

CorsicanaNOW

A man with a beard and a dark hat, wearing a brown jacket over a white shirt, stands on a city street. He is holding a dark mug with a logo. The background shows a building with a sign that says "WYATT TURNER" and a traffic light.

M A G A Z I N E

FEBRUARY 2011

A Man for All Seasons

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Giving a
Hand Up

Also Inside

From a New
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Wyatt Turner has enjoyed acting since childhood.

Photo by Terri Ozymy.

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Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

It is here again: the month when, if ever, it will snow in Corsicana and make us all proud again that it only snows once a year. Years ago I lived in Minnesota, where they brag about their 72-inch annual snowfall. Still, last year I found myself all impressed with our six inches of frozen flakes. I sent pictures to family and friends of snow on the roses and the snowman that stood in the yard for two whole days. My relatives in Nebraska were not impressed, and a friend in Washington, D.C., did not get the pictures I e-mailed to her because the power was out under the 24-inch snowfall that shut down her town. Maybe global warming will bring even more snow to this southern town this year. Go figure!

Happy winter everyone,

Joan

Joan Kilbourne
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Giving ^aHand Up

— By Virginia
Riddle



“No one should go
without services.”

Several years ago, when Connie and Jim Gibson left the big city for rural life on their C&J Farms to raise Boer goats to sale to breeders, Connie thought she had put her telecommunications and managerial experience in the business world in her past. However, having seen family members struggle financially with medical expenses for needed procedures, Connie became interested in helping Navarro County residents get necessary medical needs met. “I told my pastor that the Lord was telling me that I needed to do something in health care,” Connie reflected.



From left to right: Alice Hocker,
Connie Gibson, Betty Wann.

Connie’s passion to help county residents “who fell through the cracks” to find and afford medical care began with her volunteer efforts on the Health Focus Group, which was formed based on a needs assessment survey conducted by United Way. Many medical needs were identified. Subsequently, Connie formed and became executive director of Giving Neighbors, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization designed to address the medical issues of Navarro County.

In recent years, dental care has risen to the forefront. Giving Neighbors helps people who need dental attention to alleviate pain and infections even though they have inadequate or no insurance with which to pay. “There is no other country so blessed as this one,” Connie said, getting her comparison from the many trips abroad she has taken with Jim on business trips. “No one should go without services.” However, very often



working residents of our county find themselves between jobs, employed in jobs that do not offer dental insurance or unable to afford dental insurance along with all their other monthly expenses.

Clients, as well as the county, benefit by gaining better nutrition, by having to go to hospital emergency rooms for help less often and by being absent on the job less frequently. Out-of-work residents benefit from dental care by improving their smile for job interviews. Death and heart disease are prevented by early periodontal care, which lessens bacterial infections that can invade the bloodstream. "This is a need that can actually be fixed and a problem solved," Connie stated.

Several dentists in Corsicana have chosen to become part of the solution by offering their professional services at a reduced cost to Giving Neighbors clients. "Nothing is done for

free," Connie revealed. Dr. Justin Wright opens his office for designated Saturday clinics for program clients.

"It made me really happy to discover Connie Gibson and the Giving Neighbors," Dr. Wright stated. "Quite a few of my staff willingly give up various Saturdays to treat people in our community who are in pain. Dr. Price, Dr. Fass and I treat as many patients as we can and make no profit. I'm just pumped to see Dr. Gary Hocker jumping in and helping. Our goal is to enable, minister and, maybe, show a few folks what true relief really is."

"We are very grateful to these dentists who open their practices and their hearts to their neighbors' needs, but we need more dentists to come on board," Connie confessed.

Not only does Dr. Hocker participate in the program, but his wife, Alice, who also works in his office, is a volunteer for Giving

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Neighbors. Two years ago, the couple moved to Corsicana from the Dallas Metroplex so they could live and work in a smaller city. "We love it here. We feel like we fit," Alice said enthusiastically.

Gary and Alice had not been in Corsicana long before realizing the need for dental services that match Giving Neighbors' guidelines. Alice related an incident when a wife called the office



desperate for care for her husband, who was pulling his teeth out with pliers because they could not afford to see a dentist. "I told my husband that we needed to start a charity," she said. "The need was there, but I just couldn't get moving forward," Alice added. "That's when we teamed up with Connie and Giving Neighbors. We team together and talk to different groups in town."

"We've had a good response," Connie said. Ready to share their story with any organization or individual, Connie and Alice have spoken to several business and service organizations in the area. "Getting the funds to meet the need is the biggest challenge," Alice said.

But just as important is having more volunteers come on board to help. Giving Neighbors does not fund any salaries, thus freeing up about 98 percent of the money raised for patients' expenses. As a volunteer herself, Connie stated, "I would like for volunteers to be passionate about helping others and work to help develop the program. We also need anyone who can provide technical skills and services, as well as office supplies and furnishings." Volunteers of all ages are accepted.

The group's Web site, www.thegivingneighbors.org, is the first point of contact for those in need of services. The site contains general information, applications and tips on



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how to find a medical professional and what to ask them. Connie is the voice on the telephone that answers all questions. People can apply online for help. "Every contact is looked at on a case-by-case basis," Connie stated. Due to limited funds, Giving Neighbors focuses on pain relief, as a first priority, and in sharing the Gospel of Christ, while allowing God to work in peoples' lives in this very



From left to right: Dr. Gary Hocker, Betty Wann and Brittany Bryant.

tangible manner. Once accepted, clients pay a participation fee in advance of the dental appointment.

Connie, Alice and other volunteers can also become patient advocates once a permission slip is signed by the patient. This is a particularly helpful service to the elderly. Patient advocates can research referrals, go on appointments and ask the right questions. "We can at least take the overwhelming feeling away," Connie explained.

Giving Neighbors has helped over 20 clients in the past year. Too often, however, Connie must say no to someone in pain because the funds are not available on that day. These are her worst moments. One of her most rewarding successes was her first patient, who was very sick with infections that had spread from her mouth throughout her body, preventing her from being able to work. She is now healthy and employed. Another success story occurred when the group was able to help a mother, whose child had cancer. Giving Neighbors helped her locate funds for treatment.

As former U.S. Vice President Hubert Humphrey once said, "The impersonal hand of government can never replace the helping hand of a neighbor." Giving Neighbors fills the gaps in medical services for many residents. Alice said it best: "It's really not hard to do." **NOW**

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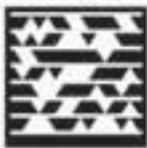

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Listening to His Voice

— By Joan Kilbourne

When Pastor Darla Blotnik recalls the twists and turns in her life, she reflects on how each new experience drew her along the path of her spiritual journey. She describes her spiritual growth as a process of giving up her own plans in order to “stand ready to follow God’s plan” for her life.

Darla was born in Colorado where her father and his brother owned a peach orchard. When she was 6, her father took a job at Massy Ferguson, which required the family to move every three years after that. “I lived in Idaho, Minnesota, Syracuse, N.Y., and I went to high school in Dallas,” Darla said. “After graduation, I earned my undergraduate degree in sociology and psychology from SMU [Southern Methodist University]. When I married, I moved to Virginia where I worked as the student activities director at Radford College [now Radford



University].” Darla returned to Texas where she completed a law degree at the University of Texas at Austin. “I wanted to work with a big international firm,” she said, “so I took a job in Richmond, Virginia, in the area of public utility law, and, in 1979, I became the first woman manager of insurance and loss prevention in the offices of one of my clients.”

Darla’s faith journey took a turn when a friend invited her to attend a Presbyterian church with her. “I went to Sunday classes,” Darla said, “and in time, I came back to the Christian faith. I began to ask myself, *What am I supposed to be doing?* My previous interest in social issues and a desire to give back led me to pursue a Master of Social Work degree. I worked for a while as a lobbyist and educator on adult survivors of abuse. Later, I worked with a partner in family law practice, and, in time, I had my own practice.” Still questioning whether she was on the right path, Darla prayed for guidance. “My mother was Methodist,” she said, “and I was active

“It is up to God how I am to use my gifts. I just have to show up.”

in youth programs growing up, but I still had questions about what it meant to have a personal relationship with Jesus.” In 1999, Darla entered the Union Theological Presbyterian Seminary partly to find out what it meant to have that personal relationship. “There may be other ways to find God than through [a] relationship with Jesus,” Darla said, “but for me, the ultimate way is through Jesus Christ, and I want to share that with others.”

When Darla studied for a Master of Arts degree in divinity, half of the students were women. “I was ordained as a minister of the word and sacrament in the pastoral field because I was drawn to preach and teach,” Darla said. She intended to interview for a small parish, but in 2002, her mother died, and she had to cancel her scheduled interviews. A professor from the seminary urged her to try for a position as associate pastor of a parish of more than 1,000 people in

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Lexington, Kentucky. "It was God's way of teaching me new lessons," Darla said. "I had worked in social work because I was interested in social justice, but in this new setting, I learned how to receive love from a loving parish. I also learned a lesson in humility: how to surrender my choices to God. I asked Him how I was to use my skills and how to do enough the right way. I learned that church really is working with people who were diverse politically and theologically.

"In 2009, I was called to The Westminster Presbyterian Church here in Corsicana," Darla said. "I knew when I was called that there had been some female associate pastors in Corsicana but that I would be the first female senior pastor. I do not have an agenda about advancing the cause for women. If women are effective in their work and they create good relationships with people, maybe that is how they pave the way for other women. The people in this congregation were open to see God's transformations when they chose to call a woman to be the pastor."

Darla was attracted by the many ways the congregation reaches out to the community. "The services to children and families reflect my interest [in] social justice," she said. When she traveled to Honduras and Malawi, Darla was impressed by the people there who live the gospel message though they have few material blessings. "It may be that it is harder to appreciate the good news of the gospel for those who have more material wealth," she said. "Someone said about pastors that if you are not a missionary, you need to get one." Darla's experience in missionary territory translated into a wish to offer what she calls "the gospel of good news applied to a broader setting." From a pulpit that reaches beyond the walls of the church, she manifests her commitment to social justice. "It is up to God how I am to use my gifts. I just have to show up."

In a leaflet introducing Pastor Darla



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to the congregation, her pastoral work is outlined as “preaching, visitation, teaching and staff leadership and more. As the moderator of the WPC [Westminster Presbyterian Church] session, Pastor Darla has led officer training for new elders and a Saturday morning retreat for the entire session. She is leading our mid-week prayer service in the chapel.” In addition to her pastoral duties, Darla’s outreach to the community includes her work as a member of the Monday Rotary Club. She has also served as a Celebrity Waiter in the fundraiser to benefit special projects for students at the Corsicana Residential Treatment Center. She represents the church through the Corsicana-Navarro County Chamber of Commerce, where she participated in the 2009-2010 Leadership Corsicana course last fall. She also works with the Corsicana Ministerial Alliance on their community service programs.

The Westminster Presbyterian congregation of 121 active members is also involved in outreach to the city. The church supports the flagship program of the Presbyterian Children’s Homes and Services. This program evolved from its earlier mission as an orphanage to become the program it is today, which includes foster care, residential and adoption services. Members of the congregation work with Habitat for Humanity by providing workers and funding. They also support Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and the House of Refuge. “Years ago in the ‘60s,” Darla said, “this church joined with another Presbyterian congregation attended by Hispanic people, and we welcome the diversity this gives us now. I love this town and the people here,” Darla said, “and I will be here until God moves me.” **NOW**

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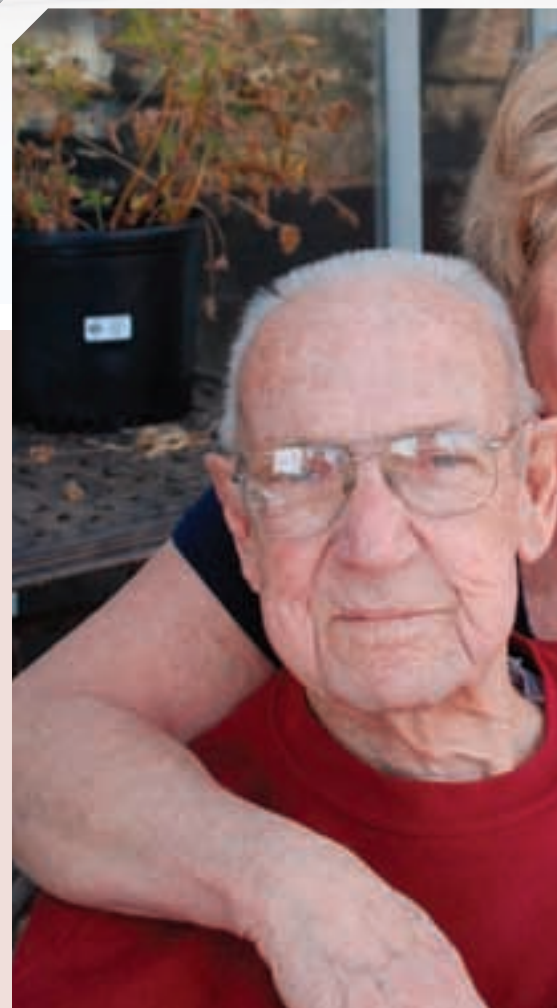
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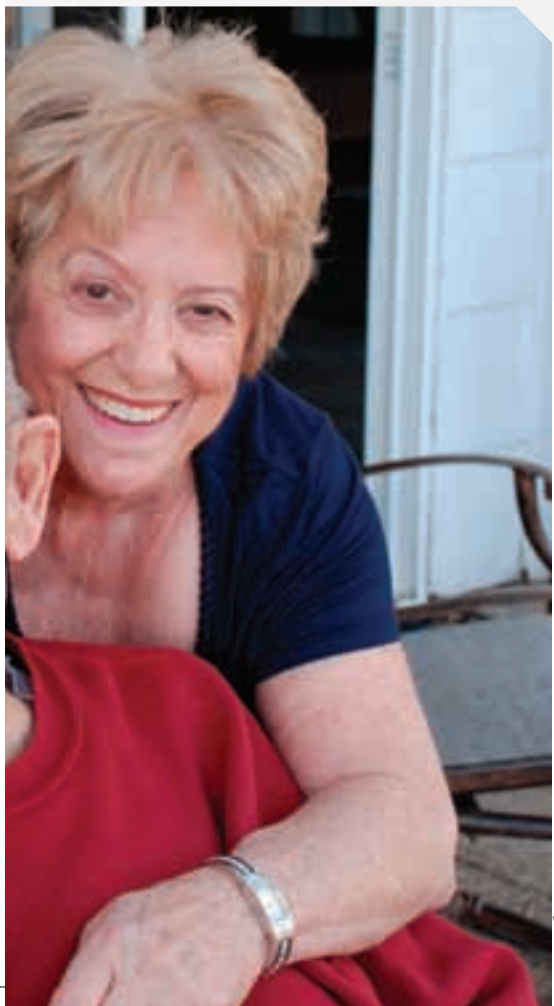
Neal and Lolly Sparks

— By Virginia Riddle

Reaching out to the world beyond Corsicana is easy for Neal and Lolly Sparks. Neal, a ham radio operator since the 1960s who communicates with the world from the comfort of his home study, beams his signal through a tower just outside their home which is set on a high point overlooking a serene country setting. A clock in the study appropriately chimes the musical strains of, "Top of the World," made popular by the Carpenters. "I bought all the kids one and just had to have one for Neal, too," Lolly said.

"All the kids" include Neal and Lolly's five children, 10 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. "The whole family is close by. It keeps the family together," Neal said when stating what he liked best about living in Corsicana. The couple's home for the





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last four years is party central for friends and family. Guests can flow easily from the entry to the formal dining room to the large kitchen located appropriately in the center of the home. Sophisticated black granite countertops and black tile are naturally lit with one of the several skylights that are spread across the



roof. The comfortable kitchen bar and the informal dining area provide ample seating choices. Neal and Lolly have enjoyed hosting Sunday dinner parties for 25-30 friends at a time, and the home swells with about 35 family members for the holidays and other special occasions.

The den is anchored by a soaring brick fireplace flanked by long windows overlooking the large backyard, which is ready for children at play. The tiled floor is covered by a beautiful Persian carpet that defines the heavily carved furnishings enhanced by sink-deep-into-leather couches. A nativity scene decorates the bridge of the media center. "Every figure has real clothes and the kings have jewels," Lolly related. "My grandson remarked last summer, 'Grandma has her nativity still up,' since I



keep it up most of the year," she added, laughing. Some of Lolly's collection of cut glass elegantly completes the media center while the rest of the Czechoslovakian crystal lights up the dining room. Her mother started the collection with a glass canoe that still is proudly displayed. A wet bar is ready to serve guests.

Three bedroom suites, each with their own private bath, complete one side of the home along with the side entry garage. Their son, Kenneth, occupies one suite during the week while he works in the area. One bath exits to the backyard swimming pool so that wet swimmers have a convenient place to change.

A baby grand piano plays soft music in the formal living room. "It's electric and plays by itself. I just go along with it,

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but my grandson, Patrick, who goes to Navarro College, enjoys playing the piano by ear," Lolly said proudly. Musical talent runs in the family, as Neal enjoys playing his guitar, which is displayed in his study. Elegance is continued through the display of Lolly's angel collection. Through the broad windows of the living room, the view of the swimming pool, large outdoor patio and hot tub cabana can be enjoyed. The screened-in, all-weather patio hosts hotly contested pool games.

The couple enjoys working in the yard followed by relaxing in the hot tub, which can be accessed from their master bedroom and bath. A four-poster bed with decorative iron and a matching heavily carved bench are the focal points in the elegant master suite. A special angel from Lolly's collection resides in the bedroom. The bath features beautiful cabinets topped with brown granite and decorated with floral arrangements. Glass blocks reflect the natural light from the skylight.

Married for 58 years, this couple has seen a large portion of the world together. Originally from Long Island, New York, Lolly was vacationing in Kerrville, and like so many people, she fell in love with the Texas Hill Country and San Antonio. She moved to San Antonio and found work. Her roommate's boyfriend was stationed at Lackland Air Force Base, and on a visit to the base Lolly met Neal. "Neal was the cop on the gate," Lolly remembered. Neal, a country boy reared on a chicken farm near Center, Texas, and Lolly, a girl reared in urban areas, married and quickly found themselves stationed with the United States Air Force in England, where their first two children were born. Neal and Lolly's children presented the couple with a cruise to Mexico to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. "All you do is eat, eat, eat," Lolly remembered.

Tours of duty to Massachusetts, where Neal worked with the Atomic Energy Commission, to the Panama Canal Zone

and to New Jersey served to make Neal and Lolly homesick for Texas. A transfer to Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene brought them back to Texas. In 1982, Neal retired from the Air Force and took a position at Guardian Glass Factory in Corsicana. "Neal has retired twice now, once from the Air Force and now from Guardian," Lolly stated. "But he still helps me in my shop," she added.

The couple first lived in Mildred where they owned horses and enjoyed the country life. During those years, they also had a business videotaping horse shows, specializing in cutting horse competitions. More recently, Lolly opened and has expanded Lolly's Embroidery in Corsicana where she, with Neal's occasional help, performs custom embroidery. She received a plaque expressing gratitude for a job well done from a commander in Iraq for hats that she had embroidered for them.

Throughout his years of being a ham radio operator, Neal has helped people. While in Panama, the couple lived near a Catholic convent where



many of the nuns were from the state of New York. Neal used his electronic skills to patch them through to their relatives' telephones so they could keep in touch. He also helped sick people get medical care and arranged transportation for them. He received a United States presidential letter of commendation for the aid he rendered while in Panama.

Neal and Lolly work many long hours in the embroidery shop creating items of beauty and functionality. However, they look forward to entertaining in their lovely home and communicating with friends around the world and their close family — beaming their words through the antenna high above their home. They are enjoying being on top of their world looking down at all they are continuing to create. **NOW**

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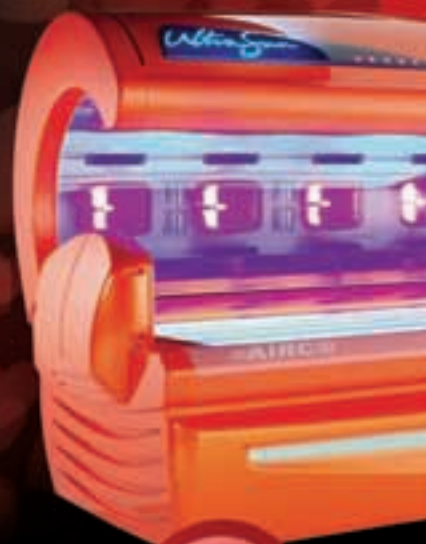

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A *Man* for *All* *Seasons*

— By Joan Kilbourne

If you saw the production of Oliver at the Palace Theatre, you have encountered one of the many faces of Wyatt Turner in his performance as Fagin. Inventive and energetic, he did a standing jump onto a table at one point. “I made the director nervous that I would get hurt,” Wyatt said, “but it was something I knew I could do, and it had impact on the action of the play.” He also brought this exuberance to the role of Captain Hook in a version of the Peter Pan story. “That was fun because I could do exaggerated comic things,” Wyatt said. “I like playing in comedies. I am an eccentric jokester, and I like planning jokes to see what people will do, how they act.



Wyatt playing Fagin in the musical *Oliver*.

“Now I am in the play, *Lost Art*, at Navarro College,” Wyatt said. “The director knows me well enough that she can ask me to fill in on short notice when one of her cast drops out. I tend not to study lines until the last minute anyway, but she knows I will

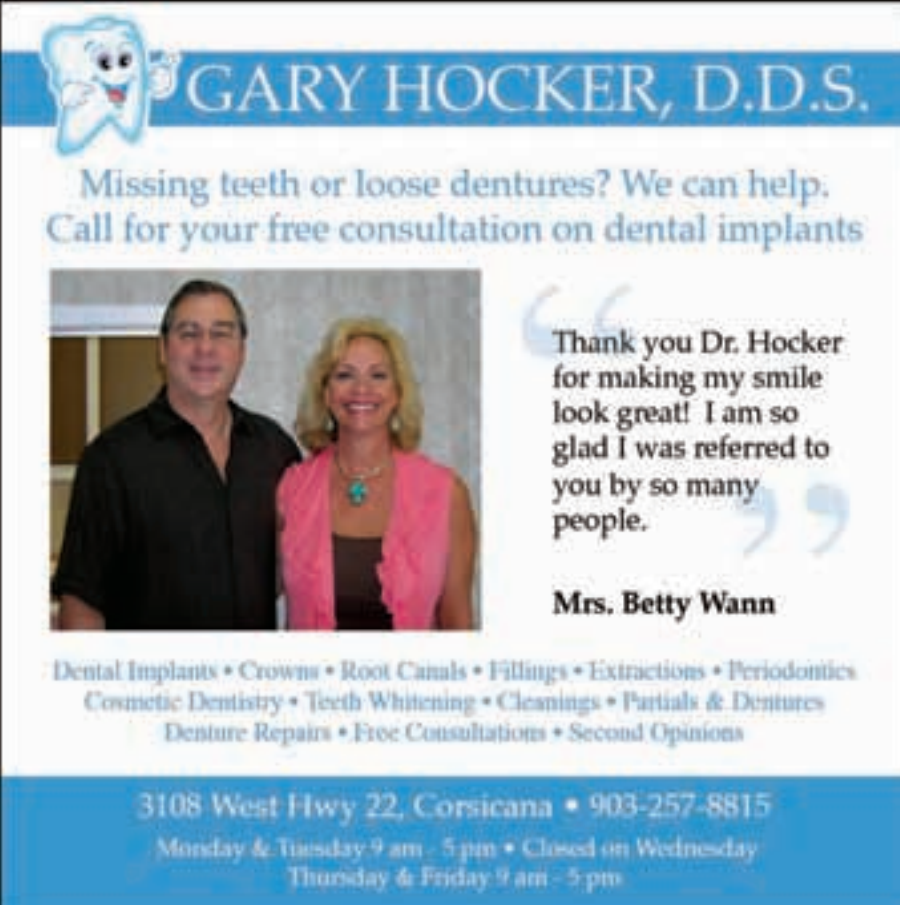
say on stage what the script wants to say, with some variations. I like acting because both the actor and the audience get to release emotions. The actor acts them out and the audience has an opportunity to experience emotions from a distance and work through them." Wyatt expressed appreciation of the directors he has worked with. "I never worked with a bad director on a play or film," he said. "I am never off book until the last minute, but the directors seem to accept that."

Wyatt's acting career began when, as a child, he appeared in productions of the Children's Theater and acted under the direction of Fran Dobbs at the Warehouse Theater. "I played Billy in *On Golden Pond*," Wyatt said, "and I sang in the chorus of *The Sound of Music*."

He explained his comfort level on stage when he said, "I played at pretending longer than other children. I pretended to be a pirate or G.I. Joe. I am always interested in what people do and why they do it." It is not surprising that his degree from The University of Texas at Arlington was in anthropology and archeology, with a minor in linguistics. Along with studies about people as they lived in the past, Wyatt pursued an interest in philosophy and theology.


Wyatt's travels began when he went with a friend to see an Army recruiter in Austin and enlisted. Stationed in Germany as a chaplain's assistant, Wyatt managed to continue an acting career by joining a community theater. He was on the team representing the Army that won a one-act play tournament sponsored by the American Academy of Community Theaters. He played Sancho Panza, squire to Don Quixote, who was played by the base chaplain. "I love Europe," Wyatt said. "I drove around Italy, Southern Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Spain and the British Isles." Wyatt's next duty station was in Fort Riley, Kansas. He summed up his Army experience saying, "My friends and family were surprised when I joined the Army. The rigid discipline of the military seemed to be in conflict with my 'hippie' image."

When his enlistment was up, Wyatt had saved enough money to return to Corsicana to buy a house. "Now," he said, "I am writing poetry, screenplays and articles." Wyatt described himself as a "seasonal" person. He explained, "I 'hermatize' in the summer. I see a



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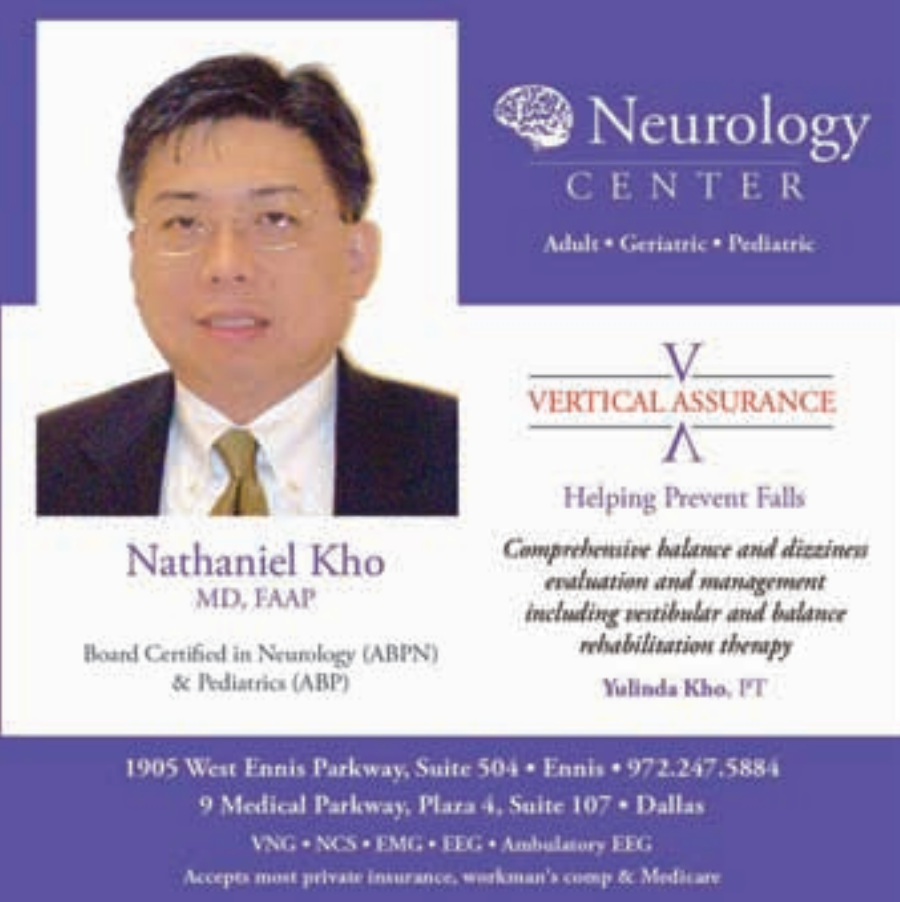


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smaller group of friends, the ones who understand that you will be back and [you will] still be a friend when you are out of touch for a while. In the fall I am more social. I like to talk with people about ethical issues. I like to talk about love, faith, beliefs and philosophy, and I want to talk to other people who tell me about *their* beliefs." Wyatt can often be seen sitting outside at a sidewalk table in front of the Two Doors Down coffee shop. "People drop by and join me," he said. "We talk or I listen and observe." In the fall, he is also involved in theater.

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Wyatt with Lloyd Huffman, President of the Palace Theatre.

Returning to the subject of his seasonal personality, Wyatt said, "In the winter, I am organizing, planning business plans and movie scripts and plays I want to write about. Right now, I am writing a one-act play about a gravedigger who considers his relationship with his mother after her death. In the spring, I am more outgoing, more creative. I write poetry, I have about 50 poems, and when I have enough that are publishable, I'll put them into a



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Wyatt is often seen sitting at a sidewalk table in front of the Two Doors Down coffee shop.

book. I contemplate and pray more. I am intuitive with people, and when I begin to feel overwhelmed, I withdraw and 'hermatize' again."

Always open to new adventures, Wyatt connected with a friend to make a film. "I grew up with Scott Honea, my best friend in elementary and middle school. He loved photography and filmmaking, and he went to Los Angeles to try his luck there. He called me one day to ask if I would act in a film he was planning to make in Corsicana. He flew out other actors and a crew and used his mother's house and offices of the *Corsicana Daily Sun* as his sets. That meant that we did some filming from 10:00 p.m. until 4:00 a.m., when the newspaper offices were empty. The role I played was like me but exaggerated," he said. "When it was finished, Scott went back to enter the movie in film festivals. I really liked doing the production work, the freedom and the variety of finding locations and working with a director. Scott and I work together well, and he welcomed my ideas on the visual aspects of the film that create certain emotions.

"I have notebooks with articles I have written on philosophy — on topics like truth or reality," Wyatt said. "I interpret some of the concepts I write about in the symbolic language of math." He explained his interest in math as language, saying, "My father read trigonometry and calculus for fun." Someday, Wyatt plans to gather up all the papers and write them into a book. That sounds like a task for spring, when his creativity is high and his complex and productive mind turns to ethereal thoughts. **NOW**

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From a New Point of View

— By Joan Kilbourne

Kemuel De Castro, known as Mr. K by the students in his physics classes, does not appear to be much older than his students. Maybe it is his enthusiasm and energy that makes him seem so much at home in a high school classroom. Kemuel grew up with his two sisters and a brother in the Philippines. "My parents told us that the only treasure they could give us was the education they never had. They sold their house and lot and business to give us the education we had. My brother and sisters are all professionals: a chemical engineer, an industrial engineer, a merchant marine and me — I am a teacher."



Kemuel answers De'Kayla Clored's questions.

Kemuel earned a degree in general science at the University of Muntinlupa, Manila. He went on to earn a master's degree in biology from De La Salle University, a private Catholic university in Manila, with the idea that he might become a doctor. He had an opportunity to teach cadets in a ROTC program when he became a senior cadet. He taught drills and gave lectures to junior officers. "I found out I was effective," he said, "and I found it rewarding to teach." After graduation, he taught 10- and 11-year-old students and then taught in a high school with large classes of 38 students.

"I urge students to be humble enough to ask if they do not know something."

"I had only five years of teaching experience when I applied to teach in America," Kemuel said. "Others who applied had much more experience than I did, but I always had a dream to come to America. Books about education always presented American schools as the model, and I wanted to experience the best and take back what I learned. Maybe someday I will start a school of my own. I will want to have the kind of technology we have here, like SMART Boards," Kemuel said. He pulled out his SMART pen to demonstrate its use and said, "We have to prepare students for a future where technology is important."

Dr. Moore represented Corsicana Independent School District when he traveled to Manila to recruit teachers for Corsicana High School. Of the 150 candidates who submitted résumés, only four were chosen by him to teach in Corsicana, and Kemuel was surprised to be one of them. "In the movies, American cities and city schools were seen as violent places," Kemuel said, "but Dr. Moore described Corsicana as a quiet place." Even with this reassurance, Kemuel was puzzled when he arrived in Corsicana. "I wondered, *Is this America?* It smelled familiar, like the farms in the Philippines," he said. "There were no city lights or tall buildings."

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Kemuel with student Dequan Raindle.

Kemuel was assigned to teach physics to junior and senior students. "I am blessed to be here in this school. The discipline is very exact," he said. "I had a warm welcome not only from other teachers but from everyone I met in town. They ask, 'How are you doing today?' And they expect you will really tell them, even if you are not doing well. At first, I always said I was fine, but in fact, I was living in an apartment with no furniture, sleeping on the floor. When I finally told someone, they e-mailed all the teachers, and they brought furniture to me. People here are so accommodating. They care for one another.

"At first I was homesick, and I was not sleeping because of the time difference," Kemuel remembered. "I would not fall asleep until 1:00 in the morning, and I would get up at 5:00 to prepare for the day. I met Father Danny [Rev. Danilo Ramos, pastor of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church], and he told me an important thing. He said, 'It takes time.' I learn every day from the teachers like my mentor, David Kasprzyk. I learned another important thing from Don Bichell, a teacher who drives me to school every day. He told me, 'Take it easy,' so I try to be less serious and to remember that tomorrow is a different day. It is encouraging that people say to me now that I appear to have adapted well," he said. "I am blessed to be in Corsicana.

"I talk to my students and ask them about their experiences so that I know where they are coming from," Kemuel said. "When I am teaching, I want to be able to give examples that match their experience. Physics is based in math, and some of the students have little math background, so I have to teach them what they need to understand physics." Pointing to the bags under his eyes, Kemuel explained, laughing, "I

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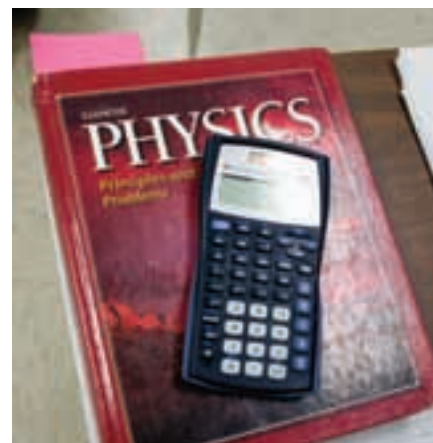
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Keller Williams



did not have a strong math background myself, so on Saturday and Sunday I read, read, read and prepare, prepare, prepare.” He added thoughtfully, “We are all students together. I urge students to be humble enough to ask if they do not know something.”

On the side board the objectives for the day are written on a big sheet of newsprint paper. Next to that is a list of new vocabulary words to be learned, and hanging from the ceiling are large paper banners with equations that have already been presented. “They can look up and remember what they need to know,” Kemuel said. On a lighter side, under the heading “scientific fact of the day” is the information that fish sleep with their eyes open.

“I want to inspire students about life and convince them to go to college. They only talk about taking a job in Corsicana some day,” said Kemuel, who may not realize that he is a model of what can be done when students choose to continue their education. More than that, he is an example of the kind of new life experiences students can have when they act on their dreams. Kemuel has learned that “it takes time” to feel at home in a new situation, but every day he shows his students that it can be done. **NOW**

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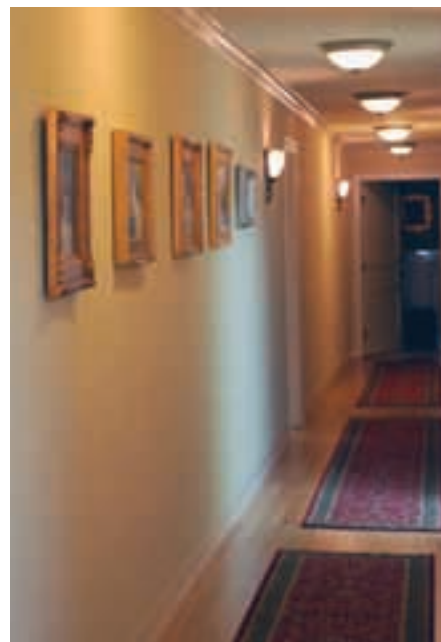


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From left:

Melissa Lopez, Mindy Goodner, Angelica Byrne, Scott Farmer, Lizbeth Castillo, Alma Valencia, Jimmy Hale (center).

PAMPERING DONE HERE

Angelica Byrne and Jimmy Hale establish a special, new, full-service salon and spa in town.

— By Joan Kilbourne

A day at the spa used to be an exclusive pleasure of the Hollywood stars. Now the full array of personal service is available to women who have the good sense to live in Navarro County, where the Downtown Salon and Spa welcomes them. Angelica Byrne, who has years of knowledge and experience about the services of a salon and spa, joined with a business partner, Jimmy Hale, to design something special.

You are greeted at the door by Liz Perez, a multitasking woman who is both morning receptionist and cook. She comes in early to make warm pastries or her special cherry bread with pecans for the clients. Liz is also the one who chose the soothing

colors for the salon. Coffee and soft drinks are offered during the day, and in the evening, complimentary wine and beer are available. "Groups of ladies come in together," Angelica said. "They have their wine while they have hair cuts or massages. It is like a party." Women who come in for a massage can shower and change clothes afterward in the spacious tile and glass bathroom.

The long hallway serves as an art gallery where the paintings of either Barbara Jones or Margie Taylor are displayed in rotation. In the dimly lit massage room you hear the soft sounds of music and the cushioned bed beckons to you. A smiling Mindy or Alma stands ready to massage out those frazzled feelings

Business **NOW**

and soothe those aching muscles. There is an equally inviting facial room. Two cut-and-style stations are located in each of two separate rooms. This area is presided over by Scott Farmer, who brings his big city and international talent for creating artistic designs. "Getting away from the assembly line feel of a row of chairs," Angelica said, "it is more relaxing and quiet for the client." Jimmy Hale's collection of butterflies mounted in frames adorns the walls like colorful paintings. Antique furniture found in all of the rooms contributes to the homey atmosphere.

In their effort to establish a high standard of service, Jimmy sent all of the staff to training schools. Product representatives also came to the spa to provide information and helpful ideas.

"IT IS MORE RELAXING AND QUIET FOR THE CLIENT TO FEEL THAT THE STYLIST IS ATTENTIVE TO ONLY THE PERSON IN THE CHAIR."

"The key to good service is: the better the staff feels and the more confidence they have in themselves, the better their communication with clients," Jimmy said. "As a team, we collaborate to deal with problems and set standards. "When a problem, real or imagined, arises we share the problem solving with all the staff so they know that their opinions are valued. When employees feel that their ideas and their work are appreciated, they become personally invested in the business and want to see it succeed."

"We back up one another," Angelica said. "When one of us is occupied with some service for a client, anyone of us will bring a drink or supply some needed product. We have a staff meeting every week. We talk about what did not go well, and we come up with a solution together. We also talk about what is working the way we want and how we best create a relaxing atmosphere." Finally, there is a quick remedy standing ready to soothe an unhappy client. Jimmy will sing to her in Spanish. They say it works every time. **NOW**

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A Romantic Getaway in the Heart of Texas



San Antonio's rich tapestry of history, culture and legend is ready to lure visitors to a destination where time is measured in moments and memories. Whether it is a tranquil stroll along the new extension of the River Walk, or enjoying a mariachi serenade, San Antonio is a place where romance naturally blooms.



As a Valentine's Day getaway, visitors will find San Antonio a place to nourish a longstanding love or let new sparks fly.

Enjoy an evening along the famous San Antonio River Walk, which is now connected to San Antonio's museums,

the historic Pearl Brewery and cultural attractions to the north. You may wish to take a river barge ride to a peaceful part of the River Walk and then dine at one of the several restaurants at the Pearl Brewery.

Endless romantic options are available — indulge in a couple's spa treatment at a peaceful resort, enjoy a romantic concert in historic Main Plaza, watch the sunset on a horse-drawn carriage through historic downtown. With average February temperatures in the mid-50s, San Antonio's mild climate is ideal for many activities.

A trip to San Antonio would not be complete without a visit to the Alamo. This year marks the 175th year since the famed battle for Texas independence took place there. Many special events commemorating the iconic last stand will be held throughout the year.

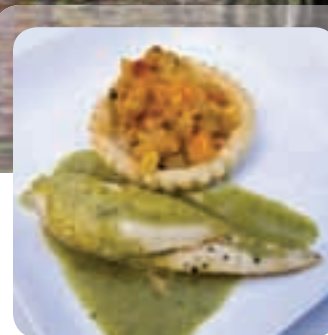
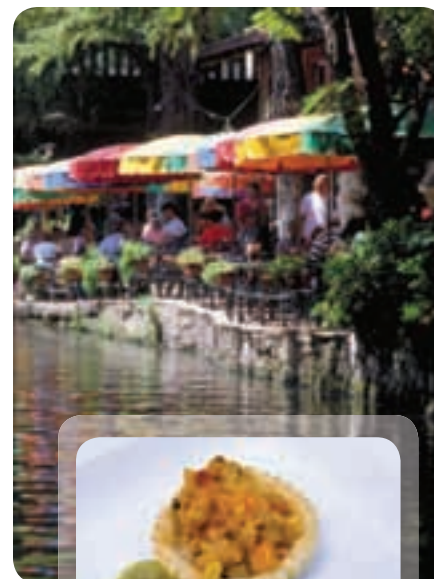
In addition to the Alamo, you may wish to visit four additional Spanish colonial missions in San Antonio: Mission Concepción, Mission San José, Mission San Juan Capistrano and Mission San Francisco de la Espada. As you tread these historic grounds, be sure to notice the elaborate rose window at Mission San José. Legend has it that stonemason Pedro Huizar carved the rose window for his star-crossed sweetheart, Rosa. Whether fact or fantasy, the window is a perfect spot

to reflect on romance in general. Find someone to take your photo there — it should be easy!

The Hill Country around San Antonio is brimming with spring-fed rivers and the shade of live oaks. This fertile

province is home to the Texas wine country, where more than 20 vineyards lie. In this secluded oasis, visitors will find intimate bed and breakfasts, as well as luxury resorts that offer lavish spas and championship golf courses.

With romance in the air around Valentine's Day, San Antonio is a perfect getaway for those seeking a naturally romantic — not to mention affordable — vacation. A value-filled vacation



experience can be custom built by using the S.A.V.E. program at visitsanantonio.com. Or couples can select one of the many romance-themed hotel packages on the site.

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Preparing for Your Financial Future

— By Lynda Housley

When most of us think of investing, we immediately think of investing for retirement. While that is an important aspect to be considered, there are other pieces of the puzzle that are also important. Establishing a budget, investing early and regularly and saving for post-secondary education should also be considered.

Establish a budget

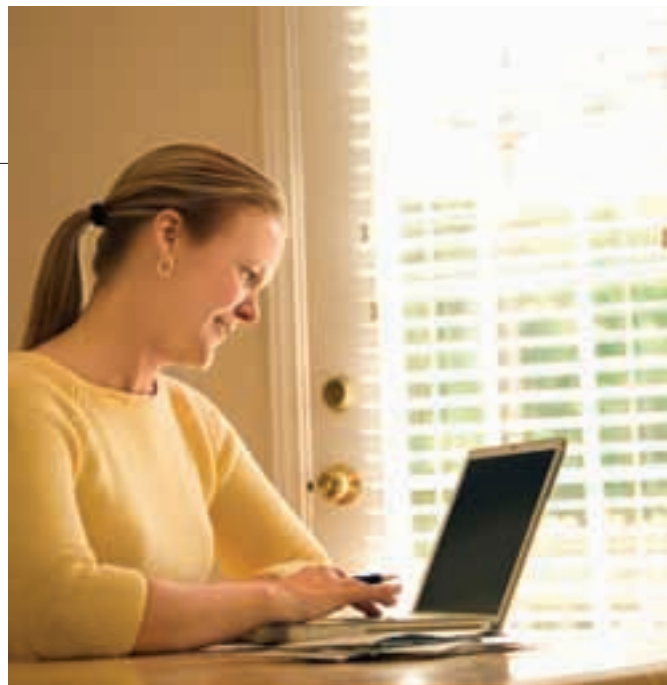
Establishing a budget is a great first step in planning your finances. A budget is a useful tool for recording all of your income and expenses. By writing down how much money you earn and spend each month, you can see where your money is going. This will assist you in being able to prioritize your expenses and needs. Any money left over can be used for saving and investing. Even a small amount of money invested regularly can help.

Invest early and regularly, even small amounts

One reason to start a regular investment program early is to give your money as much time as possible to grow through compounding. If you haven't started investing yet, then consider starting now and getting into the habit. Just remember that the amounts you invest do not have to be large, especially if the money is taken directly out of each paycheck. You will be surprised how little you miss money you don't see. If you're already investing every month, look for ways to contribute more through bonuses and monetary gifts.

A hypothetical example

The value of starting early is illustrated by a 25-year-old investing \$2,000 per year for 10 years at a hypothetical eight-percent fixed rate of return with all gains and dividends reinvested. This 25-year-old would accumulate \$314,870 by age 65. A 35-year-old investing \$2,000 per year for 30 years and reinvesting all gains and dividends will have \$244,692 when he or she reaches 65. These hypothetical examples are for illustrative purposes only and are not intended to represent or imply the actual performance of any specific investment.



It is important to note that any investment involves risks that may result in the loss of principal and there is no guarantee that the strategies illustrated will produce positive investment results.

College tuition planning

Preparing for your children's or grandchildren's college education is important, especially when tuition costs are rising every year. One possibility might include investing in a Coverdell Education Savings Account, which allows tax-free withdrawals for qualified education expenses. These can include room, board and tuition for elementary, secondary and higher education. You might also want to look into prepaid tuition plans. Many states offer programs that allow parents to lock in the cost of tomorrow's college tuition and fees for about what it would cost today. **NOW**

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Lynda Housley is a State Farm agent based in Corsicana.



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Glenn Smith, owner of Smith General Store, takes a break from work to smile for the camera.



Charlie and Carol Shearer go for a walk at the I.O.O.F park on a bright, beautiful day.



Two-year-old Nevaeh Eastman shops for candy at the MQ Food Mart.



Misty Coles straightens the shelves at the Book Stack.



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Community Officer James Hudson helps with Parking and Zoning code enforcement.



Jasmine and Alejandra Flores enjoy a day off from school.



Taylor Sivils takes a ride around town with his dog, Baby Girl.



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Angela Flores and Thomas Price say, "Cheese!"



Curtis Fupa, Cassye Braun, Chris Harrelson, Tim Green, Chad Barron and Aaron Erwin dine at Fiesta Grill.



Morgan Putman jams at Dave's Music.



James Johnson, Lacy Spain and Wanda Spain practice their barrel racing skills at Lone Star Cowboy Church.



To Eat or Not to Eat

— By Betty Tryon, R.N.

“It’s not about the weight ... it’s about the inability to deal with feelings and emotions ... about using a bowl of pasta or a pound of M&Ms as a narcotic to stem the pain. That’s what compulsive overeating is.” These anguished words are from a participant on a Web site for eating disorders. Those who suffer from an eating disorder exist in their own personal netherworld of emotional and physical pain. Three of the more commonly known eating disorders are compulsive overeating, anorexia and bulimia.

Compulsive overeating can be characterized as an addiction to food with uncontrollable eating patterns of perhaps thousands of calories. With anorexia, someone will literally starve themselves dangerously and, sometimes, even to death. Bulimia is all about eating an abnormally large amount of food and then using unhealthy methods to rid the body of the consumed food by vomiting, laxatives, enemas or by other equally inappropriate means.

Inherent within all eating disorders is poor self-esteem. Many feel that the only way to feel worthy or valued is to be thin. Another online blogger said, “Since I was little, I remember feeling that it was very important to be skinny. Part of it was because when I was little, the meanest thing you could call someone was “mean”

or “fat.” I had an extremely low self-esteem and a fear of being fat, so I was pretty much destined to have an eating disorder. All I remember thinking was that I could not get fat. I’d rather die.”

Do not mistake these disorders as just being on an extreme diet. The psychological and emotional aspects that play into such dangerous behavior go much further than merely losing some weight with anorexia or enjoying your food in compulsive eating. What triggers one to go from dieting to extreme behavior is unknown. There may be several factors at work here such as body image, weight issues, family problems and perhaps genetics.

Treatment is tailored to the specific disorder. A multidisciplinary team utilizing psychology, psychiatry and support from family and friends is sometimes necessary for successful treatment. Nutritionists for counseling in the form of rehabilitation may be included. Not everyone will need such intensive care. Treatment will depend upon many factors including the length of time one has the eating disorder, family environment and the health of the patient. There are many choices for treatment, whether it be inpatient hospitalization, an outpatient program, family therapy or a day care program utilizing the home environment. The goal for treatment is to help the person gain control of his or her eating behavior. They can get healthier, and the sooner they get started down the road to recovery, the better it will be. **NOW**

This article is for general information only and does not constitute medical advice. Consult with your physician if you have questions regarding this topic.

February Is Rose Time

— By Nancy Fenton

Think of Valentine's Day, and getting roses for a special friend comes to mind. Roses are a sentimental favorite as well as a beautiful flower. A garden full of roses is truly a thing of beauty. You can have a rose garden that will grow, bloom and possibly outlive you, if you plan a bit and do the proper preparation. Ninety-nine percent of roses adore full sun, so when planning, look for a well-drained, sunny spot away from walls and fences. If the spot is not as well-drained as you would like, build it up. Compost and expanded shale will help, as will a soil test if you have not had one on the bed area in a while.

EarthKind roses have been tested all over the nation and found to be sturdy, as well as beautiful. Knock Out, one of the first EarthKind roses, has been cultivated to include pink, yellow, rainbow and blushing white varieties. Plan your color scheme and look around. Hybrids can be great roses, but they usually bloom only once a year whereas EarthKind roses bloom all season. An attractive bed could include Sea Foam roses crawling over the edges and then a bed built with varying sizes and colors. With the white edging, an apricot yellow small shrub like Perle d'Or or a lilac pink one like Caldwell Pink would begin to show off the multi-color beauty. Depending on the size of the bed, medium and large roses of many colors can be added. They all require sun, careful watering and mulching. Turn your lawn sprinklers away or off, and go to drip- or hand-watering for this bed.

EarthKind roses can be found at local nurseries. Buy small and leave extra room between plants for the air to get through after they mature. Damp leaves and poor air circulation are the primary causes of black spot and other rose diseases.

Any roses already in your beds should be cut back now. Any canes that cross should be evaluated and one of them cut severely. My two roses that struggle in the shade are cut back to 6-inch canes and come on like gangbusters until the trees leaf out!

For a brochure on EarthKind roses and hints for growing, call the AgriLife office at (972) 825-5175. **NOW**

Nancy Fenton is a Master Gardener.

Calendar

FEBRUARY 2011

February 3

Third Annual General Meeting of the Corsicana Preservation Foundation: 6:00 p.m. in the District Court Room, Navarro County Court House. Membership applications will be available and light refreshments will be served from 5:00 p.m. Open to the public.

February 11

Senior Circle Pot Luck Luncheon: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. You bring the salad, vegetable, casserole or dessert. Navarro Regional will provide the meat, rolls and drinks. Bingo will follow, so get ready to win!

February 17-24

Navarro Council of the Arts school program presents Patrick Regan the bagpiper as a visitor to Navarro County schools. With 30 years of professional piping under his kilt, Patrick draws from his seemingly limitless repertoire to captivate audiences from first-time listeners to those well-versed in the art of bag piping.

February 17-26

Till Beth Do Us Part, presented by the

Warehouse Living Arts Center, 119 W. 6th St. To make reservations, call (903) 872-5421. Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten's side-splitting comic romp about love and marriage. Whether you are married, single, dating someone up to no good or rethinking your divorce, you are sure to enjoy this family-friendly, laugh-out-loud comedy by the authors of *The Dixie Swim Club*.

February 18

Theatre Production: 7:00 p.m., Black Box Theatre, Albritton Building, Corsicana campus of Navarro College. Free admission. For more information, call (903) 875-7381.

February 23

Student Music Recital: 3:00 p.m. in the Choir Room, Fine Arts Building, Corsicana campus of Navarro College. For more information about the Student Music Recital please call (903) 875-7381. Free admission.

February 27

The Music Man: 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., the Palace Theatre. Individual tickets on sale February 15. An affectionate paean to Smalltown, USA of a bygone era, *The Music Man* is the perfect All-American musical!

March 5

Mardi Gras and Double Nickel Casino Night: 6:30-11:00 p.m., Corsicana Country Club, 4100 Country Club Drive. Proceeds benefit James L. Collins Catholic School. Tickets are \$50 (through Feb 11) and include \$1,500 worth of casino chips, gourmet hors d'oeuvres, beads, door prize ticket and party! Top chip winner casino prizes include: a 42" Flat screen LCD TV, preseason Cowboy tickets (great seats with parking), netbook laptop, Kindle eReader and iPod accessory package. Incredible silent auction items include: Richland Chambers Lake property, Rockport Bay condo vacation, Texas Rangers weekend, guided fishing trip, landscaping package and more! Dress up for the occasion if you like. Drag out the beads, we know you have some! For questions and tickets call (903) 872-3711 or (903) 872-1751, or e-mail jstutts@collinscatholicsschool.com.

March 13

Texas Motorplex Bracket Racing: series season opener.

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

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In The Kitchen With Sue Vernia

— By Adam Walker

Sue Vernia is the first generation off the farm, so her cooking reflects her Deep East Texas heritage and a dash of Louisiana. She began cooking at a young age but did not learn to enjoy it until later. In addition to her family, she cooks for the Corsicana Food for Fitness. “I like to find new recipes in books and make them my own by adding a little Texas to them,” Sue said. “You know, more peppers.” She also likes garlic and basil. She had fun teaching her granddaughter to cook, and they still enjoy cooking together when she visits from the Pacific Northwest. Though a successful cook, Sue admits to one challenge. “My family always says, ‘Watch the bread. Mama will burn it if you don’t!’” **NOW**

Swiss Steak

Chuck or round steak

1/2 cup flour

Salt, to taste

Pepper, to taste

Oil for frying

1 small onion, chopped

2 celery ribs, chopped

1 can stewed tomatoes

1 can tomato sauce

1 can water

2 cloves garlic

1. Cut steak into serving size pieces and toss in flour, salt and pepper mixture.

2. Brown meat in small amount of oil.

3. Remove meat and add onions and celery. Fry until onions are transparent.

4. Drain oil and add tomatoes, tomato sauce, water and garlic.

5. Return meat to pan, cover and simmer for one hour. Add water, as necessary. Serve over mashed potatoes.

Asparagus Salad

1 bunch asparagus spears

1 cup cherry tomatoes, cut in halves

1 sweet onion, thinly sliced

2 cloves garlic, minced

3 1/2 Tbsp. canola oil

3 Tbsp. red wine vinegar

Salt and pepper, to taste

Bibb lettuce

1. Wash asparagus. Break off tough ends and slice into 1-inch pieces. Microwave in covered dish with a tsp. of water for 2 minutes. Drain and cool asparagus.

2. Combine all ingredients, except lettuce, toss and refrigerate.

3. Serve in cups made of the lettuce.

NOTE: The asparagus mixture will keep for several days in the refrigerator if salt is not added until ready to serve.

Corn-Zucchini Casserole

1 lb. zucchini

1/2 cup onion, chopped

3 Tbsp. butter

1 10-oz. pkg. frozen whole kernel corn

2 eggs, lightly beaten

1 cup shredded Swiss cheese

1/4 cup dry bread crumbs

2 Tbsp. Parmesan cheese

1/4 tsp. salt

1. Wash and slice zucchini into 1-inch pieces. Cover and cook in small amount of boiling, salted water until tender. Drain and mash.

2. Cook onions in 1 Tbsp. butter until tender.

3. Combine zucchini, onion, corn, eggs and Swiss cheese in 1-quart casserole dish.

4. Combine bread crumbs, remaining butter, Parmesan cheese and salt. Sprinkle on top of casserole.

5. Bake at 350 F for 40 minutes or until knife inserted in middle comes out clean.

Cherry Pecan Pound Cake

1 cup butter, softened

1 2/3 cups sugar

4 eggs

2 cups flour

1 tsp. vanilla

1 cup maraschino cherries

1 cup chopped pecans

1. Blend butter and sugar.

2. Fold in eggs one at a time.

3. Gradually add in flour.

4. Stir in vanilla, cherries and pecans.

5. Pour batter into greased and floured tube pan.

6. Bake for 1 1/2 hours in 300 F oven. Allow to cool 15 minutes before removing from pan.

Jalepeño Cheese Bake

1 lb. sharp cheddar cheese

1/2 lb. medium cheddar cheese

1/2 lb. Swiss cheese

1 7-oz. can chopped jalapeños, reserve juice

6 eggs

Muenster cheese slices

1. Grate and combine cheeses, except the Muenster.

2. Spray a 9 x 13-inch pan with Pam Cooking Spray.

3. Cover bottom of pan with jalapeños.

4. Beat eggs and pour over cheeses.

5. Add 1 or 2 Tbsp. jalapeño juice to cheeses.

6. Spoon cheese mixture over peppers, taking care not to disturb the distribution of the peppers.

7. Top with Muenster slices and bake at 350 F for 45 minutes.

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

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DR. MATTHEW BRANCH completed his medical school and general surgery internship at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. He then graduated from one of the most prestigious ear, nose and throat residencies in the country, the University of Pittsburgh.

He specializes in ear, nose and throat with head and neck surgeries for adult and pediatric patients. This includes: ears and hearing, sinus and allergy, throat and mouth, face and neck, as well as sleep disorders in adults.

Dr. Branch is originally from Burleson, Texas, so once he completed his specialty training, he and his family moved to Corsicana to recapture the small-town community he had known all of his life. Additionally, Dr. Branch is Board Certified by the American Board of Otolaryngology. He is an active member of the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, the American Medical Association and the Texas Medical Association.

He started seeing patients every Friday morning in his office at the ERM Medical Office Building on the ERM campus on July 2, 2010. He is now accepting new patients.

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