

The Community Magazine Serving Corsicana and the Surrounding Area

# CorsicanaNOW

M A G A Z I N E

December 2007

A North Pole  
**Christmas**

Table-fare  
**Hunter**

**Highways**  
and Byways

The Town  
**Living Room**

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and Santas grace the mantle and  
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*Photo by Rod Cordsen.*

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# Corsicana NOW

## Editor's Note

### Seasons Greetings,

"Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning." Why do we love Christmas? Is it because everyone acts a little bit kinder, exhibiting a regard for their fellow man by offering a friendly smile, holding a door open, opening their pocketbook for the less fortunate? I think most have these feelings year-round, and are just glad to have the chance to show it. At Christmas, we are more aware of our blessings of family, friends and home. We are also much more willing to open our eyes to see the needs and hearts of others. The warm glow that enters our heart at Christmas does not come from the glitter of twinkling lights, however sweet they are. It comes from the steady burning warmth of knowing we can make a difference in each other's lives. This year, try to keep a Christmas song in your heart all year: "Let every heart prepare Him room."



Merry Christmas,  
Kelly Kovar  
Corsicana Editor

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# A North Pole Christmas

— By Kelly Kovar

Brenda and David Coldiron wanted to take a trip, and they decided they would go “north to Alaska.” They liked it so well there, they stayed for nearly 20 years. They bought a home in Fairbanks, but soon moved right on to North Pole, Alaska, where the spirit of Christmas lives year-round. “My husband and I, and my two boys, went on a vacation in April of 1984,” Brenda recalled. They went to visit David’s sister, who lived there at the time. They were amazed by what they saw. “We had never seen snow machines before, and my husband was so excited when he first saw them that he drove off the road into a snowbank,” Brenda remembered with a laugh.



“The country was so beautiful there; the air was so clean — I knew that was where we wanted to raise our boys. David Ray was about 1 1/2 and Scott was 7 months old. I knew we would be able to fish and hunt and snowmachine and ski.”

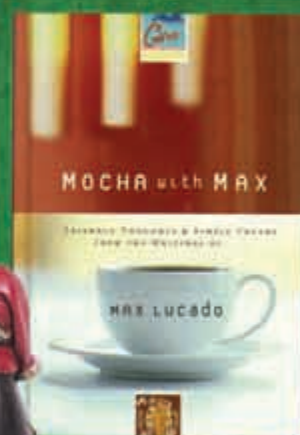
“I flew home and settled our business in Texas,” David explained. Then, once in Alaska, David began working at Tip Top Chevrolet as a mechanic, and Brenda worked at Corroon &

Black, an insurance broker, and then at Baker & Associates.

Christmas in North Pole sparkled with light and magical holiday festivities. “The Santa Claus House in North Pole would be really, really decorated,” Brenda said. “They have

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reindeers and a huge [40 foot] Santa that you can have your pictures taken with. There were lots of decorations there and on the post office."

At Christmas, neighbors would take turns gathering at each other's homes for Christmas dinner. "We would have Thanksgiving at one house, and have Christmas at another," David said. Five or six families would get together to share the holidays, since most people didn't have relatives who were close by.

Brenda is from Texas, but David grew up in Chicago. "I left Chicago when I was 13 and I had missed the snow!" David said. "I remember one

year growing up in Chicago, it snowed so much, we had to go up to the second floor and jump out the window to get out and shovel snow."

Alaska had enough snow to satisfy David. "You have eight months of winter there," Brenda mentioned. By the first week of October, the snow comes and lasts until March. "There is always snow on the ground for the whole winter. You have to shovel snow from your sidewalks and your decks and even the roof, or the snow gets too heavy on it."

During the winter, the days are shorter. "You can get down to four

hours of daylight," Brenda said. "In the summertime, you can have almost 24 hours of daylight. You just want to go and do things, because you have so much light," Brenda recalled. In the summers, the boys played baseball, and the family liked to pan for gold and go camping. "In the winter, you just want to sleep a lot. When the kids were little, we played lots of games in the winter, and David and I got in a bowling league and bowled."

The Coldirons fished and hunted year-round. "The Chena River was two miles from our house, and the salmon and halibut are wonderful. I loved the

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Growing pains? Then we have the cure with this 7 bedroom 4 bath home w/ 2 fp, granite tops in kitchen, great room, media room, formal areas, lots of extras! \$394,000. Renee Caperton 903-874-3474.



Gorgeous 3-3 1/2 home that defines open concept! State of the art kitchen to die for! Each bedroom has its own private bath. Weight room, 3 car garage plus so much more! Lisa Burns 903-654-0527.



Great 4 bedroom 3 bath home with wood laminate floors, ceramic tile, corner fireplace. 2 Master bedrooms! \$120,000. Rhonda Newland 903-654-2994.



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Great buy on this 3-2-2 brick with recent updates! Granite countertops, fp, formal dining, storage bldg. Nice backyard with privacy fence and covered deck. \$119,000. Donna Marrs 903-654-3931.



40. +/- acres in scenic setting, heavily treed with some clearings. 3 seasonal creeks, 1 with waterfall. Could make great hunting site. \$120,000. Joyce Biggar 903-654-1343.



3 bedroom 1 1/2 bath with recent paint, carpet, appliance, alarm system and energy efficient windows. Pretty landscaped yard with covered patio and pond. \$89,900. Donna Marrs 903-654-3931.



Beautiful Waterfront home with spectacular open water view! 3-3 features open kitchen w/granite countertops, great room w/fp. Boathouse w/slip and lift for boat and 2 jet skis and sundeck. \$540,000 Phyliss Jones 903-654-0337.



3-2 brick home with recent updates and move in ready! Open concept living/kitchen and fp. Great backyard with wood deck, beautifully landscaped! \$122,000. Phyliss Jones 903-654-0337.



Beautiful 3 bedroom 3 1/2 bath custom home with spacious living area, unbelievable kitchen, custom molding and built-ins thru-out. Too much too list! \$399,000. Phyliss Jones 903-654-0337.



Excellent 4+/- acre tract with Hwy 31 road frontage. Could make great location for your new business! Phyliss Jones 903-654-0337.



Adorable country home on .83 acre lot. Home features berber carpet, metal roof, corner lot with 7 pecan trees, deck, storm cellar, garage / workshop with electricity! \$45,000. Amy Anderson 903-654-1459.



Priced to Sell! 3-2 brick recently updated! Fresh paint and flooring, microwave, stove and dw. Woodburning rock fp. Too cute for words! \$75,900. Peggy Smith 903-874-6141.



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fish," Brenda said. "In the winter, we would cut a hole in the ice with ice augers and do ice fishing. The ice is so thick that people would drive their vehicles out on the lakes."

Once the Coldirons moved to North Pole, they bought a two-story, cedar-sided house, surrounded with birch trees. "Outside walls are six inches thick, instead of four," David explained. "You have triple pane windows." They had a helpful neighbor, a long-time Alaska resident, who kept



trap lines. He took them under his wing, and helped them learn how to hunt.

"We hunted caribou, moose and bear," Brenda said. "It is so cool during hunting season that you don't have to worry about the meat spoiling."

"Caribou is better than venison," David said. "We never bought meat at the grocery store. Between the moose, caribou, salmon and halibut, our big freezer was always full. You never want to get more than one moose per winter; that provides a lot of meat. My son's first moose had a big 52-inch rack."

David recalled one time when the men had a winter hunt. They went by snow machine to hunt caribou, getting three or four to bring home. "A dressed caribou gives about 350 to 400 pounds of meat. When we had friends that didn't get to go out, everybody shared."

In fact, cooperation between neighbors in Alaska is common. "Neighbors, co-workers and friends became like extended family," Brenda said.

"Everybody up there is so nice and friendly. Everybody tries to help each other, and you don't even lock your

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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.



**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.

**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.



## 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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## Leading the Team

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doors. It was a different atmosphere." The community would get together and have snow machine races and dog mushing races. "The Iditarod comes through, and we watched that," Brenda said.

The sports were fun, the neighbors were friendly, but the sights were spectacular. "The northern lights look like waves of colors, dancing in the sky," David added, with awe. "The lights were usually green, but some nights you would see blue and red."



Every year, there was an ice festival. "Artists come from Russia, Japan and all over the world and spend weeks carving castles, bears and bridges, all kinds of things," David remembered. "They put lights in the carvings, and at night, the ice reflects all the different colored lights."

Eventually, in 2003, David and Brenda returned to Texas to be closer to family. Their sons were grown and on their own by then, and remained in Alaska. "We are glad to be back in Texas," she said. "I need to be closer to my family at this point. The snow and the long winters were getting harder for us." David now works at Barry's Chrysler and Brenda at Kyle Ward Insurance and Financial Services. Their older son followed them to Corsicana about a year later. After four years, their younger son and his new bride, Nikki, have also decided to come to live in Corsicana. "I've only seen my younger son once in the four years," Brenda said. "This will be an awesome Christmas. I can't wait; it is going to be fun. It will be nice to have us all together again for the holidays."



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# Attention to Detail

— By Sandra McIntosh

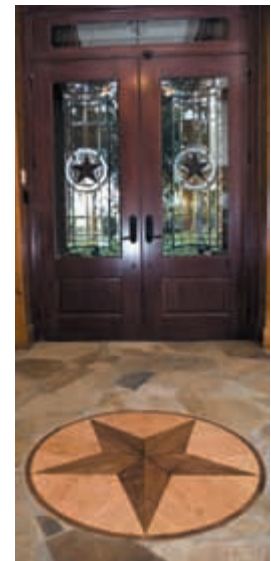
Bill and Karen Spae spent a sum total of seven years looking at lake lots across Texas before finding just the right one. “We’d find a lake we liked, but no property, or we’d find a beautiful section of land, and no lake worth living by,” Bill said. The couple did not give up on their hunt for a place they could invest in — a place where they could escape for the weekend and, hopefully, where they could one day retire.

Thanks to a Realtor’s recommendation, Richland Chambers offered them exactly what they were looking for and so much more. After trying the lake out for one season, Bill and Karen came upon the lot they wanted. It had the beach-like area they wanted for the family’s dogs to romp and play, as well as ample space for the couple’s three grandchildren to “dig in the dirt.” “When we inquired about the lot, the developer told us it was already sold,” Karen remembered. “For whatever reason, the deal fell through. The lot was turned back in and we said, ‘Yes,’ to buying it immediately.”

During the first six years they owned the property, the Spaes built a boathouse that served as the family’s weekend getaway from the hustle and bustle of Plano. Then, the company where Bill

At Home With

*Bill and Karen Spae*





served as CEO was sold. "It was time for us to decide if we wanted to stay in Plano or live full time in Navarro County," Bill said. "Originally, we'd bought the land for retirement, but we made the decision to move out here earlier." Two days after the final decision to move was made, Karen put the home in Plano on the market. "The house sold in three days," she said, amazement still rising up in her voice. "Bill had come to me on a Tuesday. I put the house on the market on a Thursday and it sold over the weekend. It was just meant to be."

The couple had to be out of their home in Plano within two weeks following



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the sale. That they were thankful for the RV they had kept in storage, is somewhat of an understatement. "We lived in the RV for a year with two dogs and a cat," she said, smiling at the memory. "The first thing we built was Bill's home office," Karen said, explaining that the building is still detached from the home today. "Then we added the storage shed," Bill laughed. "It was all her idea. The office and shed allowed me to keep my sanity."

After a lengthy time of planning, supervising and overseeing the building process, Bill and Karen moved into their new three-bedroom, five-bath, "comfy" Western-style home in May 2006. "The concept was comfort," Karen said. "We wanted it open for



entertaining, and believe it or not, we can sleep 35 people comfortably." All couches, both upstairs and downstairs are sleepers. When furnishing the home, they wanted friends and family to be able to gather and have a good time without feeling cramped or overcrowded. "All materials used were chosen for ease of maintenance and relaxed living," Bill said, referring to the two full sinks, two dishwashers, two sets of washers and dryers and an oven, which

makes cooking as a couple, or for a huge crowd, easy.

With Christmas just a few short weeks away, Bill and Karen are looking forward to the excitement the holiday has to offer. "I love Christmas and everything about it," Karen said. "The food, the decorating and the baking." Bill just shook his head as Karen made the undertaking of Christmas seem effortless. "She does a spectacular job of decorating," he said. "There's not a

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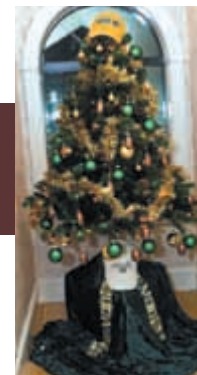
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single corner she hasn't touched. About all I do is get the large tree down. She does everything else."

The Spaes also include family and friends in their holiday traditions. "Each year, I purchase hand-painted ornaments," Karen said, "and I place them in velvet-lined gift boxes. I've just always tried to do something special." Each room boasts its own Christmas tree. Wreathes hang on the windows, as well as the front gate. "I compare it to a department store," Bill said. "Remove all the retail items,

and that's how Karen decorates."

Snowmen and Santas play a big part in the decorating process, too. They can be seen peeking out from every nook and cranny, thanks to the collecting Karen started when she and Bill first began dating. In fact, a ring she still wears today came attached to her first Santa. Karen's love for Santas grew into a larger-than-life project this year. "I crafted five life-sized Santas this year," Karen said. "The fancy, Western and traditional Santas are downstairs, while the Florida State and Green Bay

Packer Santas are upstairs in the game room." That first Santa, 10 years ago, has grown into a collection of well over 100 Santas blown in glass, carved in wood, hand-painted and even one from Russia. Each year, Karen purchases at least one new Santa to add to her collection.

The holiday trimmings blend beautifully with the Texas decor Karen chose when designing the home. The details that show her love for Texas include: cowboy hats, Texas stars, rustic Western art and the use of lots

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<b>Pepperoni or One-Topping Pizza</b>	<b>7.99</b>	<b>8.99</b>	<b>9.99</b>
1/2 Pepperoni - 1/2 Hawaiian			
<b>The Hawaiian</b>	<b>8.99</b>	<b>9.99</b>	<b>10.99</b>
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<b>The Vegetarian</b>	<b>9.99</b>	<b>10.99</b>	<b>11.99</b>
Mushrooms, Black Olives, Mixed Onions, Green Peppers, Tomatoes			
<b>The Cowboy</b>	<b>10.99</b>	<b>11.99</b>	<b>12.99</b>
Pepperoni, Italian Sausage, Mushrooms, Black Olives, Herbs & Cheese			
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<b>Papa's Favorite</b>	<b>10.99</b>	<b>11.99</b>	<b>12.99</b>
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Pepperoni, Italian Sausage, Mushrooms, Roma Tomatoes, Green Onions, Herb & Cheese Blend			
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of wood accents. Focal points which prove that “everything’s bigger in Texas” include: the stone wall in the kitchen with hand-painted tile insets from Mexico; the black soapstone island with rough-cut edges, also in the kitchen; the use of branding irons in the scrolling found in the



glass front doors; the 42 tons of stone used on the exterior and the massive fireplace mantle in the great room. “The mantle was cut from a redwood tree from Northern California,” Karen said. “It was hung upside-down so visitors could appreciate the wood’s natural beauty.”

The details for the building were specific. All the choices made were deliberate and intentional. “We spent hours making sure everything was exactly how we wanted it to be,” Bill said. “We wanted the home to feel big, open and massive. We’ve never put this much detail into any other house like we did this one.” The precise detail was based solely on a list Karen had been keeping for years. The tri-colored wood floors, the stucco-like wall treatments, the oversized three-car garage and the pebble stone pathway in the master bathroom are just a few examples of the attention they gave to every single detail. The effort in detail Bill and Karen put into the building of their home will no doubt be the same effort they will extend to their children and grandchildren, who are expected to arrive for Christmas any day now. **NOW**

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## Lift Off for Life Saving

— By Kelly Kovar



Don Coker of Blooming Grove has spent many years in rewarding fields, such as law enforcement and corporate helicopter piloting. His current undertaking, as an Air Evac Lifeteam base pilot supervisor, is the most gratifying of his career. "It is a very rewarding job," he said.

As one of four Ennis-based helicopter pilots, Don teams with four registered nurses and four paramedics to provide rapid transport when there is a critical medical situation. "Pilots work 12-hour shifts, seven-days-on and seven-days-off," Don explained. "The medical crew works 24-hour shifts. As a result, I get to work with all of the nurses and paramedics. We really operate as a team." On Don's days off, he likes to build

things. "I like to build picnic tables," he said. His main interest, though, is flying. "I love to fly, and I'm kind of a workaholic, so on my days off, I like to pick up extra shifts when they are available. With 11 other bases in Texas, there are often shifts when people need to take vacation."

Don is used to traveling around Texas. "I am from Corpus Christi, and I started out at age 20 working for the Texas Department of Public Safety (TDPS) as a state

**"Flying is a passion for me."**

trooper in the Houston area." He spent eight years as a highway patrolman. "I really wanted to learn to fly, but I



thought flying was a rich man's sport. My DPS partner had a pilot's license, and he told me that I could finance flying lessons with a second job. So, [I] got a job as bank security, and I earned money for lessons." After Don got his pilot's license, he became a state trooper helicopter pilot. "As a pilot/inspector for DPS, I flew rescue missions. You get to really test your skills on rescue

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missions. I picked people up that were trapped on roofs from hurricanes or floods. That is a really great feeling." He also was assigned to fly dignitaries on occasion. "One of my very first assignments was to fly the secretary of energy to a geothermal well outside of Houston. That was an experience. I just thought, 'Here am I, a regular guy, taking a United States cabinet member in my helicopter.'" He also flew Bing Crosby's wife once. "I picked her up at the airport and took her to a charity event."

After six years as a DPS pilot, Don made the leap to the corporate world, as a helicopter pilot for Grant Corporation and then Mac-Carey Properties. He was drawn to this area when he accepted a pilot position with R. E. Hable Construction Company in Corsicana. "We moved to this area, and bought a house in Blooming Grove." Don reared twin daughters and a son there. "They turned out to be great kids. I am extremely blessed," Don said. He decided to go back into law enforcement, since he really wanted the stability of a long-term job while he was rearing the children. "I spent 14 years with the Navarro County



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Sheriff's Office. At the same time, I did maintenance for the Blooming Grove Independent School District, helping build the baseball and football fields, and working security for ball games." While the children were growing up, Don was vice president of the Corsicana Girls Softball League. "My twins, Brittney and Courtney, played high school softball and they went to state all four years. They graduated second and third in their senior class and went to college on academic and softball scholarships. I really like getting to see my son, Clay, and his wife, a school teacher, a lot now, because he lives close to me. Clay enjoys working in the Avalon area as a heavy equipment operator."

With the young Cokers on the way to adulthood, Don began to explore his flying options again. "I thought I had put that behind me. I really never expected to fly again." Then, a former DPS state police pilot recommended Don as a helicopter pilot with an air ambulance service called Critical Air. "They hired me, and I really liked working for Critical Air; they are good people." After three years, when Air Evac Lifeteam bought Critical Air, Don stayed on and eventually became a base pilot supervisor in the city of West, Texas. "Air Evac Lifeteam told me they were going to open the Ennis base, and asked me if I would like the job. We opened at the Ennis hospital in mid-July, and it is a good experience starting up a new base." He was glad to have a shorter commute from Blooming Grove, where he lives with his wife, Terri, and is also now the proud dad of two grown stepdaughters, Jennifer and Corey. Terri also works in Ennis at Alliance Data.

"Air Evac is very safety conscious," Don said. "We are very community-minded. What makes it possible for us to do our job is our cooperation with local firemen, policemen and medical



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personnel." The team's base-life functions much like a fire station. "We each have our own crew-quarter room, and we have a living area where we have a refrigerator and a microwave. During off-times, we can work on continuing education, but when a call comes in, which is usually from one to three times a day, our job is to be ready to go."

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hospital to hospital whenever a patient needs to be moved quickly. They also answer emergency calls, especially providing rapid transport for people in rural areas. "I like scene calls the best. It may be at night, and we go into different kinds of loading zones (LZs). I have an 875,000 candlepower light to use for illumination to watch for wires, cell towers and obstacles. We move into the LZ and orbit a couple of times to make sure it is safe to land. Then, the medical team gets out quickly and goes to work."

Some calls are especially gratifying. "We got a call to transfer a lady from Hillsboro to Waco. I landed, and the medical crew went inside the hospital. Before transport, she went into cardiac arrest. The Air Evac medical crew saved her life."

"Flying is a passion for me. I've really enjoyed it. I spent a total of 30 years as a lawman, but this is a good occupation. I am working with true professionals. It is a great experience to be involved in seeing someone's life saved."

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# ARTS NOW

# Highways and Byways

— By Samantha Stroube

When Dave Young received his first guitar, at age 6, he was a diamond in the rough, but a natural musician. By age 7, he was writing lyrics. Alongside his father and uncles, he would play old, classic favorites by Meryl Haggard and Stevie Ray Vaughn. "After I heard their music and played it, I knew what I was going to do with my life," Dave stated, without hesitation.

He never really had any formal training or guitar lessons. Dave just learned by playing and his songs are written from truth. His inspiration comes from the trials and tribulations handed to him through life. "Most of my songs are modeled after life — lyric for lyric, scratch for scratch," he admitted.

A native of Corsicana, Dave left about 15 years ago to pursue his dream of becoming a country music artist in Nashville. His musical career first began when he and his family went on vacation to Nashville, Tennessee. His first album, *Living on the Edge*, was picked up by a record label in Nashville and it immediately jumped to number



three on the international charts and number 53 on the national charts.

The production of his second album, *With a Woman Like You*, did not have such a fairy tale ending. In fact, it was a heartbreaking situation for him. The album was filled with numerous true life experiences from Dave and a few other artists. The writer of one of the tracks on the album was



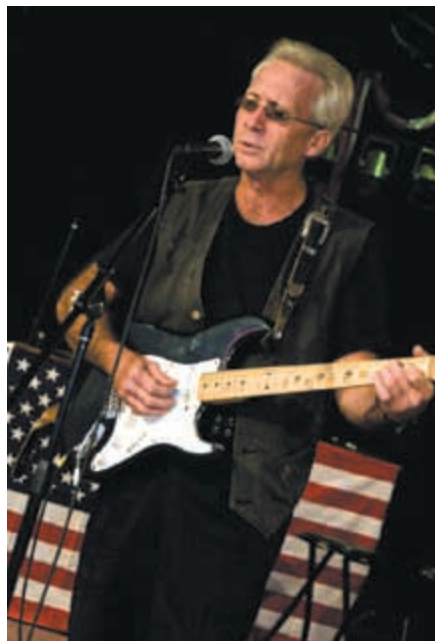
"Most of my songs are modeled after life — lyric for lyric, scratch for scratch."

not willing to sign off the rights for production, so the album sales were frozen. However, Dave was able to turn the situation to his favor by giving the CDs away. This gave him a lot of publicity and enabled him to get his name and music out into the public.

Dave will be finishing various songs on his latest album next. The work will be done in Nashville, and then the album will soon be ready for production. Outside of writing and

## ARTS NOW

playing music, Dave has had his hands in the country music industry in one way or another. One of the experiences he likes to recall was working at Loretta Lynn's ranch. He was a greeter and in charge of organizing and sending out invitations to special events involving Loretta or the ranch. He maintained public campfires for fans and for visitors on the property. "She [Loretta] is the kindest person I ever met, next to my mother," Dave said.



Wherever Dave has lived or traveled, he has managed to carve out some time to do volunteer work in each town. "Volunteering comes from the heart," he said. "Without God I would be nothing. Not everyone is blessed with the same things, so I enjoy helping out." Dave has managed to capture the good times and the bad times which he has seen, in the music which he writes. "I write when I am inspired or when my heart is heavy," Dave explained. "I always say you have to soldier up and write what comes to you — write what is real." He typically writes when he is inspired. Like most musicians, he is not a "9-to-5" type of writer. He admitted some of his songs were a bit

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## ARTS NOW

premature when he wrote them, but they have all managed to come to fruition in one way or another. "Once I start something, I always finish it," he said.

Dave is not through seeing the country. Although he has settled into living in Corsicana, he would still like

**"I write when I am  
inspired or when  
my heart is heavy."**

to explore the music scene in other parts of Texas. He plans to spend some time in Austin next. "It is every bit as popular as Nashville," he proclaimed. "I plan to cut a trail across Texas, and live out my life." Dave has thoroughly enjoyed his life as a country music artist, even though he admits there have been some hard times, as in everyone's life. "This kind of life, you either take it, or you break it," he commented.

Now, at the age of 50, he has decided to slow down a bit, but continue his singing and writing career. He manages to play once a month locally with the Corsicana Opry Band at Martin's Music Hall. He is one of the most interesting people in the band and is considered a great performer there. His background growing up in Corsicana and his years of performing in Nashville and song writing make him a popular favorite with the audiences. In October, he held two concerts, one was all gospel music and the other was pure country.

"I don't plan on quitting any time soon," he asserted. Dave's style of music is truly his own. A little bit comes from his hero, Waylon Jennings, and the other half from Stevie Ray Vaughn, but he manages to blend it together beautifully. "Music intertwines," he said, "and grows into one big family of music." **ARTS NOW**



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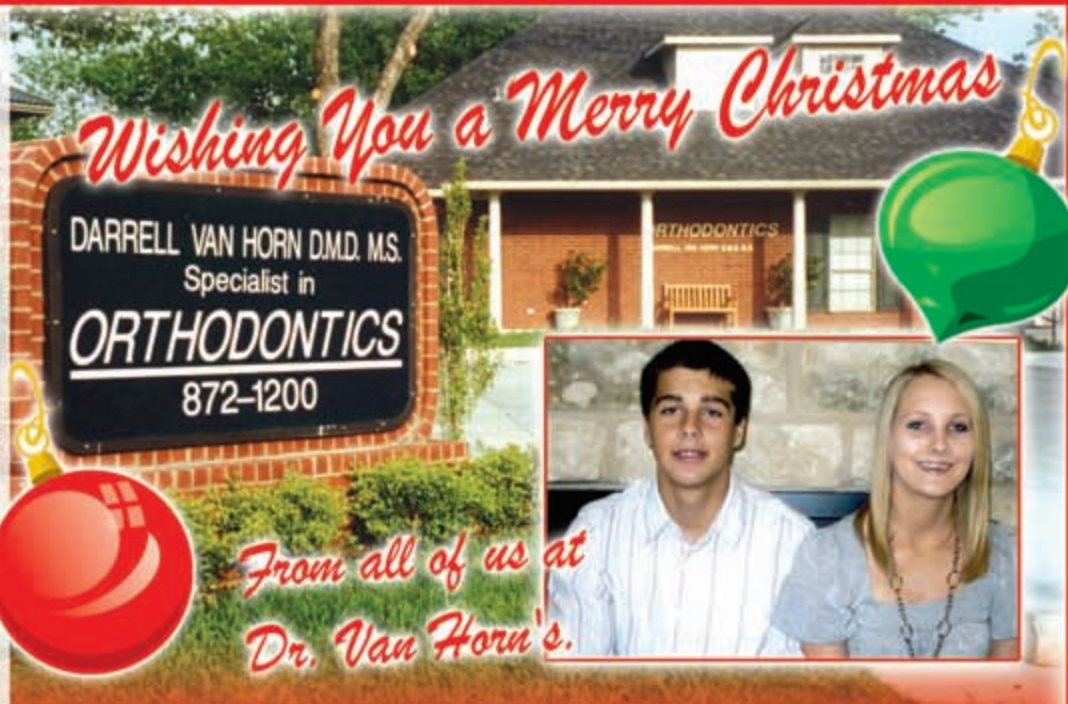
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— By Samantha Stroube

It is pretty amazing how well Frank Canfield knows the Navarro County hunting grounds, since he is a native Kansas boy. Ask him where to go around these parts, and he can point you in the right direction, especially when it comes to hunting and fishing.

Frank has been actively hunting around Corsicana, primarily the Emhouse area, since 1979; he has been successfully fishing Navarro Mills since 1980. "I have never been a trophy hunter," Frank explained. "I'm what you call a table-fare hunter." He only

kills what he and his wife will eat. "A dove meal for my wife and I consists of nine doves — four for her and five for me," he added. "After I get that on a hunt, I go home."

Frank learned this way of life from being born during the Depression era. "No one had a refrigerator," he said, "so we ate what we shot." His mother would send him off to gather food for his family with two bullets in hand and expect him to come home with a rabbit

for stew. "Frankie, you go track that bunny rabbit," he recalled his mother vividly stating to him before each hunt. "I never really had the desire to

**"Everything on my trips is done in the spirit of honesty, good faith and fair play."**

moose, elk or any large game hunt — the desire to mount an

animal and show it off to my friends never really appealed to me."

The only game or sport-type hunting Frank loves to do is pheasant hunting; it is his passion. He has managed to turn

## Sports NOW

his passion into a business endeavor. Since 1977, Frank has been guiding a very select group of Christian-based hunters from all over Texas to northwest Kansas for successful pheasant hunts. The goal of these hunts is to have fun, and



Frank's hunting pals have successfully managed to offer over 200 beautifully mounted pheasants to executives, politicians and other hunting enthusiasts in the Houston area.

On his hunts, Frank acts as the guide and the dictator for safety and responsibility purposes. He reflected on one trip he took a few years ago where four very successful dentists joined him on the trip. After two days, they decided to "pack it in" and head for home. "They just couldn't take direction or orders from someone else,"



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## Sports NOW

Frank chuckled. "Everything on my trips is done in the spirit of honesty, good faith and fair play." His passion and adoration for the pheasant as "one of God's creations" is completely sincere. Frank never kills more pheasants than is necessary, he explained, and though it is truly for pleasure and the mounting of the beautiful creatures, the sport is never abused.

Frank explained the seriousness of the hunt, and the passion he has for each animal and group he takes: "Before we leave Texas, we sit down and review the 36 rules that I created over the years. The top two are my most important: First, there is absolutely no bickering, griping or complaining about anyone or anything, and second, there is no alcohol allowed on the trip," Frank stated.

Frank has a lot to be proud of — going from failure to success as he put it. He managed to turn his life around from hard times to good times. He dropped out of high school to join the military during World War II; upon returning home with \$150 in his pocket and a suitcase in his hand, he walked himself right up to the Dean of Admissions at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. "I struggled my freshman year," he explained. "I was on probation, but by the end of my senior year, I was on the Dean's Honor Roll." Frank more than overcame his struggles, finishing at SMU with a bachelor's in business administration and psychology and a master's in divinity.

He has managed to parlay his passion for hunting into his current career as a freelance outdoor sports writer. At 50 years of age, Frank retired from the workforce, and soon found himself busy once again. As a member of the Houston Sportsmen Association, the then president of the association asked Frank if he would write a feature story about pheasant hunting for the monthly newsletter. Without hesitation Frank

## Sports NOW

accepted the challenge — although he did not find writing about his passion to be a challenge at all.

Suddenly, Frank found his small newsletter article being splashed all over the front of various newspapers in the southern region of Texas. Before he knew it, a Houston paper, which no longer exists, hired him as their sports writer. "I instantly became famous around town," he stated.

Then he received a call from an on-line company that took him to an international boat show. "It was five-star treatment all the way," Frank said. "In fact, I think they actually enjoyed talking to me, since I knew what I was talking about with fishing and hunting." Today, Frank is still happily writing for the same on-line company, sharing his stories and knowledge of fishing and hunting. **NOW**

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# Business NOW

## Sitting Pretty

— By Dia Catalani

Dressing up will never go out of style, and why would we want it to? No matter what our age, there is something about donning a beautiful dress or jacket dress that makes women feel like a million bucks, allowing us to linger, just a bit longer, in the mirror before heading out the door.

Donna Dodson-Llinas, owner of Gowns Galore, sees a lot of that. Long gazes in the mirror are an everyday occurrence here, where families get to glimpse a new kind of smile from their bride-to-be, and ladies find the perfect evening gown for an exotic cruise.

As the only area retailer for Jessica McClintock and Maggie Sottero designer dresses and wedding gowns, Donna ensures that every woman and young lady will find the perfect dress for her perfect event. "We really enjoy bringing them dress after dress after dress. Sometimes, they'll come in with something in mind, and then leave with something entirely different — all because they hadn't considered a certain style," Donna said, adding that many may recall her store when it was Donna's Bridal & More.

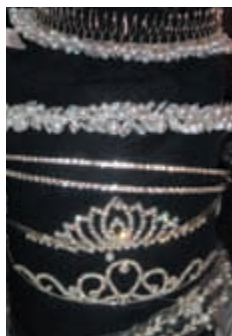
The store's plain exterior hides what is inside: An entire store-length display of special occasion dresses, from slinky, body-hugging, floor-lengths to traditional taffeta or lace and everything in between. There is an amazing collection of cocktail dresses, perfect for a night on the town or parties, and darling dresses for little girls, as well as mother-of-the-bride dresses. Tuxedos for the styling groom and his groomsmen

are also available. "When you consider that the entire wedding is centered around the wedding dress, it's a pretty big decision which dress you'll wear," Donna said. "The dress, no matter where you're going or why, is what makes you feel special."

Prices are very reasonable, so much so that no savvy buyer would travel elsewhere to shop for formal wear. The staff also maintains a dress registry to ensure proms and homecomings do not feature more than one of the same dress. "Personal service is what we specialize in and what people deserve but seldom receive when shopping in the big city stores," Donna said. "When someone says they have a budget, we stay within that amount."

If you have plans for a special occasion, visit Gowns Galore. Here you will find everything needed for a wedding, from the invitations to the altar and beyond. Fancy high-heeled shoes and handbags, sterling silver jewelry, jeweled readers and fancy pill boxes, and Shapers brand bodywear are just a few of the items available. Many locals know Donna as the skilled seamstress who used to work miracles on their last-minute emergencies, helping with resizing clothing to hemming new slacks and more.

These days are busy ones for Donna, a three-time cancer survivor who still finds time to help others. She is planning an event close to her heart, one that will also help raise



## Business NOW



money for cancer research. The Second Chance Prom, held May 24 at Navarro Cook Center, will also provide a venue to celebrate a high school event many did not get to attend. "My hope is that people will come to this prom and have a memorable evening with someone special to them and at the same time, help raise money to find a cure," Donna said. "If we can help Relay for Life through this, it's a wonderful thing."

A disc jockey will spin '60s to '80s music, while attendees are treated to hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. The fundraiser is open to all adults.

If you know a young lady in need of formal wear, suggest Gowns Galore, located at 200 North 15th Street at West 5th Avenue. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor for The Second Chance Prom, please call Donna at (903) 874-3377. **NOW**

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## Education **NOW**

# Life is Full of Choices

— By Kelly Kovar

Barbara LePoris has been a counselor at Lee School of Choice since the program opened in 2005. “I love it here,” Barbara said. “It is great. We have students come here who are behind. We can catch them up and accelerate them. It is good for the kids. The first year we were opened, we had 32 students graduate, and the second year, 34. Those are students that wouldn’t have graduated otherwise.”

The Options Program at Lee is for Corsicana High School (CHS) students who are two or more years behind where they should be, credit wise, or are at risk of dropping out. “As our students graduate, and places become available, we look at juniors and seniors, and pull in people who we think would benefit from the program,” Barbara said. “Eventually, our goal for this year is to move up from our present enrollment of about 60 to an enrollment of 80.”

When a student is behind and struggling to catch up, they can work at their own pace with the computer-based curriculum at Lee. Students work individually, not in a normal classroom setting. “We have two programs: one is called an A+ program and is on our servers here. The teachers are here at the campus and can do one-on-one help. We also have Advanced Academics, which is an Internet-based program. Students can talk to teachers, who are based all



over the United States, via e-mail. Students can also work on that class away from campus and take the tests here.”

Lee also offers a night school on Tuesday and Thursday, so students can work during the day. “If a student from CHS has taken a class and not passed, they can come to the night school and recover that credit. Or, if you have a senior that needs nine credits to graduate and they can only take eight at the high school, they can come at night and take that class.”

“We see good results from the program. We like to recognize students who have successfully graduated, so we have a ceremony for them and have their parents here. We have cake and punch.” If students choose, they can also go to the regular graduation ceremony at CHS.

As an academic counselor, Barbara’s job is to make sure everybody has the classes they need in order to meet their goals. “I meet with students and we talk. I want to know what their plans are; what do they want to do when they go

## Education NOW

out of here. If I have an idea what they want to do, then that helps me figure out what classes they need to take, and what is their next step for getting into a two-year or four-year college or a technical program.”

Barbara was previously a counselor at CHS. “I’ve been in the school district since 1967. I took two years out when I had our daughter, Anna, so this is my 38th year.” Barbara went to the University of North Texas (UNT). “It was a good school; a good time. I’m



from Abilene and thought I wanted to go to Oregon, because it sounded exciting. After graduation, I was working at a summer camp near Marshall when I found out about the job opening in Corsicana and it sounded fun. I was so glad I came; it is a great place. It is better than Oregon.” The first year she was at CHS, Barbara met her husband, Bill, a math and science teacher at the school. “He was a great teacher,” she said, with a smile. “He taught physics and calculus.” Barbara started as a teacher of physical education and health. “I had the drill team, which was called The Blue and Gold Brigade then; I had boys’ and girls’ tennis and girls’ track.”

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## Education **NOW**

Eventually, Barbara decided to go back to school at Commerce and get a master's, returning to become a counselor.

When Barbara retired a few years ago, although she enjoyed having the time to work on her place in Corsicana and visit her family in Abilene, it was not long before she missed the students. "It was hard for me to be away from



the kids; working with the kids is the whole idea," she said. "I missed it, and so I came back to CISD. Most of my friends are in the district, and I missed them. The high school needed some help with a program there, and I had the opportunity to go back part time." She also worked at Collins for a half-year, and then came to the Lee School of Choice.

"Life is full of choices; we all get to make them; we all get to live with them. That is what I talk about with students. Many students have no plans for the future. We talk about where the choices they have made in the past have gotten them." Barbara reminds them that they cannot do anything about their choices of the past, but they can do a lot to change what is coming. "What we do here can help students make the choices to get where they want to go." **NOW**

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## IN THE KITCHEN WITH HELEN GRIFFITHS

### ROAST LEG OF NEW ZEALAND LAMB WITH ROAST VEGETABLES

(Allow 40 minutes per pound for well done.)

- 4 - 5 lbs. lamb (New Zealand lamb is already boned and rolled in a net)
- 2 Tbsp. seasoned salt
- 1 - 2 Tbsp. black pepper (to taste)
- 1 - 2 Tbsp. garlic powder (to taste)
- 1/2 cup flour for dusting
- 1 cup of olive oil or previously-saved drippings
- 6 quartered potatoes (rolled in 1 cup flour with 1 Tbsp. salt & 1 Tbsp. pepper)
- 3 - 4 quartered parsnips (optional, not everyone likes them)
- 2 - 3 quartered onions
- 6 Tbsp. flour for thick gravy
- 2 cups water for gravy
- 1 tsp. kitchen bouquet
- 1 tsp. salt (to taste)
- 6 average-sized julienned carrots (or one per person)
- 15-oz. can Le Sueur baby peas

Place lamb in roasting pan and season with generous

amounts of seasoned salt, black pepper and garlic powder. Shake a dusting of flour over the roast for gravy purposes. Drizzle olive oil or previously-saved drippings over the roast and seal the juices by cooking at 400 F for 30 minutes. Lower the heat to 325 F and slow cook around 3 hours depending on the size. In the final 1 1/2 hours, add potatoes, parsnips and onions, placing them around the roast and basting every now and then. When done, remove the roast and keep warm. Pour off the oil and grill veggies for a few minutes to make crispy. Remove roast veggies, drain fat leaving 1 Tbsp. and make gravy with scrapings, adding more flour, water and kitchen bouquet for color. Salt to taste. Serve with baby peas and julienned carrots. Use Mint Sauce for final dressing.

#### MINT SAUCE

- 1 cup finely chopped mint leaves
- boiling water
- 2 Tbsp. sugar
- 1/2 cup apple cider vinegar

Put mint into a jug. Cover with boiling water. Add sugar and vinegar. (Personal tip: Toss the sugar over

Coming from New Zealand, a beautiful country with only four million people and 70 million sheep, it is not surprising that lamb tops Helen's list of favorite dishes. "I want to share a roast lamb dinner, complete with trimmings and topped with New Zealand's famous desert — Pavlova," Helen said.

Lamb is meat from a sheep under a year old, after that, it is referred to as mutton and destined for the stew pot. "With the advent of boning the leg, half the fun and flavor went with the bone. New Zealand lamb is available at Sam's, and the leg is wrapped in a net which makes it really sporting when one tries to remove the webbing from the cooked lamb without losing all the scrummy spices," Helen said. **NOV**

the mint leaves to speed up the chopping.)

#### PAVLOVA

(Made in honor of the Russian ballerina, Pavlova, when visiting New Zealand, in the early 20th century)

- 3 egg whites\*
- 3 Tbsp. cold water
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tsp. vinegar
- 3 tsp. corn flour (cornstarch)
- 1 tsp. vanilla

Preheat oven to 225 F. Using an electric mixer, beat egg whites until stiff. Add water and beat again. Add sugar very gradually while still beating. Slow beater and add vinegar, cornstarch and vanilla. Line an oven tray with greaseproof paper. Draw a 9-inch circle on the paper. Spread the mixture within the circle keeping the shape as round and even as possible. Smooth top surface over. Bake for about 1 hour. (It is really just drying out.) Carefully lift Pavlova\*\* onto a serving plate. Decorate with whipped cream and fresh fruit, i.e. kiwi and strawberries. Serves 6.

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## Who's Cooking **NOW**

\*Use the leftover egg yolks in steamed, boiled or baked custards.

\*\*I hold a plate in position above the Pavlova. Quickly rotate for desert to set on plate — remove waxed paper. Add cream and toppings.

### **LAMB CURRY (WITH LEFT OVER ROAST LAMB)**

1 1/2 Tbsp. plain flour  
salt and pepper to taste  
Approximately 1 lb. cubed cold lamb  
1 - 2 Tbsp. olive oil  
1 large onion, chopped  
2 garlic cloves, crushed  
1 Tbsp. Indian curry  
3/4 cup liquid chicken stock  
small handful of golden raisins

Combine flour, salt and pepper in bowl. Coat cubed meat in seasoned flour. Heat olive oil in a large saucepan. Add onion and garlic and cook until clear and remove the mixture with slotted spoon. Add half the meat and quickly brown all over. Remove and repeat with remaining meat. Return meat and onion mix to saucepan, add Indian curry. Mix well, and then add chicken stock stirring well. Bring to a boil. Toss in golden raisins, cover, reduce heat and simmer gently for an hour or until the meat is tender. Serve over steamed rice with optional coolers on the side. COOLERS: sliced bananas, cucumbers, tomatoes, pineapple cubes, fine coconut, cubed apples.



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## Around Town NOW



All eyes were focused on an exciting find, top left, at the Cook Center Dinosaur Camp. Employees at P.S. Pharmacy, top right, fought crime and offered great customer service as Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Ryan Keenan, bottom left, placed the winning bid on a fall arrangement that he gave to his mother, Rhonda Loeffler, who was visiting from Oklahoma. Ruby Williams, of Ruby's Hats, bottom center, shared an evening out with Marshall Williams. Gloria Caroselli and Zanada Tally, bottom right, enjoyed some delicious treats during a Cook Center event.



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## Around Town **NOW**



A local Mother's Day Out group from the Presbyterian Church of Corsicana, top left, toured the fire station. Aric Bonner of the CAN Internet Lounge, directly below, placed the winning bid on a live auction item. Linda Moffett, with *CorsicanaNOW* presented him with his certificate. Frances Williams and Patricia Henk, bottom left, attended the Chamber of Commerce auction. Frank and Kim Martinez, bottom center, visited their daughter, Maisy's, class at Bowie's Spook Pooza. Principal Billy Snow, bottom right, poses with a group from Bowie Elementary.



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## Richland Chambers **NOW**

# The Town Living Room

— By Kelly Kovar

Betty Partain of Kerens is just finishing two terms as president of the Friends of the Library, where she has served for four years with great enthusiasm and dedication. As she prepares to pass the baton next month, she not only will be passing on a wonderful legacy, but also a whole new library. "For three years, we have been trying to raise funds to build a new library in Kerens," Betty recounted. "It has been a long, hard three years, but we reached a point where we had the money arranged, and we could have bids. We chose contractor Ken Hays of Malakoff." Ken's wife is a Keren's girl, and such ties are important in a

community like this.

Betty is sure that the new library will be an invaluable community asset. "Kerens has about 1,600 - 1,700 residents, but we serve the Kerens School District, Bazette and almost to Rhome," she explained. "There are no other libraries in the area, except the school libraries, which are closed in the summers. Those who do not have means to go to the Corsicana library, have no other library to use when

school is not in session. We offer resources that people really need here."

Though Betty will be stepping down from her presidency, she will

continue to be involved with the library, which she believes will be a wonderful place for the

community to gather. Many older people will become regulars, and we will notice if someone doesn't come in and call to check on them."



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## Richland Chambers **NOW**



Betty, a former chemistry teacher, especially appreciates the significance of the new library's design by architect Ray Scott, of Lufkin. He and his wife, Betty, grew up in Kerens. Betty is a librarian, and did the research about applying for grants for the library. "We are so excited about getting the



new library, which is designed to look like our old elementary school here," Betty Partain said. "To those of us that grew up here, it means something. It was a pretty building."

The library was housed in its old location for 16 years. In the late '80s a group of ladies from Kerens talked the city into letting them use a charming, little, old building as a library. "The Kerens library has a very active children's program in the summertime. We have businessmen and school personnel that read to the children one day a week. We really ran into a problem then; there is just no place to put all the kids and their parents. It was very crowded. So, we knew we had to have



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## Richland Chambers

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a bigger building. The new library has the entire community in mind. It will include a foyer, main library area with quite a few computer stations to be donated, meeting room, storage room, work room and two restrooms. We anticipate better facilities for the children's programs, Kerens Pioneer Club and Kerens Garden Club meetings, and any other community groups to come together in our new resource."

Betty has big plans for the new library. It will have extended hours, and a friendly, well-lit area where people can come and read the daily papers. "We have a lot of elderly people here, so we would like to have some classes to let people learn to use the Internet and get their e-mail. We would like to have English as a second language classes and GED classes. We are talking about having book readings by authors, study clubs [and] exercise or jazzercise groups in our meeting room. We would like to have volunteers come in and help people with their taxes."

"We have been very fortunate to get grants to help pay for the new building, although we are still seeking donors to help relieve the building-loan debt," Betty mentioned. "We have had wonderful support from the community in donations and involvement. I think of this new library as the town living room, where everybody can come, visit and always be comfortable and welcome." **NOW**

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## Finance **NOW**

# Year End Planning Opportunities

— By Gary Hayden

The clock is ticking and we are running out of year. As 2007 is winding down, here are some things that you can do that will make a positive impact on your financial life between now and year end.

Get organized. See if you can do a little record keeping cleanup over the holidays. Update your records. Knowing exactly what you have and why you have it is an important step in helping you make smart choices about your money. Develop a game plan that is consistent with your values and lifestyle. Formulate a budget. I apologize for using the dreaded "b" word; however, a budget is critical in order to manage income and expenses.

In order to head off a family feud, get your estate plan in order. Everyone has an estate, and it is important to them that their money, family and possible charitable interests are taken care of. If you do not have a will, go see an estate attorney as soon as possible. Also, if you have a will and possible trust documents, make sure they are current and up to date with your present intentions. Along these same lines, check all your accounts and insurance policies for proper beneficiary designations completeness and accuracy. If you have been blessed with extra money, spread that money around. Make a difference in someone else's life. You can give up to \$12,000 per person per year without triggering gift tax. Also, you can make unlimited charitable contributions without gift tax.

In the retirement area, there are some year end planning opportunities that you do not want to miss. If you are still accumulating for retirement, make the maximum contributions for 2007 if at all possible. The type of retirement plan you have will dictate how much you can contribute. For 401(k) or 403(b) plans, it is \$15,500. If you are over age 50, an additional

\$5,000 may be contributed. If you have an IRA, you can put away \$4,000 for 2007 (\$5,000 if you are over age 50). If you are already in retirement and over the age of 70 1/2, make sure you calculate and take your required minimum distribution (RMD) from your qualified accounts. If you fail to take your RMD amount by year end, there is a 50 percent penalty of what you should have taken, but did not.

In the retirement area, there are two additional concerns that need to be mentioned:

### 1. Risk

Many investors are not aware of the risk and volatility to which their current portfolio is exposed. Having the proper asset allocation of your retirement accounts is the most important factor in ensuring that there will be enough money waiting on you at retirement and making sure that you will not run out of money during retirement.

### 2. Failing to plan for catastrophic medical expenses

Many expenses decrease or stay the same in retirement, with one notable exception: health care. With increasing



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costs of elder care — be it assisted living, home health care, or nursing home fees — you can quickly deplete a nest egg by not adequately planning for long-term care expenses.

Once you have a financial strategy that addresses your concerns and is consistent with your goals, time frame and risk tolerance, you can feel more confident as you navigate the months and years ahead. Take time to enjoy your success at this year end and spend some quality time and remember the people who make your life meaningful. Celebrate Life!

Wishing you a joyous holiday season and a very prosperous New Year! **NOW**

*Gary Hayden is a financial consultant with offices in Corsicana and Ennis.*

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## Obstetrics & Gynecology

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*"At age 6 I lost my best friend to cancer and have dedicated each day since to the care of women in all stages of life. After 14 years in practice, I have moved to Corsicana to share my dedication with each woman that I have the honor of caring for."*

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

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# Women's Health, Part 2

— By Michelle Confer

Last month, I highlighted the top 5 causes of death in the U.S. for women. You may have been surprised by some of them. This month, I would like to explain what your OB/GYN is really there for, and what is happening when you come to us for that “annual exam.”

OB/GYNs are the providers of health care for women, trained to evaluate and treat you for many health concerns and refer you to the appropriate specialists when we identify an abnormality that warrants further investigation or treatment. We specialize in the care of your female organs throughout your life which therefore includes pregnancy, but we are also there as the gatekeepers for all other aspects of your health.

When you present for your “PAP smear” we use that time to screen you not only for those top killers of women, but also the myriad of diseases and conditions that we know could

affect you. We take a fairly complex history in order to help us to know the diseases and conditions for which you are most likely to be at risk. We use this history to identify conditions you may be displaying symptoms for, even ones you are not aware of, and to outline the concerns you have that we need to discuss with you. We examine you from head to toe to identify any abnormalities you have physically and perform the screening tests we have determined you need based on multiple factors including the history and physical exam that we have just performed. We teach you the techniques and exercises we know that you need to promote your health and well-being such as self-breast exam, Kegel exercises and weight loss.

We delve into sensitive areas of your life such as your relationships, both social and sexual, to assure that you are not exposed to unhealthy



situations such as STD exposure, unplanned pregnancy or domestic violence. We educate you about health and well-being, especially in those areas that you rarely ever talk to anyone about such as: sex, weight, self-esteem, relationships, emotional disturbance and life changes (eg,

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menopause). Lastly, we listen to you. We listen to your concerns and needs, even the ones that scream at us between the lines, and we work with you to try to find the causes of your problems and treat you as best as we are able. **NOW**

*Contributed by Michelle Confer, MD  
Obstetrics & Gynecology  
Navarro Regional Hospital*



## Gastroenterologist

### Meet Dr. Syed



Dr. Syed is committed to improving the health and well-being of his patients and our community by providing high-quality service aimed at the prevention and treatment of gastrointestinal related illnesses. He is a Board Certified physician in both Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology. Dr. Syed and his family are excited about becoming part of our community.

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# December 2007

## Community Calendar

### First Wednesdays

Richland Chambers Lake Committee meeting, 4 p.m. at the Oak Cove Marina. Call (903) 874-4731 to confirm date and time.

Ambassador Committee meeting, 1 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce. Call (903) 874-4731 to confirm date and time.

### Second Wednesdays

Utility & Infrastructure Committee meeting, 11 a.m. at the Chamber of Commerce. Call (903) 874-4731 to confirm date and time.

Executive Committee meeting, 3 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce. Call (903) 874-4731 to confirm date and time.

### Second Thursdays

Tourism Committee meeting, 12 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce. Call (903) 874-4731 to confirm date and time.

### December 1, 8, 15 and 29

Hat Brand Rodeo at Navarro County Exposition Center, 4021 W. State Highway 22. Time: 7:30 p.m. Admission: \$6. Call Lynn at (903) 874-7980 or Jody at (903) 362-3901 for more information.

### December 1

Navarro County Toy Run sponsored by the following motorcycle clubs: Los Bomberos, Circuit Riders, UMME and the Aces/Eights. Meet at former Super Kmart parking lot. All riders from all clubs welcome. Ride begins at 11 a.m.

Admission fee: cash or toy donation. Donations also accepted at Corsicana Fire Department and Green's Western Wear. Benefits Salvation Army. For more information, call Pete Ivie at (903) 851-1154, John Quarles at (214) 535-3935, Darrell Stevenson at (903) 875-9895 or David at (903) 654-2577.

R.O.S.E. Association Christmas Market, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Fifth Avenue, downtown Corsicana. Come for Christmas crafts and decorations, food and entertainment. Bishop K.D. Davis Sr. will be master of ceremonies at a Christmas tree auction. For more information go to [www.corsicanarose.com](http://www.corsicanarose.com).

Corsicana Opry takes the stage. Dinner: 6 p.m. Show: 7 p.m. at Martin's Music Hall, 201 South Beaton Street. Tickets are \$10 per person. Call (903) 872-8226 for reservations.

### December 3

Easter Star meeting and potluck supper. Time: 6:30 for dinner and 7:30 for meeting. Location: Corsicana Masonic Lodge. For information, call Bonnie Mathison at (903) 874-0226.

Navarro College concert featuring woodwind ensemble, brass ensemble and percussion ensemble, 7 p.m. Free admission. Location: Dawson Auditorium at Navarro College. Public is invited.

### December 4

Christmas Social sponsored by Blooming Grove Historical Society, 7 p.m. at the home of Jean Hinkle. For address and more information call (903) 695-2724 or (903) 673-2635. Program will include holiday readings by Cathy Hinkle Ward.

Anyone interested in the Blooming Grove Historical society is invited.

Navarro College President's Christmas Concert, 7 p.m. Location: Dawson Auditorium at Navarro College. Public is invited and there is free admission. Christmas music by the concert band and Navarro College choirs.

### December 8

Heart of Texas Barrel Racing Association barrel race, noon at the Navarro County Exposition Center indoor arena. Admission free to the public. Call Camille McCain for more information at (903) 872-5283.

Downtown Association and the Main Street Project and Chamber of Commerce host a Christmas celebration, 5:30 p.m. at Napoli's Restaurant, 111 E. Collin.

### December 11

VOICE, Inc. hosts a Nurturing Program, for parents of children ages 5 - 11. Time: 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Location: Bank of American Building, Third floor, 100 N. Main Street, Suite 308. Call (903) 872-0180 for details.

### December 13

The Gatlin Brothers Christmas. Location: The Palace Theater, 112 West 6th Avenue, Corsicana. Performance is at 7:30 p.m. Presented by the J. Tom Eady Charitable Trust. For more information or tickets call: The Palace Theater at (903) 874-7792.

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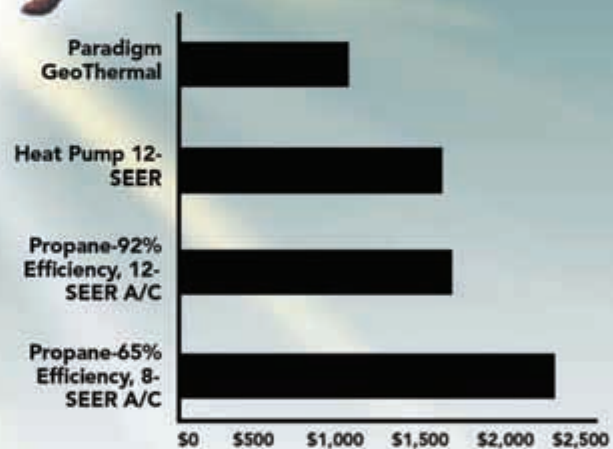
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