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Beautiful 7 bedroom 4 bath home with dramatic flair! Great room, media room, game room and den! \$394,000. Call Renee Caperton for more details! 903-874-3474.



Cute 3-2 Ranch Style home on 5+/- acres. Home features open concept living,dining and kitchen. Priced to sell! \$152,000. Renee Caperton 903-874-3474.



SPACIOUS 4-2 on pretty treed corner lot. Features formal areas, nice kitchen w/ recent ceramic tile, sunroom, study. Too much to list! \$179,900. Lisa Burns 903-654-0527.



Darling 3-2 that could 4 bedrooms. Nice oak trees, large living area and master bedroom. Big backyard with covered patio. \$124,000. Lisa Burns 903-654-0527.



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Country living, but close to town! Nice 3-2 on 2.52 +/- acres. Home features living area w/ WBFP, large rooms, lots of storage. Priced to sell! Mary Slater 903-654-2205.



Beautiful park-like setting! 3-2 DW on 5+/- acres very close to Navarro Mills Lake.Two storage bldgs, partially fenced and gated entry. \$119,900. Mary Slater 903-654-2205



Country home on 4+/- acres w/ pond. Home features 2 bedrooms, lots of cabinets in kitchen, all rooms are nice size! 129,900. Mary Slater 903-654-2205.



Very cute 3-1 on 1.47+/- acres. Large kitchen w/ eating area opens to living room. This one is move-in ready!! \$62,500. Mary Slater 903-654-2205

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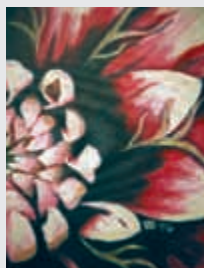
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Acrylic on Canvas, 14 x 18 in.
(Candy-cane flower, cropped;
Georgia O'Keeffe style, April 2006)
by Rose Bouboushian. .*

Photo by Rod Cordsen.

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Corsicana NOW

Editor's Note

*Hello, Corsicana and
Navarro County,*

February is the month of love and dedication. Love comes in all shapes and varying packages — a hardworking mother of two, the passion for your job through artistic design, or the true friendship of a married couple.

Our home feature takes you inside the home of a mother, a career woman and a community volunteer. Kerri Anderson Donica's children are her first priority, no matter what; and the rest just comes naturally. She is the illustration of a hardworking, dedicated person, so read on to find out how she manages to do it all with love.

Sarah and Gary Farley, our NavarroNOW feature subjects, are a dedicated working, married team. They truly depict the image of support and true passion for one another.

Remember to love yourself, your friends and family. Try something new this month; show everyone important in your life just how much they mean to you, with an imaginative self-made gift or card for Valentine's Day.

Wishing you love and kindness always, and remember, if you have a great idea for a story and want to see it in print, please feel free to contact me.

Samantha Stroube
CorsicanaNOW Editor

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Protecting Those Who Cannot Protect Themselves

— By Samantha Stroube

Humane Society board members work hard for the four-legged residents of Navarro County.
Pictured (left to right): Julie Maupin, Marcia Longo, Lynn Gatlin and Stephanie Elkins.



The Humane Society is a place of refuge and salvation for the little creatures that cannot protect themselves. Marcia Longo, the secretary for the Humane Society of Navarro County, began her career with the Corsicana Animal Shelter by volunteering when she first arrived to Corsicana over 11 years ago. "I saw an article in the *Corsicana Daily Sun* talking about an overload of animals in the shelter; so I offered my time to walk the dogs, talk and play with the animals and just spend time with the little fellas that would come into the shelter," Marcia explained. She volunteered for the shelter for a little over two years.

As Marcia became more and more involved in the shelter, she became acquainted with Diane West Short, the former 17-year veteran manager of the animal shelter, and listened to the various animal issues in the county. They literally tugged at her

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heartstrings. When Diane requested her presence on the shelter's board of directors about four and one-half years ago, Marcia accepted the position with great pleasure and enthusiasm.

The shelter began as the Navarro County Humane Society under the umbrella of the Humane Society on May 25, 1972, when it was established to operate for a period of over 50 years. In 1987, the name was changed to the



Humane Society of Navarro County. The original signers were Norma Hammonds, Sylvia Gordon and Sheila Creasy, and Diane Short continued to hold an important place at the shelter. "She ran the shelter as a volunteer for over 17 years with limited funds available from the city. She managed to successfully and continually raise money through donations throughout Navarro County," Marcia pointed out.

After Diane left her position, deciding with her husband to move out of Corsicana, the city took over the shelter. This technically separated the shelter from the Humane Society's management. The shelter is currently maintained and operated under the police department with city protection and funding.

"When the change occurred, the Humane Society Corporation was reformed under the guidance of Abe Stroud, Gary Cooley, Debra Pennell, Lynn Gatlin, Bob McNutt, and me as of four-and-a-half years ago," Marcia

explained. "Soon after, we were fortunate to gain the strengths in our ranks of Julie Maupin and Stephanie Elkins."


"In less than 4 years, we have managed to bring the Humane Society from an operating capital of less than \$2,000 to over \$16,000," Marcia stated with great pride.



The Humane Society has many goals and objectives for the animals around and within Navarro County; however,



The primary objective of the Humane Society is to control animal overpopulation through ongoing spaying and neutering opportunities for pet owners.


their primary objective is to control animal overpopulation through ongoing spaying and neutering opportunities for pet owners. "The other concerns and goals of the Humane Society aside from overpopulation are to monitor the abandonment level of animals; place ... animals in good homes; and maintain a close and working relationship with the shelter," Marcia said. "Our main focus right now is to stay working closely with city officials, business and the citizens of the county to secure any available land that might be available for purchase or donation and to find funding for a new shelter facility."

"The reason we are so desperate for a new facility is the current one really isn't large enough to house all the animals that come to us. In addition, the ventilation system wasn't designed to work in an animal shelter. So, therefore, when one animal gets sick, they all typically wind up sick," Marcia explained. "But we certainly















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“There are numerous programs that the Humane Society offers in order to help the special animals find the homes they deserve.”

are trying to make headway to get our new facility underway. In fact, we have contracted an architect to draw up some preliminary plans for us, and they look fantastic.”

The Humane Society does everything they can to assist and support the shelter and the local animals. They offer assistance to those who cannot afford to have their dogs or cats spayed or neutered in addition to any veterinary costs they may not be able to afford, such as shots, medications or minor surgeries. “The Humane Society also helps the shelter with any miscellaneous needs they may have or can’t afford,” Marcia said. “But say, if a family finds a litter of puppies or kittens and they decide to keep them all, the Humane Society truly appreciates their love, instead of them having to enter the shelter; so the Humane Society will assist them with food and vaccinations, to help get them started with their new family.”

“Since the shelter is so limited with their means and funding, that is where the Humane Society steps in. We are the ones who really get out there to promote all the adoptions and care of the animals. We provide the marketing and public relation connections, but the shelter does all the actual paperwork and adopting of the animals,” Marcia commented. “There are numerous

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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!



Always Bright & Helpful!

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!



Leading the Team

**Evonne Blackwell, CPA
& Charles Irvine, CPA**

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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.



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programs that the Humane Society offers in order to help the special animals find the homes they deserve."

The most popular program offered is remote adoptions. The Humane Society will provide a huge trailer filled from floor to ceiling with kennels for people to visit and see the animals, in hope that they will take one home to add to their family. Remote adoption days typically take place during Derrick Days and one day in November.



Thank You!

Another program known as Warm Hearts for Cold Noses, allows businesses from around Navarro County to place their ad in the *Corsicana Daily Sun* while featuring a loving animal that desperately needs a home. "Probably the most effective program is offered by Kaufman County — the Kaufman County Animal Awareness Project, better known as the Critter Cruiser. The Cruiser comes the last Friday of each month to Navarro County. The pick up station is at 7:00 a.m. in the First Baptist Church parking lot, and your pet is returned there at 7:00 p.m. During their time away, your pet can receive health care, primarily spaying and neutering surgeries, for a reduced price. But this should not replace your regular veterinarian visits," Marcia added.

The Humane Society has done so much for Navarro County's canine and feline residents. With people like Marcia and the other board members helping and volunteering, we can know that animals that need love and safe homes are being cared for in our city's animal shelter. **NOW**

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At Home With

Kerri Anderson Donica

Kerri Anderson Donica came to Corsicana in 1983 by way of Baylor Law School. Her first full-time job in the community was as the assistant district attorney, a position she began in October of that same year and continued until the latter part of 1986. "It was at that time that I decided





to go into private practice," she said, referring to her career as a criminal defense and family law attorney. "The biggest advantage to having a private practice is the time it allows me to spend with my two boys, Hunter and Heath. If there's a crisis, I'm able to get up and go." Going in a hurry during scheduled court times or from the office during regular business hours is not something that Kerri does often,



but when things do arise with the boys that need her immediate attention, she excuses herself as quickly as she can. "The boys are my first priority," she added. "They always come first."

When moving into their new three-bedroom, four-bath home, they did not have to move far. In fact, they moved from another house just down the road. "I guess you could say we downsized," Kerri explained. "This home has worked out perfectly for the three of us." In December, the family celebrated their one-year anniversary

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in the home believed to have been built in the 1920s, or at least the original portion was.

Walking through the home which appears much smaller from the outside, visitors can see where each new addition began and ended. "I'm still amazed at the enormity of it all," she said, referring to the 3,600 square feet of living space. "The overall size of the home is deceiving from the road." The front section includes the formal living and





dining areas, the boys' rooms and the kitchen. The style is Old World European, except, of course, for the rooms occupied by Hunter and Heath. "Heath's room was a soft green when we purchased the house," Kerri said. "It's now predominantly navy with red and white accents." Hunter was given the same option to change the color of his room, but chose not to. "He's the easygoing one," she said. "He was perfectly content with the beige and maroon." Each of the boys' rooms has its own personal bathroom with a unique feature that can be found in both. "There's a gas wall heater in each bathroom. I didn't realize there was a heater in Heath's room until just a few months ago. That ought to tell you just how observant I am when it comes to things," she said with humor.

Hunter's room boasts rich, deep shades of maroon in the bedding,



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complemented with dark brown and gold trim. The wood shutters serve as the only window treatments. Heath's room is a bit more personalized. "My mom, Melba Anderson, handmade the Texas quilt on Heath's bed," Kerri said. "Heath loves Texas A&M, but he wanted his room to be all about the state of Texas."

Returning to the front portion of the home lends visitors a grand view of the landscaped and well-manicured front yard from the large, picture window in the dining area. The dining room table was purchased locally in downtown Corsicana, and the placement of furniture, the baby grand piano and all the decorations and family photographs were the handiwork of local talent, Tom Adams. "I let him decide what went where," she interjected, with a laugh.





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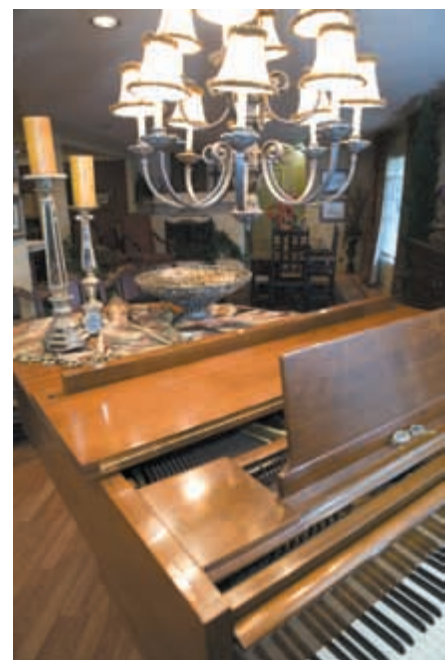


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Tom did an exceptional job of capturing Kerri's upbeat, energetic personality. The furniture is arranged in such a way that it creates several smaller, cozier areas for seating, eating and conversing. The kitchen is open, airy and allows Kerri lots of room for cooking. Stainless steel appliances are a perfect fit to the darker cabinetry and countertops, as well as the sunflowers and greenery strategically arranged along the tops of the cabinets. "The rag rugs came from the old house," she said. "I think they were made for this kitchen." The majority of Kerri's small monkey collection is displayed in the kitchen.

When the boys are home, they can most often be found in the area Kerri refers to as the second section of the house. The style of this room is very different from the rest of the house, with its rustic, barn-like feel. "I love the pool table the most," Hunter said referring to the big purchase Kerri made during their first summer in the home. The room also includes a floor-to-ceiling fireplace, as well as an indoor grill which the Donicas have yet to fire up.

The master suite is found at the back portion of the house. It serves as Kerri's haven away from the office with easy access from the two-car garage, the only addition she has made since moving in. The style once again returns to Old World European. "The built-in wine refrigerator was here when I bought the house," she explained. "Nowadays, you can find it

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filled with bottled water.” Kerri loves the amenities found in endless hot water and the three-tiered master closet. “I actually own my very own ‘hook,’ similar to the ones used in retail stores,” she laughed. She also enjoys the peace and tranquility offered by the clouds painted on the ceiling above the Jacuzzi tub, the endless counter space and the oversized, glass-encased shower.

Kerri will be the first to say she finds comfort in being surrounded by beautiful things. This fact is evidenced by the many crosses displayed in key locations



throughout the house. “I’m not sure when the cross collection first started, but I’m almost positive I received the first one from my mother,” she said. “Over the years, I’ve gotten them as gifts from family and friends.” In fact, the boys agreed they might be buying their mother another special cross for Valentine’s Day. Kerri is not, however, a slave to her beautiful belongings. “The stuff in the house is just that — stuff,” she declared. “There’s no *thing* in this house that I can’t live without.”

After reconsidering her statement,



Kerri realized her most prized possessions, second only to Hunter and Heath, are the portraits of the two taken since birth. As her main priority, the two boys give life meaning and purpose. She truly feels blessed to be able to spend quality time with them at home, as well as watch them excel at whatever sport they are playing at the time — whether it be football, baseball, basketball or golf. “She’s our biggest fan,” Heath said, as Hunter smiled and nodded his head in firm agreement. **XXX**

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Standing Together



— By Samantha Stroube

Friends and pals since junior high school, Gary and Sarah Farley are a portrait of the ideal husband and wife team. Not only do they love each other, but they work well together on a daily basis. Gary operates the Navarro County Aircraft Service Company and Sarah operates the Corsicana Aviation Services Company, both of which they own and manage at the Corsicana Municipal Airport.

Gary and his family moved to the same street as Sarah, in Lake Highlands, when they were children. “We were just friends from the neighborhood, so we hung out all the time,” Sarah explained. “We had a really great time living there. We were surrounded by acreage and horses; it didn’t look then the way it does now.”

Sarah attended Bishop Lynch High School; however, she finished her high school education with Gary at Lake Highlands High School. “I wasn’t

allowed to date until I was 16, but once I could, Gary and I began dating and have been together ever since,” she shared. Sarah began to show her work ethic even as a young lady, working as a medical lab assistant while still in high school.

Following graduation, Gary went on to community college, acquiring his aircraft mechanics degree and airframe



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power plant license. Sarah received a medical technician degree in college.

With two thriving careers in the Dallas area, Gary and Sarah moved to Rice, Texas, in 1984. Lindsay, their oldest daughter, attended Blooming Grove High School, prior to the Rice High School being built, while her parents commuted back and forth to Dallas on a daily basis. "In the beginning, Rice was just a bedroom town for us. All we did was eat and sleep in our house," Sarah explained. "We even continued to go back and forth to Dallas to do our grocery shopping. Ennis wasn't what it is today. So without hesitation, we always went to Dallas for everything."

Gary drove back and forth from 1984 to 1996, when luck fell in his lap and he was able to open his own aircraft maintenance company. "It was a plunge, but I wanted to start a career [so] that I could be near our girls. It just made it more convenient for the girls to have one of their parents there daily," Gary stated. "I was fortunate to have most of my clients follow me down from Dallas, so I was able to build upon my existing business," he recalled. "Also, at that time Navarro College had a flight school here, so there was a lot of maintenance to be done with them as well."

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from Dallas, not to mention all the insurance issues that were causing changes in the medical field, Sarah decided to leave her well-positioned career. Her decision coincidentally occurred about the same time Gary was approached by Dr. Don Chiles to



take over the FBO (fixed base operator). Don had owned and operated the FBO for years, but between his thriving dental practice and wanting to move, he had decided it would be best to sell.

After many discussions and long nights of talking, Gary and Sarah decided to buy the FBO from Dr. Chiles. In the fall of 2000, Corsicana Aviation Services was born. "I was very apprehensive," Sarah remembered. But with extreme pride for his wife, Gary said, "I knew she could do it. She is a very confident person, especially with her experience and work ethic in the medical technology industry. She always takes the bull by the horns, no matter what she does."

When Gary and Sarah originally moved from Dallas, they wanted a house in which they could rear their girls in addition to some land. As Sarah had mentioned, they were both used to a little bit of space and acreage around them growing up. They found a quaint, 100-year-old farm house just off the road, which they still fondly refer to as "their money pit."

"When we first moved in, all we required of the house was that it had to have a kitchen and a functional bathroom, which it did. Little did I know that 31 years later, we would still be working on it, through add-ons and re-dos," Sarah sighed.



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Working as a team is what Gary and Sarah seem to do best. They support each other in every aspect of their lives, primarily at the airport. Gary mainly handles all the aircraft maintenance, while Sarah manages the FBO, the fueling of aircraft and all the

“It’s all part of giving back to the community.”

planes that fly in and out. “If I get overwhelmed or too much is going on, Gary always comes up from the hanger to help me out. We are usually in constant communication with one another. I really love to have backup from Gary when a big jet lands,” Sarah explained.

When they took over the FBO, the couple began working very closely with the city to begin renovation of the airport, hoping to increase the air traffic coming in and out of Corsicana. “We consider the airport one of the gateways of the city, and so we like to present it as such,” Sarah declared.

In addition to operating the airport, they are both extremely involved in the city of Rice. Gary was a member of the city council for a total of 17 years and is an active member of the Rice Fire Department. Sarah was in charge of the ladies auxiliary for the fire department, in addition to being an annual election judge during voting season. “It’s all part of giving back to the community,” Gary stated.

Gary and Sarah have done numerous things to improve upon the airport, and their hard work is special because they have done it together, just as they have done everything in life. Together, they reared two wonderful daughters, Lindsay, 27, and Brennan, 18, and together they enjoy their adorable little granddaughter, Reagan. Gary and Sarah realize just how blessed they are to have such a wonderful life, but more importantly, they realize just how important they are to one another. **NOW**

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— By Samantha Stroube

Innate talents, gifts and capabilities are widely believed to contribute to high attainments in various areas of expertise. Some people believe we are born with our abilities and talents, while others feel they are learned. It is the ongoing argument of nature versus nurture. Whether he was born with his abilities or they were learned, it is undeniable that Tom Adams' floral design, interior decorating and event planning competencies are nothing short of perfection.

Putting every ounce of his heart and soul into his pieces and designs, Tom always manages to create an original concept for every event or occasion. He lives directly above his floral and interior design study, Victorian Sample, which makes it convenient for his "middle of the night" bursts of creative inspiration. "I can't tell you how many times I have eaten, slept and dreamed a project. Then in the middle of the night, I fly out of bed to begin creating it," Tom explained.

Tom is a native Corsicana resident who returned more than 19 years ago after a long hiatus from living in his hometown. Although he experienced and endured many exciting professional experiences, Tom's one true passion remained the same. A career as an interior and floral accessory designer is something he was able to achieve in Corsicana.

"My abilities and passion for the design world began when I was about 7 years old, when I created a corsage for my teacher in the first grade," Tom recalled. "But I really got into the floral design world when I became a delivery boy for Colesta Pearson's Flower Shop. I remember she would let me play around with the leftover or dead flowers, and over time she realized that I was creating better designs than her hired designers."



ARTS NOW

After leaving the University of North Texas where he began his studies in interior design, Tom acquired a position with the renowned Marty Schwartz Florist. "My first big project was the 50th wedding anniversary for the owners of Zales Jewelry Company. I remember working with thousands of flowers and creating these gorgeous arrangements for a dinner party of 500 people," Tom reminisced.

After his time with Marty Schwartz,



"I can't tell you how many times I have eaten, slept and dreamed a project. Then in the middle of the night, I fly out of bed to begin creating it."

Tom began his career as an interior designer for Jim Baguella Designs. "My primary function in this position was to walk through these huge, gorgeous homes and take notes to finish out their owner's desired look. The furniture was already in place, but I was intended to design needed floral arrangements or locate appropriate accessories for various locations in the homes," he explained.

Tom then moved on to a few other companies, all focusing on floral design with live and silk florals from all over the world. He was fortunate to have

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Left to right: Beth Miller, Cristina Vasquez, Heidi Elder, Elonda Cassidy, Ada Vondra, Ashley Qualls,

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worked for Vicky Kinast Designs in Dallas; owned his own shop at Preston Center; and then worked for Susan Crane Productions where he was the production manager for various displays and arrangements at all the major department stores.

When Susan Crane Productions announced that they would be going



out of business, they suggested that Tom purchase all of their remaining silk florals, both domestic and international samples. Naturally, Tom enthusiastically accepted the offer. This decision put him on the path that led him home to his native Corsicana.

Upon returning home, Tom purchased the building that once housed Carousel Antiques. There he began creating live and silk arrangements for clients to purchase or custom order. His business eventually grew into special occasion designs such as wedding, funerals and massive functions and parties.

"When I returned home, I found myself becoming good friends with the Dyer family and that was really my launchpad to my business — creating their daughter, Diane's, wedding. Because before that, people

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really didn't trust me or know me, but after that, they knew they could trust me to design their perfect occasion," Tom admitted.

On the side, Tom always managed to feed his first passion, cooking and hosting dinner parties, and parlayed it into a 15-year catering business. "I love hosting dinner parties at my house. I



typically choose one item and build the party and food around it. They are all very thematic — from the food, to the design of the table, to the decorations and the chosen crystal and flatware," he explained. "I am very meticulous, and I love doing it."

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Homegrown Boy With Solid Roots

— By Samantha Stroube



Walking into Billy Harlan's office is like entering a shrine dedicated to Texas A&M University and its baseball team. On one wall hangs a photograph of the Aggie baseball team winning a game and cheering with excitement. Posted on the opposite wall is the 2007-2008 Fighting Corsicana Tiger baseball schedule.

Billy is a well-grounded person, and even with all of his life experiences, he will still stop to give you a hearty "hello" if he passes you on the street. As a product of the Corsicana Independent School District and a 1989 graduate of Corsicana High School (CHS), this newly appointed head coach of the Tiger baseball team bleeds blue and gold.

During his formative high school playing days, Billy was considered one of the star players on the Tiger

baseball team. He successfully lettered in baseball all four years of high school, and played numerous sports. His freshman year he played football, and as a freshman and a sophomore he was on both the varsity baseball and varsity basketball teams.

"My junior year, everything sort of came to a screeching halt. One day I was out with a bunch of my buddies, and we were playing sandlot football. I completely dislocated my shoulder, and really tore it up good," Billy explained. However, the injured shoulder healed in time for spring training, allowing him to play varsity baseball that year as well.

"I don't know why they asked me, but my senior



Sports NOW

year I was on the varsity football team as the starting quarterback. And the second game of the season, I ruined my shoulder again. So that year, I wasn't able to play basketball, but I did manage to heal in time again for the baseball season," Billy recalled.

"Baseball has always been my favorite sport. I don't know what it




**"Baseball has always
been my favorite sport.
I don't know what it was;
I just loved to
play it."**

was; I just loved to play it," Billy said. "I started playing tee ball when I was about 3 years old and just never quit."

After graduating from CHS, Billy went on to Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas, where he continued his baseball career. His first year there, he was red-shirted, due to a second shoulder surgery in November 1989. His "freshman" playing season was therefore actually his sophomore year at A&M — the 1990-1991 school year. After that first season with A&M, Billy had to have a touch-up surgery, which again healed in time for him to play the following season.

During his graduating semester in the spring of 1993, Billy and the Aggies went to the College World Series. That excitement was soon rivaled, as Billy, following his undergraduate studies, was lucky enough to marry the love of his life, Lori, whom he had



I have been married to my wife, Dolores for 46 years. We have one daughter and son-in-law, Cheryl and Larry Berger, and two grandchildren, Kimberlin and Katelynn.

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Sports NOW

met while at A&M. They decided to stay in College Station another year to allow Billy to make up for being red-shirted during his freshman year and complete four full years on the baseball team. While playing the 1994 season at A&M, Billy pursued his master's in education.

After his fourth season with the Aggies, the Pittsburg Pirates requested



that Billy come try out for them. "I knew that I had a decision to make, but I also realized that with my shoulder injury, I would never be the player I should be in the pros. Besides, I decided that wasn't the life I wanted to live as a family man," he admitted.

Soon after making the decision to focus on his newly directed career and his family, Billy received a call from a good friend with whom he had played in summer leagues — Skip Johnson, the former baseball coach at Navarro College in Corsicana. "Skip asked me to come be the assistant coach at Navarro," Billy said. "I stayed at Navarro for three years; we had a great time, and the guys were great. We also won conference titles each year I was there."

In 1997, I was called to become the head coach at Mildred, in addition to teaching P.E. and health," Billy stated.

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Sports NOW

"That year, the team made it all the way to the semifinals." Billy stayed at Mildred for one more year as the head baseball coach, business law teacher and P.E. teacher. After that, he coached in Dawson. "While I was the coach at Dawson, we successfully became district champions both years," Billy said proudly. Following a short stint in Dallas, Billy returned home to begin a



progressive coaching and academic career, which included: teaching at Collins Middle School one year; serving as assistant principal at the high school one year; serving as Dawson's elementary principal for a year; and eventually coaching again.

Billy is not only a wonderful and talented ball player and athlete, it is also apparent he loves his career as teacher and coach. When he received a phone call in May 2007 from David Hennigan, the head football coach at CHS and CISD's athletic director, asking him to return to CHS as the head baseball coach, it was no surprise he accepted the position with great enthusiasm. "I love it; I truly enjoy what I do for the team and the kids," Billy declared. **NOW**



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The Hallmark of Sunshine

— By Dia Catalani

When you are searching for a gift or sending someone a card, the hunt for the perfect one can be half the fun of giving. Watching your captive audience as you bestow a gift is the icing on the cake. Amber's Hallmark has everything you need to make your expression of friendship, love or a congratulatory nod one that will not be soon forgotten.

Owned and operated by Amber Updegraff, Amber's Hallmark is one of just 3,700 Hallmark Gold Crown stores. The Gold Crown designation is especially significant among this community because Amber assumed ownership of the store just three years ago, and it took two more years of customer petitioning before Hallmark awarded this national recognition. Gold Crown stores carry the popular Keepsake Ornaments and Hallmark's premium line of greeting cards. Since 1910, the Hallmark name has been synonymous with heartfelt moments and special occasions. The Missouri-based Hallmark corporation adheres to strong and wholesome family values and will share its name only with individuals who have exhibited a similar dedication to excellent customer service.

Amber provides that personalized attention to her customers, most of

whom are neighbors she and her family have known a lifetime. Amber's father, Bo Ivie, and her mother, Brenda Houck, strongly support their daughter's business, often helping with store duties or their grandbabies. Amber's husband and



business partner, Corsicana firefighter Travis Updegraff, also helps with daily operations as his schedule allows. "I would never have been able to do this without the help of Travis and my family," Amber said. "When people come in here, if they don't see someone

Amber and Travis Updegraff own Amber's Hallmark. Their children, Caden and Adalee, are sometimes there to greet customers with their cute smiles.



from my family here, they always at least ask how everyone is doing. That's one of the best things about being in a smaller town — the family atmosphere is wonderful."

Family is important to Amber, and she takes care to offer gifts that people will be proud to show in their home or office. She complements Hallmark products by choosing giftware that will beautifully decorate a home or be a whimsical memory between best friends. When people visit her store in search of something special, their conversations are the best part of Amber's day. "The story behind the card or the gift is always a special one," she said. "When someone shares the reason they're giving a thank you card, it really is so neat to hear the kind and generous things that people do for others."

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Business NOW

given extra attention at Amber's Hallmark. Her gift registry allows registrants to receive things like Fiesta Ware, Arthur Court tableware, Tag dinnerware, crystal giftware and heirloom-quality keepsakes. Custom order your invitations and announcements,



"The story behind the card or the gift is always a special one."

or celebrate a birthday with Willow Tree, Jim Shore or Painted Ponies collectibles. Year-round gift suggestions include: jewelry, fragrance lamps, candles (Amber's carries five major brands), journals or albums, baby gifts and Webkinz toys. The store also carries Hallmark's signature gift wrapping, and is a full-service JC Penney catalog desk.

The roots of this store run deep for Amber, who at 16 worked her first job here. Stop by to say hello to the Updegraff family, and sign up for your free Gold Crown Rewards Card while you are there. Laugh, sigh and reflect upon the many people in your life who deserve a Hallmark card. You can also help Hallmark in their effort to help raise money toward AIDS research by choosing among their Product Red line of cards and gifts. Or, you can ask Amber to create an Amber's Candy Bouquet to accompany Hallmark's musical Valentine plush and singing card, and then sit back and wait for your impending hug. Amber's Hallmark is located at 3731 West Highway 31. The telephone number is (903) 872-6577. **NOW**

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Education NOW



Making Them All Proud

— By Renetta Novak

In today's society, when we hear something on the news regarding a student, it is usually negative. Recently, a ray of positive sunshine was found in the halls of Corsicana High School (CHS) that begs for us to stand up and take notice. Senior Rose Bouboushian, a four-year art student with an amazing eye for painting, is well on her way to bigger and better things. Born and reared in Corsicana to parents Dyann and Hamo Bouboushian, Rose is the youngest of three children, with a sister named Lorene and a brother named Jack. "Family is very important to me," Rose stated. "They have been a key instrument in shaping my hopes and dreams for the future."

Rose's art teacher, Elise Johnson, is very complimentary of her work as a student and speaks highly of her. Walking into the art class at the high school, a beautiful, uncompleted piece of art catches the eye. The hues and contrasts are amazing, helping the faces in the painting come to life. When asked who is painting the piece, Elise said with a smile, "Oh, that is a piece that Rose is working on for one of our teachers."

When Rose entered the art room moments later, the conversation quickly turned to her plans for college. Rose is currently looking at schools that she would possibly like to attend. At the Claremont Colleges in California, a consortium of colleges, she has applied to Scripps College, Pitzer College and Pomona College. She has also applied to Reed in Portland, Oregon. Rose applied to these schools because they specialize in liberal arts. "I want to get a well-rounded education," she said. She is interested in the fine arts such as dance and art, but has many



*Riley the Hedgehog - Scratchboard,
9 x 11 in. (May 2006).*

other interests as well, including world affairs and humanities. "I don't want to limit myself," she said. She is undecided on a major at this time, but is interested in the Scripps School for Women at the Claremont Colleges because it allows students to design their own curriculum, incorporating various areas of study into one major.

Not only does Rose excel in art, she is also an outstanding

Education NOW

English student. In July 2007, 200 students were selected to take part in a speech contest. The participants came from all 50 states along with others from Finland, Norway and Canada. Each day, Rose and the other students went to the UN and listened to briefings on subjects such as child trafficking, children in armed conflict, child refugees and the lack of education in foreign countries. They took notes, asked questions of the UN delegates and then were required to make a



Self-portrait – Pastel, 20 x 26 in.
(September 2007).

speech from the topics that had been discussed and the questions they had asked. From this contest, Rose was one of eight finalists chosen to speak in front of over 200 people to share her view on world affairs. Whether Rose is in class or not, she stays active. Currently, her involvements include: unofficial president of the Art Club; president of the Leo Club, which deals heavily in community service projects that involve nursing homes and highway cleanup; and the president of SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions). She is also on the student council, the Council for International Affairs (which raises funds for charities

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in Third World Countries) and a member of the National Honor Society. Rose attends dance classes twice a week, drill team practice and also finds time to work at Corsicana's very own Collin Street Bakery.

There are many mentors in her life, but there are two at the top of Rose's



*Rose's first commission as an aspiring artist.
The Bowers - Acrylic on Canvas,
22 x 28 in. (November 2007).*

list — her mother and her sister. She describes her mother as a giving, hardworking woman who always makes time to put her children first. "She is so generous and so selfless. She's the type of mom that makes you dinner every night and always takes really good care of us," Rose explained. "When my brother wanted to go to college in Chicago, she stood behind him because that was what he wanted to do and where he wanted to go."

There was much excitement in Rose's voice as she talked about her parents and the impact they have made thus far in her life. She expressed much pride in her sister and her brother because of their accomplishments as well. "I believe we have all done so well because of the examples that my mom and dad set for us," she added. Her brother is currently a law student in Chicago and her sister is at a college in New York deciding on a possible double major in dance and anthropology. Several more non-family mentors have impacted Rose, but she was hesitant to begin naming them for fear of leaving someone out. It is clear many have made lasting impressions on her, and it is just as clear that Rose is on her way to making them all proud. **NOW**

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

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Look Who's Cooking

— By Stephanie Brewer

IN THE KITCHEN WITH CHARLOTTE TANNEHILL

Charlotte remembers “flouring the cutting board for momma,” as early as 4 years of age. She still has the round tin can her mom used to cut the biscuits. “Cooking was for family, tradition and the healing of hearts and bodies,” Charlotte said. “We just didn’t learn to cook by measuring anything when I was little. I remember deciding I must learn to fix the traditional Christmas dinner and momma taught me that there was no recipe, just a pinch of this and a dab of that, then you taste.”

Today, Charlotte’s favorite and most requested dish is the nearly 40-year-old chicken soup recipe that heals everything. “It’ll cook and keep for those days you just need to feel better,” she said. 

HOMEMADE CHICKEN SOUP

(This freezes well. Keep on hand for flu season.)

- 3 cups diced potatoes
- 1 large yellow onion, diced
- 1 bunch green onion tops, diced
- 1 cup copped celery (leaf tops included)
- 2 Tbsp. vegetable oil
- 1 14-oz. can chicken broth
- 3 12.5-oz. cans chicken breast in water
- 2 tsp. chopped parsley
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1 14-oz. can Carnation milk

Coat vegetables with oil; cook on medium heat in large cooking pan. Add chicken broth and bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer approximately 30 minutes until vegetables are tender. Add chicken breast, parsley, salt and pepper. Remove from heat and add canned milk. Serve hot.

GREAT RICE DISH

- 1/2 green bell pepper, chopped
- 1 medium yellow onion, chopped
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 6 Tbsp. butter
- 1 1-oz. jar pimento, undrained
- 1 6.5-oz. can sliced mushrooms, undrained
- 1 1/2 cup fresh white rice, uncooked
- 1 1/2 cups chicken broth
- salt and pepper to taste

Sauté vegetables in butter until tender. Add pimento and mushrooms. Add rice and stir until rice is golden brown. Add chicken

broth, salt and pepper. Simmer until vegetables are tender.

GRANDDAD'S BARBEQUE SAUCE

(Great on grilled hamburgers)

- 1/2 lb. margarine
- 2/3 cup vinegar
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup ketchup
- 1 Tbsp. Tabasco sauce
- 3 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 3/4 cup Heinz 57 Sauce
- 1 tsp. dry mustard

Add all ingredients to saucepan and heat thoroughly while stirring. Allow to simmer 15 minutes.

GREAT POTATO SALAD

POTATO SALAD:

- 3 large potatoes
- 7 eggs
- 1 medium white onion
- 1 cup diced or cubed cheddar cheese

DRESSING:

- 3/4 cup Hellman's mayonnaise
- 1 tsp. mustard
- dill pickle juice to thin to desired consistency
- salt and pepper to taste

POTATO SALAD: Boil potatoes in skins until tender, then let cool and dice. Boil eggs then peel and mash with fork. Dice onion. Place all in large mixing bowl.

DRESSING: Mix ingredients together. Add to vegetables, mixing well.

BIG MAMA'S GROUND MEAT CASSEROLE

- 2 lbs. ground chuck or ground round
- 2 Tbsp. margarine
- 2 8-oz. cans tomato sauce
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1 small yellow onion, chopped
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1 cup cottage cheese
- 1 8-oz. package egg noodles
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese

Brown ground meat in margarine and drain. Add tomato sauce, salt and pepper and mix well. In separate bowl mix onion, sour cream and cottage cheese. Layer noodles, ground meat and sour cream mixture in that order alternating until all ingredients are used. Top with cheddar cheese.

GOOD MEAT LOAF

- 1 package saltine crackers (one of four found in box)
- 2 lbs. ground round
- 2 eggs
- 3/4 cup ketchup
- 1 tsp. Accent
- 1/2 cup warm water
- 1 envelope dry onion soup mix
- 3/4 cup finely chopped bell pepper
- 1 8-oz. can tomato sauce

Mix all ingredients together and form meat loaf. Place in a pan and bake 1 hour at 350 F.

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Around Town

NOW



John Jennings and Bernard Calhoun from Hands Furniture, top left, worked overtime to fill Santa's list for Christmas. Gabriel (Gabe) Sodd, top center, son of Jason and Ellen Sodd, celebrated his first Christmas in style. Megan Thomas, Michael Hickerson and Connie Standridge, second row on the left, gave their wish lists to Santa Claus. Lacy Hightower, third row on the left, is now engaged to James Reed! Congratulations to JD and Tommy at 3rd Avenue Meat Market, bottom left, for winning the November Beat the Deadline contest. Guests, fourth row center, gathered at Collin Street Bakery for their annual Christmas party. Peyton Duncan, top right, posed with a Lego creation he built. Several members of the Corsicana community, second row on the right, attended the Collin Street Bakery holiday celebration. Wayne Owen and Lora Duncan, third row on the right, entertained guests with Christmas carols at the Navarro Hospital Auxiliary Christmas party. Several young adults served as valets, bottom right, during the Collin Street Bakery Christmas party.





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Blooming Trees for Springtime

— By Nancy Fenton

Hopes for spring are around the corner, and all those pretty blooms are more than a sparkle in the eye. Did you plant for spring color? It is a bit late for this year, but you can put in some small ones now for a burst of color next spring. Look around and decide which ones you like best and get to it!

The showy white blooms on the 12 - 20 foot sprawling trees are dogwood. The roughleaf is a good variety for our area. Those orchid-shaped white, pink or burgundy colored flowers are signs of the desert willow, a sure thing for our alkaline, dry soils. Bright pink flowers on a 12 - 20 foot tree will

indicate Mexican or red buckeye, Mexican plum or redbud. While most of these are under-story trees, growing best in the dappled shade of our old oaks, the more sun the better for the desert willow and buckeyes. All of these smaller trees have bright colors that shine through while the larger trees are just beginning to bud out and contrast nicely with the golden daffodils and multicolored crocus on the ground. By the time the trees leaf out fully and the temperatures rise, they are ready to rest awhile and grow more branches for bloom the following spring!

Vitex is one of the versatile plants which can be as large as you want it, and it can be pruned into a large tree or a large shrub. Its vibrant purple or pink blooms resemble a lilac and droop much like a lilac. One of the largest I have seen is in Waxahachie's Getzendaner Park, directly across from

the new restroom facility. There are several large vitex hedges around the town if you know what you are seeing. Those showy small bushes that are covered with many blooms in yellow, pink and cranberry are probably japonica. There are several varieties, but they are all beautiful in the spring.

Look with fresh eyes as you drive around and decide which ones fit into your yard and then start looking for the plants. You can plant containerized trees anytime of year, but fall and spring are best. Just remember to plant those trees high so that as the ground settles the root flare will still be visible, mulch them heavily, and water once a week for at least the first year. You, too, can be the envy of your neighborhood with beautiful spring-blooming trees! **NOW**

Nancy Fenton is a Master Gardener in Ellis County.



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A Time to Plan

— By Gary Hayden

Studies have shown that few individuals make good on their New Year's resolutions. One of the key reasons for that lack of success may be that those resolutions are often overwhelming. If improving your finances is on your 2008 list of resolutions, do not despair. Whatever financial goals are important to you, break them down into bite-sized tasks that you can accomplish as the year unfolds and as your schedule allows. Put them on your calendar now, and plan to stick to these appointments. Even though this is a February issue, let's start off with a game plan for the first six months of 2008.

January

Start the year with a fresh look at your net worth and also set up a budget.

February

Get your tax information collected and submitted to your accountant. Do not delay. Haste makes waste.

March

Examine your investment plan to make sure you are properly diversified and on target to reach your goals. This year is shaping up to be a bumpy ride and proper allocation of assets is critical for every investor's financial well-being.

April

Get your estate planning in order. Too many times the "stuff" of an estate — money, real estate, things — gets in the way of the true inheritance of a family — faith, love, education, integrity, work ethics, etc.

May

Make sure you protect your family and your property with insurance. Life insurance, disability insurance, homeowners, car insurance, umbrella coverage, health insurance and long-term

care insurance should all be reviewed to make sure they are up to date and consistent with your current goals and lifestyle.

The heart of good stewardship is planning.

June

Protect yourself from identity theft. It can take 500 hours of your time to undo the chaos created by identity theft. If you have not done so already, buy a shredder and routinely shred any unnecessary financial paperwork or records. Get a free copy of your credit report and check it for accuracy. The three credit companies that provide these reports are Equifax (888-766-0008), Experian (888-391-3742) and Trans Union (800-888-4213).

We will address financial tasks for the second half of the year in an upcoming article. At some point, most adults experience the "when — then" attitude toward life. When I graduate



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from high school ... from college, get a "real" job, marry, get the kids out of diapers ... started to school ... graduated from high school ... married; pay off the mortgage ... retire ... then I will study, pray, serve others, volunteer, give ... plan.

Plan. The heart of good stewardship is planning. The faithful steward substitutes "today I will" for "when — then." Whatever stage of life you are in, make plans for a confident future. **NOW**

Gary Hayden is a financial consultant with offices in Corsicana.

Gary Hayden is a Registered Representative of, and offers Security, Investment Advisory and Financial Planning services through, MML Investors Services, Inc. Supervisory Office: 777 Main Street, Suite 2260, Fort Worth, Texas 76102 o (817) 332-4451. Hayden Financial Partners is not an affiliate or subsidiary of MML Investor Services, Inc.

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Health
NOW

Love Yourself Wash Your Hands

— By Joyce Hagens

In recent months, it has been impossible to open a newspaper or listen to a news broadcast that you do not hear about “a new superbug” causing illness or death or a school being closed for cleaning due to an infectious outbreak among the students. Many people have wanted to know how to protect themselves from infection.

The most effective means of preventing the spread of infection is to wash your hands! Most of us do not think about what germs might be “lurking” on a doorknob, but in public places hundreds or thousands of people may have touched that door since the last time it was cleaned. All of us have bacteria that live on our skin at all times, and each time we touch something, we transfer bacteria from our hands to that surface. At the same time, bacteria and viruses that are living on a surface are picked up by hands. We then might scratch our nose, or rub our eyes and transfer those bacteria or viruses to those areas.

It is important that you wash your hands with soap and water, or use an alcohol-based sanitizer before



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Health NOW

eating, after using the rest room, after coughing or sneezing, before preparing food, after being around someone that has been coughing or sneezing, or after emptying the trash. Proper handwashing involves brisk rubbing of the hands with soap for 15 seconds, making sure to clean well around the fingernails. An easy way to remember how long 15 seconds is by singing two choruses of "Happy Birthday" or one verse of "Old McDonald" with one animal. By washing your hands more frequently, you will stay healthier, prevent colds and flu and prevent the spread of illness. So love yourself, and those around you — wash your hands. **NOW**

*Joyce Hagens, BSN, RN
Assistant Director of Quality Management
Navarro Regional Hospital*

Gastroenterologist

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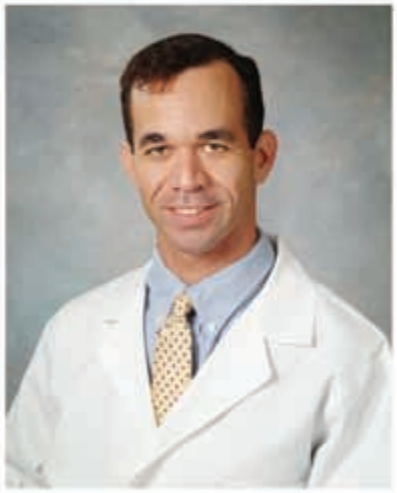
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February 2008

Community Calendar

Second Thursdays

Corsicana Education Foundation board meetings, 4:30 p.m., CISD Administration Building board room. Call (903) 654-2838.

Fourth Thursdays

Corsicana Chamber of Commerce meetings, 11:00 a.m., Corsicana Chamber of Commerce. Call (903) 874-4731.

First and Third Tuesdays

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

February 2

Corsicana Opry, Martin's Music Hall, 201 S. Beaton Street. Dining: 6:00 p.m. Show: 7:00 p.m. (903) 872-8226.

February 2 and 9

Super Saturday Registration for youth soccer at the YMCA. Youths age 4 - 15 by December 31, 2007 are eligible to play. Please visit www.corsicanaymca.org for more events.

February 4

The Corsicana Art League meets, 6:00 p.m., The

Caffe Gourmet, 129 West Collin at Main Street, downtown Corsicana. They will be hanging paintings and voting on logos and officers. Be our guest and enjoy good coffee and good company.

February 5

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

February 7 - 16

Sylvia by A.R. Gurney at the Warehouse Living Arts Center, 119 W. 6th Avenue. (903) 872-5421.

February 9

Gospel Music Concert, Martin's Music Hall, 201 S. Beaton Street. Dining: 6:00 p.m. Show: 7:00 p.m. (903) 872-8226.

February 11

Marvin Hamlisch, 7:30 p.m. at The Palace Theatre, 112 W. 6th Avenue. (903) 874-7792.

February 15 - March 31

Wilcox, by Navarro Council of the Arts at Warehouse

Living Arts Center Gallery, 119 W. 6th Avenue. (903) 872-5411.

February 21

Leadership Corsicana Navarro County. Local Economy Day. The leadership group will visit local businesses learning about their operations and progresses.

March 29

Master Gardeners of Ellis County will host the annual Ellis County Lawn and Garden Expo at the Waxahachie Civic Center located at 1950 N. I-35 E from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. This comprehensive educational extravaganza will include over 100 lawn and garden-related exhibitor booths, keynote speakers, gardening workshops for children from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and a variety of adult workshops. Gaye Hammond will introduce children to the joys of growing roses at 1:00 p.m. Neil Sperry will speak on growing green at 2:00 p.m., and Dotty Woodson will share the art of landscape planting that will flower all summer at 3:30 p.m. The Master Gardener plant sale will feature butterfly-attracting plants, natives, heirloom tomatoes and hard to find plants. For sponsorship and exhibitor information, please send an e-mail to expo.ecmga@yahoo.com or call James at (972) 814-0699.

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Greater Operational Efficiency

Carrier's Infinity® 17 heat pump is available with efficiency ratings of up to 17.0 SEER when cooling and up to 9.5 HSPF when heating. For every \$100 spent to cool your home using an 8.0 SEER heat pump, a 17.0 SEER heat pump should cost you approximately \$44. Actual savings will depend on the efficiency of your current system compared to the efficiency of a new system.



Area Wide Services
903-874-5298

Commercial & Residential
Air Conditioning and Heating
Commercial Refrigeration - Ice Machines



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