

The background of the magazine cover is a photograph of a pumpkin patch. In the center is a large orange pumpkin carved into a jack-o'-lantern with a wide, toothy grin and large, expressive eyes. It has a green ribbon tied around its stem. Surrounding it are several other pumpkins of various sizes and colors, including some yellow and green gourds. The pumpkins are resting on a bed of straw. In the background, there is a wooden structure, possibly a fence or part of a building, and a sign that partially reads "VISIT CENTER".

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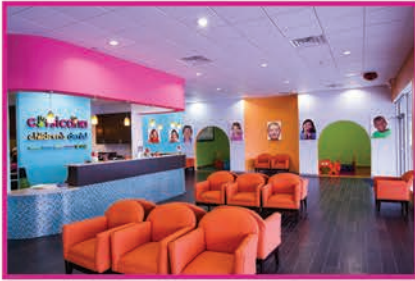
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Publisher, Connie Poirier

General Manager, Rick Hensley

## EDITORIAL

Managing Editor, Becky Walker  
Corsicana Editor, Virginia Riddle  
Editorial Coordinator, Sandra Strong  
Editorial Assistant, Beverly Shay  
Writers, Randy Bigham . Matthew Branch  
Rick Herron . Lynda Housley  
Editors/Proofreaders,  
Pat Anthony . Pamela Parisi

## GRAPHICS AND DESIGN

Creative Director, Chris McCalla  
Artists, Julie Carpenter . Casey Henson  
Martha Macias . Felipe Ruiz  
Connie VanderBeek . Arlene Honza  
Brande Morgan. Shannon Pfaff

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography Director, Jill Rose  
Photographers, Opaque Visuals  
Kevin Painter

## ADVERTISING

Advertising Representatives,  
Laura Fira . Kelly Feld . Steve Randle  
Linda Roberson . Rick Ausmus  
Teresa Banks . Linda Dean . Bryan Frye  
Melissa McCoy . Lisa Miller . Carolyn Mixon  
Jami Navarro . Lori O'Connell . John Powell

Office Manager, Angela Mixon

## ON THE COVER



Bountiful grins will appear  
at the "patch."

Photo by Opaque Visuals.

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## Editor's Note

*Hello, Corsicana!*

Our goal as a magazine has been, and continues to be, to bring to readers informative and entertaining articles about the people, places and "goings-on" that make Corsicana and Navarro County a great place to live, work and learn. Last spring, I was encouraged by my fellow members of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International to submit issues of *CorsicanaNOW Magazine* for the Members in Print DKG state award. DKG,

comprised of professional women educators, honored me with the award at the state convention.

No one ever wins such an award by themselves. I am privileged to work with a team of freelance photographers and writers, fellow editors, proofreaders, graphic artists, advertising representatives, a managing editor, business manager and publisher, all of whose names appear on our contents page each month. Thanks go to all of the above, as well as the articles' subjects, referrals and, of course, you, the reader. Collectively, we rock!

## Virginia

Virginia Riddle  
*CorsicanaNOW* Editor  
 virginia.riddle@nowmagazines.com  
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# Pumpkin Patch Pleasures

— By Virginia Riddle

*The Main Street Pumpkin Patch pumpkins, grown and harvested on a Navajo Indian reservation near Farmington, are about to make their presence known in Corsicana. During the last several months, the Main Street Pumpkin Patch Planning Committee has been working hard to ready the Corsicana Visitors Center and downtown for the event, which has been expanded this year.*

*People of all ages will enjoy the fall fun.*





This year's co-chairpersons are familiar faces around town and wear their farmers' hats quite naturally. Donald and Jackie King, owners of P.O.P. Acres Ranch and Farm, have volunteered their time and expertise to make the Pumpkin Patch a great time for all. They have also been busy raising funds for the old-fashioned street lights, benches and other projects that will beautify Corsicana's downtown brick streets. "We want to excite families and kids," Donald added.

Volunteers from community groups will be on hand to unload the expected 85 pallets of pumpkins and decorative gourds, prior to the opening of the Pumpkin Patch on October 13. Tresa Shimonek and Misty Louthan will be on hand to professionally "stage" and design the patch for many delightful photo opportunities. Steve Hayes and his committee have been recruiting individuals to help shoppers find just the right pumpkin for their decorative as well as practical needs. The committee is comprised of Debbie Hanks, Brad Haynie, Raul Jimenez and Misty Louthan. Another goal of the committee will be to further the sense of shared community. The area groups and individuals throwing their support behind making this year's Pumpkin Patch a great success will aid in the committee's goal. "Everyone gets happier in the fall. Things are cooling off, and people are getting in the holiday spirit," Jackie remarked. The excitement will build throughout the month with on-going special events.



"The children and the community as a whole really enjoyed it."





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Last year's events are returning: the sales, family story time, photo "moments," the Pumpkin Palooza as well as child-centered arts and crafts projects. New events have been added, including fun events that will further community participation and spirit. Each pallet



sponsor will have a fall-themed sign of "their" pallets. Funding donations are tax deductible and will go to the Main Street Program. One of the new events will be a pumpkin and wreath decorating contest. Also, family movie nights with hot chocolate and snacks are planned for several of the October evenings. On November 3, the final day of the Pumpkin Patch, there will be an all-day Pumpkin Patch Craft Festival. And a pumpkin baking contest will feature the pumpkins at their best — in cookies, breads and pies.

Halloween will be celebrated in downtown Corsicana with even more flair than last year. The Beaton Street "Boo Ride," sponsored by the Corsicana Parks and Recreation Department, is being touted as a ride, "Not for the faint of heart!" The yearly trick-or-treat, sponsored by downtown merchants, will be accompanied by a carnival and games. A costume contest for young and old, visits with the tooth fairy and two stages of fun performances will fill the night of October 31.

Helping to coordinate all the activities and handling the financial reporting is Cheryl Jordan, the new program assistant at the Main Street office. Cheryl has jumped into her new position with gusto. A native of Wisconsin, she moved to



Texas with her parents in 1983. Using her degree in professional communications, she worked for Mosaic in Corsicana for three years before joining the mostly volunteer staff at Main Street and the Corsicana Visitors Center as a part-time employee. "As soon as I saw the ad for

this position, I thought, *This is exactly what I've been looking for.* This job really interested me since it allows me to work with volunteers and public relations," Cheryl said. Her work with Mosaic gave her experience in fundraising.

Cheryl is very quick to give credit to Lisa Miller, the former program assistant with Main Street and the Corsicana Visitor Center, who passed away quite suddenly in November 2011. "The celebration did really well last year, so we were determined to

continue having it. The children and the community as a whole really enjoyed it," Cheryl said.

Lisa's passing came shortly after she had planned and implemented the first Main Street Great Pumpkin Patch celebration. She kept very organized files, notebooks and complete information



so the celebration could not only be replicated during subsequent years, but also grow. "Lisa worked tirelessly," Jackie said. "We have a high benchmark to meet

## Featured Stylist



**Sheree Williams...** Sheree is 32 years old and a graduate of Navarro College Cosmetology. She is the daughter of Judy and James Williams. Her family has been in the Navarro Community for over 70 years. Sheree's parents are the pastors of Trinity Assembly in Corsicana and she is the niece of Hiram and Kimberly Pair of Mildred, Texas. Sheree's favorite part of cosmetology is styling and coloring hair, but of course through the Navarro College program all cosmetologists are trained in all aspects of skin, nail, pedicure and hair care.

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or exceed. Lisa set that benchmark. She was always positive and doing things for her community.”

Donald, Jackie and Cheryl are dedicated, along with all the other steering committee members, to making sure Lisa's vision for growth is honored. Lisa was an enthusiastic champion of everything good about Corsicana — a role that Cheryl is stepping into well as a speaker to community groups. “Looking through Lisa's work from last year sometimes gives me the feeling that she is still very much a part of this community, this celebration and this job,” Cheryl said.



Cheryl Jordan (center), helps Donald and Jackie King get ready for Main Street's Great Pumpkin Patch.

Cheryl along with Steve Dieterichs, Main Street director, will be in charge of publicity. All of Navarro County and the surrounding areas will be made aware of the exciting opportunities.

Donald and Jackie, with family ties to Navarro Mills in Navarro County, returned to this area from careers in the Dallas Metroplex. They desire to be a contributing part of the community through the giving of their time, as well as investing in their business. They have dreamed of attracting people from outside this county to come help support our business development. This is a goal that coincides perfectly with the Main Street Program and downtown merchants. “I would love to see these smaller towns come back alive again,” Jackie said. This year, not only will Donald and Jackie help bring about their dreams, but they and countless other community volunteers, will further the dream of a fun October celebration in which Navarro County and surrounding county residents can participate. **NOW**

*Editor's Note: To learn how you can help, contact Jackie at (903) 229-7505 or Cheryl at (903) 654-4852.*



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# Life of HOPE

— By Randy Bigham





*A dynamic outreach initiative geared to bringing new insight and purpose to young people's lives has been implemented by the Corsicana Independent School District. "We want to be proactive through this program, which is really an eye-opener," explained Shea Edmonds, a counselor with the district. "It's motivating our students, parents, staff and the whole community to always look for the best in others." Called Rachel's Challenge, the national organization is named for Rachel Joy Scott, the first student killed in Colorado's Columbine High School massacre in 1999. Based on her journals, essays and other writings, Rachel's Challenge was started by the 17-year-old's family as a way to share with the world the philosophy of kindness and compassion embraced by their loved one in the hope that teen violence, suicide, bullying and depression can be prevented.*

An aspiring writer and actress, Rachel performed in school plays, was involved in a Christian youth group and volunteered for local charities. "Rachel was always considerate in how she treated others," Brandy Thompson, a counselor at Sam Houston Elementary, said. "Her teachers said she never gossiped or spread rumors, and if someone came to her with something negative, she responded with something positive."

At a nationwide Rachel's Challenge conference, Brandy and other local counselors were moved by the presentations, a tour of the Columbine Memorial and the honor of meeting the young woman's relatives, including her father and brother. "Rachel's family is awesome," Candi Dill, a counselor at

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Bowie Elementary, said. "The event was very emotional and life changing."

Now in its second year, the Corsicana offshoot of Rachel's Challenge is inspiring students across the district. Friends of Rachel clubs on middle school campuses, and KC (Kindness and Compassion) Clubs at elementary schools, are teaching students through an activity-driven curriculum to value their individuality, gain self-esteem, pursue goals and respect others. "An important thing Rachel's family said at the conference we went to," Brandy disclosed, "was that she admired Martin Luther King Jr. and his hope of getting rid of evil in the world. Her approach was that if evil can be spread so fast, so can goodness."

Many of the principles in the program are based on Rachel's own words. One powerful sentiment she expressed is used throughout the course: "I have this theory that if one person can go out of their way to show compassion, then it will start a chain reaction of the same." To illustrate Rachel's point, teachers and other school representatives record on a strip of colored paper acts of kindness they have witnessed in the student body or among the faculty. These bits of paper are then linked together to form the chain of kindness Rachel had envisioned. At special assemblies during the academic year, they are unveiled to show the initiative's progress. "It is a great visual to prove how much good is going on in school," Candi pointed out.

Brandy agreed. "We plan to have a Chain Reaction assembly in the spring. There will be a chain for every school, and it's going to be very exciting."

Rachel's journals, including one that was with her when she died, contained pearls of wisdom that seem advanced for her age and experience. These are now central to the literature and educational tools used by the organization in its approach to alleviate cases of depression, abuse and bullying. "Tomorrow isn't a





promise,” Rachel wrote, “but a chance.” “Don’t let your character change color with your environment,” was another observation. “Find out who you are, and let it stay its true color.” Yet another of the girl’s sage musings showed her own depth of character. “How many of us know what we really want and go for it?” she asked in a journal entry. “How many of us have enough trust, strength and faith to believe that we could do the impossible?”

Other rules of behavior espoused by the course, and which are often featured on posters and other promotional materials, include “Dream Big,” “Choose Positive Influences,” “Believe in Yourself” and “Eliminate Prejudice.” Candi, Brandy and other local counselors regard the poignant views about human interaction that Rachel recorded in her writings to be an amazing instance of

forethought, even of foreshadowing. “It’s like she was an angel,” Candi said. “She seemed to know she was going to die young, but that she would make a profound impact on others.”

For Brandy, the aspect of premonition is also a moving part of Rachel’s story. “Years later, her family

was moving the dresser around in her room, and they found she had traced her handprints on the back and written: ‘These are the hands of Rachel Joy Scott and will someday touch millions of people’s hearts.’”

Rachel’s intuition has come true in a bigger way than she could have dreamed. To date, over 17 million people in the United States have heard her story through presentations given by the outreach established in her name, and over 500 documented cases of suicide prevention have been attributed to the success of Rachel’s Challenge.

Locally, the affect that the Friends of Rachel and KC Clubs have had on students and staff alike has been phenomenal. “The kids see in Rachel’s Challenge that there are others dealing with the same issues, whether it’s a broken home or drug abuse or other





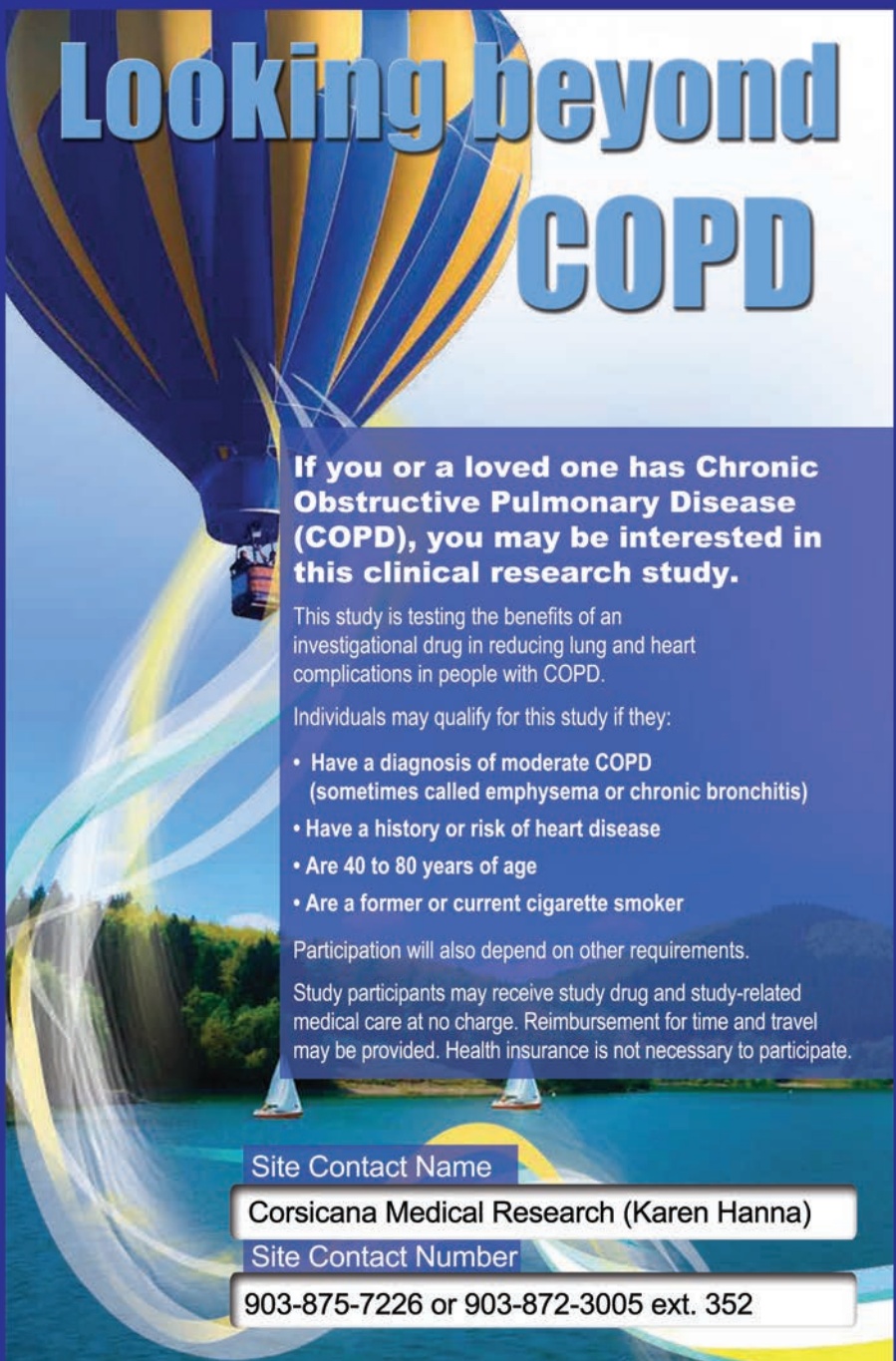
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problems, and it has helped form a bond between them,” Brandy explained. “Some were in their own cliques and would not normally have come together, but now they’ve found they have a lot in common.”

Candi agreed that Rachel’s Challenge is uniting the students and community at large, deterring misunderstandings and quarrels, relieving depression and isolation. “I see a big difference on our campus,” she said. “Kids are showing real compassion for each other, and it’s bringing us all together.”

With solutions and strategies for achieving a kinder school culture, Rachel’s Challenge promises to make a lasting impression on CISD’s students and staff. “We’re super excited about it,” Candi said. “We’re just getting going, making

*“I see a  
**BIG** difference  
 on our campus.”*

more people aware of the program, but we know it’s going to be a success.”

“I’m so inspired to see what’s happening with it and look forward to working more on it,” Brandy concurred.

As the school year is settling into a routine, Brandy, Candi and other counselors are led by their desire to see the development of a more caring campus environment. They are also piloted by the words of the program’s namesake, such as a poem Rachel wrote shortly before her death: “Things untold, things unseen/One day all these things will come to me/Life of meaning, life of hope/Life of significance is mine to cope/I have a purpose, I have a dream.” **NOW**



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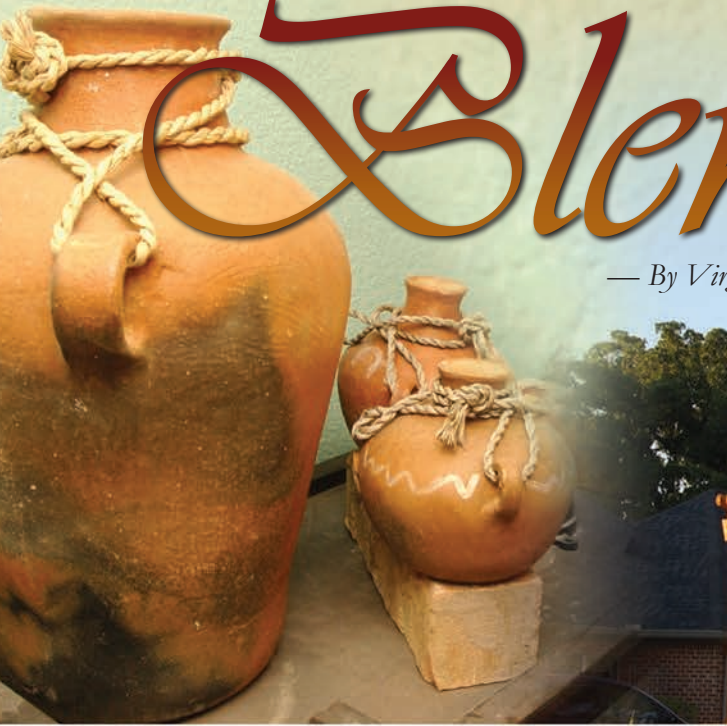
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# A PERFECT Blend

— By Virginia Riddle



Cindy and Michael Haddenham pose with their daughters, Marcela and Mariana.

*It's a long way from Gillette, Wyoming, to Corsicana, Texas, and Mike and Cindy Haddenham have not exactly traveled "as the crow flies" to their new home in Navarro County. They met in Thermopolis, Wyoming, in 1974 and have been married for 34 years, "Just to each other," Mike added. This couple along with their daughters, Marcela and Mariana, and Dachshunds, Lola and Brandy, are settling into their new home. "We like the people, the golf course and not dealing with snow," Mike said.*

Such observations can only come from a family that has known colder and dryer climates. Mike and Cindy began their family by adding two sons, Joe and Jon, while finishing





## At Home With MIKE AND CINDY HADDENHAM

college in Laramie, Wyoming. Mike's chosen profession as a petroleum engineer prompted subsequent moves to New Mexico, where they lived for approximately 20 years, and then to Oklahoma, back to Wyoming, and now to Texas.

Mike and Cindy met their daughters in Oklahoma. Their son, Jon, became friends with the girls' birth mother. "He asked us if the girls, who were 6 and 10, could come live with us," Mike explained. The decision was a big one for everyone involved, but one that has allowed the family to see God working in their lives. When Mike's career prompted the move back to Wyoming, the Haddenham family grew by two more members because Mike and Cindy adopted the girls.

The Haddenhams consider the move

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back to Wyoming to have been a “God thing.” The laws there not only made the adoption possible, but they also enabled the girls, who were born in Mexico, to gain U.S. citizenship.

“It’s like we have had two families — one with boys and now one with girls,” Mike stated. “We suffered a great loss when our oldest son, Joe, died in a car accident in 1994. Ten years later, we were blessed with our daughters who help make our family more complete,” Cindy reflected. In an unusual, but perfect blend, Marcela and Mariana stay in contact with their birth mother and younger brothers. Recently, all seven

traveled to Florida in a minivan where they met Jon and his family for a week of fun at Disney World.

Cindy, a retired high school business teacher, was somewhat prepared to deal with the language challenges the girls brought to the family. “They spoke very little English, and we spoke even less Spanish,” she remembered. The transition to English is now complete, and both daughters are doing well in Corsicana High School (CHS). Marcela is a senior and is in the process of selecting a college. Mariana is a sophomore and is excited to be a member of the CHS Calico Drill Team.

Marathon Oil, Mike’s employer, brought the family to Texas in August 2010. “We moved just before school started and were living in a motel,” Cindy said. They decided to build a new home when they fell in love with their current neighborhood.

Their two-story home is reflective of the couple’s love of everything southwest, with a hint of the wine country — another perfect blend. A front portico perfectly complements Mariana’s iron balcony. The front entry door is a work of art, and additional pieces with Southwestern hues grace the formal dining and living room. A painting




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by Rupert Conrad, a gift from Cindy's parents, and a collection of DeGrazia figurines complete these rooms. "This is our version of Southwest," Cindy said. Area rugs, including a favorite lime green rug, still allow the beauty of the hardwood and tiled floors to shine.

The family collects Hummel figurines, which are showcased inside a cabinet designed by Cindy's father just for the collection, which is located in the breakfast nook. "This cabinet and the piano from my grandmother's house have made all of our moves. They are special to us," Cindy said.

"Mike's Room" lies just outside the breakfast nook and features a full outdoor kitchen, television and comfortable seating area. A wall poster reminds guests that this family cheers for the Denver Broncos. The covered patio is warmed on winter days by a fireplace and cooled in the summer with the ceiling fan. Just beyond is the family's salt water swimming pool and hot tub. The sound of the waterfall cascading into the pool and a fire in the pit make the backyard a restful haven and a place to entertain. "We love our backyard. It has a peaceful feeling," Cindy said.

The hub of the home is the kitchen and family room. Mike helped design the attractive brick fireplace and wood mantel. Cookie jars from the couple's first home peer down from atop the ledge of the rich, dark cabinets which, along with a walk-in pantry, provide plenty of storage. Family and friends gather around the kitchen island lit with pendant lights. "I love that everyone can be together in this area," Cindy said. Now, everyone also includes Jon's wife, Stephanie, and daughter, Hannah, who live in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

A family portrait is displayed on the



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colorful walls of the master bedroom, which overlooks the pool. Paintings softly reflect the colors that Cindy loves. An elegant master bathroom is functional and restful with its ottoman seating. The large walk-in closet provides storage space for more than just clothing, while a guest bath and utility room enhance the functionality of the home.

A walk up the iron and wood staircase leads to the teenage media room complete with a mini-kitchen, and the girls' rooms connected by a Jack-and-Jill bath. "We really like houses where the teenagers are on a different level," Cindy revealed. Mariana enjoys a beautiful view from her balcony, while Marcela's room features a restful window seat.

Mike and Cindy's travels have taken them to Hawaii, Mexico and Europe, where they enjoyed researching the Haddenham name in England. "We did the Chevy Chase tour," Mike said. Both



Mike and Cindy love their church, First Baptist of Corsicana, where Cindy helps with the ESL program and volunteers with Food for Fitness. She also enjoys being a member of the Corsicana Newcomers Club, going to the YMCA and attending Community Bible Study. Mike enjoys playing golf and is an avid sports fan. They both treasure the time they spend with their extended families.

"Mike is the one who makes things work in our home," Cindy revealed. However, Cindy's flair for the Southwest is everywhere, making their home a perfect blend of style for the perfectly blended family. As they begin their third year of residency in Navarro County, Mike and Cindy are finding many ways to blend into the community. As Cindy summed it up after so many moves, "We just like wherever we live." **NOW**

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# Pride In *America*

— By Rick Herron

*For most people, making the decision to leave their homeland, a place where all things are familiar and comfortable, to move to a new country where practically everything — the people, the food, transportation, work, housing and government to name a few — are radically different, almost always causes them to feel more than a little anxiety and an uncomfortable feeling of displacement. Those who find themselves “strangers in a strange land” are often required to search for and use every means and resource available to quickly acclimate to new and different surroundings.*



Raul and Monica Jimenez  
with their sons, Gibran (left)  
and Alberto (right).





Raul Jimenez and his wife, Monica, both born in Mexico, found unique challenges as well as opportunities awaiting them when they arrived in Corsicana in 1996. In the 16 years they've been here, Raul and his family have experienced their fair share of both. Raul vividly remembers that immediately after arriving in Corsicana, he knew what he had to do to begin the long and difficult

.....

*“My family isn't wealthy, but we try to use the resources we have to help others in any possible way.”*

.....

process of learning how to fit into the American way of life. “When I moved here, the first thing I did was attend Navarro College's adult education center, where I took 360 hours of English, because I knew I wouldn't be able to establish myself and find work unless I spoke English,” Raul said.

Raul, Monica and their two boys, Gibran and Alberto, have worked at apartment and home business maintenance for the last 15 years, and ran Monica's Restaurant on Beaton

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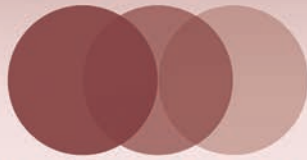


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Street for about a year, until the night of June 23, 2011, when a fire elsewhere in the building forced them to close. That traumatic event taught Raul and his family just how giving and caring the people of Corsicana can be in the face of tragedy. "We had a lot of support from the Corsicana community when the restaurant fire happened. Because of that support, we got through the tragedy of losing our business," Raul said, and specifically thanked Mary and Jerry Steely, Kay and Sandy Jenkins, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Alvis Reeves, Ralph Gonzales, Bobby Vickery and many more for their help and support after the fire.

Although the fire was a discouraging setback for the family, Raul, as is his nature, would not give up. Today he and his wife run R&M Maintenance, a local company that provides home repairs, renovations and just about any odd job a person might need. Looking back on everything he experienced, as a new American citizen and Corsicana resident, Raul firmly believes that it is his responsibility and privilege to do whatever he can to improve conditions within the local Hispanic community, as well as Corsicana. The list of community groups he has lent his time and talent to over the years is long and still growing. "I've worked with Drug Prevention Resources, a group that is dedicated to providing information to parents on how to prevent their kids from abusing drugs and alcohol," he said. In September 2010, Raul, along with other parents and IMPACT of Navarro County, helped create a youth soccer league.





"At first, it was mainly for Hispanic kids but has since grown to embrace kids from all ethnicities, because being multicultural is better for both the kids and the parents," Raul said. "The league was created after we saw that there were a lot of kids who needed something to do, but could not afford to join other social and athletic organizations." The organizers of the league also held fundraisers to make sure the kids were adequately insured.

This very busy man is also on the board of the local Salvation Army and is active with the Hispanic Republican Club of Navarro County, as well as helping with the Pancake Breakfast, part of Corsicana's annual Derrick Days. He was president of the Band Boosters at his son's school, helped out with his son's Boy Scout troop and is a member of the local Gideon Ministries. "I became a Gideon shortly after we opened the restaurant in 2010. We meet once a month at Navarro College," he said.

Raul and Monica feel a lot of pride and gratitude in the fact that they are the only Hispanic family at Corsicana's Emmanuel Baptist Church, where they've been active members for over eight years. "Pastor Lain Teel and his congregation welcomed us with open arms, and we've been very happy here," Raul said, adding that he and his wife get to cook Sunday morning breakfast for the church members, and he teaches the fifth- and sixth-graders' Bible study at the church.

A man of obvious integrity and compassion, Raul has always felt his

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underlying purpose in life is to help other people. "My family isn't wealthy, but we try to use the resources we have to help others in any possible way," Raul said, remembering very clearly all of the help and assistance offered to him after the tragic fire.

Looking back on his own experiences since moving to America, Raul has some solid advice for newcomers to this country. "First, learn English. It is the language spoken most frequently by American citizens, so you should show respect and gratitude by learning and speaking it. Go to Navarro College, and look into their adult education program. Once you learn English, don't be afraid to communicate with people, because America is still the 'melting pot' for all new citizens," he said, adding that in his opinion, learning and speaking English is probably the biggest advantage anyone can have in getting ahead in America.

"Second," Raul added, "get involved with the school your kids attend. Communicate with the teachers. They will learn from you and you from them."

"Third, I want to emphasize the importance of volunteering. When you participate in the community, you are giving back to it for all the things it has provided to you. One does not have to be wealthy or popular to volunteer, because there are plenty of opportunities out there to be part of an event or an organization — anything that will help our community to be a better place to live." **NOW**

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— By Rick Herron

*When he's not playing general manager at Carl White's Autoplex, Steve Petty's thoughts are invariably on baseball, a subject very near and dear to his heart. As a native of Corsicana for 42 years, Steve has been involved with youth sports since he was 16 years old. Now, he's focusing his considerable talents on the CANA Tigers, a team of select area youth that compete in baseball tournaments throughout the state.*

Select baseball was introduced to Corsicana by previous coaches such as Frank Marx, Mike Russell and Billy Harlan. The CANA Tigers were started by Steve and Stan Farmer six years ago as a way to give local kids additional opportunities to advance in baseball and sharpen their playing skills. "Select baseball has really taken off over the last 10 or so years," Steve said. "Before there were select teams, all that was out there were local league teams, and that's how it was in Corsicana, too. Most leagues only practice and compete within a set period each year, but select teams like the CANA Tigers go all year long."

Steve remembered that when the concept of creating "select" baseball teams came on the scene, he and his coaches thought it



“Watching these kids mature and grow up right before our eyes is a lot of fun.”



sounded like an important and effective way to prepare local kids for high school baseball. Steve proudly holds the title of co-founder for the CANA Tigers, and he's also president of Corsicana Youth Baseball. This is obviously a man who knows his baseball. "We went from one team when we started six years ago to seven teams today," Steve said. The CANA Tiger teams range from 7U through 14U. "We have tryouts for the CANA Tigers twice a year. We've found

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that the kids we coach get much better training and coaching if they stick with it all year," Steve added.

In fact, the Tigers have accumulated an impressive win percentage history so far. "We've won several weekend tournaments from top to bottom, and we went 37-9-1 for the year last season," he said. The Tigers were state runners-up with the USSSA (United States Specialty Sports Association) and were runners-up in the AAYBA (American Amateur Youth Baseball Alliance) World Series for the last two years. The 10U team was runner-up at nationals, while the 8U team won the Fall State Tournament and finished fifth in nationals.

Although Steve and Stan may be the brains behind the organization, Steve credits the coaches for the impressive record of wins accumulated over the last several years. "The coaches for the 7U team are Cory Harrellson and Trevor Boyde; for the 8U, Brett Bell and Josh Hollingsworth; for the 9U, Kevin Petty, Brent Hodge, Blaine Brown, Mike Hurford and Byron Lindsey; for the 10U, Brandon Nicholson and Mike Beacom; and for the 11U, J.P. Johnson and Mike Fuentes. I coach the 13U team along with Stan Farmer, Heath Reynolds and Bob Pritchett; and Rick Maler coaches the 14U team," Steve said. Each team moves up an age group each fall.

The CANA Tiger teams currently practice at the Corsicana High School field house and Beebe Field, but Stan and Steve plan to open an indoor facility soon. "We want to have a place we can call *home*," Steve said. Steve, who was born in Germany, came to live in Corsicana when he was 3 months old and is a graduate of Corsicana High School. His love of sports started when

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he was young. "I started out playing tee ball when I was just a kid, [and continued playing baseball] all the way through my senior year," he said. Tee ball is for beginners of baseball and was created as a way to introduce children to the sport, as well as develop baseball skills.

"I guess I was always a sports nut. I am a big Dallas Cowboys football fan and also love my Texas Longhorns. I played football in school, but I always considered myself a baseball guy," Steve admitted. "When I was 15, I started coaching Little League Baseball," he remembered.

Some of the most influential people in Steve's life were his high school coaches. "Don Denbow, Don Barton, Randy Green and Jim Barnett all had a big influence on me when I was growing up here in Corsicana. Baseball has been a big part of my life ever since, along with hunting, fishing and generally enjoying being a family man," he said.

Steve's wife, Lelanie, owns Lelanie Petty Insurance Group in Corsicana.

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The couple has four kids and twin granddaughters. "I became a 'Papaw' at the ripe old age of 37," he laughed.

Steve has big plans for the CANA Tigers. "We want to bring more baseball tournaments to Corsicana, so we [want to] build a new sports complex. Also, when these kids get to be eligible for high school leagues, they often go to play in Waco or Dallas, so we really want to find a place for the 15- to 18-year-olds," Steve said. "That's all part of our goal to create a showcase team in the near future."

The CANA Tigers have a definite advantage in the pursuit of that goal, in the form of coaching help from real professionals in the world of baseball. "We are lucky to have a professional baseball player helping us with our pitching," Steve said. Eric Lynn Hacker, a pitcher with the San Francisco Giants organization, visits the CANA Tigers practices to impart his well-earned knowledge of the art of pitching. Eric currently pitches for the Fresno Grizzlies of the Pacific Coast League.

While Eric's contributions to the team are impressive, Steve is quick to remember local coaches who have helped the CANA Tigers achieve a great win record. Specifically, Whoa Dill, the head coach at Navarro College, has done a lot by giving lessons to several of the kids. Heath Autry and Brian Nolan of Corsicana High School have also gone above and beyond in helping the team.

Steve is proud of the fact that the CANA Tigers Baseball Academy is starting to become a recognized name in the world of select baseball teams. "Our goal was, and still is, to teach the kids fundamentals and how to play and respect the game so they can ultimately play high school or possibly Division 1 baseball," he said. "Watching these kids mature and grow up right before our eyes is a lot of fun." **NOW**





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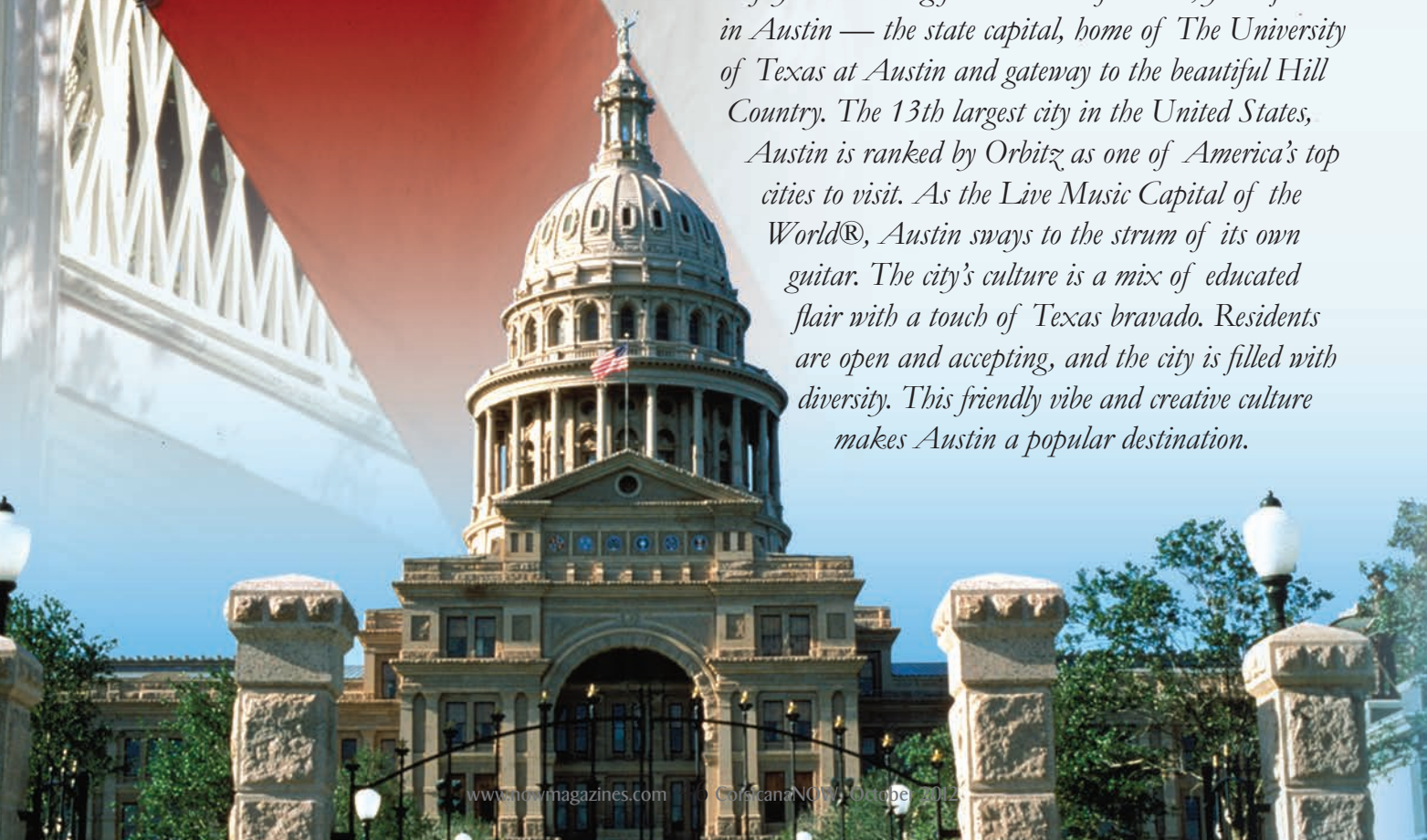




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The sunset-red granite Texas State Capital Building crowns Congress Avenue, standing 14 feet taller than the nation's Capitol. Austin is home to more than 50,000 students at The University of Texas, nearly 2,000 recording artists, hundreds of startups and tech companies and several world-class festivals. Next April, the Second Annual Austin Food and Wine Festival will bring world-class chefs and winemakers to pamper your palate, while local artists perform great live music. Major events like South by Southwest Music, Film and Interactive Conferences and Festivals; Fun Fun Fun Fest; and the ACL Music Festival are just a few hosted throughout the year.

In fact, Austin hosts the inaugural Formula 1™ race at Circuit of The Americas this November 16-18. The world's newest home for high performance motorsports racing, the Circuit of The Americas is the only purpose-built facility in the country designed for Formula 1 racing and is the host circuit for the United States Grand Prix from 2012-2021. Beginning in 2013, the track will also host the V8 Supercars World Championships and several other motor sports events will soon follow. The venue is designed to be open year-round as a premier meeting and entertainment destination.

Downtown is safe and easy to navigate, with a standard grid of streets. Dozens of hotels are within walking distance to key landmarks like the capital, the Austin Convention Center and Sixth Street, the famed historic row of taverns and live music venues.

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The 2nd Street District is home to the W Hotel and Residence and *Austin City Limits Live* at The Moody Theater Austin's newest music venue. This state-of-the-art theater is home to the longest running PBS series *Austin City Limits* and is the world's first fully integrated 3D production and performance facility. *Pollstar* ranked it the "Best New Major Concert Venue" in 2011.

Just south of downtown and across Lady Bird Lake is South Congress (commonly known as SoCo). This eclectic district is lined with vintage shops, chic clothing and jewelry boutiques, cool coffee shops and one-of-a-kind dining. Politicos, students and visitors come together to visit this essential hip strip of the city.

One of Austin's most culturally rich neighborhoods is East Austin, which is home to a wide range of historic landmarks, art galleries, family-owned restaurants, food trailers and music venues. Once a destination for soul musicians passing through on the Chitlin' Circuit, East Austin still has a strong identity as a hub for African-American culture. If something unique and innovative is going on in Austin, chances are, it's happening here. It doesn't take long to recognize that this area is brimming with change and creativity.

The city provides artists and their fans a truly amazing backdrop for live performances. Nearly 250 live music venues offer rock, blues, country and

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Tejano shows nightly. The Broken Spoke, known as the last true Texas dance hall, features great country acts — and guests can also take a Texas two-step lesson. The Continental Club has showcased blues, rock and folk music since 1957, earning it the title: Granddaddy of the Austin music venues. Antone's, Austin's home of the blues, is where Stevie Ray Vaughan cut his proverbial teeth. Newer stages like those at The Mohawk and



Club DeVille showcase local acts alongside big-name touring artists. A guide to Austin's music scene, including a list of famous musicians from Austin and great musical attractions, is available at [www.austintexas.org/music](http://www.austintexas.org/music).

Austin is fast becoming a foodie destination. Locals know, no matter where you are in the city, you're close to one of the nearly 2,000 mobile food vendors. A must-do for Austinites, this inexpensive *haute trailer cuisine* movement means

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Austin is a playground waiting to be explored. The city's beautiful natural surroundings lure nature lovers and outdoor enthusiasts. There are more than 14,000 acres of nature trails, parks and wilderness preserves to discover. Lady Bird Lake runs through the center of downtown and is bordered by 10 miles of breathtaking hike and bike trails. For a uniquely Austin experience, try yoga on a stand-up paddle board or take a dip in Barton Springs, a natural spring fed pool, where the average yearly water temperature is 68 degrees. As the sun sets, head over to Congress Avenue Bridge. Austin is home to the world's largest urban bat colony of 1.5 million Mexican free-tailed bats. From April through October, these nocturnal wonders emerge from under the Congress Avenue Bridge for a nightly show.

Whether you're observing the bats, listening to an acoustic guitar player in a jewelry shop or eating the best crepes you've tasted in years — served from an Airstream trailer — your visit to Austin will be something to treasure. For more information, visit [austintexas.org](http://austintexas.org). **NOW**

*Text and photos by the Austin Convention  
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**From left:**

Standing: Cindy Zuniga, Dr. Nwafor, Shannon Herrera and Amber Williford. Seated is Sammie Jo Watson.

# Compassionate Care

*Dr. Nwafor and his experienced staff work diligently to help patients in a timely manner and a friendly environment.*

— By Virginia Riddle

For the past six years, area residents have enjoyed having Dr. Francis Nwafor in Corsicana. As a urologist, Dr. Nwafor is a surgeon who specializes in the treatment of the genitourinary tract, which includes the kidneys, urinary bladder in men and women and the prostate in men. He also has had a practice in nearby Ennis for the last 12 years. “We strive to make sure that our patients are well taken care of,” Dr. Nwafor stated.

Services provided include: vasectomies, treatment of kidney stones, infertility, urinary tract infections, prostate cancer, enlarged prostate, low testosterone, erectile dysfunction and urinary incontinence, PSA checks, laser therapies, circumcisions for adults and infants and pelvic floor rehabilitation. Patients do not need to travel in order to receive urological care. Translation

services are available in English/Spanish, and the practice accepts most health insurance plans, as well as Medicaid/Medicare. New patients are welcome.

Patients are greeted by a staff, which includes a business manager and two nurses — Amber Williford, Sammie Villa and Shannon Herrera. “They are a very friendly and experienced team with a combined 21 years of experience with the practice,” Dr. Nwafor said.

A native of Nigeria, Dr. Nwafor came to the United States to study at Kean University in New Jersey followed by medical studies at New York Medical College in Westchester County, New York. He interned at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and served a residency at the University




## Business **NOW**

at Buffalo (The State University of New York). Dr. Nwafor served in the United States Air Force for four years while stationed at Lackland AFB, San Antonio and Darnell Hospital, Ft. Hood. Since that time, he has been a solo practitioner. He is a member of the American Urological Association, the Texas Urological Society and the Texas Medical Association. Dr. Nwafor is board certified in the practice of adult and pediatric urology by the American Board of Urology, which according to its Web site, establishes and maintains high standards of practice for urologists in order to assure the public a "high quality, efficient and ethical practice of urology."

**"We strive to make sure that our patients are well taken care of,"**

Dr. Nwafor enjoys spending time with his family, which includes his wife, ChiChi, and their three sons, ages 17, 15 and 10. ChiChi, also a native of Nigeria, came to the United States for studies that eventually led to a Ph.D. in education. She is currently a stay-at-home mom with a very active family life, which includes playing football and travels to San Francisco, Europe, the Caribbean and, of course, Africa. Navarro and Ellis counties, however, have become home to this family. "The weather is nice, and this is a nice and friendly state," Dr. Nwafor said.

Most importantly, Dr. Nwafor wants men over 40 years of age to understand they should be screened for prostate cancer, and men over 30 years of age should be screened for low testosterone levels. Women are treated in-office for urinary tract infections. Both female and male patients suffering from overactive bladders can be helped oftentimes by rehabilitating through nonsurgical means, such as Kegel exercises, that are taught during office visits. All aspects of kidney stone treatment can be performed in Corsicana, as well as family planning procedures, such as vasectomies. "We are proud to be a hometown, local practice offering advanced care locally," Dr. Nwafor said. **NOW**



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From Left: Erin Waldrip, Chelsea Covington, Heather Grant and Julie Moore waitress for the Corsicana Bedding Susan G. Komen Team fundraiser.



Arilene Aceves and Juan Rodriguez enjoy the "bash" part of the Navarro College Beau Bash Celebration which welcomed students back to campus for the fall semester.



Auxiliary volunteers, Sandra Curtis (at left) and Jessie T. Gonzales, help Marc Pond and the American Red Cross during the Battle of the Badges Blood Drive.



This CHS player scores a win by keeping her eyes on the ball.



Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1009 members, Vernon Strebeck (at left), and Brett Malott, join Brett's granddaughter, Lacy Kate Severn, at a recent meeting of the group.



Pat Sargent (at left) and Johnnie Sullivan fly their flags proudly at the 2012 Never Forget Memorial Celebration.



Angela Oglesbee, Cilkay Jessie, Laura Blankenship and Bekah Ballard, of Hometown Pharmacy, pass out school supplies.



Several community members take time to attend the grand re-opening ribbon cutting for Bealls.



From left: Jeremy Scruggs, Sandra Flores and Shelby Donoho of State Farm Sam Denton enjoy their new offices.





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# Funding Your Child's College Education

A college education is a gift that most parents would love to give their children. But with higher education becoming pricier each year, it's important to use time to your advantage by starting to save early.

College education expenses grew an average of 5.6 percent per year beyond general inflation from the 2010-2011 academic year to the 2011-2012 academic year, according to the College Board. If costs continue to rise at that pace, the College Board estimates that today's high school students could expect to pay close to \$100,000 to attend a public, in-state university for four years, and more than twice that for a private institution.

Many families don't believe they can save enough to pay the continually rising college costs, especially given other important short- and long-term goals in their financial plan.

## Start Saving Now

The sooner you begin saving for your child's education, the better. A head start will give your investment more time to grow, as well as more time to ride the market's ups and downs. Many students do receive financial aid. For the 2011-2012 academic year, more than \$178 billion in financial aid was awarded to undergraduate students, according to the College Board. Still, most colleges expect parents and students to contribute their share. In addition, typical financial aid packages also rely on loans.

Thankfully, the federal and state governments have made saving for college easier with tax-favored education funding options. But how do you decide which vehicle is right for you?

## Options for College Funding

To determine how to best save for your child's college education, you may want to start by comparing the following popular investment alternatives:

### • 529 Plans

Section 529 Plans are higher education saving and pre-paid tuition plans established under Section 529(b) of the Internal Revenue Code as qualified tuition programs. There are two types: the 529 college savings plan and the 529 prepaid tuition plan.

The 529 college savings plan is an investment program that allows you or other family members and friends to invest in an account designated for qualified higher education expenses. Contributions

may be used at any eligible U.S. higher-education institution, as well as some abroad.

With a 529 prepaid tuition plan, you essentially buy all or part of a public, in-state education at present-day prices. The program will then pay for future college tuition at any of your state's eligible colleges or universities (or a payment to private and out-of-state institutions). Most 529 prepaid tuition plans have residency requirements and are sponsored by state governments, which then guarantee the investments.

### • Coverdell Education Savings Account

The Coverdell Education Savings Account (ESA) is a trust or custodial account that provides you with a tax-advantaged method to save up to \$2,000 per year for your child's education. Included is elementary and secondary education as well as post-secondary education, such as college, graduate school or vocational school.

An ESA may be established for the benefit of any child under age 18, with contributions beginning any time after birth and continuing until the 18th birthday. Contributions will only be accepted after the 18th birthday if your child is a special needs beneficiary as defined by federal tax law.

### • Custodial Account (UGMA/UTMA)

You can establish an account for your child under the Uniform Gift to Minors Act (UGMA) or the Uniform Transfer to Minors Act (UTMA), depending on which law applies in your state. The UGMA/UTMA account allows you to make gifts to your child without setting up a trust. The contributions made to an account of this type are considered irrevocable gifts to the minor in whose name the account is registered.

### 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. **NOW**

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Our pledge at Waxhachie Autoplex is to incorporate change based on the needs of you, our customers. We know that without our customers we could not survive.

Thank you for taking time to read this letter and please feel free to submit any comments and suggestions directly to myself or one of the staff at Waxahachie Autoplex.



Sincerely,  
*Wes Spence*  
General Manager  
Waxahachie Autoplex



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# Find Relief for Fall Allergy Symptoms and Start Enjoying the Cooler Weather

— By Matthew Branch, M.D.

The seasons don't discriminate when it comes to allergies. For many who suffer from seasonal allergies, fall is the worst time of year. Though the cooler weather is welcomed, the foliage is changing, and weeds and other plants release pollen that can send allergy sufferers indoors. Unfortunately, allergens can lurk there, as well.

While almost 40 million Americans suffer from allergies, according to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, and there is no cure, allergies can be managed with proper prevention and treatment. Ragweed pollen is one of the most common triggers for fall allergy symptoms. This hardy plant is common in the Northeast, South, and Midwest regions of the United States. Peak ragweed season starts in mid-August and lasts through October.

In addition to ragweed pollen, pollen from other plants, trees and grass can set off allergies in the fall. Mold can grow under leaves that have fallen, and this can lead to a reaction, too.

## Fall Allergy Symptoms

Allergy symptoms can vary, depending on the part of the body exposed to the allergen:

- Skin — hives; dry, itchy skin; eczema

- Lungs — wheezing and asthma
- Eyes and nose — watery, itchy eyes; clear, runny mucous; sneezing
- Mouth — itching in the back of the throat; upset stomach; diarrhea; and, in extreme cases, anaphylaxis (a life-threatening allergic reaction)

## Controlling Fall Allergies

Here are a few allergy management tips to help you get back to enjoying life, both inside and outside:

- Check pollen levels.
- Limit yard work.
- Don't hang clothes outdoors to dry. Stay clean.
- Use a dehumidifier.
- Use hypoallergenic filters.
- Use the air conditioner at night.
- Take an over-the-counter antihistamine. **NOW**

Matthew Branch, M.D. • Ear, Nose and Throat

Medical Associates of Navarro County

Member of the medical staff at Navarro Regional Hospital.

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### October 1-26

32nd Annual Piecemakers Quilt Guild Quilt Show: **Monday-Friday**, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; **Saturday**, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Warehouse of Living Arts Center. Admission is free. A quilt is being raffled off during the show. For more information, contact Nancy Sloan at (903) 345-6061.

### October 4

The Humane Society of Navarro County's "Hot Dogs for Cooler Days." Fullerton-Garritty Park. For more information, call (903) 875-1060.

### October 12

Navarro County Retired Teachers Association meeting: 9:45 a.m., Northwest Apartments. All retired school personnel are invited. For more information, e-mail pk2@airmail.net.

### October 13 through November 3

Corsicana Main Street 2nd Annual Pumpkin Harvest Festival 2012: **Mondays-Saturdays**, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; **Sundays**, Noon-4:00 p.m., Corsicana Visitors' Center in Allyn Park. For a full schedule of events

and information, call (903) 654-4850 or visit <http://www.corsicanamainstreet.org/pumpkin-patch.html>.

### October 20

3rd Annual Cotton Row Run and Kerens Cotton Harvest Festival: 8:00 a.m., downtown Kerens. Fun activities and food for the whole family will continue all day long. For more information, contact Tresa Darby at (903) 654-8138 or e-mail tresa@airmail.net.

Black and White Event/Top Chef and Casino Night: 6:30-11:00 p.m., Cook Center. Dress in black and white and come have some fun. James L. Collins Catholic School is proud to host the 2nd Annual Top Chef Competition. Hor d'oeuvres will be served from local restaurants and caterers, while music and casino gaming will entertain guests. Prizes will be awarded. Tickets are \$60 per person. For more information, contact Angie Meyers at (903) 874-1808.

### October 25

2012 Fall Festival: 5:00-8:00 p.m., Boys and Girls Clubs of Navarro County. This free

event offers food, games, face painting and raffle items. For more information or to volunteer, call (903) 872-9231.

### October 27

Corsicana Newcomers' Club Annual Fundraiser: 6:00 p.m., Corsicana Country Club. Happy Hour, dinner, dancing to the tunes of the Groove Tones and a live auction will keep the evening rolling. The cost is \$25 per person, and attire is Sunday best. For more information or to confirm reservations, contact Marge Oslick at (903) 872-3508.

### October 31

Downtown Corsicana Trick-or-Treating and the Beaton Street Boo-Ride: 3:30-5:00 p.m., Pocket Park, 118 N. Beaton St. This ride is not for the faint of heart. For more information, contact Cara Wilson at (903) 654-4875.

*Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to [virginia.riddle@nowmagazines.com](mailto:virginia.riddle@nowmagazines.com).*



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## In The Kitchen With Bob O'Toole

— By Virginia Riddle

Just as in the parable of the fishes and the loaves, Bob O'Toole and his wife, Donna, never know quite how many lunches they are going to serve as the volunteer supervisors of First Baptist Church of Corsicana's Good News Café. A mainstay of church volunteers help cook and serve. Bob began cooking only about 10 years ago when the couple owned The Wicklow Inn. However, he can be found radiating confidence at regular Wednesday night fellowship meals at his church and special occasion dinners, sometimes serving up to 900 people. The motto of the Good News Café is: "Showing God's love one meal at a time," and as Bob said, "The only difference between cooking for a family and a crowd is, you just have to open bigger cans." **NOW**

### Frito Corn Salad

- 2 15-oz. cans whole kernel corn, well-drained**
- 1 medium green pepper, finely chopped**
- 1 medium red pepper, finely chopped**
- 1 bunch green onions, chopped including half of the tops**
- 1 cup mayonnaise**
- 2 cups cheddar cheese, shredded**
- 1/2 bag regular-sized Chili Cheese Fritos, slightly crushed or to taste**

- 1.** Mix corn, peppers, onion and mayonnaise. Refrigerate 1 hour.
- 2.** Just prior to serving, mix in cheese and Fritos.

### Pecan Crusted Breast of Chicken

- 3 cups corn flakes, crushed**
- 1 Tbsp. garlic salt**
- 2 cups pecans, finely chopped**

- 3/4 cup butter, melted**
- 8 boneless, skinless chicken breasts**

- 1.** Preheat oven to 350 F
- 2.** In a bowl, mix corn flakes, garlic salt and pecans.
- 3.** Add butter to another bowl; dredge chicken breasts in butter. Roll in corn flakes mixture.
- 4.** Place chicken on cookie sheet; let stand for 15 minutes to set crust.
- 5.** Bake for 25 minutes until internal temperature of 160 F is reached.
- 6.** Remove from oven; let stand 5 minutes before serving.

### Sloppy Joes

- 2 lbs. lean ground chuck**
- 2 cups celery, chopped**
- 1 cup onion, chopped**
- 1 green pepper, chopped**
- 2 tsp. garlic salt**
- 2 cups ketchup**

- 4 Tbsp. Worcestershire Sauce**
- 2 Tbsp. brown sugar**
- 1/2 cup water**

- 1.** Brown ground chuck; drain.
- 2.** Sauté celery, onion and pepper, until tender.
- 3.** Combine meat, sautéed vegetables and remaining ingredients in large pot; cover and simmer for 30 minutes.
- 4.** Add more water if the mixture is too thick. Serve over hamburger buns.

### Shepherd's Pie

- 2 lbs. ground chuck**
- 1 pkg. brown gravy mix**
- Family-sized can vegetable beef soup**
- 4 cups mashed potatoes**
- 1 cup cheddar cheese, shredded**

- 1.** Preheat oven to 350 F.
- 2.** Brown ground chuck; drain.
- 3.** Prepare gravy according to package instructions; combine meat, soup and gravy in a 9 x 13-inch Pyrex pan.
- 4.** Top with layer of mashed potatoes; cover and bake until internal temperature reaches 140 F.
- 5.** Sprinkle with cheese and serve.

### Banana Nut Cake With Cream Cheese Icing

#### Cake:

- 1 box yellow or banana cake mix**
- 4 eggs**
- 3/4 cup vegetable oil**
- 1 1/2 cups ripe bananas, pureed**
- 1/2 cup nuts, chopped**

#### Icing:

- 1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened**
- 1/4 cup butter, softened**
- 3 1/2 cups powdered sugar**
- 1/2 cups nuts, chopped**
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract**

- 1.** Preheat oven to 350 F
- 2.** Grease and flour 2 8-inch round or 1 9 x 13-inch cake pan.
- 3.** Combine cake ingredients; beat on medium speed for three minutes.
- 4.** Bake for 30 minutes, or until inserted toothpick comes out clean.
- 5.** Prepare icing by combining cream cheese and butter with mixer or by hand.
- 6.** Gradually add powdered sugar.
- 7.** Blend in chopped nuts and vanilla extract. Ice cake.



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