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#### On The Cover



Rusty and Melissa sport "expectant" and thankful smiles.

Photo by Kevin Painter.

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Subscriptions are available at the rate of \$35 per year or \$3.50 per issue. Subscriptions should be sent to: NOW Magazines, P.O. Box 1071, Waxahachie, TX 75168. For advertising rates or editorial correspondence, call (903) 875-0187 or visit www.nowmagazines.com.



#### Editor's Note

Happy Thanksgiving, Corsicana!

There is so much for which to be thankful during this season of reflection. My family is healthy, and we have enjoyed great times together this past year. My work is wonderful and rewarding. It's a joy to continue teaching at Navarro College, and I have the privilege of meeting so many people in this county who are doing the wonderful things upon which CorsicanaNOW Magazine presents stories.

NOW Magazines had its beginnings in Corsicana in 2004, but the publishing group has grown to include magazines in the following markets: Corsicana, Burleson, Ennis, Mansfield, Midlothian, Red Oak, Waxahachie, Weatherford, Southwest (which includes Cedar Hill, DeSoto and Duncanville), and last month our 10th magazine, GranburyNOW was born. We distribute over 240,000 magazines each month, have a readership of over 600,000 across the 10 markets and reach countless more readers through our Web site.

Thank you, Corsicana!

#### Virginia

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

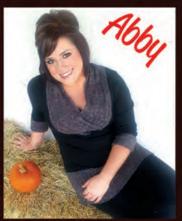






























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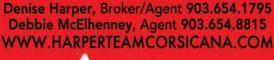
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# A MAJUSTA OF SCIENTING

— By Randy Bigham

A one-time tennis star still lights up local courts and the lives of those who witness his provess and personality. Cecil Easley, 44, has the same passion he had for the sport when he was in his 20s and won state and national championships. He has all the skills, energy and dedication that originally propelled him into the game he loves. The only thing different is Cecil plays from a wheelchair now. An accident four years ago paralyzed his legs but not his heart or his will. "When I'm out there on the court, I'm happy," he said. "I don't let my physical challenges affect my focus on the game or on my desire to do anything."

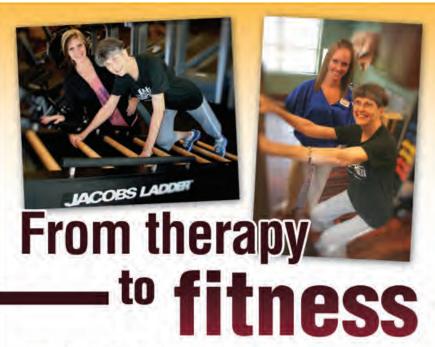
Cecil, the new tennis director at Mertz Tennis Center, inspires the adults and children he coaches with his abilities and his attitude. "My experience has shown me that we're here for a short time, so we need to share our lives with others," he pointed out. "Whether it's through sports, church, whatever, it's important that we give our all."

Cecil has been doing that his whole life, although his injury in 2008 spurred him on to realize a greater purpose. Reared in Corsicana by a Christian grandmother who also introduced him to the sport that would further define his character, the young man's sound upbringing would serve him well as he excelled in tennis, in business and as a father. "My grandmother, Mary

Easley, was a big motivator in my life," he said. "She taught me so much." Even when his job as operations manager for a major farm equipment company relocated him to Corpus Christi, he kept in close touch with her. And when his tennis career took off in the early 1990s, with wins at United States Tennis Association tournaments in Houston and San Antonio, his grandmother cheered him on, as did his mother and father, and all his friends back home.

His most notable accomplishments as a player were an individual win in men's singles at the Texas Sectionals, a team tennis state championship, and a follow-up win in the same category in which his team ranked second in the nation. Rearing





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"I'm at peace with that and don't think about it. I think about what God has planned for me."

In fact, faith and love of family played a hand in Cecil's recovery from the start. His then 12-year-old son's decision to play tennis gave him the inspiration to get better, so he could help coach him. Their shared interest not only bonded them as never before, but improved

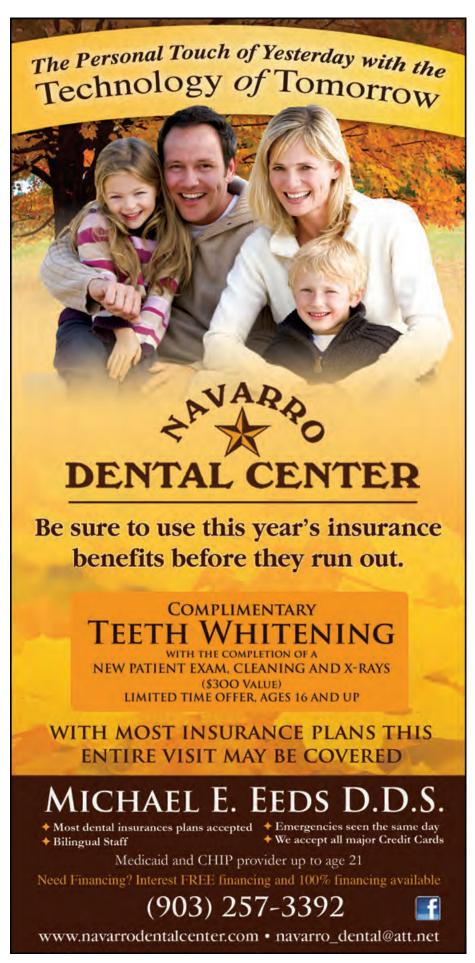


Cecil's strength and outlook. "God was working through tennis for me, only I didn't know it at the time," he explained. "A few days after the accident, my son came to visit me in the hospital. 'Dad,' he said, 'I'm going to play full-time tennis at school.' I said, 'Awesome, let's get you some racquets!" In that moment, Cecil's road to healing began.

"I always knew we'd play fatherson doubles together," Cecil said. And they did. Enjoying matches with his son provided Cecil the goal he needed to recuperate. "It gave me something to look forward to," he said. "It brought me back to life." But this year, Hunter, who is now in high school, gave up tennis to return to his first love - football. As the motivating force in his dad's recovery, his mission was over. "That's why I know God used Hunter's temporary interest for me to get back into tennis," Cecil observed. "It wasn't for him. It was for me. I wouldn't have progressed had I not had him to inspire me."

This complete renewal of vigor and passion led to the next step in Cecil's unfolding purpose. His presence at the Mertz Tennis Center, while playing with Hunter, was noticed by Lee McCleary, Corsicana's director of economic development, and Milly Vickery, president of the Corsicana Tennis Association. Lee, a former tennis coach







at Baylor University, and Milly, who teaches tennis at Frost ISD, saw talent and energy in Cecil. They approached him with an offer to join Mertz as tennis director. "When they called me, I could see God's intentions then," Cecil said. "I knew He wanted me to use tennis to share my experience and motivate people in their faith." And, for the past year, that's just what he's done, and more.

Cecil's dedication to his sport is evident in every swing of his racquet and each word of wisdom he imparts to those he coaches. "I love the game," he enthused. "I love teaching it. I love working with people of all ages and ability levels — beginners, advanced players. I can help anybody, and I want to." But it is children under the age of 10 whom Cecil most enjoys coaching. "We can teach kids ABCs, but they teach us how to make life fun," he commented. "Their enthusiasm actually helps me. It's awesome. I get to see their enjoyment of the game that has given so much to me."

Cecil also derives incentive from the beauty of the city parks where he plays. "Sharla Allen, and everyone else with the city of Corsicana's Parks and Recreation Department, do a fantastic job," he said. "We are so fortunate to have parks like we have here. The oak trees, the flowers — it all draws people in to walk, jog, play soccer, throw a Frisbee and just enjoy life. I get to see that every day when I go to the tennis court."

Enjoying life is what Cecil plans to continue doing himself. "I hope what I'm doing can help somebody else achieve what they want to," he said. "For anyone who may be sick or in pain, I say, 'Don't stop living. Don't give up. Fight. There's plenty of life out there for you. I know. I found it." NOW

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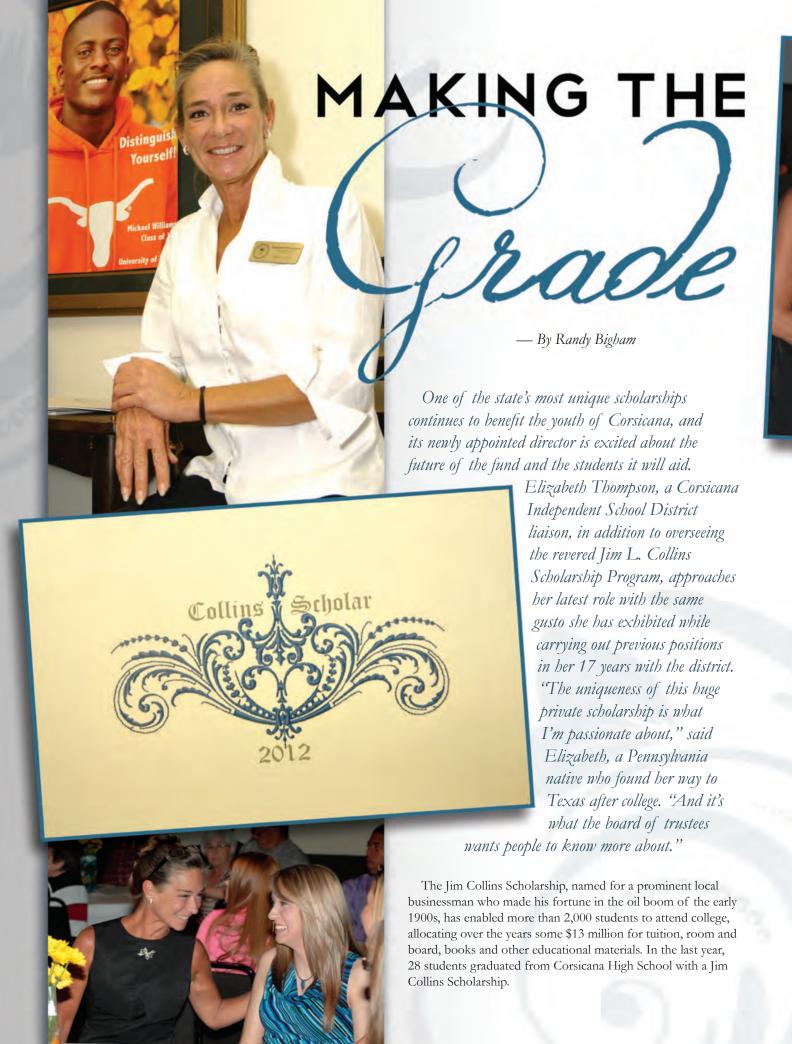




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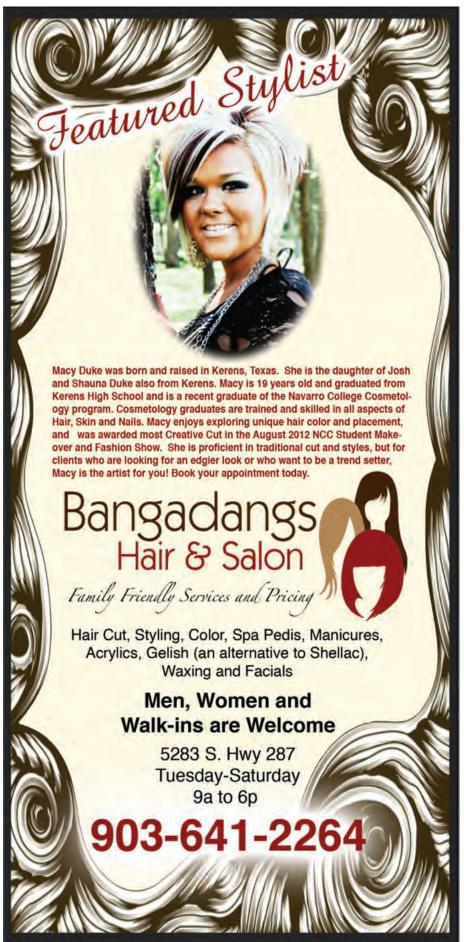




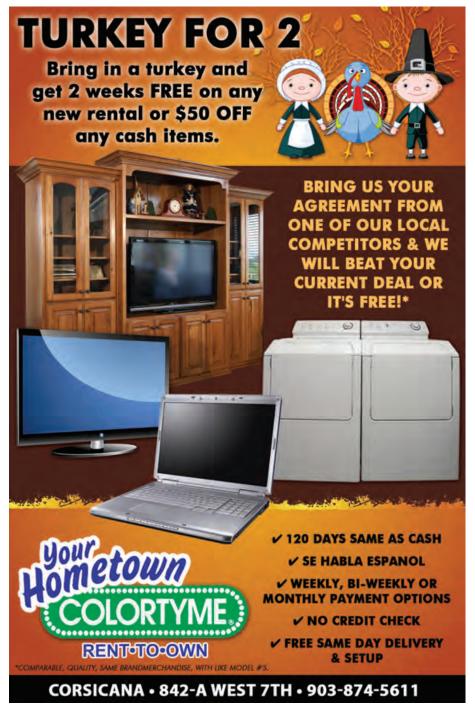


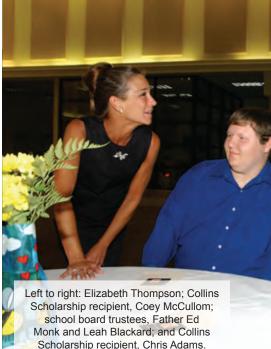
#### "The uniqueness of this huge private scholarship is what I'm passionate about."

This scholarship might be an exclusive fund, due to its strict guidelines for maintaining academic excellence, but it's designed as a need-based program. Elizabeth insists the scholarship, founded in 1954, has always been open to CISD students whose grades and financial situation qualify them. "There are decades' worth of myths that have grown up," Elizabeth admitted. "And it's important that we correct the misinformation. There's this lore out there that you have to be politically hooked up or socially connected in some way to get this scholarship. Not at all! This is a program geared to helping students go to college who actually need









the help and whose abilities prove they deserve it."

Some of the requirements of a would-be Collins scholar include that he or she be enrolled for at least three years and graduate in the top 25 percent from Corsicana High and agree to attend an accredited Texas college. The requirements for keeping the scholarship are stringent, but these can be met by any and all students who are dedicated to pursuing higher education. "Scholastically, a student is expected to maintain a full load and make a least a 2.0 on a 4.0 grading scale for his or her freshman year, and at least a 2.5 on a 4.0 system for subsequent years," Elizabeth outlined.

Elizabeth emphasized the need-based definition of the scholarship. "Over the nearly 60 years of this program, the board has honed in on what need means. So what is that today? It's a need that cannot be met through other available sources." Although there is greater discretion on where monies are spent and how they are supported, a private fund like Collins often trumps or at least enhances programs offered by a government or other public entity. "Government funds aren't available to everyone," Elizabeth said, pointing out that some people make just enough income to not be considered.

On the other side of the academic coin, the Collins Scholarship is more accommodating of students' educational needs and economic condition. For



example, a Collins recipient may change majors or transfer from one school to another. A recipient may also defer the use of his or her scholarship. "That's just one of the many benefits," Elizabeth said. "Some of our recipients may also have a scholarship to play ball or to be in choir, so they can save their Collins and apply it when they need it to finish out their undergraduate studies."

Elizabeth's duties as the scholarship's new director are primarily financial, although there is more to her work than making sure recipients get their money on a timely basis. She also guides students in using the money in the most beneficial way. "A case in point would be if the student has another scholarship that is tuition-only," Elizabeth explained. "I would advise them not to use ours for that when it would be better to use it for housing or books." Another facet of her involvement is following up with students on their various college campuses, a responsibility she enjoys and which has won her the nickname "College Mom." "I feel like I have a hundred kids in college, not just my one."

But this director is quick to praise the CISD Board of Trustees, which selects each recipient of a Collins Scholarship. "This is not all on my shoulders," Elizabeth clarified. "The school board owns this scholarship. That's who Mr. Collins left the money to. There's nothing the school board takes more seriously than who will represent this district with this great scholarship." Elizabeth reports



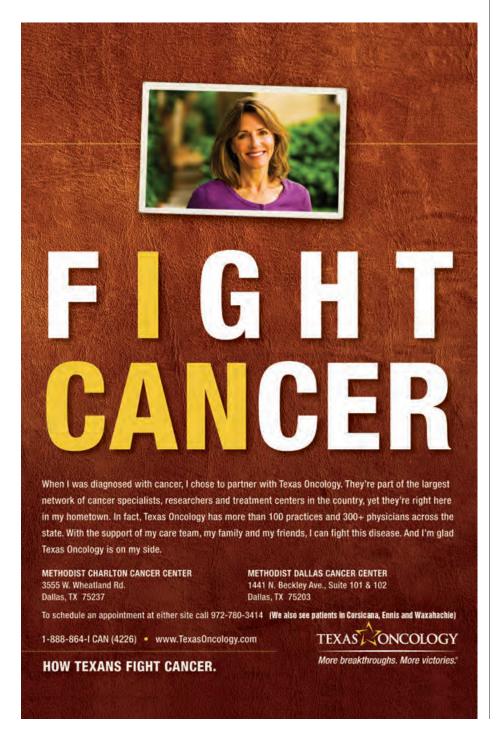






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to the superintendent and the sevenmember body, providing as much data as possible on scholarship candidates so that the most informed decision can be made on who eventually qualifies. Supporting the recipients' decisions once in school requires consistent communication. She and the board are also careful to keep abreast of technology. "It's important that we stay proactive in that way," Elizabeth noted. "So much is changing. Required textbooks can now be a computer memory chip!" Today's technology is a far cry from what existed in 1954 when the fund was initially implemented, but the spirit of giving that the program's namesake embodied continues full force.

Coupled with teaching and working in administration for the district since 1996, Elizabeth has a business background that makes her particularly well-suited to her position as director of the Jim Collins Scholarship Program. Her love of Corsicana and the people of Navarro County also affirms her compassionate approach to her work. A buyer for Neiman Marcus for eight years, Elizabeth came to Corsicana from Dallas with her husband and children in 1992. "I may be from Pennsylvania," she said, "but I married a Texan and gave birth to two, so I figure I'm a Texan by now!"

Elizabeth's witty personality aids her in her daily work, but she ascribes her inspiration to the young men and women whose future careers she is helping formulate. "The most fulfilling part of the job for me is the students," she said. "These scholars are working their tails off to succeed, and they are at that special place in their lives where they are knowledgeable, yet malleable." Some of the recipients of the Jim Collins Scholarship are the first generation in their family to attend college, which Elizabeth and the school board find touching and motivating.

"That, in a nutshell, is what makes this job so rewarding," she observed. "It's our students' right to get as much as they can from education, and the Jim Collins Scholarship is making sure that happens. The kids benefit so much from this scholarship but, really, so does the community that supports them — and us. Everything we do is a community effort." NOW

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Dr. Vazquez obtained a certificate in advanced graduate studies in General Practice Residency at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine in 2006 where she concentrated her training in special needs and medically compromised patients. In June 2009 she completed her residency in Periodontics at Boston University and her Masters

Degree in Oral Biology, which was focused in inflammatory processes. During her Periodontology residency she refined her skills in periodontal procedures including Cosmetic surgeries and implant placements.

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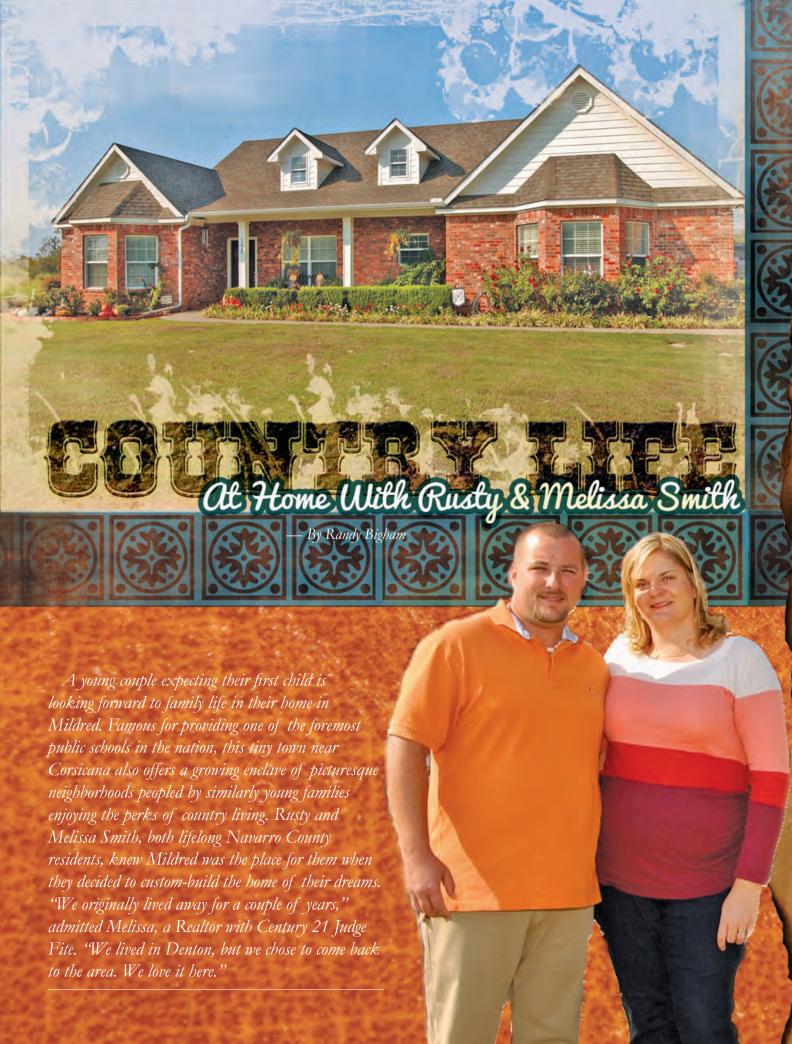


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The gorgeous, 1,600-square-foot brick house the Smiths ultimately chose in 2007 is situated on a quaint gravel lane near woods and meadows, yet it is less than a mile from the revered school that was one of the chief reasons the couple relocated to Mildred. "It's in the country but with a neighborhood," said Rusty, a supervisor for Aqua Transfer & Energy Services. "It looks like more, but the land is just under an acre."

Melissa, who also oversees rentals for FBM Property Management, believes their home is the perfect place to rear a family. "Some of our friends live nearby," she said, "and almost everybody we know wants their kids to go to Mildred schools." That's where they will proudly send their own first child, which is expected in February.

For the time being, the Smith brood is made up of beloved pets — two dogs and three cats. Charlie, a female Dachshund, rules the roost. She has her own chair complete with blanket, pillow and a doll and is the apple of Melissa's indulgent eye. Chance, a black Labrador Retriever, is Rusty's buddy. The felines include Casper and Bruiser, who hide from visitors and like to hiss at imposing Chance through the patio doors. And then there's Bonnie, who lives outside with Chance and curls up with him in the winter.

When they aren't at home, Rusty and Melissa lead an active outdoor life. Rusty loves hunting and fishing, and Melissa makes a valiant effort to share her husband's pastimes. "I guess it's more his thing than mine," she laughed. "I'm not so good at being up early, and my feet get cold." They both enjoy traveling, especially to Mexico, where they have spent several relaxing summer vacations. "We are fans of the all-inclusive resorts," Melissa confessed. "Those packages make it so much easier." One of Rusty's favorite spots for a Mexican jaunt is Cabo San Lucas, where he recently caught a giant marlin.

Coming home after such exciting adventures is no let down when the home is as beautiful as the Smiths'. The three-bedroom, two-bath abode sits on a well-manicured lawn, and flowing seasonal potato vines, and a wealth of Knock Out roses and periwinkles, edge the facade. "I love the potato vine," Melissa enthused. "It takes over so well."







For Rusty, that's not necessarily a good thing. "It takes over all right," he joked. "It seems I have to weed eat it every three days." The pair does agree about the interior, and each has contributed special touches to it. Rusty and Melissa poured over plan after plan before deciding on the design they wanted. "He got a pile, and I had a pile, and we went through the ones we liked and set those aside," Melissa recalled. "Five plans we liked, and then we picked them apart!"



The result was exactly what they envisioned — an open floor plan, a split bedroom layout, bay windows and stained concrete floors. Built by Darlene Warren of Warren Construction in Richland, the house blends sophisticated elegance with laid-back comfort. The Smiths are pleased with the final cut of their custom experience, although the process was more complicated than they initially imagined it would be. "It can be very involved," Melissa pointed out.

"When you're planning your own house, you are deciding where everything goes, even down to the light switches."

The couple insisted it was worth the extra labor to get the house just as they wished. The only casualty of the experiment was forgetting to include a pantry in the layout. "It's kind of funny now," Melissa said. "We didn't realize it until the day we were moving in, and here I am with all my canned goods with no place to put them!" She has since

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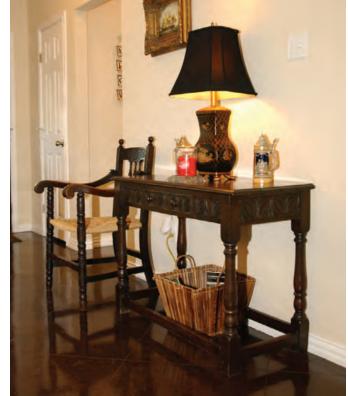
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A modern hutch in a builtto-fit alcove, is dressed with the couple's Southwestinspired wedding dishes.











compensated by using kitchen cabinets and a built-in lazy Susan.

The living room is the center of downtime in the Smith home. After work, Rusty and Melissa often recline on a comfy sofa flanked by two distinguished leather chairs that once graced the offices of Melissa's father, attorney Rob Dunn. A mix of modern and period details gives the space character and livability. British and European antiques are a feature of the dining area and master bedroom. Most of these were purchased from Canterbury Court, the Corsicana shop operated by Melissa's brother, Lowell Dunn, who specializes in importing choice furniture from England. One of the loveliest old pieces is the dining room table, which contrasts in a compelling way with a modern hutch in a builtto-fit alcove, dressed with the couple's Southwest-inspired wedding dishes. "I'm not into anything formal, so I don't do



china," Melissa said. "I like bright colors and simplicity."

Unusual color combinations and original decorative accessories mark the hall bathroom. In taupe, green and rust, the room includes a collection of African masks, a gift from Melissa's grandmother, Jane Taylor. The couple's own bathroom is in white, with a large tub that their nieces and nephews treat as an indoor swimming pool. The outstanding attraction of this room is the twin sinks and oval mirrors, which were selected by Rusty.

The gentleman of the house also had a free hand in choosing the "man cave" decor of his office. "It's full of Rusty's kills," Melissa warned. Among the mounted hunting trophies are three white-tailed deer, and beside the computer desk sits a stuffed raccoon.

Rusty is also assisting Melissa in fitting out the nursery. Framed collages of Smith and Dunn family photos have gone up on the walls and other decorative accents are being added. The Smiths are looking forward to welcoming the little one who will soon capture their hearts, and they are proud of the warm, happy home they have to offer the baby. "We love Corsicana and this whole area," Melissa said. "We're so glad we came back. It always felt like home, but now it really does."







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A quick look at the gift items and discounts available lo

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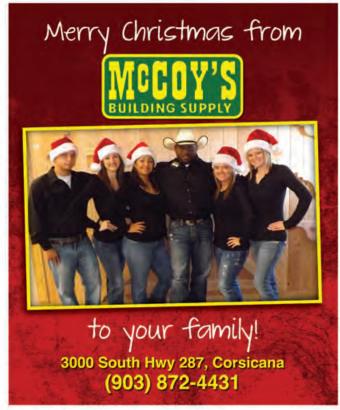
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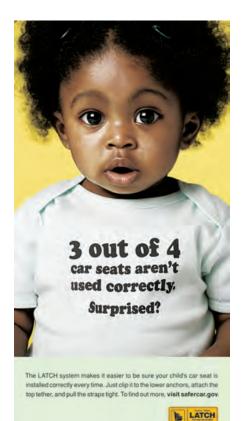
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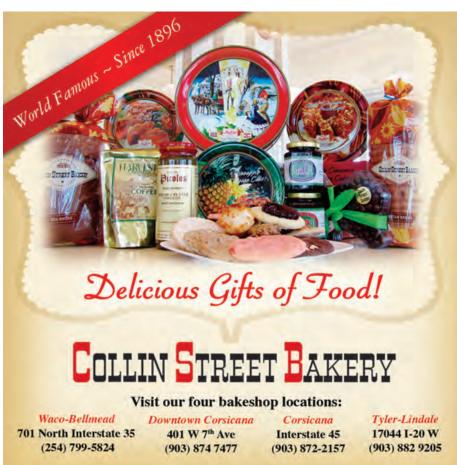
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"When I was 8 years old, my grandma took us to a carnival," Laura recalled. "A group was playing music there, so you could dance. I was so shy that I wouldn't dance." Laura's grandmother was upset because she wouldn't share her talent. By the time she was 12, however, Laura had overcome her shyness and begun to dance to soul-felt music. That year, relatives took her out to a dance club. This time Laura wouldn't stop dancing. "My grandmother was upset still," she laughed.

Instead of studying dance during her school days, Laura trained to be a secretary. "It was so hard to find a job," Laura said. A relative invited her to come to the United States to work, but it was still difficult to find work, because her degree was not from the U.S. But Laura did find a job, and she married Enrique Olvera, a local welder.

She now serves as a secretary for her husband.

As Laura has moved forward in life, dancing and singing



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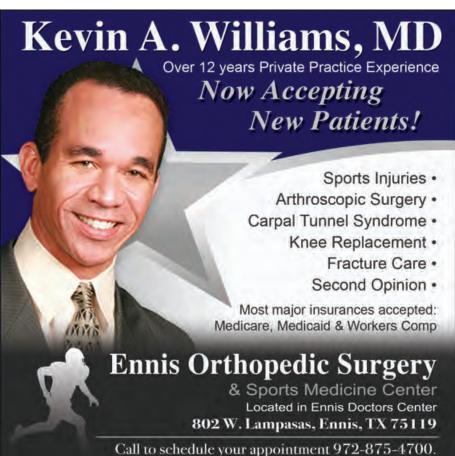
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have remained very much a part of who she is. Her boss, Diana Castillo, and the music are her inspiration. "Even in the shower, I have my speaker and iPod,"

she said. "The only time I don't listen to music is when I am watching Mexican soap operas."

Music has served Laura well by bringing her out of a shy shell. "Cumbia has words of love, and salsa makes me happy," Laura said. Salsa, with its origins in Cuba, is just as hot and spicy as the

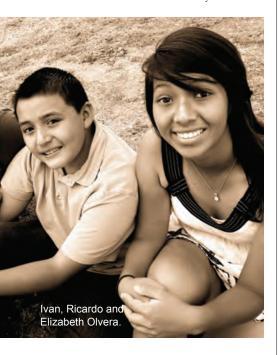


foods of its Caribbean roots. Romantic music is Laura's favorite genre. She also enjoys hip-hop and banda. Originally developed in New York City, hip-hop is



influenced by the beats of West Africa and Jamaica. Banda, meaning "band," usually features brass instruments. It

originated in Mexico and incorporates many of the traditional dance rhythms of rancheras, corridos, cumbias, baladas, bachata and boleros musical styles.



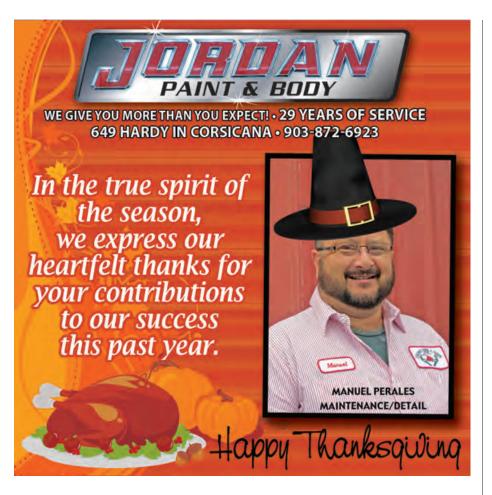
Currently popular in nightclubs, especially with young, bilingual Latinos, these musical styles and the associated dances are fast-paced with steady, percussiondriven beats.

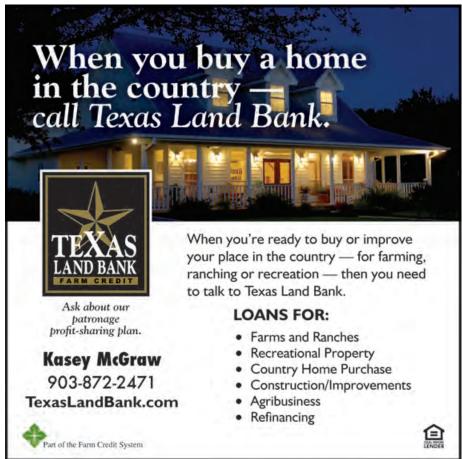
Laura enjoys seeing the smiles on fellow dancers' faces. "Dancing is fun, and dancers feed energy to each other," she said. "The energy runs all around everyone." God is her incentive to teach dancing and interact with other dancers. "Our bodies are the temple of God. If I can help people and motivate them to do something for their health, then that is a good thing. I am taking care of my body and helping others," she said. Laura's rewards are the smiles and hugs from her fellow dancers, whom she considers to be part of her family.

These days, Laura is not only a busy wife and secretary for Enrique, she is also mother to their three children, Ivan, Elizabeth and Ricardo. "Without Enrique, I couldn't make it. He cooks, cleans, helps with the children and does whatever else has to be done, if I don't have time to do it. Enrique is my cheerleader. He always says, 'If you are happy, I'm happy," Laura said. "My goals, however, are to dedicate time to the kids whenever they need me and always support them. We do whatever









needs to be done for our kids. Two of them are now in band. It's going to be a busy school year." The family is also active in the Immaculate Conception Parish of Corsicana.

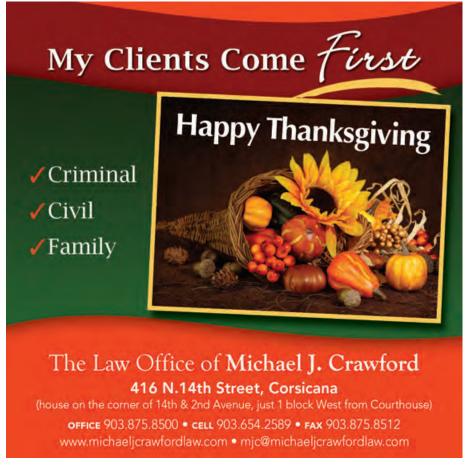
The kids are successful in school, in part, due to Laura's dedication to education - her own as well as her children's. When Laura came to the United States, she did not speak English well. She enrolled in Navarro College's English as a Second Language (ESL) and General Educational Development (GED) classes. Laura perfected her English with her kids' help, while she assisted them with their homework. "At the beginning, it was hard and frustrating," she said of the experience. "But the kids were learning and speaking both English and Spanish, so I asked myself, 'Why can't I?' I like to learn. If I want to do something, I learn how," she related. The family speaks Spanish at home, with Laura teaching her children how to perfect their mother tongue. "I want them to be proud when they speak Spanish and be proud of their Spanish heritage," she said. Laura has furthered her education and skills by taking income tax preparation courses and receiving certifications in Zumba dance.

Her daughter, Elizabeth, is considering learning other languages in addition to English and Spanish, and she shares her mother's passion for dance. "She's very shy, just like me," Laura said, "but she gets happy hearing the music. She will probably dance, too. I feel so proud of her. She does a great, great job dancing beside me." Laura knows that her love of hot, fast dance is not a "forever" activity that she will eventually have to adjust her dance moves to a slightly slower beat. She suspects, however, that Elizabeth will be dancing to whatever beat is popular in the future. "Probably, Elizabeth will be better than me, and that's great!" Laura exclaimed while smiling proudly.

But for the time being, Laura plans on singing and dancing to her music while bringing the joy of dance to others. She has plans to take more Zumba classes. "I have much more to learn," she said. "I practice my dancing and singing at home all the time, but I don't think there is 'perfection.' I just flow with the music. I'm very blessed with the gift from God to sing and dance."









When Don Capehart began working for Western Electric in 1961, he had no idea that he and his wife, Rita, would one day own

an extensive, private collection of communication equipment dating from the 1880s to modern times. In 1989, Don asked company officials if he could access the

tords for the time he for the company. They we many historical he could access. "So, I

retired and built my collection," he remarked.

Western Electric was renowned for making Bell telephones, movie theatre equipment, as well as everyday electrical items such as toasters. Western Electric was acquired under AT&T, but no longer exists as a separate division. Don's career kept him traveling throughout the United States and abroad. After retirement, he continued to travel, but Rita was along



for this ride, as the newly retired couple hit the road in a 16-foot van for a twoyear trip. "I spent all that time with my bride and got to see the country," Don said.

"He had promised, 'Rita, I won't buy anything that is not Western Electric," Rita remembered. "He lied!" she added quickly with a smile.

The treasures gathered during that trip and many other ventures are now part of The Capehart Communications Collection, located at the corner of E. 9th Avenue and S. 9th Street. Don and Rita have carved out a part of the old Corsicana Coca-Cola Bottling Plant for their home, while the majority of the old plant's approximate 10,000 square feet is used for their collection. "I told him I could decorate our home around his collection," Rita said. "But I never thought he'd fill all of this up," she added. Don has filled the space in what is a very organized trip down memory lane for older visitors and reveals yesteryear to younger visitors.

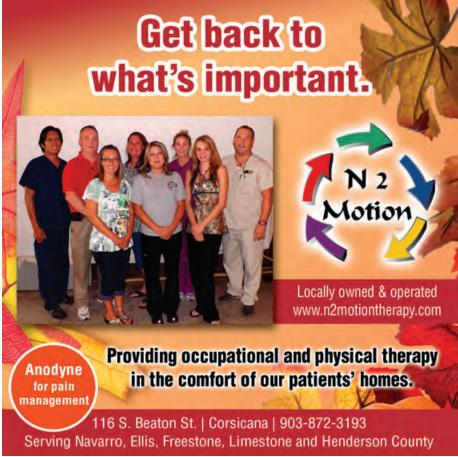
Spools (or reels) provide an unusual landscaping feature in the front yard. An American flag waving from its pole is surrounded by manhole covers. The cutout of a lineman climbing a pole greets visitors and sets the stage for the history that lies just beyond.

Don and Rita, knowledgeable of the historical facts that formed the foundation for today's world of fast communication systems, serve as tour guides. The various aisles have such names as Wall Street, Sprint Street and MCI Avenue, and weaving in and out among them is the tour cat, Boots. The aisles are appropriately named. Wall Street, for instance, shows the growth of circuit boards while Sprint Street houses equipment that "sprinted" forward to become "firsts" in their time.









The collection contains a library of over 10,000 volumes located along Readers' Row. 'It's everything you might want to know about the industry, plus telephone books," Don said. Magazines, telephone advertisements and posters from days long gone are also displayed.



Visitors marvel at the emergence of vocabulary that was created as the telephone industry developed from an invention, to a standard household item, to a mobile instrument. Words such as tubes, crystals, insulators, meters, relays and shortwave diathermy leap from the shelves just to nudge the curious into discovering definitions.

Some of the treasures Don and Rita collected have been used in new and different ways. An example is Our Wall, which was created from the side rails taken from the wooden ladders used in central offices. It is the backdrop for antique signs and some of the more unusual phones in the collection, such as the candlestick phone and scissor phone. Don enjoys pointing out, "My one and only 'potty' line phone," which is a phone made from exactly that — a small commode!

History buffs will love following the roles that different forms of communication have played. Photos of the *U.S.S. Missouri* (Mighty Mo) and Army field telephones remind us of Harry Truman and the communication network that he needed to achieve an end to WWII. Don's latest acquisition is a WWII radio receiver used by the Signal Corps. Along Photo Road, there are

samples of wires used during that war, as well as samples of microwave towers and photos of communication from space. "We have gone through a lot of flea markets and garage sales to get some of this," Rita remembered.

Hollywood producers have found

the collection to be a treasure trove. Switchboards, phones from every decade of the past century, phone booths and teletypes are often rented and find their way to the big screen. Don and Rita have been credited in five different movies, including The Changling and the PBS documentary, The Telephone. Television producers have also come knocking. The collection has been featured on American Pickers and Texas Country Reporter. One of Don and Rita's most prized photos is an autographed photo of Ernestine, Lily Tomlin's telephone operator character.

Advertisements of telephone companies are nothing new. The collection includes buttons, pins and golf balls used as giveaway advertisements.



T-shirts worn by workers were also a form of advertisement. Antique children's toys are displayed for all ages to enjoy.









Western Electric also created many household items that made earlier housewives' lives easier. Don has collected table fans, a sewing machine, irons, lamps, a heater and a toaster. The company also furnished the world with movie projectors and an accompanying record player. In the 1920s, it was Western Electric that brought music and movies together. Medical supplies were not left out. Don has collected a vibrator, stethoscope and an artificial larynx to go with medicines in old bottles.

Don and Rita enjoy interacting with visitors. "You know what impresses children the most? The rotary dial," Rita said. "They want to know where pound and star are."

The couple has enjoyed hosting visitors from all 50 states, as well as international visitors from Europe, Australia, Africa and Asia. "We don't



charge a fee. We want people to see the collection," Don said. They do, however, accept donations.

Their family gets together for a week several times a year to clean the collection. Living close by are the couple's two children, two grandchildren and a great-grandson. "A whole army comes to help," Don said. They clean many of the objects with fine toothbrushes.

"Everyone wondered what Don was going to do when he retired. Now he has lots of toys to play with," Rita said.

Don added quickly, "And I do like to play with it all, but I'm getting darn close to filling it up. I'm still learning and having fun." Don and Rita are living retirement just the way they like it, by opening their varied collection to the world.

Editor's Note: For more information or to arrange a tour, call (903) 872-0440.





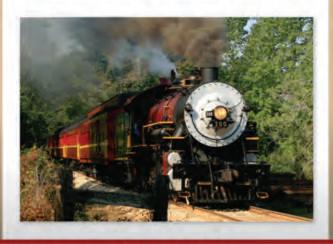
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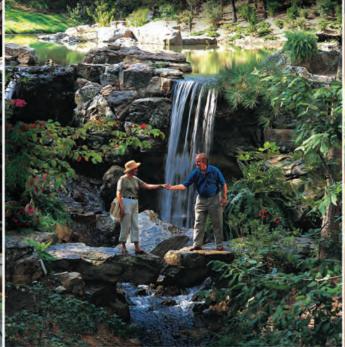


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# Discover America's Hawking America's Hawking Resolution Resolution

The historic city of Hot Springs, Arkansas, was America's first resort and is one of the South's most popular family vacation and convention destinations. Hot Springs carries on some very important

hospitality traditions. Perhaps that's why it is such a popluar spot.

Natural Thermal Hot Springs

The first federally protected area in the nation's history, Hot Springs National Park, features amazing 147-degree thermal water, rich history and beautiful architecture. Enjoy gorgeous Arkansas hiking trails in the Ouachita Mountains, tour the historic Fordyce Bathhouse and Visitor's Center, or enjoy a relaxing Hot Springs spa — all in the historic downtown area.





For centuries, this misty Ouachita Mountains valley was revered by Native Americans as a place of neutrality where all tribes could bathe in peace. In 1832, Congress set aside the natural hot springs site as a federal reservation, making Hot Springs National Park the first federally protected area in the national park system.

Until the advent of modern medicine in the late 1940s, visitors from around the world flocked to the natural hot springs to bathe in its healing thermal waters. Modern generations have carefully preserved the rich history of the springs and the bathing rituals that made the springs a world attraction.



















Cool mineral water also flows from these magical springs, and when you visit Bathhouse Row in Hot Springs National Park, you'll probably see folks driving up in their cars, hopping out and filling up their water jugs. Take a sip and see how delicious hot or cold water of Hot Springs can be.

Visiting the faithfully restored, historic Fordyce Bathhouse now opened by the National Park Service as a museum and visitors center on Bathhouse Row is like stepping back in time. Relax and bathe your tensions away in the thermal waters, and enjoy the Hot Springs spa salons.

### Historic Hot Springs

Hot Springs, Arkansas, has it all! Picture-postcard-perfect Arkansas historic sites of downtown Hot Springs National Park include classic hotels, Victorian architecture, world-class art studios, restaurants, nightclubs and famed Bathhouse Row.



Hot Springs is also the proud hometown of our nation's 42nd president, former President Bill Clinton. President Clinton credits the worldfamous resort city as being responsible for the early educational experiences that led him to a career in public service, first as Arkansas Attorney General, then Governor of Arkansas and ultimately, the 42nd president of the United States. In commemoration of President Bill Clinton, Hot Springs Advertising and Promotion Commission issued a series of very popular Clinton trading cards, which became collector's items due to the fact they are limited in quantity. While Clinton was a student at St. John's Catholic School, the nuns predicted he would one day be president. In high school, he was active as a student politician.

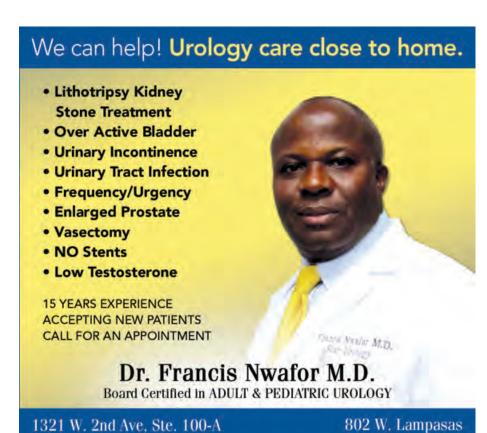
Other Tourist Attractions in Hot Springs

Are you shopping for unique antiques and collectibles, fine art or souvenir gifts? Arkansas antique shops, rock shops, boutiques and malls are additional reasons Hot Springs is such a popular vacation destination.

Looking for restaurants in Hot Springs? When you dine in one of the many restaurants inside Victorian buildings in the Historic Downtown District, you'll enjoy more than good food and friendly service. You'll be treated to intriguing glimpses into the city's colorful past. Friendly servers will be happy to point out the secret passages and one-way mirrors left over from the







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Ouachita Mountain Wonders — Outdoor Fun

Some say one of the area's best features is its location in the Diamond Lakes Region of the scenic Ouachita Mountains, providing a variety of things to do. Looking for a vacation destination where you can enjoy Arkansas sports and outdoors? The Ouachita Mountains are truly a paradise for outdoor recreation. The beautiful Diamond Lakes region features tournament-quality bass and trout fishing and year-round water sports. Arkansas' State and National Parks offer camping, hiking, biking, horseback riding and birding along scenic mountain trails. World-class Arkansas golf courses in the Hot Springs area provide challenging play on lovely courses. When you go hunting for quartz crystals, you can keep all the natural treasures you find.

Crystal hunting, fishing, water sports, hiking, golf, camping, sightseeing and horseback riding provide year-round opportunity for outdoor recreation. Tucked inside a mystical valley in these gentle mountains, Hot Springs offers visitors many exciting outdoor sports activities.

### Action and Adventure

You'll find the perfect combination of relaxing activities and kick-out-allthe-stops attractions in the Spa City. The new state-of-the art concert and sports arena, Hot Springs Convention Center and meeting facilities, interesting interactive museums, 210-acre botanical gardens, Oaklawn Park for thoroughbred horse racing and fun family attractions make Hot Springs a popular group travel destination. Oaklawn Park thoroughbred horse racing track and Garvan Woodland Gardens, the new 4 1/2-mile lake-side botanical masterpiece, are just two of the many exciting activities you'll find waiting for you in the Arkansas outdoors. NOW

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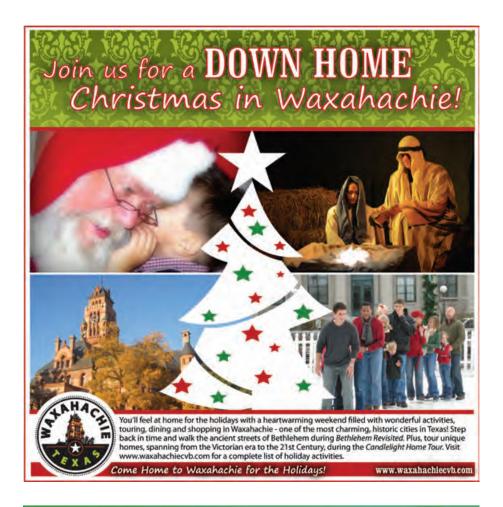


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# AURING AEM AEWORIES

The I.O.O.F. Event Center staff enjoys accommodating any size group — large or small.

— By Virginia Riddle

Corsicana watched as the building which had previously served as the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Widows and Orphans Home administration building and the accompanying new structure were under construction. The I.O.O.F. Board of Directors had taken the initiative to become entrepreneurs, not merely custodians of their property. The result of that initiative, the I.O.O.F. Event Center, consists of two buildings that can now accommodate both large and small gatherings. "They wanted to give Corsicana something beneficial," Tina Harland, the center's director said.

The integrity and history of the complex was carefully maintained during the renovations and construction. The I.O.O.F. Memorial Bell Tower, with its historical marker and

picturesque water feature, faces West 2nd Street to remind everyone who passes what the property once meant to the many orphans who grew into adulthood on that site. For those who return to the annual reunions, memories are rekindled. "I like hearing the stories the former students tell," Tina remarked. Future plans include an I.O.O.F. museum.

Many local residents attended the event center's grand opening. "It was really a big deal for the Grand Lodge, the city, Chamber and people of Corsicana," Tina remembered. "Everyone was very supportive. This building is a great addition to Corsicana and the surrounding area. Everyone can use it."

With two buildings, a very large hall, break-out rooms that configure into four separate meeting rooms, a board room

## Business NOW

and two additional rooms in the administration building, as well as a commercial kitchen, the center has the capability to accommodate up to six simultaneous events per day. "People assume we only have one big room. They don't necessarily know about the other meeting space that is available," Tina said. Every space has ADA approved access, and the kitchen design can be set for banquet or cafeteria-style food service.

Tina and staff members, Doris Horne, her assistant, and Scott Sanders, the center's maintenance man and janitor, oversee all functions. The variety of events and their individual needs offer a challenge to this staff, but one that they have met. The event center has played host to: weddings, banquets, training seminars, class reunions, a gun show, prom, music concerts, holiday market and expo, the car club and private parties. The I.O.O.F. wanted a central place for their

## "WE GET TO BE A PART OF PEOPLE'S HAPPY MEMORIES."

meetings while affording other groups the same opportunities. The center can provide seating for up to 750 people for a banquet or 1,200 for a concert. "We get to interact a lot with wedding planners, caterers and bands," Tina said. "We get to be a part of people's happy memories. It's more of a personal relationship rather than just business."

Tina is focusing on hosting business meetings, trainings and seminars. "During the business week, we have reduced rates," she revealed. Small businesses that occasionally need a larger meeting space or an area in which to get away for an intense work session are finding the center to be the place to go.

With work experience in nonprofit organization event planning and a business administration degree, Tina came prepared to take over the job. After having lived in other states, she cites Texas as being "by far" the friendliest state with very polite citizens. Those impressions speak well for the clientele who have enjoyed using this newest event center in Corsicana. NOW

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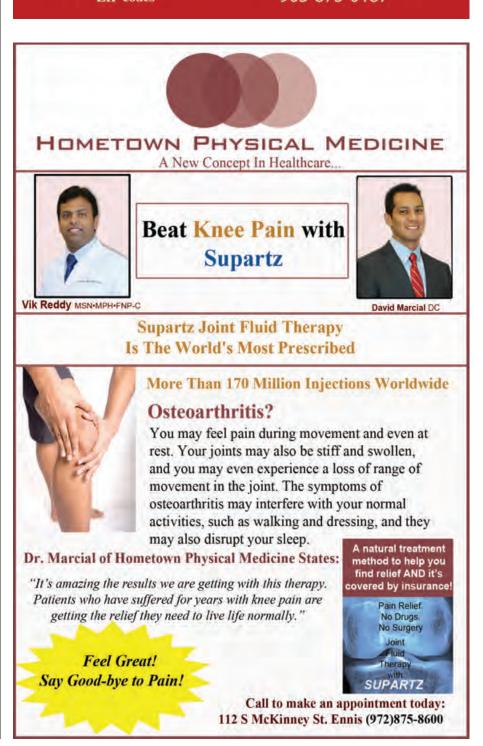
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# Around Town NOW



Lexie Owen poses for a keepsake photograph with Matt Hagan, the 2011 NHRA Funny Car Champion.



The officers of Corsicana High School's Calico Dance Team smile for the camera before taking the field at halftime.



The CHS Tiger gives a "thumbs up" to the team.



A ribbon cutting is held at Bethany Health Services.



Corsicana Police Department officers James Hudson and Joe Aguilar take a break while hosting the annual "Texas Night Out" at Jester Park.



From Left: Susan Kelley, Judith Willis and Sue Svrcek are some of the stictchers in the Piecemakers Quilt Guild who donate time to create quilts to be raffled.



From Left: Edna Bailey, and her daughter, Elizabeth, a CHS junior, welcome help from Christine Simmons in their 80 Bites Around the World booth.









# The Tough Conversation All Couples Should Have

If asked, most couples would say it's important to protect the financial future of their families in the event of a spouse's unexpected death. Yet 74 percent of couples rarely or never discuss the topic of life insurance as part of their financial planning strategy, according to a 2010 life insurance study. A 2011 study from finance research firm LIMRA revealed that 41 percent of U.S. adults don't even have life insurance.

That doesn't mean it's not on their minds. Sixty-two percent of respondents said uncertainty in the economy makes having life insurance even more important than it had previously been.

Bringing up the subject can be difficult. It may be that discussing the unexpected death of a spouse is awkward. Or that one spouse already feels the pressure of being the primary wage earner. Or that a spouse who has recently lost a job will react negatively to the topic. But whatever the obstacles, talking about life insurance is critical to both partners — even if one earns substantially more than the other, or one doesn't earn an income. To start the discussion, try these tips:

• Talk before you're in a financial crisis. Pick a time when you're not stressed, and treat the topic as you would any other aspect of your financial planning.

- Make a plan that incorporates life insurance as a primary component of your overall financial strategy. Having a plan in place can be reassuring if your circumstances change.
- Set a monthly budget and learn what options you can afford. Schedule follow-up evaluations and adjust your coverage as your needs, family situation and income change.
- Consult an insurance expert who can provide an outside perspective and make the discussion less stressful.
- Focus your discussion on the love you have for your family and your desire to protect it from financial burdens, rather than on the possible death of a spouse.

Contact your insurance agent to learn more about the life insurance options that can protect your family's future.

State Farm Life Insurance Company (Not licensed in MA, NY or WI). State Farm Life and Accident Assurance Company (Licensed in NY and WI) Bloomington, IL.

Lynda Housley is a State Farm agent based in Corsicana.





# Fall is a Good Time for Planting Trees

— By Nancy Fenton

Was the long hot summer as hard on your trees as it was on mine? If you have to replace or just add a bit of color, fall is really one of the very best times for planting trees or shrubs of any size. The cooler weather gives the tree a much better chance to develop strong roots. Container-grown plants, including trees, can be planted any time of year, but the fall is still a much better time since they won't require as much watering. Trees, like most plants, shock easily when moved around. The roots start to dry out the minute the soil is pulled away. This makes careful planting a must.

For careful planting, the tree guys at Texas A&M University tell us the width of the planting hole is vitally important. Three times the width of the pot is essential, as is digging the hole no deeper than the container in which the tree is planted. If you are looking at a tree that is bare-rooted (no soil), just make sure that the hole is good and wide. Lots of room is needed for the roots to spread out. Good looking trees in containers often have lots of roots in a very small space. A

good soaking will often loosen the container and the soil around the roots. If that doesn't work, try a good, sharp knife to cut through and loosen the roots.

The depth issue is one that has changed over the years. The crown of the tree should be just above the level of the surrounding soil with the roots spread around it. The main issues in North Central Texas are our alkaline soils, plus the uneven moisture levels. Refilling the hole with the same soil that came out and topping with two to three inches of course mulch is recommended. Less air exposure to the roots means less of a chance the tree will be shocked. Regular watering after the fact (even after the temperature drops) will also help.

Nancy Fenton is a Master Gardener.







# When Wounds Won't Heal

— By Dr. Ron Rodriguez

From mending those scraped knees of childhood to adulthood illnesses and injuries, our bodies have complex and remarkable healing capabilities. Sometimes, however, we may suffer an injury that is difficult for the body to handle, and those natural healing processes need a helping hand. Difficulty in healing may happen because of the severity from a wound or a health condition that compromises the body's ability to heal.

Wounds that won't heal — also known as chronic or slow-healing wounds — are a significant health concern. When you've been injured, ill or undergone surgery, an important part of your successful recovery is not only taking care of the original illness or injury, but also healing properly from any wounds associated with your condition.

Nearly 7 million people across the United States suffer from chronic or slow-healing wounds. Wounds fall into two categories: acute and chronic. Acute wounds are related to an accident, injury or surgery. Chronic wounds can also be related to an injury or surgery, but are most often a health condition that impedes normal healing. If a wound does not heal within a month, and requires medical intervention, it is considered a chronic or slow-healing wound.

A leading treatment for wound care is hyperbaric oxygen therapy, which can speed the healing process and rebuild skin integrity. With this treatment, the patient lays inside a sealed, high-pressure chamber, breathing pure oxygen. The pressurized chamber — similar to one used for an MRI exam — surrounds the body's tissues with concentrated oxygen. Hyperbaric oxygen therapy increases the concentration of oxygen in the bloodstream, which improves circulation of blood to damaged tissue and, ultimately, promotes faster healing.

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy was originally used to treat disorders related to diving, so, a treatment is sometimes referred to as a "dive." The process is painless. Some patients will experience pressure in the ears at the beginning of treatment, similar to flying in an airplane. Each treatment is typically two hours long, and patients often read, sleep or listen to music during a therapy session.

Chronic wounds that are often treated in



this way include: diabetic skin sores, pressure sores, persistent skin irritations, vessel disease wounds, surgery wound breakdown, traumatic wounds, burns, venous insufficiency, radiation injuries, spinal injury wounds and other nonhealing wounds.

Your doctor will generally refer you to a wound care treatment team for hyperbaric oxygen therapy. Treatment usually begins with tests to learn about your medical history, including any circulation issues, infection and other conditions that may affect wound healing.

### Sources:

National Institutes of Health, www.nih.com. American Academy of Family Physicians, www.familydoctor. org. WebMD, www.webmd.com.

Remember that this information is not intended to replace the advice of your doctor, but rather to increase awareness and help equip patients with information and facilitate conversations with your physician that will benefit your health.

Dr. Ron Rodriguez • Internal Medicine Member of the medical staff at Navarro Regional Hospital





### November 1

American Red Cross Blood Drive: 12:30-5:30 p.m., Corsicana First Methodist Church. For more information, contact Jan Hale at (918) 831-1611.

### November 1-3

Corsicana Main Street Second Annual Pumpkin Harvest Festival: 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.

### November 1-17

Youth Basketball Registration: Corsicana YMCA. For more information, call (903) 872-2412.

### November 1-19

The Pearce Museum at Navarro College Unlocks Its Vault: **Monday- Friday**, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; **Saturday**, Noon-4:00 p.m. For more information, call (903) 875-7642.

### November 1, 9, 10, 15, 16, 28

Navarro College Basketball Games: For a complete list of times and opponents call 1-800-NAVARRO or visit www.navarrocollege.edu.

### November 3

United Way of Corsicana Fundraiser: 9:00 a.m.-7:00

p.m., Russell Stover's Candy. For more information, call (903) 874-5253 or e-mail MarianneM@ UnitedWayofNavarroCounty.com.

### November 6

Corsicana Rotary Club's Chili Fest: 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., Cook Center. For more information, e-mail Karen Morris at karenmorriscad@sbcglobal.net.

### November 8

The Baggy Bottom Boys: 6:30 p.m., Cowboy Church of Ennis. For more information, contact Vicki Bell at (469) 285-4845 or Myra Morrisey at (972) 998-5868.

### November 9

Navarro County Retired Teachers Association: 9:45 a.m., Northwest Apartments Activity Center. For more information, e-mail pk2@airmail.net.

Senior Circle Pot Luck Luncheon: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Navarro Regional Hospital. Bring a salad, vegetable, casserole or dessert and enjoy a round of bingo after lunch. For more information, call (903) 654-6800.

### November 10

Applebee's Flapjack Breakfast/United Way of Corsicana fundraiser: 8:00-10:00 a.m. For more information, call (903) 874-5253 or e-mail MarianneM@UnitedWayofNavarroCounty.com.

2012 Holiday Market & Expo: I.O.O.F. Event Center. For more information, call (903) 641-6607.

### November 13

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1009 meeting: 7:00 p.m., Sirloin Stockade, 2508 W. 7th Ave. For more information, e-mail Ron Wright at rwkwjj@hughes.net.

### November 15

Senior Circle Fourth Anniversary Winter Wonderland Dinner & Expo: 4:00-5:45 p.m. Expo; 6:30 p.m. Dinner, Cook Center. For more information or reservations, contact Connie Beal at (903) 654-6892 or Connie\_Beal@chs.net.

### November 15-18

*Mame:* **Thursday-Saturday** 7:30 p.m.; **Sunday** 2:00 p.m., Warehouse Living Arts Center. For more information or reservations, call (903) 872-5421.

### November 16

Corsicana Newcomers Club meeting: 11:00 a.m., Kinsloe House. For more information or reservations, contact Marge Oslick at (903) 872-3508.

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





# Cooking NOW



# In The Kitchen With Linda Haley

— By Virginia Riddle

For most of her adult life, Linda Haley has cooked three full meals per day for eight people, with no microwave. "If it wasn't for the five kids, I might not be the cook that I am," she revealed. Now with 40 grandchildren and great-grandchildren, she still finds herself cooking family favorites. "The grandkids keep me busy. They call and ask for their favorite dishes," Linda said proudly.

Linda learned to cook from her mom, dad and two older sisters. "I didn't know what a recipe book was until I had been married four or five years," she recalled. "I just love to cook everything, without doing hardly anything out of a box or can." Her favorite meal includes what she first learned to cook at age 11 — biscuits for breakfast!

# Mama's Chicken 'n' Dressing With Giblet Gravy

Feeds 50.

### **Chicken and Dressing:**

10 lbs. chicken leg quarters

9 pkgs. yellow corn bread mix

2 1/2 cups celery, chopped

4 cups white onions, chopped

1 stick butter

14 eggs, hard-boiled, chopped

4 tsp. poultry seasoning

2 tsp. sage

3 tsp. black pepper

3 tsp. salt

7 white bread slices, crumbled

### Giblet Gravy:

1 cup celery, chopped

I cup onions, chopped

2 qts. chicken broth (reserved from

### boiling chicken)

6-7 eggs, hard-boiled and chopped

 $1 \, 1/2$  cups flour

1 cup cold water

Chicken as desired, chopped

- 1. Boil chicken; debone and save broth.
- **2.** Prepare dressing by cooking corn bread according to pkg. directions; crumble into a bowl.
- **3.** Sauté celery and onion in butter; add to corn bread.
- **4.** Mix after adding each remaining ingredient separately.
- **5.** Pour mixture into baking dish; bake at 350 F until bubbly and browned at corners.
- **6.** Prepare gravy by cooking celery and onion in broth until tender; add eggs.
- **7.** In a separate bowl, mix flour and water until well-combined.
- **8.** Pour flour mixture into broth. Cook until desired thickness is achieved; add chicken and simmer until ingredients are well-blended.

### Linda's Hummingbird Cake

Note: Hand mix throughout recipe.

### Cake:

2 cups all-purpose flour

2 cups sugar

1 tsp. salt

I tsp. baking soda

1 tsp. cinnamon

3 eggs, beaten

1 cup canola oil

 $1 \frac{1}{2}$  tsp. vanilla

1 8-oz. can crushed pineapple with juice

2 cups ripe bananas, chopped

### **Cream Cheese Frosting:**

I cup butter, softened

2 8-oz. pkgs. cream cheese, softened

32-oz. powdered sugar

2 tsp. vanilla

Large bag Baker's coconut

I cup pecans, chopped

Large maraschino cherries, drained and halved

- **I.** Preheat oven to 350 F.
- **2.** Prepare cake by mixing dry ingredients in a large bowl.
- 3. Mix in eggs until moist; add oil.
- **4.** Stir in vanilla, pineapple and bananas.
- **5.** Spoon into 3 prepared 9-inch pans; bake for 25-30 minutes.
- **6.** Prepare frosting by creaming butter and cream cheese until smooth.
- **7.** Add sugar; beat until fluffy. Stir in vanilla.
- **8.** Frost cooled cakes; top with coconut, pecans and maraschino cherries.

### **Red Hot Crackers**

1 lb. Nabisco saltine crackers

1 cup canola oil

2 tsp. red pepper flakes

2 pkgs. powdered ranch dip mix

1/2 tsp. garlic powder

- **I.** Pour crackers into gallon Ziploc bags; set aside.
- **2.** Mix remaining ingredients; drizzle over bagged crackers until crackers are coated.
- 3. Serve with dips or tuna/chicken salads.

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

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