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M A G A Z I N E

December 2010



## A Christmas Puppy

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Holiday Shopping Guide

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# Merry Christmas!

And the angel said unto them, "Fear not! For, behold, I bring you tidings of great joy, Which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." - Luke 2:10-12



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Ornaments in Diana Wheelock's collection.

Photo by Amy Ramirez.



# Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

For some of us, holiday time means a tree with ornaments and presents, decorating the house inside and out with lights and going to church to sing joyous songs. For others of us, the holiday means looking forward to a once-a-year Christmas dinner at a shelter and looking at the lights in the store windows from the outside. Some celebrate the holidays via long phone calls and e-mails to the family far away, turkey dinner in the mess tent and packages delivered by the Red Cross. For others, the holidays are like any other day in the refugee tent city, with too little food and water and too little hope for better days. Enjoy what you have. Share what you can. Turn on the holiday lights of respect, compassion and forgiveness that will put an end to war, refugee camps and poverty everywhere, so that all of us can celebrate like some of us.

May the spirit of the holidays bring you peace and joy!

Joan Kilbourne

*CorsicanaNOW* Editor

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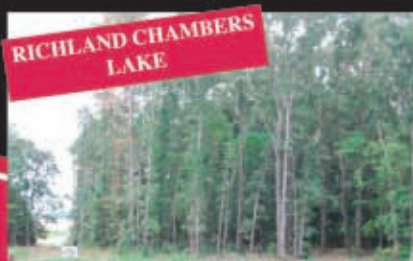
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(According to Multiple listing service (MLS))



**18000 Nelson Loop** - Secluded 3/3 waterfront on 2+ acres! Fireplace in master, double walk-in shower, 2 balconies & natural setting. Julie 903-654-3970



**7628 SE CR 3230** - Beautiful 2/2 custom-built home on 24 acres just 1,500 ft from RC Lake! Julie 903-654-3970



**333 Knights Cr** - Spectacular open waterfront views from the well-maintained 3/2/2. Julie 903-654-3970



**330 Lincoln Dr** - The Castle offers both luxury & comfort with 4/5.4 w/ 3 living areas. Large bedrooms, private baths, study, home theater & much more! Julie 903-654-3970



**151 Stockton Point** - Gorgeous waterfront 4/4.1 home with all the extras! Granite, countertops, redwood beams, boathouse w/ 4 slips, and much more! Julie 903-654-3970



**13012 Rudy's Way** - Country Charm on the lake! This 3/3 home offers a wrap-around porch with awesome views of RC Lake and a Boathouse w/ 2 lifts, & sitting area! Julie 903-654-3970



**10601 FM 2930** - Gorgeous 3/2.1 with 2 living areas on 15+ acr. Open living/dining/ kitchen w/ Silestone Quartz. Covered patio & 24X24 workshop. Julie 903-654-3970



**2903 Williams** - Great 3/1 home with covered carport and separate utility room. Close to elementary school! Julie 903-654-3970



**225 September Dr** - Priced to sell! Tri-level 3/2.5 lake home on 2 lots! Property is landscaped w/ lake-fed sprinkler system. Boathouse has concrete sun deck & jetski lift. Julie 903-654-3970



**429 FM 416** - El Ranchito - A true country estate! Beautifully appointed 4/4.1 custom home on 16.65 manicured acres! No detail overlooked! Soaring ceilings, detailed trim, gourmet kitchen, exercise room and much more! Julie 903-654-3970



**633 SR CR 3048C** - Newly remodeled 3/2 home! New woods, tile & carpet throughout! Wrap-around porch w/ 24 X 16 deck w/ built-in seating. Julie 903-654-3970



**725 El Barco** - Waterfront 4/3 with boatdock. Granite counters & walk in pantry in kitchen, beautiful trim work throughout. Julie 903-654-3970



**418 Clubhouse** - Beautiful 5/5/2 home in the shores! Enjoy the fireplace, vaulted ceilings, walk in closets & covered patio. Julie 903-654-3970



**501 Dobbins** - Great 3/2 home in a great neighborhood! Spacious rooms w/ formal living & dining rooms. Large corner fireplace, covered patio & sprinkler system. Julie 903-654-3970



**3025 View Lane** - Wonderful 3/2 family home! Lrg family room opens to the kitchen! Has lrg utility w/ play area! Great backyard w/ sprinklers, covered deck, & storage bldg. Julie 903-654-3970



**410 N 14th** - Beautifully remodeled 2-story home zoned for commercial use. Wood floors throughout, brick floor in front entrance, 4 rooms downstairs including kitchen & 3 huge rooms upstairs, & 2 baths. Covered parking & lrg lot! Julie 903-654-3970



**416 N 14th** - Beautiful fully remodeled 2-story on high traffic corner! hardwood floors, 3 full baths, 8 rooms, & lrg attic for storage. Full kitchen & washer/dryer hookups. Julie 903-654-3970



**620 Beaton** - Great high traffic location for a business! Sits on 2 lots & features 2 office spaces, each w/ stained concrete floors, side door to carport, half bath & storage room! Julie 903-654-3970



**6054 S 1st Hwy 45** - Great location between Dallas & Houston! Perfect layout for construction w/ 60X80 shop w/ 2 overhead doors & 1 overhead crane. 60X40 shop w/ restroom & office w/ 3 overheads! 5 RV hookups! All on a fenced 5.49 acre tract! Julie 903-654-3970



**1615 Hwy 84 W** - Great metal shop w/ lrg overheads on east & west sides of building. Office building w/ reception area, wet bar, shower area & 4 separate office spaces. Metal building w/ concrete slab. Julie 903-654-3970





# A Christmas Puppy

— By Joan Kilbourne

*How can you resist one of those furry, wriggly, warm little puppies? They bounce up and down begging to go home with you as the perfect Christmas present for your child or, perhaps, for the child in you. In that first flush of puppy love it is difficult to remember that: 1. Puppy will grow up to be a dog; 2. Puppy will need to be housebroken; 3. Puppy will need immunizations every year and food every day; a place to sleep and exercise; and its needs will be your responsibility for the next 10 or 15 years. Oh wait! I think I need to think this out again.*



Julianne Burkhalter, Katy Watkins and Julie Maupin with a grown puppy.



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There is help for anyone who is thinking of having a pet. The Web site [www.Petfinder.com](http://www.Petfinder.com) has information about different breeds of dogs, tips on training puppies and older dogs, estimates of the costs involved in pet ownership and much more. The main focus of this service is dog and



cat adoption and prospective owners are directed to the Web pages of participating animal shelters where they can see pictures and read stories about available animals. The Corsicana Animal Shelter (CAS) uses this service to find homes for its animals.

The city of Corsicana took ownership of CAS seven years ago and, in 2009, Julianne Burkhalter became the director of animal services with oversight of CAS and Animal Control Services. Katy Watkins became the manager of the shelter located on South 12th Avenue. The two most important elements of proper animal care are sanitation and ventilation, and the existing systems are inadequate relics of earlier times. Also, there is no room for the much needed expansion of space to house more animals. While the city manager and city council, along with Chief Bratton, are supportive of the work of the shelter, the city is not able to fund the cost of a newer facility.

This is where the Humane Society stepped in to raise money to build a new animal shelter. Julie Maupin, president of the Humane Society said, "The animal shelter is a very old facility housed in a metal building held together with Band-Aids. Chicken wire holds up the insulation on the inside, and its location next to the railroad tracks means that many times during the day and night the staff and the animals are treated to the deafening roar of a passing train." Because of the poor condition of the shelter, the staff feels that the people in the community are reluctant to come





# A Season of CHEER

Christmas is here! Homes and businesses are aglow with white lights, and decorated trees sparkle in front windows across town. But aside from the season's trimmings and tinsel, it's a time to gather in celebration with family and friends - those who matter most.

We at Community National Bank & Trust are happy to celebrate the holidays with our community, and we wish you all the joys of the season.

*Merry Christmas!*



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there to consider adoption of an animal. "They even have trouble finding the place," Julie added. "If it was located in a better place and it looked clean and neat, people would stop by. There could be space where a family could spend some time with a dog or cat and play with it to see if its personality would fit with the family.

"We are excited about the plans for a new facility," Julie said. "We have done the preliminary studies and worked with an architect to design a new shelter with state-of-the-art ventilation to keep animals safe from airborne viruses and separate plumbing in the kennels to facilitate cleaning and disinfecting them. Even the fencing and flooring are designed to be easily cleaned. CAS, Animal Control and Humane Society staff will each have office space, and there will be a surgical suite and a pet visiting room. "Our Cause for Paws campaign is underway," Julie added, "and we will be vigorously pursuing various donations and funding sources so that construction can begin as soon as possible."

Like the other members of the board of the Humane Society, Julie cares about animals. She and her husband, Bill, share their home with two shelter dogs, one rescue dog and a stray who dash happily around the house and yard. "We all celebrate when the staff at the shelter finds a home for a healthy, good-tempered dog that has been neglected, and it is now in a family that takes care of it. Once they had three blind dogs, Molly and Jack, brother and sister puppies and Inca, an older dog. Lynn Gatlin, who had a blind dog herself, was determined to find them homes so she wrote touching biographies with pictures and all three were adopted. One




family even kept Molly and Jack together. Working with the Humane Society has been an education for me," Julie said. "There are always new challenges, but the staff and volunteers at the Animal Shelter are wonderful people to work with."

The Humane Society has raised funds for a trailer that CAS uses to transport animals to adoption events. You may have seen CAS staff and Humane Society volunteers in front of the Collin Street Bakery on a Saturday morning, or at Day in November or at Derrick Days. People who come to the bakery on a Saturday morning stop to meet the dogs and cats. One such event resulted in 18 adoptions. The Humane Society has also focused on fundraising to support a spay/neuter program. The most effective way to prevent overpopulation is to encourage pet owners to have the surgery done on their pets,"

**The CAS depends on donations from individuals who donate money for medicine and food, but there is always a wish list for such things as towels, collars, cat litter, blankets and cleaning supplies.**

Julie said. "Hundreds of animals have to be euthanized each year for lack of space to house litters of unwanted puppies and kittens. It is cruel to turn a pet loose in the country to be attacked by a pack of coyotes or to starve because it is used to living in a home where it is fed by the owner. There is no excuse to neglect this important step in animal care because the Humane Society has obtained grant funding to help people who cannot afford to pay for the procedure."

CAS depends on donations from individuals who donate money for medicine and food, but there is always a wish list for such things as towels, collars, cat litter, blankets and cleaning supplies. Veterinarians in town contribute some of their time to do spay and neuter surgeries. Volunteers are always welcome to donate time to walk or play with the dogs, and, of course, dollars are also welcome at CAS to help pay for the basic items on the shelter's wish list. Come on in and meet the perfect Christmas puppy who is waiting for you! 



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# Christmas by the Creek

— By Virginia Riddle



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*The meandering Post Oak Creek brings Santa Claus and dozens of good fairies to Diana Wheelock's custom-built home each Christmas as its waters flow through neighborhoods, providing a natural greenbelt and native habitat for animals in the heart of Corsicana. As she gazed across pastureland on the opposite side of the creek, Diana remarked, "I love the feeling of being in the country while still being in town."*





Diana moved to her creek-side haven three years ago after having worked with her builder, Hal Prater, to design a home that took full advantage of the greenbelt. "We tweaked and worked together to come up with a floor plan," she said. A side covered patio, complete with a waterfall and koi pond, overlooks the creek and is a place of joy for Diana and her family. Bluebird houses, bird feeders and plants that attract the wildlife abound. "It's the first time I've ever really had a garden," Diana explained. "I've pretty much done it all myself. It's very much a work in progress, but I'm real happy with the way it is."

With full-length windows lining the home along the creek side, Diana is able to watch wildlife no matter the weather.



An unwanted visitor, a snake, chased the minnows in the koi pond but did not catch her big goldfish, Scooter and Spooky. Hawks, cranes, owls, hummingbirds and a rare purple gallinule have all entertained Diana. "I've never been in a situation where I could see the birds like this. I'm turning into a birder. One day there was a crane that caught a fish so big he could hardly get off the ground," she observed. Fortunately, the



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fish was not one of her own.

While Diana keeps the Christmas decorations subdued on the porch in deference to the wildlife, the rest of the house shouts of Christmas spirit. Santa's sleigh and reindeer wait patiently by the trees, glittering with lights that line the driveway and complement the icicle lights surrounding the home's eaves. A collection of nutcrackers helps Diana's four enthusiastic dogs guard the entryway, and a Christmas wreath hung on the beveled glass door welcomes friends and family to come inside and join in the spirit. Widget and Squeeks accompany Spike, "the old man in the family," while

Rufus, a miniature horse-sized dog, clearly rules the home. "What's really funny is seeing Rufus romp in this living room. He never touches anything," Diana stated.

A more than 9-foot-tall tree takes full advantage of soaring ceilings in the open living, dining and kitchen areas. Encrusted with enormous stars and ornaments of every color, the tree is the focal point of the comfortable but elegantly decorated living room. "There is not a twig on it that doesn't have two or three ornaments," Diana revealed. Her son, local business owner Sean Dodson, remembers most of the ornaments from his childhood days. Diana is very sentimental about

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the painted goose egg ornaments that were given to her when she was a new bride. Another treasured ornament is a stuffed animal skunk dating from Diana's childhood. It was always given to the child who had been the "stinkiest" for the past year. "It's always been on the Christmas tree along with the switches and coal," Diana laughed. An angel dressed in gold and white brocade and surrounded by glittered branches tops the tree. Large, gold stars are found both on the tree and within other decorations throughout the home. "I love the gold stars; I think they are great!" Diana exclaimed.

Diana's collection of Mark Robert's Christmas fairies serves as central characters in scenes that decorate the baker's coffee table and television in the living area. Each fairy is handmade and wired inside so they can be bent into various positions, and each fairy portrays a different holiday theme. The intricately carved mantel is warmed by the golden-hued manger scene and a host of angels, and a wrought-iron fire screen with a stained glass insert is a beautiful work of art. A Christmas throw, cascading garlands and fairies frolicking under an antique wall clock complete the

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**A collection of nutcrackers of varying sizes stands at attention on another buffet.**



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picture-perfect living area.

The aroma of Santa's freshly baked goodies wafts through the air from a work island in a kitchen that is both functional and beautiful. Diana's collection of decorative baskets is perched above cabinets that are reflected in the blue granite countertops decorated with Christmas centerpieces. "I love cooking for crowds," Diana remarked. "I feed my kids and grandkids and their friends all the time." A stay-at-home mom while her children were growing up, Diana is accustomed to having "the go-to house" for her family and friends.

Diana's family — including her daughter, Hope DeChame, Sean, their spouses and Diana's three grandchildren (with a fourth one on the way) — gathers each Christmas Eve for a traditional brunch around the dining room table. "What I enjoy the most about Christmas is our brunch and the grandkids opening their presents afterwards," Diana said. The feast is overseen by a winged angel centerpiece anchored by red candles in tall candelabras. Garlands with red berries cascade from the tops of



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tall china cabinets while the buffet sports fairies trekking through three crystal Christmas trees glowing gold from within and a crystal compote filled with fruit ornaments. A collection of nutcrackers of varying sizes stands at attention on another buffet.

A restful guest bedroom adjoins, through a shared bath, her grandchildren's



sleepover bedroom complete with bunk beds and a play area. "They love to stay over with Mimi," Diana said, using her grandkids' name for her. Diana's greatest joy is that her children and grandchildren live nearby so she can see them often and play hostess to special events, such as her granddaughter's 10th birthday party, a creek-side beach party complete with sand.

Walls of windows on two sides of the master bedroom take full advantage of the view of the creek and greenbelt. An ornate, Victorian-styled fireplace decorated in bright colors and twinkling lights glows against the soft blue hues of the room. The master bath features a spacious glass block and tiled shower.

As a descendant of Robert Lloyd Wheelock, one of Texas' most successful early independent oil operators and the 21st mayor of Corsicana, Diana is loyal to her hometown. Whether having dinner with former classmates from Corsicana High School, volunteering at the Warehouse Living Arts Center or entertaining her family, Diana relishes sharing her Christmas by the creek with friends and family, while bringing joy to all throughout the year. **NOW**





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*Ron Ludwig, director of communications at Carroll Elementary, takes time for a photo.*



*Zedekiah Nealy keeps the beat.*



*Gina Cobb and Danielle Marshall leaving class at Navarro College.*



*Paul Hooper presents a plaque to Elonda Cassady.*



*A ribbon cutting was held at Cassady's Hair Salon.*



*Captain Brad Roughton, and Firefighter Medic Travis Ellington pick up groceries for their shift.*



*Greg Corriveau with Community Coffee makes a delivery.*



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*Mr. Stringer (dean at Navarro College) speaks on Veteran's Day.*



*Luis Kato and Brandon Warden at Hibbets Sports.*



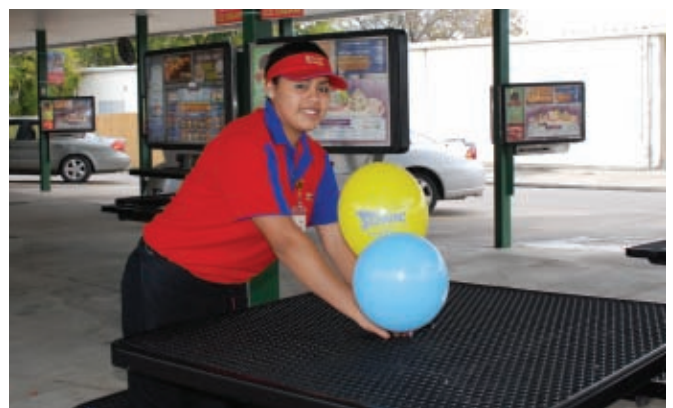
*People showed up in some fantastic costumes for the Chamber's Roaring 20's Night.*



*Carroll Elementary's office assistant, Cassandra Grayson, offers a welcoming smile.*

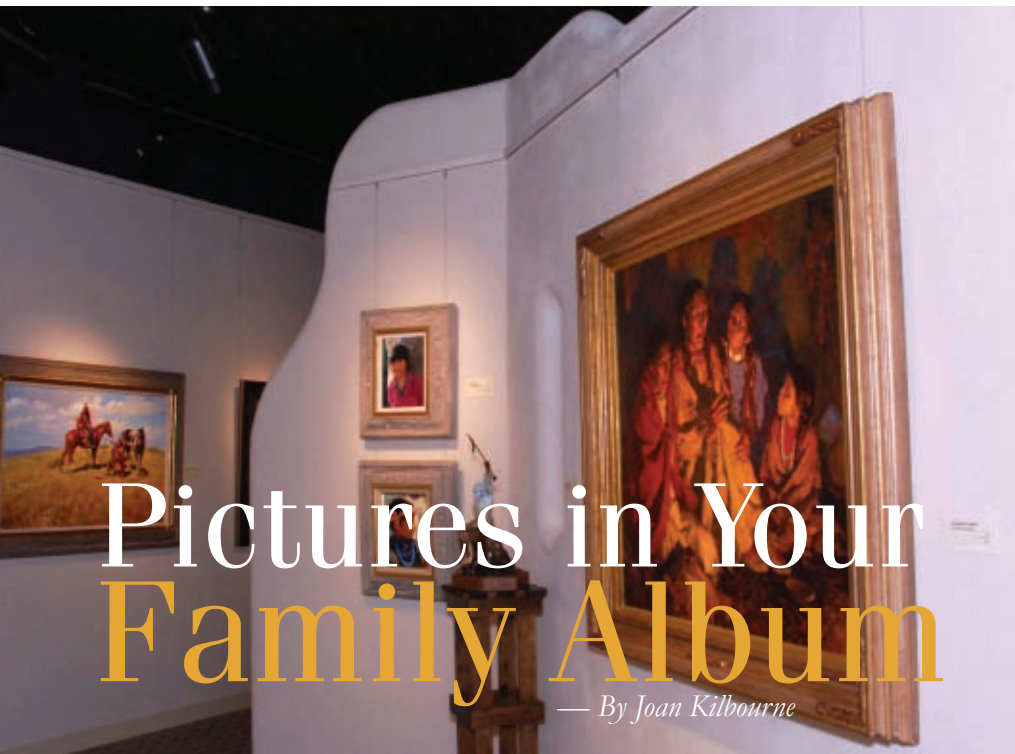


*Harvey, Seth and Brian are back from a recent pheasant hunt.*



*Blanca Morales decorates the tables at Sonic with balloons.*





# Pictures in Your Family Album

— By Joan Kilbourne

What precious things would you take with you as you fled your home in a fire or flood or other disaster? Most people say they would take family photos that preserve memories and represent close bonds with people they care about. If the American West is your home and the home of your ancestors, then a remarkable family album is preserved for you at the Pearce Civil War and Western Art Museum. Your family album is in good hands. The official titles of this team of caretakers of the Western Art Museum identify their special talents and experience. Holly Beasley Wait is the museum director, Allison Chew is the art curator and Heather Turner is the archivist. Their function as art managers, art lovers, historians or educators, however, is a team effort. “We do whatever needs to be done,” Holly said.

This team gathered to carry on the vision of Charles and Peggy Pearce whose focus was on building the collection of Western art that, today, consists of 228 paintings and sculptures by 165 different artists. Holly grew up in South Georgia with youthful visions of being a forest ranger, but by the time she entered Valdosta State University in Florida, she had become interested in history. She went on to earn a master’s degree in American history and public history. Intrigued

by historic preservation studies, Holly began a career working in museums in Florida. She described her arrival at the Pearce Museum saying, “I got married one weekend, drove through a

hurricane to Texas the next weekend and, on the third weekend, I started as director here.”

Heather Turner arrived on the scene in a less stormy way. Heather lived in Pennsylvania and did her work at the University of Pittsburgh in library and information science, with an archivist specialty. Her task is to maintain and catalog the civil war documents, including some 15,000 letters written during that period. “I also work with the Navarro College collection,” Heather said and added with a smile, “and other duties as assigned.”

Allison Chew, a native of Corsicana, explored various majors before she began work on a master’s degree in the fine arts with photography as a special interest at The University of Texas at Tyler. As an intern at the museum, Allison worked closely with Charles Pearce. Now, as the full-time art curator, she writes a column called the “Artist’s Toolbox” for the

newsletter. “We are looking outward to the community, and we are planning educational events,” Allison said. “Teachers bring elementary school students here on field trips, and we teach them



“Teachers bring elementary school students here on field trips, and we teach them about Native American history and do art projects with them.”





about Native American history and do art projects with them. They like the scavenger hunts, and I feel like a big kid myself playing with them.”

“We try to bring in paintings and sculptures that offer different kinds of experiences for visitors,” Holly said. Recently the realist painter, Albino Hinojosa, walked into the offices of the



museum staff and left a catalog of his work for their consideration. It did not take long for the team to recognize the quality of his work, and they saw an opportunity to display paintings with a different view of the early West. This native Texas artist was invited to exhibit as a visiting artist, and his many paintings of abandoned homesteads can be seen in a gallery for special exhibits. Hinojosa’s paintings are created with great attention to detail. Viewing his work makes it easy to imagine living on the plains or standing on the hard-packed earth of the Texas Panhandle.

Another visiting artist, whose work is presently displayed in the gallery, is Raymond Sikes. He paints symbols

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From left to right: Bobby McClain, Idalia Mares, Johnnie Ceasar, Eloise Calhoun, Wesley Nash, Mildred Hopkins, Vlasta Knize, Lora Lambert  
Below: Eloise Calhoun and Wesley Nash



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meaningful to the Plains Indian warriors on traditional buffalo hide shields that were intended to provide physical and spiritual protection. The exhibit includes paintings done on unfinished canvas that resembles hide like those the Indians created using ledger books given them by the military.

The Artists in Residence program recently presented artist Brenda Howell. In this program, the artist is provided gallery space to display a collection of his or her work. A reception at the Cook Education Center is arranged to introduce the artist to the community. The artist then offers local artists and students two days of classes and workshops in which students bring their own material to paint under the instruction of the visiting artist.

For the first time, the Pearce Museum will host the 7th Annual Western Artists of American Show and Sale, which will take place between January 28 and March 12, 2011. Forty artists are sending their work to be displayed in the museum galleries. Artists, patrons, collectors and gallery owners will gather to see 140 pieces that have never before been seen. The gallery staff and volunteers will be busy creating a catalog of artwork and storing the gallery exhibit to make room for the show. This will be an excellent time for everyone to go look at the family album of paintings displaying your Western heritage and to share your stories and memories. **NOW**

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# AN ALL-AROUND Winner

— By Virginia Riddle

Vince Lombardi, one of the most successful coaches in the National Football League (NFL) once said, “The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand.” Trey McGowan, a senior student at Kerens High School (KHS), did not have the chance to meet the great Lombardi, but his life reflects the coach’s wise words. “Trey is a very dedicated student and works hard to achieve his goals,” Amy Callaway, a KHS science teacher, revealed.

Trey’s name consistently appears on the A/B honor roll even with his active involvement in University Interscholastic League (UIL) academic and athletic competitions, church, work and volunteerism. Administrators and teachers enthusiastically express their appreciation and admiration of Trey’s efforts in the classroom. “I like to be a leader in the classroom,” Trey remarked. “When it gets loud, I get on certain people.”

Ms. Callaway added, “Trey has been an outstanding member of my UIL science team for two years running.” The science competition requires extensive knowledge in biology, chemistry and physics. Trey is also active with the Student Council and Future Farmers of America (FFA). He enjoys his school and life in Kerens. “Everybody’s real friendly,” Trey added.



Being a role model to younger students is very important to Trey. “He is very respectful to adults and great with children,” Mrs. Debbie Williams, an elementary teacher, said.

Ms. Traci Keele, the elementary P. E. teacher, said, “We have the honor of having Trey as a student aide in the gym. The students love him, and he has become a great role model for our future Bobcats. Trey does a great job encouraging all our students, and they look forward to being on Trey’s team when we have competitions.”

A large part of Trey’s life has been centered on athletics ever since his participation in Pee Wee Football as a child. As a 6-foot-1-inch, 225 pound middle linebacker for the Bobcats, he has won many awards including Honorable Mention Linebacker on the 2A Associated Press All-State Team and the district’s Most Valuable Player. His position, often

referred to as the quarterback of the defense, has allowed Trey further opportunities for leadership. “I show up on the field on time, give advice and right the wrongs,” Trey said. “The coaches, including Head Coach Russell Anderson, are very



## Sports**NOW**

interactive with me. They made a play for me to choose which way to go. Whenever I feel it's right, the coaches let me go blitz," he added. Universities have recognized Trey's football talents and began recruiting him while he played in junior high. He hopes to one day play on full scholarship for a university, earn a degree in pharmacology and be drafted by the NFL. "I want to give back to the community," Trey said.



Trey and his family received encouragement from their community of family and friends a few years ago when their home burned down during his freshman year. "We lost everything: trophies, everything. It was memories lost," Trey recalled. "We had to start all over again."

His grades had fallen to C's that year. It was a low point. His mom, Angela McGowan Carter, when referring to Trey's turnaround in the classroom said, "It might have been the awareness of how important life is." Shirley Curtis and Mary Whitfield, teachers at KHS indicated that Trey overcame the personal adversity which stemmed from the house fire and never looked back.

Running and lifting weights year-round keeps Trey in condition for football, basketball, golf and track and field shot put and discus events. He has been captain of the golf team and a regional qualifier in field events. Trey credits his mother and stepfather, Ruben Carter, with helping him keep his focus and discipline in sports and the classroom. "When she gets the belt out, it encourages me," he laughed.

Angela added, "I try to cook so he eats right."

Trey also derives encouragement from all of his family members — especially

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## Sports**NOW**

his brother, Macarthur Davis — who form an enthusiastic cheering section for every game or meet. “My mom, brother, my whole, entire family are the important people in my life,” Trey said. “They’re always there for me.”




**“He hopes to one day play on full scholarship for a university, earn a degree in pharmacology and be drafted by the NFL.”**

Trey and his family moved from Fort Worth to Lake Richland Chambers to take advantage of the fishing and to be closer to Trey’s grandmother. He works in a bait shop and is a deacon at Faith Temple Ministries under the leadership of Pastor P.A. Rischer. In his few spare hours, he enjoys dominoes, dancing and singing in the Tennessee Colony Community Choir, a five-church combined choir, which his grandmother, Louise Caldwell, manages. “He is a ‘dominologist,’” his mother said proudly. “He’s always the first to reach 150.”

This young man has discovered how to rise above adversity through hard work, discipline and focus to become an all-around winner. Mrs. Keele summed it up well: “I believe Trey has a bright future.” **NOW**

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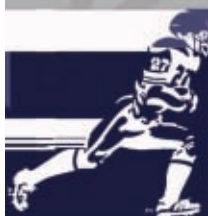


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## Making Ends Meet

Toledo Finance offers quick loans and tax help.

— By Joan Kilbourne

It was a cool autumn day, and the door of the Toledo Finance Corporation office stood wide open to welcome visitors. Each visitor was greeted like a friend who had been invited to dinner. Manager Jeanne Clemons recognized returning visitors by name because, she said, “I get to know them, their families and what is going on with them.”

Jeanne has been working in the loan business since 1995. “I love this job,” she said. “I am glad to get up in the morning and come to work.” Jeanne worked for a while in a retail shop in a space that she rented next door to the Toledo Finance owners.

When a position opened up in the loan office, she was drawn back to work again in the loan business. “The people at Toledo Finance are great to work for,” she said. “I like being around people. When they laugh, I laugh, and when they cry, I cry too.” Jeanne added, “They do not stay in the office very long, however. We try to be fast and make quick loans. People can phone in an application or write one here, and it usually takes no more than five or 10 minutes to get approval if they meet the criteria for a loan. We are able to fund the loans right away, and they can walk out the door with money in their hands.”



Jeanne likes being busy. She moved quickly between the ringing phone and sitting at the desk across from one of the visitors. "I am the one who makes the decision to approve the loan," she explained. "There is a supervisor who does an audit every month, so I need to make daily and monthly reports. People give me the names of family and friends as references, so I keep up with happenings in their lives. I know when they go to the hospital or have a death in the family." Jeanne is able to greet returning visitors with, "Hi, how is your knee doing?" Or she asks, "Is your brother better today?" That kind of personal service gives the office a welcoming atmosphere.

"We do a budget as part of the application because we don't want to hurt people with added expenses they

**"We work through the Personal Tax Service (PTS) Company, and we hope this year to let people know we are available during taxpaying season."**

can't manage," Jeanne said. "I feel bad when they dig a hole they can't get out of." Jeanne has a helper's personality, and she has to balance her wish to help with the loan officer's duty to act responsibly. The corporation requires monthly accounting, and there is a need to keep accurate records. Jeanne was proud to show a plaque announcing that last year her office was recognized as "the most improved overall" based on the number of new accounts. "I'm big on setting goals," she said. "I am driven, and I always want to exceed the goals I set for great customer service."

The Toledo Finance office has added a new service for tax preparation help. "We work through the Personal Tax Service (PTS) Company, and we hope this year to let people know we are available during taxpaying season." There is a good chance that the dynamic Jeanne Clemons will meet this new goal with her usual energy. "I wouldn't quit even if I won the lottery," Jeanne said cheerfully. "I just like coming here." **NOW**

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# A School Still Standing

— By Joan Kilbourne



The true history of G.W. Jackson High School is written in the minds and hearts of its former students. Three times the school building and all its records, photographs and trophies were consumed by fire and, when it closed in 1970, fire again took away the building. It was left to the members of the Jackson Ex-Students Association (JESA) to keep vigil over memories of the community that formed around their school.

In 1969, the informal gatherings of the former students became the chartered Jackson Ex-Students Association. The current president of JESA, Tinnis Manning, said, "We have about 100 or more members in Corsicana and in the Dallas Chapter. Many of the graduates of Jackson have entered professional fields, and some of them moved out West. So, until recently, we also had a chapter in San Francisco. Every two years, former

high school in 1964, just six years before G.W. Jackson High School closed its doors because Corsicana High School had become an integrated school. The Manning family has been connected to education ever since that time. Tinnis worked for Corsicana Independent School District (CISD) for 33 years. When he retired, he took a part-time position with Kerens ISD. Tinnis' wife, Patrice, teaches at Carroll Elementary School, and she claims to be an honorary member of the JESA Association. "I never attended that school," she said, "but I was already roaming the halls there as a little girl when my aunt taught there."

The Ex-Students Association has a full calendar of activities. Tinnis said, "We have seminars presented by businessmen who talk to the students about how to apply themselves in school so that they are ready to enter the business world."

students come from all over to our reunion, which is a four-day event with a dance and a picnic, and in the evenings, we put on our own show at the Palace Theater."

Tinnis graduated from the black

Another activity is the benefit dance to raise funds for scholarships, which is scheduled the weekend after Thanksgiving. "The goal is to provide at least five scholarships each year, and last year we were able to give out eight of them," Tinnis said.

Another big event is the Juneteenth Celebration that includes a parade on the Saturday nearest the 19th of June. The parade ends at Bunert Park, with a ceremony to recognize the people who are making a contribution in the community. "On Friday, there is a pageant for girls from Ennis and Navarro County who are 15- to 18-years old," Tinnis said. "The pageant was started in 1981 by Sharnel Lewis. Last year, a woman from the Dallas chapter came to talk to the girls in the pageant about being role models for other young ladies coming along after them. She also talked about the history and traditions of the Jackson School because these girls are grandchildren of the last students to attend that school. It ties them to their grandparents," Tinnis said. "It helps them understand how important that community was to their families." Last year, Shavanda Washington coordinated the pageant that includes skits and solo performances by the young people. The girls model in a street wear show, and the little kids do their part in what Tinnis



## Education **NOW**

described as “a little like a beauty pageant, only in this one everyone goes home with a prize. The Master Bear boys contest and the Little Miss JESA girls contest are mostly about the little ones standing there, all dressed up, holding their mother’s hands while they are all presented awards,” he explained.

Tinnis reminisced a bit when he said, “The young people today don’t know how lucky they are having a beautiful high school with all the equipment there and computers for everyone. When I was in school, kids had to fit in school with work in the cotton fields. If there was no bus to your home, you had to get up early to walk. I walked a good 45 minutes to school holding my younger brother and sister by the hand. You had to be persistent. I learned that I had to be accountable for what I wanted.” When



he was in sixth grade, Tinnis was bussed to Jackson School, and it was “a big ole school” compared to the one he had attended in Powell. Jackson High was known for its superior music education and the Bears football team that won seven state championships.

The Boys & Girls Club presently occupies the former school site. A memorial has been built on the land that was the former football field, and JESA is selling bricks that can be inscribed to be put on the wall. The organization also hopes to raise funds to restore the home of G.W. Jackson, who was principal of the school for 45 years, from 1882 to 1926. “We would like to have a place to store whatever documents we have saved from those years,” Tinnis said. G.W. Jackson High was never just a building, and what it stood for lives on. **NOW**

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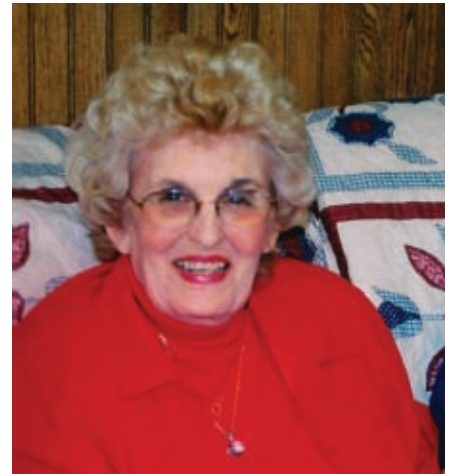


# In The Kitchen With Janice Palmeri

— By Adam Walker

After retiring, Janice Palmeri became manager and caterer for Kinsloe House, a meeting place for women's clubs in Corsicana, in whose 50th anniversary cookbook her recipes make up a full chapter. Born in Barry, Janice married Donald Palmeri. Sunday lunch with her Sicilian mother-in-law was Janice's inspiration to cook. And fine inspiration it must have been; she won the *Daily Sun* cooking contest five times.

Janice's 200-plus volume cookbook collection includes a 700-page book published by the Northeast Texas Telecom Pioneers. "Anything you want to make," Janice said, "it's in there." Another of her prized cookbooks is signed by Carnival Cruise Line's Chef Andre. Wisely, Janice explained, "My rule for baking is to do everything by the book. When I cook other things, I improvise." **NOW**



## CHRISTMAS PIE

**2 piecrusts (your favorite recipe)**

**1 can red sour cherries with juice**

**1 cup sugar**

**1/4 cup flour**

**1 small pkg. orange Jell-O**

**1 small can crushed pineapple**

**1 cup pecans, coarsely chopped**

**3 bananas, mashed**

**Few drops of red food coloring, enough to make pie red**

**Cool Whip or whipping cream**

**1. Bake 2 piecrusts.**

**2. Mix cherries, sugar and flour and boil until thick.**

**3. While still hot, add Jell-O and pineapple.**

**4. Cool. Add pecans, bananas and food coloring.**

**5. Pour into baked piecrusts or graham cracker crusts and chill for several hours or overnight.**

**6. Spread with Cool Whip or whipping cream.**

## CHOCOLATE-CHOCOLATE

**1 pkg. brownie mix**

**8 Heath candy bars, crushed**

**2 pkgs. chocolate mousse**

**1 12-oz. carton Cool Whip**

**Red and green Maraschino cherries (optional)**

**1. Prepare brownies according to package directions and bake in a 13 x 9-inch pan.**

**2. Place 1/2 of brownies in the bottom of a 5-inch deep by 8-inch wide compote-type bowl.**

**3. Sprinkle 1/2 of the crushed Heath bars over the brownies.**

**4. Spread 1/2 of the mousse mixture on top of the bars.**

**5. Add a layer of Cool Whip.**

**6. Repeat layers as before.**

**7. Add red and green bottled cherries on top make it a Christmas centerpiece.**

## SQUASH DRESSING

**1 pkg. cornbread mix, cooked according to package directions**

**5 medium yellow squash, thinly sliced**

**1 onion, chopped**

**1 can cream of chicken soup**

**2 boiled eggs**

**1 tsp. poultry seasoning**

**1/2 cup butter melted**

**1. Mix all ingredients together in baking pan and bake at 350 F until brown.**

## CRANBERRY CAKE

**CAKE:**

**2 eggs, slightly beaten**

**1/2 cup Wesson oil**

**1 cup buttermilk**

**2 1/2 cups sifted flour**

**2 cups chopped dates**

**2 cups sugar**

**2 or 3 Tbsp. orange marmalade**

**1 cup fresh whole cranberries**

**1 tsp. baking soda**

**1/2 tsp. salt**

**1 cup pecans**

**FROSTING:**

**1 Tbsp. orange marmalade**

**2 Tbsp. whole cranberry sauce**

**Cream cheese frosting**

**1. Mix first 3 ingredients in a small bowl.**

**2. Mix next 8 ingredients in a large bowl and add ingredients from the small bowl.**

**3. Pour into a greased and floured tube pan.**

**4. Bake at 350 F for 1 hour.**

**5. Make frosting by combining remaining orange marmalade, cranberry sauce and cream cheese frosting. Frost the cake. Cake freezes well or can be wrapped in foil and refrigerated.**

## EASY TIME HOLIDAY SQUARES

**1 1/2 cups sugar**

**1 cup butter, softened**

**4 eggs**

**2 cups all-purpose flour**

**1 Tbsp. lemon extract**

**1 can cherry pie filling**

**Powdered sugar**

**1. Add sugar to butter gradually, beating until light and fluffy.**

**2. Add eggs, one at a time, beating after each addition.**

**3. At low mixer speed, add flour and lemon extract.**

**4. Pour into well-greased 11x15-inch pan and mark off into 20 squares.**

**5. Place 1 tsp. pie filling in center of each square.**

**6. Bake at 350 F for 45 minutes. Check often; do not overbake.**

**7. Sprinkle with powdered sugar while warm. This is very moist and tastes like pound cake.**

## HOLIDAY CHEESE BALL

**2 8-oz. cream cheese bars**

**1/4 cup finely chopped onion**

**1/4 cup finely chopped bell pepper**

**1 Tbsp. seasoned salt**

**1 4- or 5-oz. can crushed pineapple, drained**

**2 cups pecans**

**1. Whip cream cheese with a fork until creamy.**

**2. Add all ingredients except pecans.**

**3. Mix and form into a ball and roll it in the pecans.**

**4. Wrap in foil and refrigerate overnight before serving.**

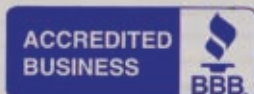
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# Looking to Trim Your Tax Bill? Consider These Year-end Tips.

— By B. Kyle Ward



You may want to consider using any or all of these strategies now to help reduce your 2010 tax bill:

- **Maximize retirement contributions.**

If possible, max out your pre-tax 401(k) contributions before year-end to reduce your taxable income. If you have a tax-deductible IRA, make this year's contribution now (or anytime before April 15, 2011).

- **Sell your losers and maybe some winners, too.**

If you have investments that have lost value and others that have gained, you may be able to sell the "losers" and deduct up to \$3,000 of the loss, which can be used to offset taxable gains from selling "winners."

- **Defer income, accelerate itemized deductions.**

If you expect to be in a lower tax bracket next year, you might want to

postpone income from this year to next. Consider deferring year-end bonuses and other income until 2011, and consider accelerating your deductions in order to pay less this year. For instance, you can prepay your home mortgage interest or if you itemize and have outstanding medical bills, state and local taxes, mortgage payments or property taxes to pay, you may want to consider making those payments before year-end.

- **Seek expert guidance**

Consult a tax professional for more information and to determine appropriate tax strategies for your specific situation. Taxes should not be the primary motivation behind financial decisions — your needs and objectives should take priority. **NOW**

*B. Kyle Ward is a Farmers Insurance agent based in Corsicana.*

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Dr. Matthew Branch, Otolaryngology

We've all experienced the discomfort of stubborn water remaining in the ear after a dip in the pool or a shower, a ringing sensation after attending a loud sporting event or a concert, or the sudden sensation of the room spinning, after standing up too quickly.

Our ears are made of tiny bones, passages and structures that not only control our hearing, but also our sense of balance and equilibrium. This delicate, intricate system can be thrown out of whack by many things: a cold, an infection, medication or an injury.

A common problem is tinnitus. With tinnitus, an abnormal

## Ear problems can signal hearing, balance and other health issues.

ear noise such as roaring or ringing is heard in the ear. The noise has nothing to do with actual sound waves in the ear, but rather, is a “phantom” sound that’s heard either intermittently, or all the time. It can develop in the outer, middle or inner ear — and it can affect not only hearing, but balance, too.

Tinnitus is challenging to diagnose and treat. It can be caused by many things and is generally a symptom of an underlying condition, such as damage to the inner ear by illness, injury or abnormal tissue growth.

Tinnitus can occur in one or both ears. The phantom sound can be constant or occur in episodes, and can be accompanied by vertigo — a spinning sensation or loss of balance. The condition can be caused by excess fluid, infection, disease of the middle ear bones or ear drum, advancing age, loud noise exposure or some prescription and over-the-counter medications.

Tinnitus can be brought on by a variety of conditions, including: impacted wax in the outer ear, an ear infection, middle ear tumors, vascular problems (circulation disorders), noise-induced hearing loss, heart problems, TMJ (chronic inflammation of the jaw), auditory nerve tumors, epilepsy, etc. Often, tinnitus goes away on its own, but if it persists, untreated, it can cause permanent ear noise and disability.

The first step in treating tinnitus is a medical evaluation by your doctor, or an ear, nose and throat (ENT) specialist. Other diagnostic tests may include an MRI or CT scan to rule out the small possibility of a tumor on the balance or hearing nerve. Tinnitus can also be treated with medication and lifestyle changes. *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.* **NOW**

Matthew Branch, M.D., Otolaryngology  
Navarro Regional Hospital  
(903) 641-3850

#### Sources:

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, [www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org)  
National Institutes of Health, [www.nlm.nih.gov](http://www.nlm.nih.gov)  
American Academy of Family Physicians, [www.familydoctor.org](http://www.familydoctor.org)  
American Tinnitus Association, [www.ata.org](http://www.ata.org)



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## Second and Fourth Tuesday

Home Rebekah Lodge No.128 meeting: 6:00 p.m., I.O.O.F, 3330 W. Second Ave., Corsicana. The mailing address for the lodge is P.O. Box 1511, Corsicana, TX 75151. Visiting members are welcome to attend.

## Second and Fourth Thursday

Corsicana Lodge No. 63 meeting: 7:00 p.m., I.O.O.F, 3330 W. Second Ave. The mailing address for the lodge is P.O. Box 1342, Corsicana, TX 75151. Visiting members are welcome to attend.

## December 2-5

*The Christmas Carol Miracle* by Luise Putcamp Jr., presented by the Corsicana Children's Company. This is a story about a West Texas town and the miracle that occurred there during a singing competition. Contact The Warehouse Living Arts Center at (903) 872-5421 for more details.

## December 4

Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder at The Palace Theatre, 110 W. 6th Ave. Two performances, 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Meet this 14-time Grammy winner at a cocktail reception at 6:45 p.m. Reception ticket is \$25. Tickets and information available at [www.corsicanaPalace.com](http://www.corsicanaPalace.com) or call (903) 874-7792.

Corsicana YMCA's 18th Annual Jingle Bell Jog, a 5K/1-mile fun run/walk. The race begins at 9:00 a.m. at the Corsicana YMCA. Race day registration: 8:00 a.m. Pre-race aerobics: 8:50 a.m. Youth pre-registration fee: \$8. Race day registration fee: \$10. Individual pre-registration fee: \$12. Individual race day registration fee: \$15. Family pre-registration fee: \$20. Family race day registration fee: \$25. Family registration will include two T-shirts. Additional T-shirts will be sold for \$10. For more information, contact the YMCA at (903) 872-2412.



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Holiday Bazaar: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Collins Catholic School gym. Adirondack Stones, Apron Strings, Bling Bling Jewelry, Jo Beads, Kaleidoscope Cookbooks, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Poppy's Jr. & Ladies Apparel, Scentzy, The Bag Lady, Thirty One and 2 Friends! Pictures with Santa and children's activities. Cafe will be open serving sandwiches and drinks. For more information, call: (903) 872-1751.

The Corsicana "Festival of Lights" Christmas Parade: 6:00 p.m. The parade will start lining up about 5:00 p.m. on 13th St. at Cornerstone Baptist Church. Entrants should enter the staging area from Oak Lawn Street. There will be people there to direct you to the proper place. Entrants are encouraged to have lights on their floats, and if they want to be judged, their float must be identified with a sign on the passenger side of the float. There is no charge to enter the parade. For registration or additional information, contact Dennis Thornberg at (903) 872-2641.

### December 5

Kerens Garden Club's Annual Christmas Tea and Tour of Homes: 2:00-5:00 p.m. Follow the signs to the beautiful homes, then join Frosty, Rudolph and Santa at the Tea House for a Sunday afternoon of your favorite Christmas songs and homemade cookies. Tickets may be purchased at the Kerens Library or from any Garden Club member. For more information, contact Barbara Arnett at (903) 874-0739.

### December 6

Jazz Concert: 7:00 p.m. in Dawson Auditorium on the Corsicana campus of Navarro College. For more information, please call (903) 875-7381.

Corsicana Masonic Lodge meeting: 7:30 p.m. A meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. All Masons are invited.

### December 7

Oak Valley Crime Watch meeting: 6:30 p.m. in the Oak Valley City Hall Community Room. Ham will be furnished by Crime Watch. The program will be a repeat of the fun July Bingo Night. Bring a dish and join the group for

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Order of Eastern Star of Corsicana Chapter No. 118 meeting: 7:30 p.m. at the Corsicana Masonic Lodge. A pot-luck supper will be served at 6:30 p.m. All area OES members are invited. For more information, contact Bonnie Mathison at (903) 874-0226.

### December 9

President's Tea at Navarro College: 4:30 p.m., Cook Education Center, on the Corsicana Navarro College campus.

Annual Christmas Concert: 6:30 p.m., Dawson Auditorium on the Corsicana Navarro College campus. For more information, call (903) 875-7381.

Dawson Masonic Lodge meeting: 7:30 p.m. All Masons are invited.

### December 10

*Polar Express* Movie Night at Collins Catholic School. This is a no-charge Parent/Teacher event. A school family is donating their big screen movie setup for a fun family movie night at the school. Bells will be given to the children to add to the movie experience. Hot cocoa and popcorn will be available for a small fee.

### December 11

*Polar Express*, the movie at the Palace Theatre, 112 W. 6th Ave. For more information, call (903) 874-7792.

### December 12-14

"The Living Christmas Tree," presented by First Baptist Church Corsicana, 510 W. Collin, Corsicana. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Pre-tree entertainment begins at 6:40 p.m. Performance begins at 7:00 p.m. The "tree" is approximately 30 feet tall and holds over 75 singers. The lights on the tree are programmed to keep the beat, and they change color with the feeling of the music. Folks of all ages will enjoy the Living Christmas Tree. For information, contact Becky Thurston at becky@fbccorsicana.org or (903) 872-7473.

### December 18

Day in December Arts and Crafts Show: 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., College Park Mall.



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