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January 2008

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On the Cover: The Pierce Collection inside the Cook Education Center on the Navarro College Campus provides school children the opportunity to learn about Civil War era artifacts.

Photo by Rod Cordsen.

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Corsicana NOW

Editor's Note

*Dear Corsicana and all of
Navarro County,*

January is a time for new beginnings, and at NOW Magazines we are preparing to bring you a new editor for *CorsicanaNOW*. Corsicana's own, Samantha Stroube, will take the reigns as your new community editor next month, so when you see her out and about, be sure and say a friendly, "Hello!"

I will still be nearby, at *EnnisNOW*, and will look forward to seeing you from the stage at The Warehouse sometime. I will be visiting the Cook Center with my daughter, Jessica, and still bringing my son, Jack, to Dave's Music, one of his favorite destinations. And, my husband, Dirk, reminds me we will continue to stop by our favorite Corsicana restaurants!

Corsicana, you have taken me and our magazine into your heart and home and offices and schools with great hospitality, and I return your affection. Thank you for embracing us and please continue to enjoy every issue of *CorsicanaNOW*.

Kelly Kovar

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In the Company of Women

— By Kelly Kovar

Nancy Roberts is one of the most innovative, talented women you will ever meet. Her easy enthusiasm for life exhibits itself in her passion for music, movies and making memories. Nancy is virtually an icon in Corsicana. Her virtuoso piano playing, often teamed with other noted musicians, delights audiences. From her days working in a Carnegie Library, to her stint as a women's editor, she has never ceased to expand her circle of influence and friendship. It is no wonder she turned out a funny, talented son like KZPS



"I was in a house full of women. All the girls worked, and they were just fun! We had a lot of laughs."

deejay Bo Roberts, who, like his mother, demonstrates a remarkable facility for having fun and for making music accessible to the public through an incredible musical knowledge. Although books and classical music have played a big part in Nancy's life, she is by no means unfamiliar with modern culture. "One of the things people probably don't know about me is, I love *Judge Judy*," Nancy pointed out, laughing without reserve.

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Nancy does not like to cook much. "Just enough to get by," she admitted. However, she does not let that stop her when she gets ready to entertain on Oscar Night. She loves movies of all varieties, and likes to gather friends that evening. "When I entertain, I get a caterer," she explained. "At one Oscar party, we came like our favorite movie character. I dressed up like Ruth Gordon in *Rosemary's Baby*. For my intents and purposes, that was my favorite character that year," Nancy said with a big laugh, "because I didn't want to dress up. I could wear my hair in curlers!"

One of the warm and unique aspects of Nancy's life has been her convivial living arrangements with her female relatives, who are from Chatfield. Over the years, aunts and sisters, mothers and daughters, banded together as comrades against the vagaries of life. "When I was little, Mother and Daddy lived in Fort Worth, and then were in Oklahoma City when he died," Nancy reflected. "My mother, Llorra, was very young; had a young kid." Llorra Mize returned to Corsicana to be with her mother, Eliza Alberta McMullan Huffman, called 'Huppy' by the grandchildren. Llorra's father, Augustus Lofton Huffman, had died when Nancy was quite young. "We lived in an old, pretty, two-story home that



was able to house my grandmother, my mother, Aunt Suzy, Aunt Matt, Aunt Ruth, Aunt Josephine and me. I was in a house full of women. All the girls worked, and they were just fun! We had a lot of laughs.”

After Ruth, Josephine and Matt each got married, Mrs. Huffman, with daughters Suzy and Llorra, and little Nancy, remained together. Eventually, they bought a smaller house from which Nancy could walk to junior high and high school. After a year-and-a-half of studying French and English at North Texas State University, Nancy came home and went to Navarro College. “I was one of the Barracks Bunch,” she recalled. While working at Oil City Iron Works, she met Sam Roberts, the son of one of the owners. “We got married and lived down on Country Club Road. I had two boys, Sam, (nicknamed Sambo, or just Bo) and John.”

Nancy stayed home with the boys while they were young. “I haunted the library from the time I was a little kid; I loved the library. When I got older, I just kept reading, and so I got to know all the librarians. I waited until the boys were about junior high age, and then I went to work at the library.” The old building, in the same location as the current one, was a Carnegie Library. “They tore it down,

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and it made me so mad," Nancy remembered sadly. She took off about a year-and-a-half and went to work for the local paper as a women's editor, then returned to the library.

Nancy had played piano her whole life, but it was during this time that her musical aspirations surfaced. "The kids were in school all day, and Sam was gone all day; I began to write



**"Broadman Press
 accepted two pieces
 of sacred music,
 and asked for more."**

music. I wrote a piece of special music for a women's quartet. ... Our church music director at First Baptist church saw it and told me I should send it to Broadman Press," she said. Before long, Broadman had accepted two pieces of sacred music, and asked for more. "I had quite a number of pieces published."

For years, Nancy was part of a group known as The Fab Five, made up of Nancy, Anne Albritton, John Johnson, Darrell Johnson and Robert Herod. "For Derrick Days, The Fab Five put on musical reviews with local talent. Anne would write the music and play first piano. I played second piano; Darrell Johnson did the choreography; Robert Herod did sets; John Johnson and I would do scripts," Nancy commented. She also wrote the music for the Corsicana Bicentennial Musical.

She and Nancy Sloan have played piano together for years. They are a riot together, once a year doing The Spring Show at the library, with

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What's New at the Blackwell & Irvine CPA Group

A New Face



Meet **Val Boales**, the newest addition to the firm. Val joins the team as the new office manager and brings great organizational skills to the table. A native of Corsicana, Val is married to Kim Boales, who serves as the project manager for an electric company in Dallas. She looks forward to meeting all of our clients and is at the front, ready to help!

A New Name



Richelle Blackwell is now **Richelle Perry!** On October 20, 2007, she married Kacy Perry of Mildred. Richelle continues to work for us, helps run Roy's Cafe and is attending college. We wish her all the luck in the world!

A New Energy

Ryan Douglas, is an accountant you can "count on!" He has been with our firm for 6 years and will graduate from UTA in May 2008. Soon after graduation, he will obtain his CPA license.



Justin Lewis, a CPA candidate, should be sitting for the CPA exam early in 2008. He is a 2005 graduate of Sam Houston State University, and is quickly becoming one of our sought after and asked for tax preparers.



Vicky Croom, tax manager, has worked in the CPA business for 23 years, and has experience in all areas of accounting. She will be more involved in tax work for 2008 and thereafter.



Three Goodbyes

Sandra Palmer and Joanne Formby have both decided to retire. We wish them the best of luck and happiness in their retirement years. We will miss them!

Amy Bruce went to work for the Country Club and we will miss her, too!

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selections ranging from Gershwin to "Carnival of the Animals." They often perform with a group they have dubbed The Four Nans, or sometimes Three Nans and a Fran, depending on who joins in that year.

When Sam died in 1987, followed by their son, John, in 1988, Nancy returned to the Methodist Church, where she was reared. She is now the

"Anne would write the music and play first piano. I played second piano."

pianist at First United Methodist. She continues to compose. "I have written church anthems and traditional church music. I really like the contemporary, new style church music," Nancy said.

After 26 years with the Corsicana Public Library, Nancy knew it was time for a change. "I retired for about four years, and I found that since I wasn't working, people would ask me to be on committees and do so many things." When the high school called saying their library aide had quit, Nancy decided she might have more time off if she went back to work. "About 1990, Mother and Aunt Suzy and I decided to all live together again, and we bought a beautiful house, plenty big, over on West 3rd. We lived there for several years, until mother died and Aunt Suzy and I were left. Aunt Josephine was widowed, and she decided to move in with us." Josephine and Suzy have passed on now, and Nancy has set up housekeeping in the smaller home they lived in when she was in high school, surrounded by her favorite things. Still working at the Corsicana High School library, at age 76, she stays youthful because she enjoys life, people and keeping active. "I'm perfectly happy," she said. Every morning by 4:30, Nancy is up and ready to greet another day with music and laughter. **NDW**

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**At Home With
Clay and Tammy Beard**

Family Heritage — Family Fun

— By Kelly Kovar

Clay and Tammy Beard moved to Corsicana right after they married. “We love Corsicana,” Clay said. “I grew up in Garrison, near Nacogdoches, and our family is all still in East Texas. ... What we like about Corsicana is that it has a small town atmosphere, yet has so many things going on.” Clay and Tammy began dating right after he graduated from high school. “We’ve known each other about all our lives,” he explained.



Clay attended the University of Texas at Austin, and then Baylor Law School. “I didn’t want to practice in a city, and I came to Corsicana because Dawson and Sodd had a real good reputation,” Clay mentioned. Matt Dawson and Glenn Sodd were looking for someone to work for their law firm, and a professor at Baylor recommended Clay



for the position. "I passed the bar in February; [Tammy and I] got married in March; and my first day of work was the first week in April." Clay enjoyed 12 years with the firm,



including eight as a partner. He later started his own law practice, and then in 2005 formed Jacobson, Beard and Edmonson with Terry Jacobson and Ron Edmonson.

While Clay maintains a busy practice as a civil trial attorney, his wife is a popular biology teacher at Blooming Grove High School. "I have been there for 17 years," she said. The couple's two daughters, 13-year-old Shelby and 11-year-old Sarah, go to school in Blooming Grove with Tammy.



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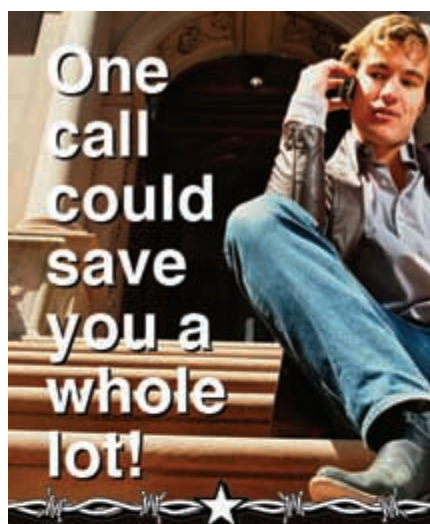
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Proudly speaking of her daughters, Tammy shared, "Shelby is a dancer, so we attend competitions year-round." Shelby's dedication is not limited to dance, however. She is always ready to hit the courts at 7:30 a.m. for another favorite activity. "I like volleyball, too," Shelby explained.

Sarah likes to try out new interests, and is currently a Girl Scout. "She has also done soccer and dance, and is enjoying a new set of golf clubs," her mom said. In fact, the whole family enjoys golf, made convenient by their home's proximity to the Corsicana Country Club. "We really enjoy it out here," Tammy said.



They live on a 10-acre tract in a gracious house built in a Tuscan style, with a heavy emphasis on comfortable family living. "I had always admired this piece of land, ever since we got to Corsicana," Clay expressed. "When I found out it was for sale, I was really excited."

"We snatched it up before many people even knew it was for sale," Tammy said. Bricks from the original home on the site were incorporated into their walkway and shop.

Clay and Tammy said they have



very similar taste, which made the task of building much easier. When it came to furnishings, they complemented the Tuscan style with French accent pieces. A dramatic stone fireplace in the living room rises all the way to the two story high ceiling. A welcoming tone was always a priority in the decorating. "We wanted everyone to feel comfortable about coming in. We didn't want anyone to feel apprehensive about sitting someplace," Tammy explained.

In the living room, buff leather couches are warmed-up with cinnamon-colored pillows. The Renoir reproduction picks up the warm persimmon tone of the adjoining breakfast room's window treatment. "We usually eat in the breakfast room, except on holidays [when] we use the dining room table," Tammy said. The dining room table also comes in handy for puzzles, Shelby pointed out.

Sarah is more likely found in the kitchen. "I like to cook," Sarah said. Cookies are one of her favorite things to prepare. "She and my mother get in the kitchen every chance they get," Tammy added. The kitchen's granite counters, a warm brown and coral blend, and the stone backsplash give the kitchen an Old World feel. The pie safe belonged to Tammy's grandmother. "I grew up with that in my home; that was what I got my cereal out of." Adding yet another layer of family heritage are the handwoven baskets hanging from

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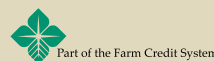
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the pot rack. "My great-grandfather was a cotton picker and my great-grandmother was a midwife," Tammy said. "He made egg baskets and sold them to the store in Jonesville where they lived. I have one to pass down to each of my daughters." Clay's grandmother is the source of another cherished family heirloom, a framed piece of textile art depicting a colorful fruit basket, made with appliqué, embroidery and jewel work.

Clay and Tammy both have favorite rooms in their home, with Tammy's being the master bedroom. The Country French canopy bed was a wedding gift to Tammy from Clay's father. A bay-window nook with dark leather straight chairs and an elegant table adds a formal counterpoint to the room.

Clay enjoys his study, which displays several hunting trophies. "I love to bow hunt. ... I got that moose in Wyoming and the stone sheep in the Yukon. I just love this room. This just feels like my place." Clay has another special place which the whole family enjoys. His "shop room," complete with pool table, card



table and full kitchen, is decorated in his treasured Coca-cola memorabilia and an antique wood-burning stove. The adjoining shop has room for Clay's vintage Broncos. "I use them for hunting. They are easy to work on, and tough as a boot," he said proudly.

Shelby and Sarah can entertain as well. Sarah's room, colorful as a spring butterfly, is ready for sleepovers with a green-and-pink-dotted window seat that can make up into a twin-sized bed. Sarah considers her dressing table,



which Tammy painted purple with a green and pink confetti design, the "best Christmas present ever."

Shelby loves hot-pink and black. "I like anything French," she said. "We found this French model motif on a hatbox, a picture, the shower curtain and the nightstand."

"The girls are really close," Clay said. They share an upstairs play room, a fun destination for visiting girlfriends. "The walls are lime green. I picked that out. It is a little wild — a little radical," Clay laughed. A cherished painting of the girls, done by one of



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Tammy's former students, has a place of honor.

The outdoor kitchen, with its cedar columns and flagstone floor, next to the illuminated pool, is great for family fun as well as entertaining. "We have a lot of church activities for Cornerstone Baptist," Clay said. "We really like to entertain; we probably do three or four big things a year. We are excited

about hosting a wine and cheese reception for the American Cancer Society Board this month. It really gets a lot of support, and raises a lot of money for the American Cancer Society. It is just an honor to be asked to host." The Beards' warm and livable home is made even more special because they enjoy opening their doors to share it with friends and family. **NOW**

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All Natural

— By Samantha Stroube

Driving down Highway 22 into the center of Barry, Texas, and turning left onto the farm to market road that leads straight to the JuHa Ranch was an unbelievably peaceful ride. The open farm land meticulously kept with perfect crop rows and immaculate farm machinery added to the serenity of it all.

Gazing across an open field, the bright yellow “C” from the new Corsicana High School Tiger Stadium appeared over the horizon. Lost in peaceful thoughts induced by the natural surroundings, the sign to the JuHa Ranch almost seemed to appear out of nowhere. It read “cattle, goats, alfalfa, eggs and chickens,” to name just a few things the Butauds offer.

Entering the JuHa ranch, a name that originated from the first two letters of the owners’ first names, Judi and Harry Butaud, numerous animals gathered to greet any unknown visitors. Connie the raccoon immediately climbed back into her home made of an old tire and at least 10 black-and-white cow

dogs came around to see what all the commotion was about.

Harry, the patriarch of the family, is primarily in charge of raising and training the cow dogs, staying extremely busy wrangling them for their evening training sessions and dinner. “We moved here about seven years ago from Lake Charles, Louisiana,” Harry explained.

came over to look at it and we loved it. When we arrived there was nothing here.” It is nearly impossible to tell that just seven years ago, the 850 acres sweeping into the sunset, with the beautiful barns, an adorable farm house and precisely planned pastures for the various animals, was barren.

The couple soon realized that their



Harry and Judi used to work in the oil business before they decided to retire and start the farming life. “We don’t get much rest though,” Judi interjected. “We heard about this property from some friends in the oil business, so we

peaceful life of retirement was over. With Heath, Harry’s son and Judi’s stepson, working full time at the Corsicana Fire Department as a fireman and a paramedic; Judi working full-time at Navarro College in the business

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office; plus the full-time care of the animals, the three of them definitely have their hands full. "We are usually up when the sun comes up, and Harry and I are typically in bed before 9:30 in the evening," Judi said. "Farming is rewarding, but the animals need us around the clock."

Harry, Judi and Heath manage the



farm completely on their own, with the occasional additional help from a young high school boy on the weekends. While Harry was off busily wrangling up his cow dogs, Judi and Heath explained the entire process of the ranch. "I don't like chemicals used around the animals or in my food," Heath stated, offering an explanation for the all-natural grazing and raising processes. This family is truly amazing; they work as a team and are involved in every aspect of the farm, which enables it to run like a well-oiled machine.

Heath is the driving force behind the maintenance of the chickens. "We get the chicks in at about a day of age, and then they are able to grow and live to be about eight weeks of age," he explained. Heath also does the research and contacts suppliers about feed and materials. "He created his own specialized feed for the chickens through independent research," Judi explained, with pride in her voice. "He managed to create the perfect combination of various vitamins and minerals throughout the grain for the chicks." Heath is also in charge of the labor force needed around the farm, in addition to acting as the public relations contact with potential

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"I am the egg sorter," Judi jokingly said, as she expertly handled each egg, carefully placing them in the Styrofoam containers strewn out across their pool table. Judi is also considered the "road manager," picking up various supplies whenever needed, as well as an array of feed needed for all of the animals. She also maintains the books for the farm's



various enterprises, and somehow manages to keep her full-time position at the college.

In addition to the training, raising and selling of his cow dogs, Harry helps with the field work and acts as advisor on facilities and animal management. There is no produce grown on the farm because the Butauds focus their time and energy on the animals. The selection of meats is geared around cattle, poultry, goats, pigs and rabbits. "The chickens and eggs definitely have to be our top sellers," Judi stated, "but we do, however, sell almost as many rabbits." They have also cleverly created a pork and goat sausage combination, known as "porgo" sausage.

Heath and Judi expounded on the specifics of daily life and farm management. Heath, as mentioned, is in charge of managing all aspects of the chickens. He keeps the chickens in old wagons that have been converted into coops in order to more easily relocate them around the pastures from fresh spot to fresh spot. The cattle are constantly rotated from one pasture to the next, in order to keep the grass supply even for the upcoming seasons.

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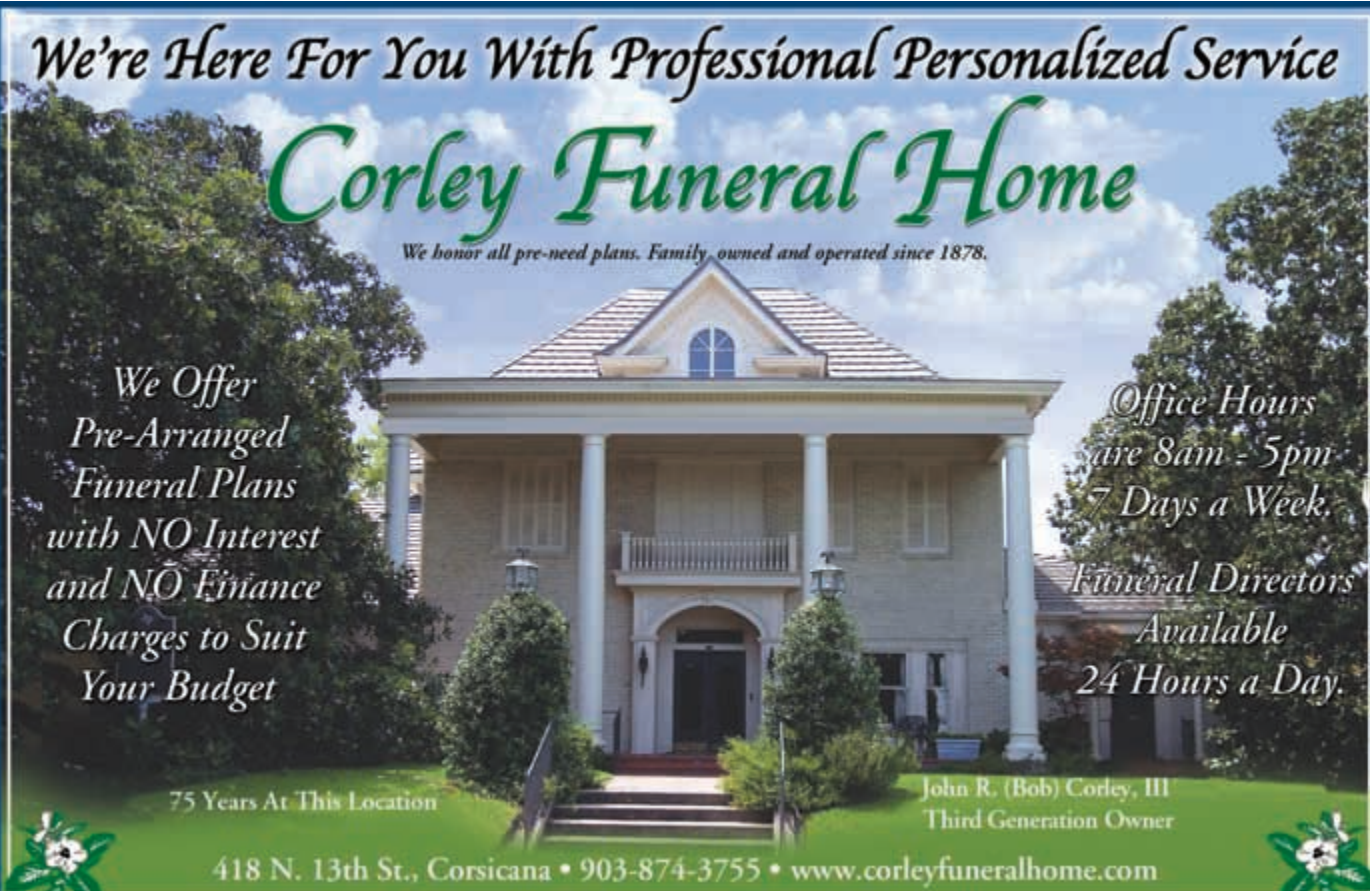
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The JuHa Ranch is obviously a very self-sufficient establishment, full of life and family ties. It just goes to show that when you work together as a team, a family unit, you can get almost anything accomplished. Next time you are headed out the Barry direction, swing by the JuHa Ranch. The Butauds and their farming techniques are fascinating. **NOW**

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Practice Makes Perfect

— By Sandra McIntosh

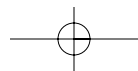
For musician Matt Siwinski, practice has made perfect when it comes to playing the guitar. What started with sheet music at age 12 has evolved into live performances at venues both near and far. “I remember a friend came over with tablature, which is the proper word for guitar sheet music,” Matt said. “He taught me how to read the music.” Matt further explained that the music is a series of six lines and

numbers that matches the six strings and frets found on acoustic, as well as electric, guitars. “It was easy for me to learn,” Matt added. “With practice, it just got easier.”

Matt was lucky. Instead of pleading for his parents, James and Candi Siwinski, to buy him a new guitar, Matt was able to hone his newly learned skills on a 20-year-old Yamaha belonging to his dad. “It was just an

old acoustic guitar that was stored away in a closet,” Matt said. “It quickly became my learning tool.”

When Christmas rolled around four months later, Matt received his first electric guitar, an Austin from Dave’s Music, located in downtown Corsicana. All guitars are not the same, as Matt quickly found out. “They can be played in different styles,” he explained. “Acoustic styles can include country,



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up with a style representing not only who he is as a performer, but also who he is as a young man. "I try to stay true to the traditional country music," he added, "while others out there today bring a pop flair to their music."

Learning to read tablature and finding his own style are not where Matt wants his journey in the music world to begin and end. His goals are much loftier than that. "My dream and life goal is to be a professional. I want to one day



be able to perform my own songs," he said. "I want to travel around the country in my own bus and have people know my songs. I want to put on great shows where fans get the most for their money." Matt knows most artists who have become household names did not start at the top. "They had to begin small," he pointed out, "and work their way up the charts."

Matt took his place on stage for the first time at the Italy Opry, where he met Elias Lowe, a fellow performer who has been a positive influence on him. Since then, Matt's popularity has grown to include performances at the Ennis Opry, as well as the Corsicana Opry, held the first Saturday of each month at Martin's Music Hall. Playing with the house band at Martin's also includes singing a few songs the crowd will easily recognize. "I thought my family liked my singing because they were family," he said, smiling. "Audience recognition and participation is key to me having a good time."

His newest venue is Two Doors

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Down, a local coffee shop located on Sixth Street, just two doors down from the Palace Theater. Due to a full class load at Navarro College, Matt generally only performs on Saturday nights, but he would not mind taking the stage at



**“I try to stay true
to the traditional
country music while
others out there
today bring a pop
flair to their music.”**

the annual Derrick Days event one day. “Writing, singing and performing takes a lot of work,” Matt asserted, “but I love it so much that I find it’s painless work.”

Inspiration for new material comes to Matt several different ways. The two he duly noted are TV shows and real life observations. As soon as ideas come to mind, he writes them down. When adding music and melody, Matt has found no two have been composed the same way. “Writing a song is easy,” he said. “Writing a good song is a bit more difficult.” Pursuing his dream is on the top of Matt’s list of things to accomplish. “Having a dream gives me something to aspire to,” he explained. “It gives me a reason to get up in the morning. You have to see yourself living in the dream before it can become a reality. I see myself there!” **ARTS NOW**

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One Big Happy Family

— By Samantha Stroube



Mildred Lady Eagles proudly stand behind their coach.

The girls ran around, warming up for practice, while Coach Charlie Nichols managed to solve a minor crisis — the team jersey belonging to one of his girls melted in the dryer. Once the mini-crisis was handled, Charlie humbly portrayed his pride in Mildred's Lady Eagles basketball team.

Charlie has coached his present varsity team made up of junior and senior girls since they were in junior high. His daughter, Rebekah, graduated from Mildred High School (MHS) last year, so he has been involved in these girls' lives at one point in time or another for many years — be it on

the court, or during the times they raided his refrigerator while over at his house hanging out with his daughter. Even though his youngest daughter has now left the nest, all the girls are still very closely connected to their coach.

Every few minutes, the door to his office flew open. "Pops, have you seen our shoes?" "Pops, what drills should we run first?" Charlie explained, "As they ran around [my] house as little girls, they all called me 'Pops,' and it just sort of stuck."

Charlie began coaching about six years ago. His career started after he graduated from Texas Tech's physical therapy

"[Sports] teaches discipline, responsibility and the ability to work on a team."

Sports NOW



Mildred Lady Eagles learn discipline and teamwork and enjoy close friendships with one another.

“I really enjoy working with the girls; We are like a big family.”

(PT) program. His PT work began at Navarro Regional Hospital, in addition to doing some sports medicine work for Navarro College and Corsicana High School on the side. “Coach Orr at Navarro is the one who really got me into coaching and the kids,” he said. “I really enjoy the interaction with the kids so much more.” He wants to be a good role model for the students. “Coach Orr is like a mentor to me. I’m glad I took his advice on becoming a coach,” Charlie stated. “In fact, I am surrounded by great basketball coaches; the Mildred superintendent is a former coach, along with the high

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school principal here." Charlie also added with a smile, "It is great to have all the free advice, but I am also always watching over my shoulder, so I don't make mistakes."

In 2001, after making the decision to leave his career as a physical therapist



"It is great to have all the free advice, but I am also always watching over my shoulder, so I don't make mistakes."

to go into coaching full time, Charlie found himself teaching and coaching at MHS. "I began as an assistant football and baseball coach. Then I moved into being the junior varsity girls' basketball coach," he said. "I really enjoy working with the girls; we are like a big family."

Charlie views sports as a synonym for life. "I think it teaches discipline, responsibility and the ability to work

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on a team. I really want the team to enjoy the game and have fun," he stated. He does work the girls hard, but he does not over exert them. "It makes game time easier when they are more physically fit," he said. "They won't tire out as much."

The basketball team's record for the 2006 - 2007 season was 16-14. "The girls worked so hard, but they ended up losing the playoff game which would have given them third place in

"I just want them to have fun and create the memories they will have forever."

the district," Charlie explained. "We lost a lot of senior girls last year, but I think we have a good, solid team nucleus back. We will gain a lot from junior varsity next year, even though we'll also be losing five really good seniors this year."

Charlie went on to detail the record of the girls' basketball team. "The girls did enjoy a playoff run three years ago, [in] which they ended up winning the district playoff against Palmer High School," he said. During the 1999 - 2000 season, they were district champions. Then in 2002, Mildred was moved into the 2A University Interscholastic League (UIL) ranking, which ultimately terminated their championship run. Charlie and the girls plan on changing that fact in the very near future. "It's their team; I just make all the major decisions," he stated. "I just want them to have fun and create the memories they will have forever." **NOW**



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Business NOW

The Future Realist

— By Dia Catalani

Gary Hayden is a people person. A family man first and a business man second, he has a keen sense of knowledge that can help you be successful in the responsibilities tied to rearing a family or running a business — and in many cases, both. As the president of Hayden Financial Partners, Gary can help you design a path to your future that also protects your personal, family or corporate security. “One of the first things I do when I visit with someone is ask what their goals are. I make sure that their financial decisions are aligned with their goals and objectives and within their time frame. And, of particular importance is their risk tolerance,” Gary said. “I ask a lot of different questions in a lot of different ways, particularly in the retirement area, to determine a game plan that works in that client’s best interest. There’s not a cookie-cutter approach that works for everyone.”

Insurance is an important issue for families. The American Medical Association estimates that one out of every seven Americans is uninsured. It is wise to protect your family and business from encountering catastrophic

financial hardships that often follow a serious illness or accident. Hayden Financial Partners represents numerous reputable firms that offer affordable coverage plans. “Many times, people are pleasantly surprised at their various options. Yes, it’s true that no one ‘likes’ paying the premium, but they know they’re not willing to run the risk of not having any coverage at all,” Gary said. “Not having coverage can devastate a family or a business.”

Insurance coverage and costs are also important for new entrepreneurs. Hayden Financial Partners can play an active role in making smart business-planning decisions, particularly when it comes to employer-provided benefits. Angie Andrews is Hayden Financial Partners’ employee benefits specialist. She can

build an effective benefits package based on consultations with your attorney and accountant. “To get the best overall value in price and on benefits, professional guidance is needed to help sort through the maze of information. Fifteen or 20 years ago, people put off making financial decisions because of a lack of information. Here we are in 2008 and people are still making — or not making — decisions, but it’s because of information overload. People still feel confused,” Gary said. “We help, in good laymen’s terms, sort through the language and come up with a practical solution.”

“Any strategy has to make sense in a financial perspective, but also be in their best interest in a legal and tax perspective,” Gary added. “Many times, I will consult with their attorney or tax



Gary Hayden,
Angie Andrews (left)
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Business NOW



“Not having coverage can devastate a family or a business.”

professional to make sure that what we are suggesting or proposing makes sense from all sides. It's a system of checks and balances to ensure all three disciplines are satisfied.”

Gary is a 1969 graduate of Louisiana State University. He and his wife, Cynthia Hayden, reside in Corsicana. The couple has five sons: Tom Eskind and Kyle, Ken, Keith and Cole Hayden. Gary is a registered representative of, and offers security, investment advisory and financial planning services through, MML Investors Services, Inc., located at 777 Main Street, Suite 2260 in Fort Worth, Texas, 76102. Their telephone number is (817) 334-2304. Hayden Financial Partners is not an affiliate or subsidiary of MML Investor Services, Inc.

Hayden Financial Partners has offices in Corsicana and Ennis. To set up an appointment with Gary in his Corsicana office at 114 West 5th Avenue, call Angie or Janet Morgan at (903) 874-3417. To see Gary in his Ennis office at 900 West Ennis Avenue, call Phyllis Hammond at (972) 875-3652. **NOW**

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Education **NOW**

Moonlight & Magnolias

— By Kelly Kovar

School children come every year and benefit from the opportunity to see history close-up at the Pierce Collection's Civil War and Western Art Museum. "In the spring, we sometimes have as many as 200 children in one day," Betty Lambert, volunteer coordinator, said. "We make it a learning situation for students, as well as something fun. We give school kids a background of the Civil War, with an in-depth tour." The Pierce Collection is located inside The Cook

Education Center on the Navarro College Campus in Corsicana. Betty was born in Corsicana and, though she has spent part of her life in both Houston and Dallas, when it came time to retire after 32 years with the telephone company, she headed straight for home. Retirement for Betty did not mean inactivity. Since her teenage years as a volunteer usher at Houston's concert venue, Jones Hall, she has sought out community involvement. "I got to see some of the most wonderful ballet and dance and music," Betty reminisced. "I had such a positive experience in my first volunteer job that volunteering just got in my blood." In December 2002, she began volunteering at the Pierce Collection twice a week. "It was just something that I enjoyed doing so much. In April 2006, I started working as volunteer coordinator. It has been just a joy."

"I like to give my in-depth tour," Betty explained. "We get students from Navarro who are doing a project and they will come through and want to see something specific." College



"We make it a learning situation for students, as well as something fun."

writing, English, and art appreciation classes visit for class projects. "In the summer, we have a lot of families. During the fall months, we have a lot of RVers and a lot of senior citizen groups. We enjoy them, especially when they haven't been here before. We can really knock their socks off. I'm really proud of both museums. The art museum is world class art. Mr. Pierce, the main benefactor, has such an eye for art."

The collection began when Mrs. Pierce became fascinated by Union hero Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain. "He was a Union hero of the battle of Gettysburg, governor of Maine, president of a university, a professor and a Medal of Honor winner. As a gift for his wife, Mr. Pierce purchased a love letter written by Chamberlain to his wife Fanny; he wrote her during the Battle of Antietam," Betty explained. The Pierces realized they did not just have a letter, they had a piece of history, and it inspired them to begin collecting Civil War memorabilia. The collection has grown to more than 15,000 letters, documents, journals, diaries, photographs and artifacts from the Civil War.

Education NOW



Docents are encouraged to do their own research and create their own tour. When Betty first became a volunteer, she already loved history. She began doing lots of reading about the Civil War. "The more I read, and watched on the History Channel, and talked to people in re-enactment groups, the more I thought it was fascinating. It really became a consuming interest." Regular tours are available Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, noon – 4:00 p.m. "We have several evening events, such as the Moonlight and Magnolias Ball, and I do the tours myself for those."

Betty helps organize the Moonlight in Magnolias Ball, which takes place January 19 at the Cook Center, in conjunction with the J.L. Halbert Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Order of the Confederate Rose. The event recreates the antebellum South. Families come in period dress and enjoy a dinner, tours of the museum and a silent auction. "I really enjoy the ball," Betty said. "It is something you don't do every day! All those handsome young men in their uniforms, young girls would just swoon." Period music

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is provided by the band Time Was which performs on traditional hammer dulcimers, mountain dulcimers and fiddles. Candles, greenery, magnolias and flags decorate the tables and atrium. "It is family entertainment. Kids come and have their own little costumes and they are learning these dances. They look really cute."



Adults and children come in period costumes to the Moonlight and Magnolias Ball.

As the band strikes up, the ball begins with the Grand Promenade. The evening is colorful as ladies in their period dresses, dance cards in hand, join in the Virginia Reel. "One of the ladies' ball gowns is a replica of Scarlett O'Hara's white gown with white lace, scalloped over skirt and red roses. One lady had a gown like the Scarlett O'Hara gown made from the green velvet curtains." In fact, *Gone With the Wind*, is the source for the phrase "Moonlight and Magnolias," from a famous Rhett Butler line.

Whether attending an event like the Moonlight in Magnolias Ball; a lecture, such as the one coming up in April by renowned historian James McPherson; or enjoying a tour at the museum; the Pierce Collection affords students and adults the chance to feel as though they are actually living history. "It truly is a lot of fun," Betty said. "What I am really hoping for is that people will see something that they haven't seen before and may never see again." **NOW**



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IN THE KITCHEN WITH SHIRLEY BARNES

Shirley Barnes has been married for 53 years, and she has just as many years of cooking experience. She loves to cook for her family. "I'm a taster, so I may change things around to suit me," she said. "Baking is my favorite; the cakes and cookies are great fun."

While Shirley cannot remember being taught, she does remember just "doing it." A wife, mother of two children, grandmother of four and great-grandmother of one, with another on the way, Shirley most enjoys taking care of her family. She plans and cooks one large meal a day with emphasis on the "taste." "Holidays are the hit around here, and we just have the best time. Everyone always asks for my banana pudding; it's their favorite," she said. **NOW**

CREAMY BANANA PUDDING

- 1 14-oz. can Eagle Brand milk
- 1 1/2 cups cold water
- 1 3.4-oz. box instant vanilla pudding
- 2 cups whip cream or Cool Whip
- 1 box vanilla wafers
- 2 - 3 bananas, sliced

Combine Eagle Brand milk and cold water. Add pudding mix and beat well. Chill 5 minutes. Fold in whip cream or Cool Whip. Spoon 1 cup pudding into a bowl. Top with one layer vanilla wafers followed by a layer of sliced bananas. Repeat until all pudding mix is used with the final layer being pudding. Chill thoroughly.

CANDY BAR PIE

- 2 6-oz. Symphony bars
- 3 Tbsp. margarine

- 2 8-oz. containers Cool Whip
- Pre-made graham cracker crust

Melt Symphony bars with margarine and cool slightly. Add 8-oz. container Cool Whip. Mix well and pour into graham cracker crust. Cool completely. Serve topped with additional Cool Whip.

CORN CASSEROLE

- 1 14.5-oz. can cream style corn
- 1 cup frozen whole kernel corn
- 1/2 cup corn meal
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 2 large eggs
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste
- garlic powder, to taste
- 4 - 5 slices canned jalapeño peppers, or to taste
- 1 cup grated cheddar cheese

In a large bowl, mix together all ingredients in order listed; pour into greased casserole dish. Bake at 350 F for 45 minutes. Serve hot.

MEXICAN CASSEROLE

- 2 12.5-oz. cans chopped chicken breast, drained
- 2 10 3/4-oz. cans cream of chicken soup
- 1 10-oz. can Ro-Tel tomatoes
- 1 4-oz. can green chilies
- 1 1.25-oz. pkg. taco seasoning mix
- 1 13-oz. bag original flavored Doritos
- 1 cup sliced Velveeta cheese, or enough to cover top of casserole

In large bowl mix together first six ingredients in order listed. Pour into casserole dish; top with Velveeta cheese. Cover with aluminum foil. Bake at 375 F for 30 minutes. Serves 4 - 6 people.

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Who's Cooking **NOW**

FAVORITE CAKE

- 1 18.5-oz. pkg. yellow cake mix
- 1 15-oz. can crushed pineapple with juice
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 3.4-oz. pkg. instant vanilla pudding
- 3 bananas, sliced
- 1 8-oz. container Cool Whip
- 1 cup coconut
- 3/4 - 1 cup chopped pecans, toasted if preferable
- 2/3 cup chopped maraschino cherries, optional

Mix yellow cake mix according to package directions. Pour into greased and floured 13 x 9 x 2-inch baking pan. Bake in preheated 350 F oven for 30 - 35 minutes. In medium saucepan, combine crushed pineapple and sugar. Heat for five minutes on low. Pour mixture over hot cake. Cool cake completely. Mix vanilla pudding according to directions on the package. Spread over cooled cake. Layer sliced bananas over pudding topping, then spread with Cool Whip and sprinkle cake with coconut, pecans and chopped cherries. Keep refrigerated.



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Dr. Confer is a member of the medical staff at Navarro Regional Hospital.

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Around Town NOW



Shown from left, top to bottom: Firemen from station number one posed for a group shot. Ashlynd and Addison Ray had fun riding a pony. The Bailey Family Quartet entertained with a medley of gospel songs. The Navarro County Llama Show team made an appearance at the Corsicana Christmas Parade. One of several floats included the Red Hat Ladies. Jayci Hightower, top center, enjoyed lunch at Motyckas Tea House. Brooke Adams, top right, sang several popular hit songs at the 2nd annual downtown R.O.S.E. Association Christmas Market. Volunteers from Taylor's Memorial C.O.G.I.C. Total Man Ministry hosted a food booth at the Christmas Market. Kayla Parker and Kasey Harrison, middle left, won Girls 14 and under doubles in the 2nd annual Dr. Robert D. Mertz Lions Club Tennis Tournament. Trent Parker, middle right, is one of Corsicana's Mounted Police. Landon Schroeder and Kaitlin Benton, bottom right, posed among the festive holiday decorations.

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Dining Guide

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'08 Resolution — Save a Tree!

— By Nancy Fenton

Are you planning some remodeling or new construction for your home this year? Let us consider how to do it while protecting those big trees you love. If you are thinking about expanding your home or your driveway this year, consider looking at it from the tree's point of view. Our gracious, old trees have had a lifetime to put out those roots past the edges of their drip line using them to absorb water and

14 essential nutrients. When we pave or add soil, it really fouls up the absorption. Protect the tree from those big machines by creating a barrier with that ugly, but effective, orange fence as far out from the trunk as you can. A four- to six-inch layer of mulch over the area will protect it from the compacting of large machinery that knocks down your fence. Avoid the fill dirt around the tree as much as possible since it will slowly strangle the tree over a period of several years. Those pavers with holes in them offer some help in getting the moisture and air down to the roots if you must cover part of the area.

If you are putting in irrigation or underground lines, tunnel two to four feet below the surface rather than trenching. It will avoid most of the feeding roots. Root pruning is a last-gap measure, but necessary if you want a

level surface area. It will promote a rush of new growth and reduce the chance of root rot.

The tree canopy of the earth is quickly diminishing. We can see it as we drive down the highway and notice the dozers knocking down second growth trees in preparation for yet another shopping mall or housing addition. When the rains have no place to be absorbed, they tend to run into our homes, etc. Not a pretty thought! Less noticeable is the oxygen that those destroyed trees were producing and the CO₂ they were taking out of the atmosphere. Let us all do our share by planting trees, taking care of the ones we have, and encouraging the builders to think before bulldozing building sites with trees. **NOW**

Nancy Fenton is a Master Gardener in Ellis County.

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Finance **NOW**

Give Your Grandchildren the Gift of Life

— By Lynda Housley

When you are trying to choose just the right gift for your grandchildren, you can have a tough time sifting through the newest trends and fads. Last week it was this pop star, next week it may be a new cartoon character. On top of that, you do not want to get something that will not last 10 minutes out of the package.

One gift that will last for many years is a life insurance policy. There are many reasons why it can be an excellent gift for your grandchild.

- **Affordability.**

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Illness or injury may affect a child's ability to purchase life insurance coverage later in life. Coverage purchased now will continue to provide protection, even if a child's health changes, provided premiums are paid as required by the policy.



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Life insurance can be the foundation for a strong financial plan. The child may be able to borrow against the accumulated cash value (with interest charged) to pay for future expenses. While loans decrease death benefits and cash surrender values, the proceeds can be used for important expenses such as a college education or the purchase of a home.

Giving a gift of life insurance to your grandchild can be one of the most significant things you do during your lifetime. He or she may not understand at the time how important the gift is, but should grow to appreciate it in the future. **NOW**

Lynda Housley is a State Farm agent based in Corsicana.

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Health
NOW

Heart Health for Women:

The Cold "Heart" Facts

Heart Disease is the number one killer of American women. One out of three women dies of heart disease. I hope that I now have your attention. We are women, the fairer sex. Men are the ones who die of heart attacks, are they not? Sorry ladies! And for those of us who were told that it is unfashionable to sweat, sweat should now be your goal! Teach this mantra to your children (especially your daughters) so that we may delay/prevent cardiovascular fatalities and disabilities.

Let us learn some common facts of heart disease, and let us begin by addressing this problem at its beginning: young women and pre-adolescent girls. Physical activity drops dramatically as girls become teenagers, and about 14 - 15 percent

of girls, teenagers and young women are physically inactive. Of girls ages 6 - 19, almost 15 percent are overweight. Did you know 30 percent of girls in grades nine — 12 reported using tobacco products in 2001 and that 80 percent of current smokers began before the age of 18? Parents, it is time to have a talk with your girls.



Okay, so you are no longer a girl. You have reached middle age. Welcome to life at/after menopause. This is a huge

milestone! It is also where your heart disease risk starts to rise significantly. Read carefully. Approximately 88,000 women ages 45 - 64 have a heart attack each year. About half the women who

have a heart attack before age 65 die within eight years. Heart disease incidence rates are two — three times higher for postmenopausal women than for those who have not yet begun or are undergoing menopause.

Here are some statistics about older women and those who have already had a heart attack. About 372,000 women aged 65 and older will have a heart attack each year. Most have their first at about 70. About 35 percent who have a heart attack will have another in six years. Women are more likely to die than men within weeks of a heart attack and about half of those who live will be disabled with heart failure.

Take Home Lesson:

You cannot change your genetics or your age, but you can exercise at least 30 minutes three times a week (please consult your physician first). You can

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Health NOW

watch your diet. You can get your cholesterol checked and take active measures to lower it, i.e. the first two measures written above. If you do not smoke, do not start, and if you do — stop. You can get your blood pressure measured and take active steps to lower it, i.e. the first two measures written above. (Getting the picture?) If you are overweight or obese, and 62 percent of women fall into one of those categories, see the first two recommendations! Last, but never least, if you are a diabetic, controlling your blood sugars is of paramount importance. Taking an active role in this with diet and exercise can help reduce blood sugars, and in those who are genetically predisposed, these measures may prevent or delay onset. **NOW**

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January 2007

Community Calendar

Second Thursdays

Corsicana Education Foundation board meetings at the CISD Administration Building board room, 4:30 p.m. Call (903) 654-2838 to confirm date and time.

Fourth Thursdays

Corsicana Chamber of Commerce meetings at the Corsicana Chamber of Commerce, 11 a.m. Call (903) 874-4731 to confirm date and time.

Second and Fourth Tuesdays

Corsicana City Council Meetings, 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall board room.

January 1

Corsicana Chapter No. 118, Order of the Eastern Star, will hold a stated meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Corsicana Masonic Lodge. A potluck supper will be served at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call Bonnie Mathison at (903) 874-0226.

January 3

Gift certificates purchased from Warehouse Box Office for *Always*, *Patsy Cline* can be redeemed for printed tickets (as available) beginning today. The play will be Friday, February 1, and Saturday, February 2, at 7:30 p.m. at the Palace Theater in Corsicana. Tickets will be \$30 for orchestra, \$20 for lower balcony and \$15 for upper balcony. Call the box office at (903) 872-5421 for more information.

January 7

Corsicana Masonic Lodge will hold a stated meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Corsicana Masonic Lodge. A meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. All masons invited.

January 8

Vietnam Veterans of America will host a meeting at 6:00 p.m. at Sirloin Stockade, 2508 W. Seventh Ave. Vietnam Veterans of America represents former soldiers

of that war, and provides support and information from around the country. The first hour will be dedicated to dining, followed by the meeting beginning around 7:00 p.m. Annual membership fee is \$20, and veterans will need a DD form 214 to be eligible. Veterans are responsible for their own meals. Wives and significant others are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Roger Carson at (979) 209-4676 or go to www.vva.org.

Blooming Grove Masonic Lodge will hold a stated meeting at 7:30 p.m. A meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. All masons invited.

January 10

Dawson Masonic Lodge will hold a stated meeting at 7:30 p.m. A meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. All masons invited.

January 12

The 60th Annual Kerens Area Chamber of Commerce banquet, 7:00 p.m. at the Kerens Alumni Center in downtown. Emceed by Bob Belcher with keynote speaker and Fox 4 News anchor Jeff Criley. Tickets and tables may be purchased (\$20/piece) by calling (903) 396-2391 or e-mailing kerenschamber@txun.net.

January 15

Kerens Masonic Lodge will hold a stated meeting at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served. All masons invited.

January 17

Leadership Corsicana Navarro County. Education Day - CISD and Navarro College. CISD will be partnering with Corsicana Chamber of Commerce at the CISD Administration Building with the Leadership Corsicana group.

January 21

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. CISD schools are closed.

January 22

IMPACT Corsicana Meeting, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. at the Corsicana Housing Authority's Community Room at 1360 N. 13th Street. Call (903) 875-8727 for more information.

January 28

Corsicana Education Foundation will be hosting its annual fundraising telethon at the Navarro College Cook Center. This is the major fundraising event for the Foundation in order to offer all CISD teachers innovative grant funds and a marvelous banquet for the top 10 percent graduating seniors at the end of each year. For more information or to offer your donations to the Foundation, call (903) 654-2838 or e-mail samantha@corsicanaeducationfoundation.com.

Barry Masonic Lodge will hold a stated meeting at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served. All masons invited.

January 31

The VOICE 3rd Annual Men's "Lunch-ON!" will be held at First United Methodist Church at noon. This year's guest speaker, Sheriff J.B. Smith, will share hilarious stories of his career in law enforcement. A Pre-Party on January 30 will be hosted by Board Member Eric Meyers Jr. to welcome Sheriff Smith to town. Tables are now on sale at VOICE Inc. Reservations required. Call (903) 872-0180 or e-mail gdieterichs@voiceinc.org.

To have your events posted on the community calendar, send your e-mail to samantha@nowmagazines.net.



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