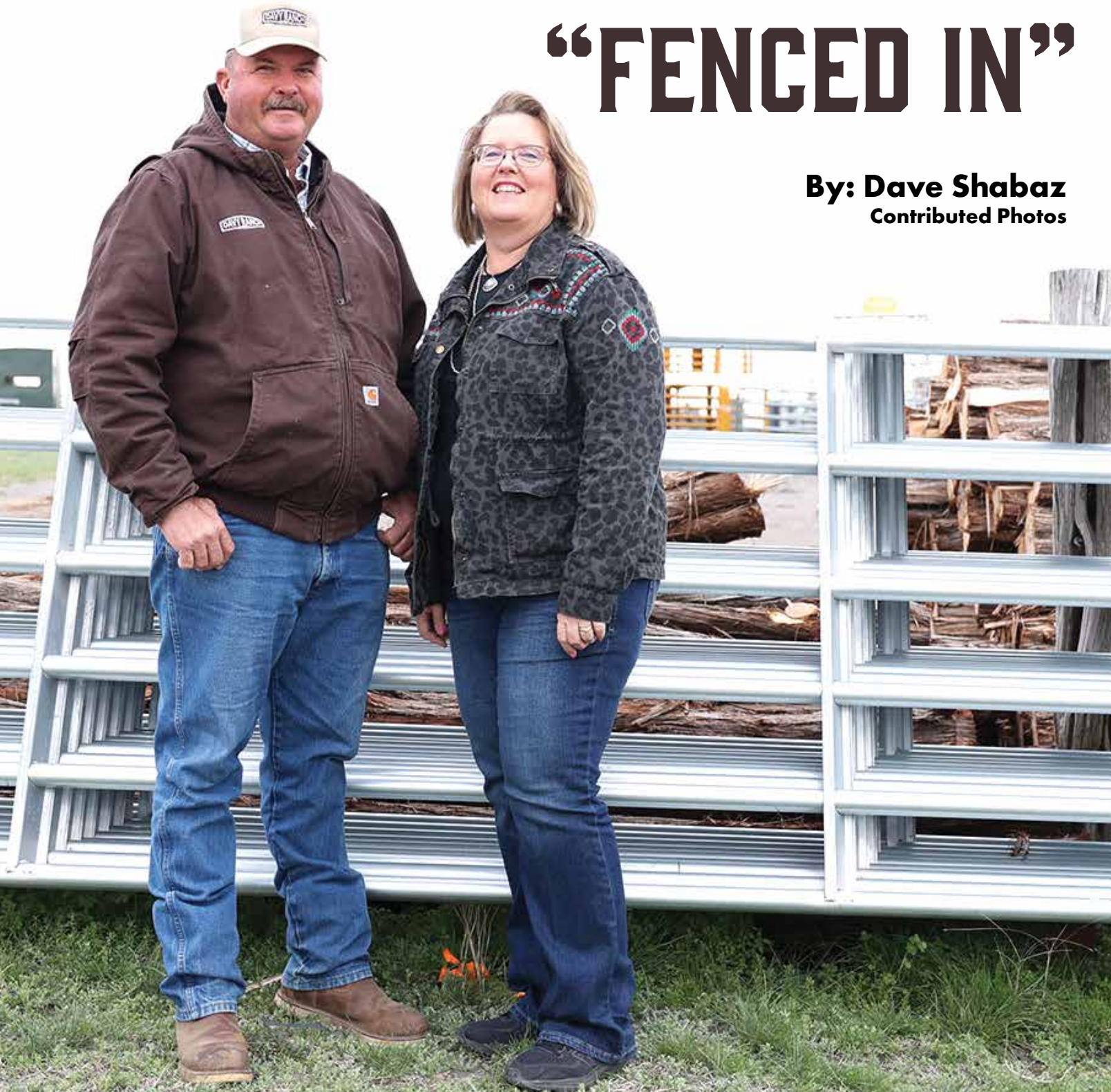
NOTES:

*** Also don't miss: Baked Parmesan Crusted Potatoes and Cauliflower! ***

1. This recipe won't work as well with thigh or other chicken cuts because you need a relatively large flat surface area for the parmesan to adhere to. Even tenderloin won't work as well. It will work with other meat cuts with flat surfaces, like chops and steaks as long as they will cook in about 6 - 8 minutes, the time it takes for the parmesan to turn golden brown and crispy.
2. This recipe needs to be made with store bought shredded parmesan, the thin strands pictured in the post and video. It doesn't work as well with the sandy parmesan (crust not as thick), nor parmesan that's been finely grated or grated using a standard box-grater. The store bought shredded parmesan is perfect because it adheres enough to the chicken and it melts which is what makes it super crunchy. However, in contrast, baked Parmesan Crusted Potatoes and Cauliflower, the sandy parmesan works best. (And no, baking the chicken doesn't work, I tried, the juices prevent the parmesan from going crisp).
3. The cut side of the breast is the side that gets the best crust because it is flat. So this is the side we want to press extra parmesan on!
4. Simple Fennel Slaw with Yoghurt Dressing: Nice and fresh contrast to the strong parmesan crust flavour! Just shaved fennel, some fennel fronds + finely sliced red onion. For dressing, mix plain yoghurt, lemon juice, bit of olive oil, salt and pepper to taste. Toss fennel in dressing.
5. Nutrition per serving. This takes into account that there will be about 1/4 cup of parmesan cheese leftover / falls off and 1 1/2 tbsp of oil / butter left in the skillet (I measured!)

A COUPLE WHO REFUSED TO BE “FENCED IN”

By: Dave Shabaz
Contributed Photos



WILLIAM & ANN WARWAS



William Warwas inspecting a shipment of Sioux Steel products.



Treated Posts.



A set of galvanized pens near Wood Hi. products.

Ann Warwas had a full-time career as a teacher and Principal. William Warwas was busy as a cattle rancher and running a custom hay baling business. So, you would think there would be no way these two had the time or energy to start a ranch supply business, but they showed that they couldn't be fenced in and that's how Davy Ranch Supply began.

Well, let's go back to 2008, that's when their friend Lenny Moore talked to them about starting a business and wanted some ideas. They began by selling Pearson squeeze chutes. The squeeze chute is used to handle cattle in various ways. It helps in vaccinating them, dehorning them and can prevent serious injuries to the employees' handling cattle as well as the cattle.

In 2009, the Warwas' were at a farm show in San Antonio, where they had a booth along with many other vendors. One of the vendors was the Sioux Steel Company, who were known for manufacturing heavy duty gates that came with a lifetime warranty. Davy Ranch Supply then began selling gates. Then in 2011 they increased their line and added galvanized gates to their inventory. Remember, they were doing all of this basically

“on the side,” while both holding down full-time careers.

It was in 2011 when sales really took off, thanks to companies putting in oil pipelines in the area. And Davy Ranch Supply didn't really have any local competition because they always sold a different type of gate than other businesses in the area were selling. At this point, they were running the business out of their home, which is still happening to this day.

In 2019, they completely took over the business from their partner and friend, Lenny Moore. It was also the year they created the website that would really help expand their reach and visibility. They began getting sales from people in Louisiana, Oklahoma, West Texas, and the Valley. They even have one customer in Wyoming. Ann estimates that they are doing business in five states right now.

During the COVID year of 2020, not having a physical location and being considered an “essential business,” helped Davy Ranch Supply. Ann said, “it really didn't affect us, it was a non-issue, other than inventory taking longer to receive and ship.” In 2022, their friend and former partner Lenny, passed away. “He was instrumental in helping start the



Cedar Posts.

business,” Ann said.

The business has expanded even more. They were approached by Stay Tuff, a company that sells barbed wire and netting wire, about taking on a dealership. They were familiar with the vendors, Edward and Donna Roeder of Roeder Ranch Supply and said that if that dealership ever became available, they wanted to take it over and in June of 2022, they started selling Stay Tuff. Along with all the other ranch supplies they sell; they’ve also expanded to sell cedar posts and treated posts. They work closely with local fence builders to help supply them with all their needs. Ann handles all the inventory, job quotes, invoices, sales and has even been known to unload a trailer truck or two.

Ann was raised in Berclair and William is from Yorktown. When



A shipment of Pearson Squeeze Chutes and Alleys arriving one early Fall morning.



Pearson Choice Squeeze Chute.

I asked her how they met, Ann giggled. “Well, it’s a funny story,” she said. Ann and her sister were at a dance in Beeville in 1993. Her sister pointed William out. She had seen him previously at Nixon Livestock Barn, where he worked. William was there with his good friend Rodney Butler, whose family-owned Beeville-Nixon Livestock. So, after being introduced to each other by her sister and brother-in-law, they danced a few times, but William didn’t really talk much, according to Ann. They then saw each other again at a dance in Goliad at Schroeder Hall and he finally asked her out. They got married on October 14th, 1995.

Ann worked in education and William took care of a ranch in Charco from 1996 until 2003, when they decided to move to Yorktown, where William grew up. Ann retired from her job in 2018 and now spends her time running Davy Ranch Supply, along with William and one employee who helps them with the retail business as well as the ranching business. They are an example of a truly small business really making a positive impact on those they work with.



Apple Lumber



Names from left: Crystal Ingram, Lorri Schroeder, Kim Farrow, Laura Chalk, and Beth Luke. Not shown, Rene Metting

Everything is wonderful when you have women like these!

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15 THINGS ABOUT TAMARA KAINER

Marketing & Business Development Director, Cuero Regional Hospital

Are you the youngest, middle, oldest or only child?

I am the oldest in my family. My brother is 4 years younger than me.

What is your favorite quote?

“Smile and wave boys, smile and wave” – Penguins of Madagascar, No matter how tough or painful the situation might be, just smile, and wave.
“This too shall pass”. - Granny

What is number one on your bucket list?

Who has time for a buck list when raising three boys!!! I'll get to the bucket list later.

What is your biggest pet peeve?

My biggest pet peeve is dishonesty. You can be the most popular, hardest working, “have it all” kind life, but if you can't be honest, you have nothing at all.

What skill would you like to master?

I would love to master the art of dance and have all the moves!

If you could trade places with anyone for one week, who would it be?

I would trade places with my cat. She lives the life of luxury. Everyone waits on her, loves on her, and when she wants her space, she gets it. And if I get mad, it's ok for my tail to fluff.

Who is your hero?

Our Lord is who carries me, but here on Earth, my hero is my husband. He chose me. He chose our three boys. At the end of the day, he makes everything alright!

Where do you see yourself in five years?

In five years, I will have one son hopefully out of college, one son in college, and one son in high school. I hope to be shopping for an RV to travel and visit the boys in all of their adventures.

What is something that you've always wanted to do, but have never tried?

I've always wanted to be a dolphin trainer! I love the dolphin show at Sea World and have always wanted to wear an awesome wet suit and flip in the air with the dolphins.

Would you consider yourself an introvert or an extrovert?

Totally an extravert!!!

What is your proudest accomplishment?

Being a mom of 3 amazing boys. They give me so much joy watching them grow. Their laugh makes me smile, their hearts are as big as Texas, and they are rooted in their faith!

What do you think is the most essential professional skill?

The most essential professional skill to have is genuine honesty. With a genuine honest character, you will be guided to do what's right, fix what you have done wrong, and be held accountable with respect to those around you.

If you had a warning label, what would it say?

Watch out, she bites!

If money wasn't an object, what would you do all day?

If money was no object, I would spend time with my family and enjoy all that I have. I wouldn't worry with the stress, hustle, and bustle of work life balance, to make another dollar. I would soak up my family and spend time outside in the sun.

If you could share a meal with four individuals, living or dead, who would they be?

1. Patrick Swayze, I would want him to teach me all the dances from Dirty Dancing.
2. My Poppy, to find out what heaven is like.
3. Jesus, to sit at his feet like Mary did.
4. Julia Roberts, to be at the table with a classy lady with the biggest smile and warmest heart.



Premiums for homeowners and property insurance policies are increasing dramatically. The frequency and severity of storms over the last number of years are a primary factor. Also, inflation and the financial markets play a large part of the reason for the rise.

The final report from the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration National Centers for Environmental Information shows there were 28-billion-dollar weather disasters in 2023, which broke the prior record of 22 billion-dollar in 2020. The costs of the disasters are increasing due to a combination of exposure (i.e. more assets at risk, cost of homes, etc.) and vulnerability (i.e., how much damage a hazard of given intensity-wind speed, flood depth, etc.)

As mentioned, the exposure value of homes has increased exponentially. The National Association of Home Builders advises the price of Canadian softwood has increased 80% since 2021. Sheet Rock has risen 20%, Exterior Paint is up 30% and Interior Paint up 21%. To make matters worse, the cost of contractors used in construction have increased 39% since the beginning of the COVID pandemic. You may notice that your insurance company has increased the value of your home. Replacement cost insurance policies are based on what it will cost to rebuild your dwelling. Property insurance is not based on the selling price of the property.

Premiums in the reinsurance market have risen. Most insureds are not aware that each insurance company does not retain all the risk they insure. Insurance carriers purchase insurance from reinsurance companies for “partial protection” of their total exposure. Reinsurance companies need to operate at a profit. Unfortunately, due to the weather threats, reinsurance companies have been losing money since 2020. The 2024 reinsurance premiums have increased 100% from 2020. Rising premiums are necessary to make the carriers profitable.

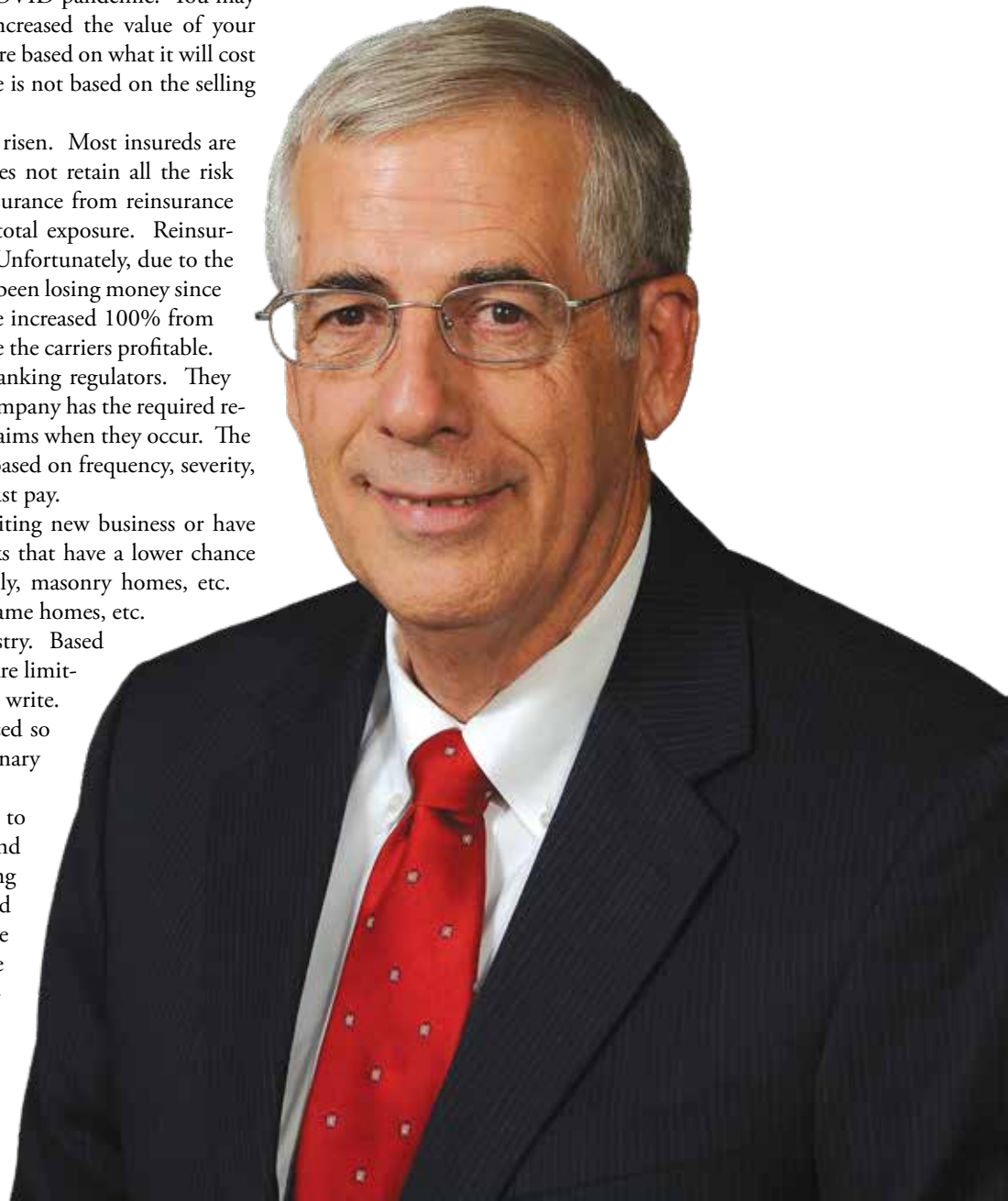
Insurance regulators are very similar to banking regulators. They are required to be sure that each insurance company has the required reserves that are necessary to pay anticipated claims when they occur. The reserve component of the insurance rates is based on frequency, severity, and value of claims the insurance carriers must pay.

Many insurance carriers have stopped writing new business or have limited their writing of new business to risks that have a lower chance of loss, i.e. newly constructed dwellings only, masonry homes, etc. Some carriers will not insure older homes, frame homes, etc. This is the capacity component in the industry. Based on the reserves each carrier must keep, they are limited in how much additional business they can write. Most large purchases, like homes, are financed so the inability to get insurance puts recessionary pressures on the economy.

The higher insurance premiums are due to all the pressures outlined – the frequency and severity of storms, increased cost in building materials and contractors, reinsurance, and financial reserves. Inflation continues, all be it, at a lower rate and storms have not gone away. I strongly suggest you contact your insurance agent to review your coverage and any options that might be available.

RISING HOMEOWNER INSURANCE PREMIUMS

article by: **RICHARD N. CARBONARA, JR.,** CIC PRESIDENT,
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Spring Is Here!
Be Inspired! Success
starts with colorful
plants and trees!



E

STORY & PHOTOS BY:
MARY RESSMAN
RESSMAN NURSERY

For all the gardeners out there, March marks the beginning of our most anticipated time of the year. Signs of spring are everywhere as gardens awaken, trees are budding out, birds are singing happily and bluebonnets and other wildflowers are appearing on the roadsides and open fields.

This month, the most important part of gardening is laying a good foundation that will later show as your successes appear during the entire year. For vegetable gardens and flowerbeds alike, it's most important to prepare the soil by removing all weeds and grasses then working up the ground and incorporating an organic mix of composts. Happy Frog Soil Conditioner is a great option worked into the top 6" of soil as it stimulates root development and helps plants access the uptake of important micro-nutrients. Adding a good fertilizer ensures a bountiful vegetable harvest and flower production.

For the vegetable garden, it's time to plant tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, Swiss chard, strawberries and others from transplants. Plant sweet corn, beans, squash, cucumbers, okra, peas, beets, radishes, cantaloupe and watermelon from seeds.

Flowers to plant in the spring from transplants are alyssum, celosia, petunias, begonias, impatiens, geraniums, dusty miller, dianthus, coreopsis, lobularia, marigolds, salvias, coleus, caladiums, zinnias and more. Use Happy Frog Potting Soil in planters and in the flowerbeds for beautiful foliage and lots of blooms. Plant trees and shrubs early so their root systems will get established before it gets so hot.

Medina Soil Activator works real good as a root stimulator and also improves the soil. Since we have been experiencing very hot summers, we must focus on using plants that can withstand the heat and drought.

Here is a list of plants that can take the heat all summer long: Mandevilla, Bougainvillea, Sweet Potato Vine, Daylily, Lavender, Rosemary, Dichondra 'Silver Falls', Salvias, Angelonia, Marigolds, Caladiums, Portulaca, Purslane, Hibiscus, Firebush, Esperanza, Pentas, Begonias, Vinca, Lantana, and Zinnias. Crape Myrtle, Golden Thyrallis, Bottlebrush, Roses, Cleyera Japonica, Nandina, Holly, Loropetalum, Magnolia, Mountain Laurel, Texas Sage, Abelia, Red Yucca, Agave, Indian Hawthorne, Sea Green Juniper, Oleander, Vitex and more are trees and shrubs that grow well in our region.

Mulching 2-3" thick in flowerbeds, around trees and shrubs and around vegetables 1" thick is very important to conserve water, retard weed growth, and it keeps the roots cool in the summer.

Rejuvenate roses and shrubs with a three inch layer of Happy Frog Soil Conditioner and see the results very soon afterwards.

It's time to fertilize St. Augustine lawns now with a good organic fertilizer like Medina Growin Green or a synthetic fertilizer like Green Diamond Supreme Lawn Food 21-7-14. Be sure and water in the fertilizer after applying unless rain is predicted within a day's time.

Always remember that gardening is a lot about trial and error and depends on our weather conditions. Hopefully we will be lucky and get good rains from time to time and that we would be spared the drastic heat we've had to endure the last few summers.

Happy Gardening to All!



The EVThing *Electrifies* DeWitt County

Story and Photos by: Dave Shabaz

What do you get when you take a retired geophysicist from the oil industry, a graphics & marketing person from the robotics industry and throw in a talented Gelato maker? You get the most unique business to hit DeWitt County in years. You get The EVThing, a one-of-a-kind business that is taking Cuero and DeWitt County by storm!

Allen Gilmer and his wife, Riki Rushing were enjoying some homemade Italian Gelato, made for them by Riki's cousin, Annemarie Leslie-Mees. Not only could they not believe how delicious it was, but after leaving some in the freezer for an extended amount of time, they realized that it didn't go bad, it was actually freezer resistant. It was as delicious weeks later as it was when they first tasted it. This is because of Annemarie's unique recipe. She uses all natural ingredients, and her Bourbon Butter Pecan is a favorite year-round. Her Gelato contains less fat and far less air than typical ice cream. They generally have 13-14 flavors available including several seasonals, with flavors like, Apple Cider, Cap'n Crunch, Strawberry Mint Chocolate Chip, Candy Cane Sweethearts and many

more.

Gilmer is the retired geophysicist, while Rushing worked as a graphics and marketing person with High End Systems, the people who do robotic light shows for concerts and other events. Rushing is the granddaughter of Dr. AJ & Bernice Bohman of Cuero. Many may remember Dr. Bohman as the person who in 1940, leased Lutheran Hospital Reuss Memorial from the Lutheran Board. Then in 1944 he purchased Lutheran Hospital Reuss Memorial and operated it until 1957 when he converted Lutheran Hospital Reuss Memorial into a foundation known as the Cuero Hospital Foundation until 1971. So Riki has some pretty deep roots here in Cuero and DeWitt County.

What began as an idea for a stand-alone Gelato shop, quickly morphed into what it is today. Let me explain, Allen and Riki realized that there are hardly any charging stations in South Texas for people with electric vehicles, which are becoming more and more popular every year. And the places they have them are usually at convenience stores, where there



The EVThing is the place to go for Annemarie Leslie-Mees' awesome homemade Italian Gelato.



The EVThing owners, Allen Gilmer and Riki Rushing

isn't a lot for a family to do while waiting sometimes up to two hours to charge their vehicle. That's when the idea for The EVThing began to take shape. What if there were a place, say maybe in DeWitt County, where an individual or a family could stop and get their car charged quickly and while they waited, could have their choice of gourmet coffees, pastries, a full lunch menu as well as that homemade Gelato that was mentioned earlier, and so much more.

The EVThing is the only place in DeWitt County with two level 3 charging stations. With the level 3 chargers, you can charge your vehicle in 20-40 minutes. Level 2 chargers can take up to two hours, while the level 1 chargers are usually for home or overnight charging. The two charging stations that they have are available 24/7 if you need your vehicle charged after business hours.

Beer and wine are also available at The EVThing, to go along with their 14 big screen TVs. They feature one of the very first self-pour taps rooms in South Central Texas. They feature hard to find beers, meads, seltzers, and wines. Once they validate your age, you are given a cup and a RFD bracelet to pour exactly what you want. And for \$15, you can buy



They also serve the most mouth-watering smoked meat!



Delicious sandwiches can also be found at The EVThing.

a EVThing frosty mug to drink from and take home with you. Whenever you return, bring the mug with you and they will replace it with another frosty mug. How can you beat that!

Allen describes their menu as being “comfort food,” which we all love. It’s also been described as, “Texas Street Food, Elevated.” They are very proud of their smoked meats, which are pressure smoked in-house, which makes for some of the most flavorful and moist smoked meats you’ve ever eaten. They are opened from 7am to 10pm every day of the week. They serve breakfast, lunch and dinner and have a few off-menu items you can ask about.

The Cuero location is their first, but they plan on this being the first of many locations. The EVThing is a great place to bring your family, your electric vehicle, and your appetite for a wonderful experience. When the couple isn’t busy running their unique business here in town, they are also independent movie producers, but that will be a subject for another story down the road.

The EVThing is located at: 511 E. Broadway Street in Cuero. You can also check them out online at: www.evthing.com to see all that they have to offer.



The EVThing offers numerous big screen TV’s and beers on tap.



Annemarie Leslie-Mees charging her electric vehicle.



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Experience the heartwarming embrace of small-town charm in Yorktown, Texas! As the Executive Director of the Yorktown Chamber of Commerce, I, Katie Newman, extend a warm invitation for you to discover the inviting atmosphere that makes Yorktown feel like home.

Yorktown Texas



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Explore our rich history along the historic Indianola Trail, where numerous historical markers paint vivid pictures of days gone by. Visit the Old Yorktown Cemetery to pay respects to figures like Captain York, one of the town's original founders, who met his fate at the hands of Indians shortly after Yorktown's establishment.

Our commitment to veterans is deeply ingrained in Yorktown. Witness poignant moments in history at our monuments, including the one on Highway 73, commemorating Harmon Block, a soldier who raised the flag on Iwo Jima. The Vietnam Helicopter, soaring above Main Street, casts a meaningful shadow, honoring those who served. Monuments in Yorktown City Park and at the Vietnam Veterans Center pay tribute to the names of our local heroes who served or sacrificed for our freedom.



After a day of exploration, unwind with a stroll through Yorktown City Park, providing the perfect space for some fresh air and exercise. Join us in Yorktown, where every corner echoes the warmth of community and the echoes of our vibrant history."



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