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Preserving Habitats

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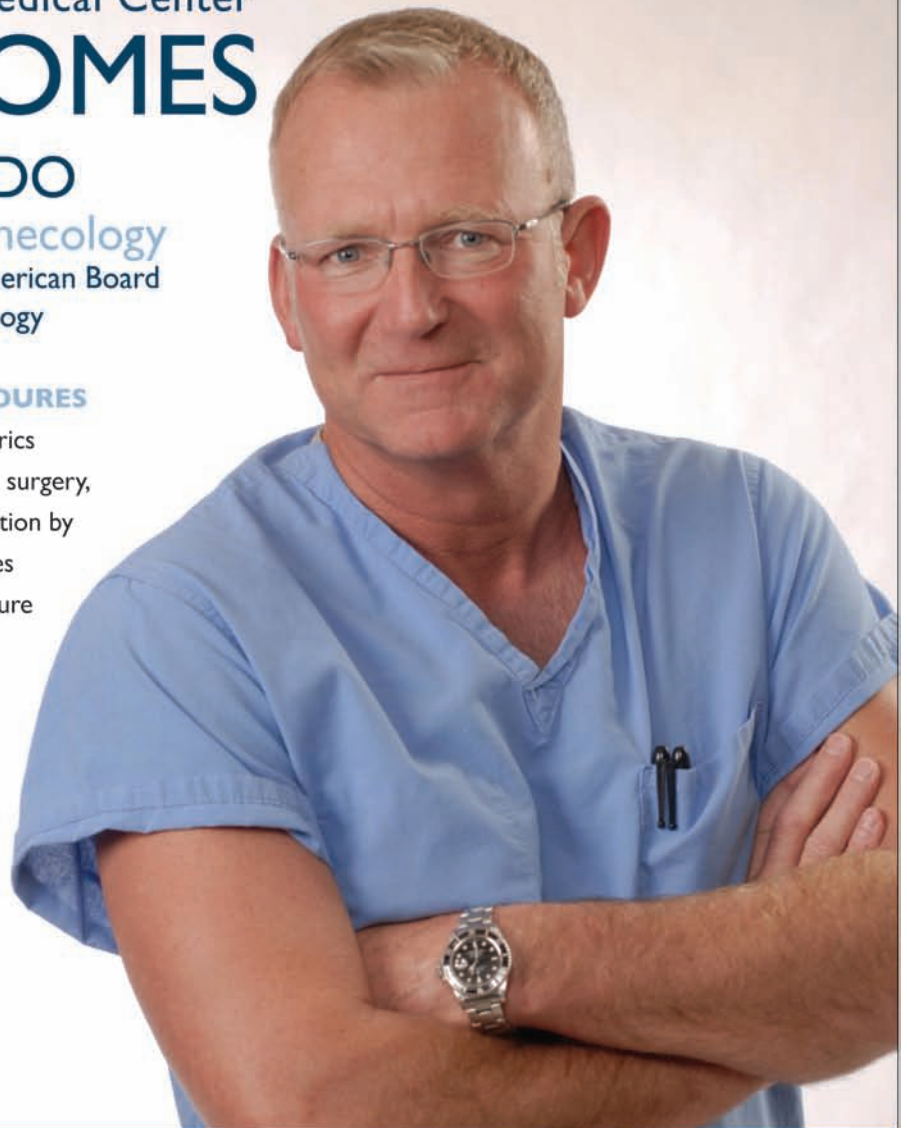
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On The Cover



Wyardeen Waters' home reflects her love for travel.

Photo by Amy Ramirez.

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Editor's Note

Happy Valentine's Day, Corsicana!

One way to stay warm this month is to include a workout regimen as part of our New Year's resolutions. The displays around town of red hearts remind us to honor our loved ones, not just with candy, but also by taking care of ourselves during February's American Heart Month, which promotes living a healthy lifestyle that includes diet and exercise. You can find some healthy and tasty recipes by Chef Lori Cason in our cooking feature this month. And don't forget to wear red on February 3 in support of the fight against heart disease.

The National Council of Teachers of English invites readers of all ages to read books authored by African-Americans during February's Black History Month. For more information, visit their site, www.ncte.org. Every month is a great time for a good read!



Virginia

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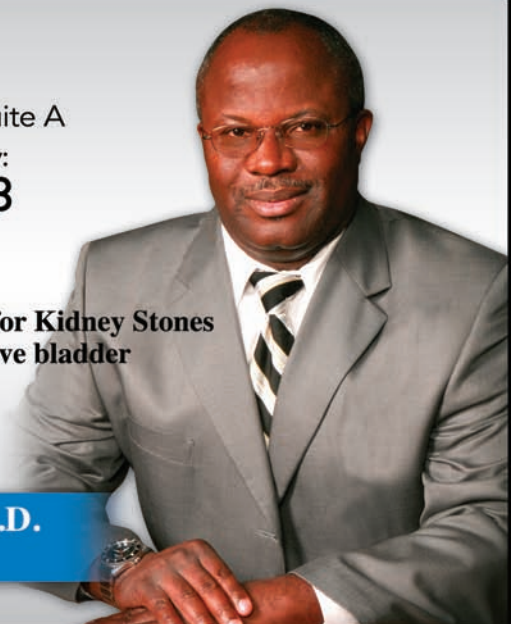


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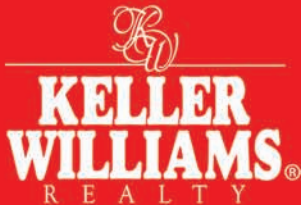
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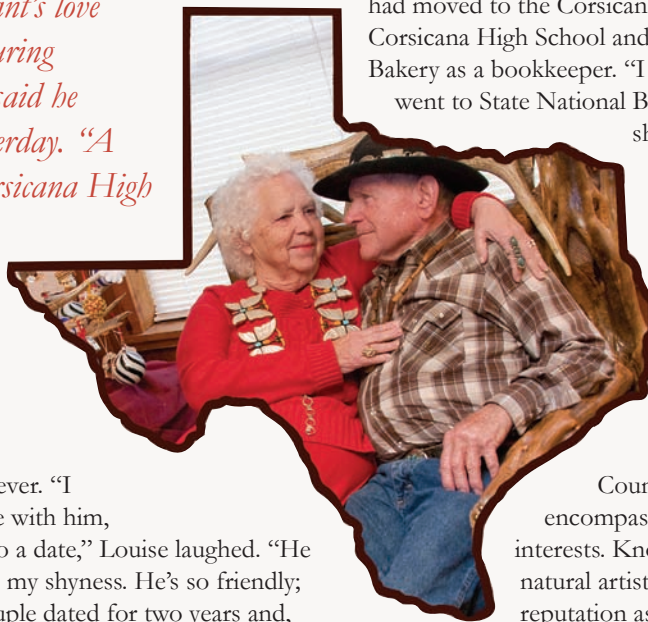
A TEXAS- SIZED Romance

— By Rick Herron

Billy Sr. and Louise Tallant's love story started in Corsicana during the summer of 1950. Billy said he remembers it like it was yesterday. "A friend and I rode over to Corsicana High School one day. He went around one corner, and I went around another. That was the first time I ever saw Louise," he said.

It wasn't love at first sight, however. "I was so shy I wouldn't go anywhere with him, but he persisted and talked me into a date," Louise laughed. "He understood me and got me out of my shyness. He's so friendly; he puts everyone at ease." The couple dated for two years and, ultimately, married in the Corsicana home of their preacher on September 26, 1952.

Born near Arkadelphia, Arkansas, Louise and her family



had moved to the Corsicana area, where she graduated from Corsicana High School and went to work for Collin Street Bakery as a bookkeeper. "I worked there about five years then went to State National Bank where I stayed for 10 years,"

she remembered. "Around that time, I decided I wanted to be a teacher, so I drove back and forth to Commerce for four years to get my teaching degree. Then I attended Stephen F. Austin College and got my master's degree. After graduating, I started teaching in Dawson ISD." Louise taught fifth grade at Dawson, until retiring recently.


Billy Sr. is a native of Navarro County with a life journey that has encompassed a wide variety of careers and interests. Known as "The Indian Trader," he is a natural artist and gifted storyteller with a national reputation as a carver and collector of Indian artifacts. His vast collection and artistic creations,

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the rooms of his cozy country home, as well as several buildings on his property, which is located about 10 miles southwest of Corsicana.

Shortly after the couple married, they decided to leave all that was familiar to them and move to California. Billy recounted how the decision to take his new bride out west came about. "After we were married, my cousin asked us to go to California with him back in 1952, so we piled into a 1949 Packard and headed west. We settled near the ocean in Venice, California. It was beautiful. I got a job at North American Jet Aviation, where I ran a big aluminum press," he remembered.



"It didn't take long for us to start missing Texas. Since we didn't have a car out there, we bought a 1940 Chevrolet for \$50 and drove back home." After returning to Corsicana, Billy worked in a furniture store, a hat factory and an oil company before going into business for himself as a self-taught welder.

The couple eventually had three sons and a daughter and settled down in Pursley. Their daughter, Mary, and son, Billy Jr., who teaches in Corsicana ISD, followed in their mother's teaching career footsteps.

This year the Tallants will celebrate



their 60th wedding anniversary, an accomplishment they say any married couple can expect to achieve if they just follow certain standards. With recent statistics showing that more than 40 percent of American marriages end in divorce, engaged couples and newlyweds have definite reasons to be concerned. This relatively high failure rate has been attributed to a wide variety of causes: from poor communication habits, financial problems and lack of marriage commitment to dramatic changes in priorities. Last but not least, the one most glamorized in movies and on TV is infidelity. But the good news is that all of these causes may be minimized or avoided altogether if couples decide at the very beginning of a marriage that they are going to set some basic standards for each person to follow to insure they keep their love and commitment alive.

"Just behave yourself," Billy Sr., who is 78, instructed as he offered his opinions on how they have made their marriage work for such a long time. "Once you say 'I do,' don't honky tonk or drink too much, because anytime a woman marries someone she met in a beer joint, they are going to have trouble."

Louise, 76, agreed and added her own advice. "We waited five years before we had our kids, and that made a big difference. We got on our feet and got to know each other before we started a family."

When they met, Billy Sr. was Baptist and Louise was a member of the Church of Christ. He eventually joined her church. They made it a point to go to church every Sunday, a practice they've steadfastly maintained. Billy stressed the

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importance of reading and studying the Bible in keeping a family together. "When you read the Bible, don't skip any parts, and raise your kids to do the same," he said.

For her part, Louise is positive that sharing the same religious beliefs was extremely important for them and the success of their marriage. "I wouldn't have married him if he didn't go to church," she said.

Louise continued by adding, "When Billy gets upset, I just leave him alone until he gets over it, and he always gets over it pretty fast. We make it a point to never go to bed angry at each other. We always settle our problems before we turn out the light."

Billy nodded his head in agreement. "It takes two to tango, so we just use common sense and settle any problem we are dealing with right away. We try to never let the sun go down on our anger. Over the years, we've learned how the other thinks and reacts, and I've never found anything wrong with being married, either."

Most of all, the couple is unanimous in giving credit to their friends for helping them make their life together a success. "We wouldn't be where we are today without the good friends we have here in Texas and Louisiana. We can't thank them enough for being there for us all these years," Billy Sr. said.

When the Tallants look back at nearly 60 years of love and companionship, they agreed on one more thing, something that visibly surprised them when they realized how true it was. What they have had all these years has been so great and has passed so fast ... like the blink of an eye. **NOW**

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Preserving Habitats

— By Rick Herron

Although the Texas Gulf Coast has some of the most abundant and diverse wetlands in the world, which are home several months of the year to large numbers of waterfowl, very few Texans seem to know how vital they are to preserving the environment and the bird populations that inhabit them. Getting the message out to Navarro County residents about the importance of preserving these wetlands is one of the main goals of the Corsicana chapter of Ducks Unlimited, and Ross Reamy, new chapter president, is gearing up to do just that.

The Corsicana chapter was started more than 15 years ago. Since Ross began his term as chapter president in July 2011, he's had a clear understanding of what he wants to accomplish during his tenure. Educating the public on the importance of preserving waterfowl habitats and increasing chapter membership are at the top of his list. "Everybody in Ducks Unlimited tries very hard to educate people about how important it is to preserve and conserve water-fowl habitats," he said, "especially in Texas."

According to the organization's Web site, Ducks Unlimited is a charity accredited by the Better Business Bureau and the world's leader in wetlands and waterfowl conservation. The organization got its start in 1937 during the Dust Bowl, when North America's drought-plagued waterfowl populations had

plunged to unprecedented lows. During that time, a small group of sportsmen joined together to form Ducks Unlimited with the single mission of being a habitat conservation society. Today, members are comprised of conservationists and outdoor enthusiasts throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Ross, along with members, Andrew Bonner and Jake Griggs, echoed the club's mission, saying that the Corsicana chapter's main reason for existence is to do just about anything to conserve habitats for waterfowl by raising money through dinners and fun shoots they sponsor throughout the year. "The money we raise from these events is sent to Memphis, Tennessee, which is the national headquarters of Ducks Unlimited," Ross said. "Our next fun shoot will probably be this coming spring, where participants will shoot skeet. We hope to



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use some of those funds to help grow the Corsicana chapter.” The chapter’s fun shoots will likely be held at Upland Bird Country or a nearby site, and flyers announcing the date, time and location will be sent out from the Ducks Unlimited headquarters in plenty of time for people to make plans to attend.

According to published statistics, the organization has an impressive history of furthering efforts aimed at habitat conservation. A few years ago, a cooperative agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Texas Parks and Wildlife and Ducks Unlimited enabled the construction of two wetland units in the western portion of government property at Navarro Mills Lake. The units are designed to provide a wildlife habitat for several animal species, as well as benefit the environment. Statistically, wetlands slow movement of runoff during periods of heavy rainfall and simultaneously reduce erosion, sedimentation and improve overall water quality.

Ross is quick to add to that accomplishment. “Another thing we’ve been able to do is take an active role in creating the Richland Creek Wildlife Management Area, a public hunting area and preserve,” he said.

In Texas alone, there are 161 chapters and more than 47,000 members of Ducks Unlimited. He has high hopes of dramatically increasing the Corsicana chapter’s membership, starting with a fun shoot in the spring.

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Jake Griggs and Ross Reamy enjoy a day of duck hunting.

Ross' excitement is evident in his voice when he recounts the success of the annual Corsicana Ducks Unlimited banquet held last November at Star Hall, where more than 50 guests enjoyed a meal, participated in live auctions and a raffle, as well as obtaining a one-year membership to Ducks Unlimited. "That Corsicana dinner raised over \$10,000 for Ducks Unlimited thanks to everyone who attended," he said.

While the Corsicana chapter members all share the same concerns for the wetlands, they also share a lifelong love of duck hunting. Duck season starts the first week of November and runs through the end of January. "We've pretty much hunted since we were kids," Jake confessed, and Ross gives credit to his dad and fellow chapter member, Ryan Reamy, for teaching him to love the environment and duck hunting. "We learned all about ducks early in life. They are very smart birds that generally winter in the same spot each year and are migratory, heading south in September and October on their way to the coast and usually flying in the familiar V formation," he explained. "Some stop in South Texas, and others go as far as South America."

Ross commented that everyone seems to have their own favorite way of preparing and cooking the ducks they shoot. "It's delicious if you fricassee it, and you can also make duck rolls and

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duck wraps with the meat,” he explained. Jake prefers his ducks battered and fried.

Because duck meat has been described as somewhat dark, with a hint of a wild flavor, Ross added that “eating it with French fries and beer makes it even better!” In addition to duck hunting, the members also enjoy deer hunting and will usually drive about 30 miles east of San Angelo to find deer.

When they go duck hunting, the members prefer to go as a group, and they also make sure to bring their duck calls, something Ross admits takes practice. “It’s an art to use a duck call properly and takes a while to learn,” he laughed. The members also bring their dogs, Labrador Retrievers being the preferred breed. “We all teach our dogs to retrieve on command.”

Ross described himself as an avid, almost fanatical hunter. “I even went and got a degree in biology, which I like to think has helped with my hunting, although my plan is to ultimately become a dentist,” he said.

Ross is optimistic about the Corsicana chapter’s future. “The fun shoot we’ll sponsor this spring will get the ball rolling toward my goal of getting at least 100 new members in the Corsicana club,” he explained.

Although Ross, Jake and Andrew are unanimous in their shared love of duck and deer hunting, there’s another facet of the hunt they all enjoy. “Just getting away from the noisy city with our hunting buddies and dogs,” Ross said, “and getting to walk through the area’s woods and wetlands is an experience we never get tired of.”

Editor’s Note: For more information, contact Ross at (903) 654-7704 or Grayson McCreary at (903) 229-7532. **NOW**



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A woman with short, curly dark hair and glasses, wearing a white jacket with floral embroidery and a pearl necklace, stands in front of a house. The house is a single-story brick home with a brown roof and a chimney. The background is a solid light green color.

Life Is a Trip

— By Randy Bigham

This Corsicana woman is never in one place for very long, and she plans to keep it that way. After 29 years as a teacher, serving the Corsicana Independent School District as well as Kerens ISD, Wyardeen Waters is still on the go. From road trips to neighboring states to Caribbean cruises, this adventurous lady, known for her broad smile and hearty laugh, is enjoying the fruits of semiretirement in a big way.

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Wyardeen Waters

To describe her as a world traveler is an understatement. Wyardeen has visited dozens of countries on six continents, and she has the souvenirs — and the stories — to prove it. “I have always loved learning about other cultures,” she said. “And seeing foreign lands for myself has been more than exciting; it’s been a blessing.”

World travel may have taken the place of arithmetic for the former Carroll Elementary teacher, but helping others remains close to Wyardeen’s heart in her current role as a Navarro College instructor. Working in Adult Basic Education, she has brought her enthusiasm and integrity to bear on



the campus which hailed her as 2010’s G.E.D. Teacher of the Year. “Receiving that award was a surprise,” she admitted. “I’d never won anything before, so to be singled out for recognition after only a year with Navarro College was wonderful.”

Self-education through travel has been equally rewarding for Wyardeen. Bitten by the travel bug in 1983, she took her first extensive vacation — a cruise to the Bahamas — with a friend from college. “We also saw the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico,” she recalled. “They were beautiful places, and I’ll never forget that first trip.” Since then, Wyardeen has taken 45 cruises, which included a two-week Scandinavian cruise. She’s also traveled to Europe, South America, Asia and Africa. “Doing a cruise is the best way to see the world,” she said. “I would recommend people try it because it’s so convenient. Everything you could want is aboard, and side trips at all the ports-of-call are arranged for you.”

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Although Wyardeen sailed solo to Alaska, she usually travels with her sister, Sylvia, and her mother, Gertrude. A memorable voyage with Sylvia was to Spain in 1985. "We were only going to Spain, at first," Wyardeen remembered. "But when I looked at the map, I noticed we could also take in Portugal and Africa." Her sister didn't want to be away that long, at first, but finally agreed, stipulating that Wyardeen put away the map.



Other memorable vacations for the pair have included Canada, England, France, Italy, Germany, Russia, Sweden and Denmark. In addition to their international forays, the women have taken many stateside vacations, including trips to: Oklahoma City, Little Rock, New York, St. Louis and Texas' own San Antonio.

The cruise-savvy teacher's most recent voyage was last year to Antarctica, which she enjoyed despite the extreme

cold. "It was a fantastic experience," Wyardeen recalled. "And historic, too, because it was the last cruise to the area for the time being, owing to environmental restrictions." Wyardeen's favorite destination thus far has been the Far East. "Hong Kong was the most interesting place I've ever been," she said. "I enjoyed it more than any other place because of its scenery, the food and the shopping."

Wyardeen's travels have given her



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much admiration for humanity, regardless of nationality. “No one has been rude or unhelpful,” she said. Wyardeen suggests, however, that travelers learn a smattering of words in the native language of the country they’re visiting to ensure friendly (and informative) interaction.

Being so far from home has never worried Wyardeen. “I don’t get scared while traveling,” she admitted. “The only frightening thing that’s ever happened was on a cruise with a friend. The deck tilted suddenly, and I fell, severely hurting my foot.” The ship had lurched, Wyardeen was later told, because it was trying to avoid a speed boat that had momentarily shot into its path. The fearless explorer has found more than thrills and danger on her expeditions. She has discovered a new way of seeing people: “I have realized we are all the same.”

Wyardeen’s home is a reflection of her international taste, with displays of a wide variety of items, either purchased on her many trips or ordered from choice merchants on her return, as a reminder of her happy excursions. “It’s hard not to shop abroad when there are so many beautiful things to buy,” Wyardeen said. “And the street markets, especially in Hong Kong, are full of great deals.”

Wyardeen’s living room contains a cluster of Lladro porcelain figurines, a set of Italian vases, an étagère full of Wedgwood china, a Moroccan chess set, Sabino crystal and her collection of Swarovski crystal. In her dining room a pair of Waterford crystal candleholders — her “pride and joy” — adorns the table, while under it stretches a rug purchased in Marrakesh, Morocco. In her kitchen, Wyardeen has amassed a collection of refrigerator magnets, each one representing a city, state or country



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she has visited. There's even one from Ushuaia in Argentina, known as "The End of the Earth" for being the globe's southernmost city.

Oils and watercolors of favorite sojourns hang on walls throughout the house, intermingled with examples of Wyardeen's own handiwork. These include framed string art and cross-stitched patterns composed mostly of flora and fauna, although a series of Egyptian scenes decorate a hallway. "It's a relaxing hobby, at least most of the time," Wyardeen said. "I did try doing a cross-stitch of the Titanic once, but it seemed every time I worked on it, the lights flickered. That put me on edge, so I put it away!"

A special room sacred to Wyardeen's vast array of stuffed bears and dolls consists of a bed, dresser and shelves stacked high with her cuddly friends. "I call it my doll room," she said. "And what I don't buy, people give me, so it has grown into quite a collection." There are Russian dancers, clowns, an Eskimo and a bevy of bears sporting Christmas finery. Many of the figures are rare and collectible, some signed by the artist.

Wyardeen continues to travel around the world and add to her collection of decorations and mementos from her voyages. "I'm not through yet," she laughed. "I'd like to add Australia to my list, and then I will have been to all seven continents. I would also like to go back to Antarctica." Traveling is her life's passion, as much for the opportunity to observe the people of the world as for the exhilaration of the quest. "Travel helps us understand the races and other countries' traditions," she explained. "Appreciating culture is important. It's educational and fun. I always make each trip an adventure, and I'm never afraid." **NOW**

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LOVE

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— By Virginia Riddle

Tom and Shanda Vance give back to the community through the Thera-Pet program.

Looking every bit the perfectly groomed, accessorized and well-behaved ladies they are, Sugar, Mia, Gigi and Rosie have been enthusiastically making their way down a nursing home's hallways seeking out human companions with whom they can share a little attention, joy and love. Meet the dogs of Thera-Pet, a companion and therapy dog program, which is overseen by Shanda Vance, an animal behavior specialist. 'Every single Thera-Pet dog is a rescued shelter or 'back door' dog. No one wanted them, but in nursing homes, assisted living residences and schools, the dogs become heroes,' Shanda stated.



Therapy dogs provide unconditional love and acceptance to humans who enjoy physical interaction with a dog but, for one reason or another, cannot own a pet of their own. The dogs bring relaxation, happiness, companionship, laughter and a feeling of well-being to the people they visit.

Using pets to address human mental, emotional, social and physical issues is not a new concept in psychology. American soldiers during World War II found comfort in companion dogs while far away from home on battlefields. The phrase "pet therapy" was coined first by Boris Levinson, an American child psychiatrist, in 1964. He noticed how children who had difficulties in social interactions with other people seemingly had no problem relating appropriately with his dog, Jingles, who became the "ice breaker" between therapist and child.

In schools and libraries, therapy pets listen to children read. Children who are self-conscious about reading aloud in front of classmates lose their self-consciousness and gain positive self-esteem by reading to an attentive, non-judgmental dog. Therapy pets are used to bring stress relief to all ages during the aftermath of disasters. People of all ages also find stress relief from pet visits in courtrooms, hospitals, assisted living and nursing home facilities and hospice care programs. While pet therapy includes the use of animals, such as rabbits and horses, the Thera-Pet program uses dogs.

Shanda must train the dogs to accept friendly strangers; to sit, stay and come on command; walk on a loose leash and react well to other dogs. Perhaps, most importantly, the dogs must be conditioned to react well to distractions, loud noises, such as bells and hospital equipment noises, and they must walk well through crowds that contain wheelchairs, canes and walkers.

While Shanda is uniquely qualified to offer this training through her undergraduate degree in psychology from Texas A&M University and a Master of Science in animal psychology from Breyer State University, personal experiences have led Shanda to establish the Thera-Pet program. Shanda received her first dog at age 9. A later dog, Muffin, or "our baby girl," saw Shanda through a rough time in her life. Previous work



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experience in the health care industry showed Shanda the need to bring a little cheer to people who were sick or shut-ins, and Muffin's visits to the Corsicana State Home proved the power that dogs have to bring joy. "All the kids just loved Muffin," Shanda remembered.

Visits with dogs to her mother, who is a resident at Twilight Nursing Home, brought such cheer that the Thera-Pet program was born. "We noticed how the residents' faces lit up when the dogs came in," Tom Vance, Shanda's husband and biology instructor at Navarro College, said. The program just evolved from that point. Shanda, a member of the psychology honor society, Psi Beta, had the idea of involving the local Navarro College chapter's members in the Thera-Pet program by having them act as handlers. The national organization encourages local chapters to do volunteer work that has a psychological theme for local charities. As sponsors of Psi Beta, Shanda and Tom presented the Thera-Pet idea to the students. "The kids were interested and motivated, especially the international students," Tom remembered.

Twilight Nursing Home residents look forward to monthly visits. "Everyone benefits," Tom said. On a recent visit, Tom remembered residents were lined up at the door awaiting the dogs' arrival. Residents suffering from depression, loneliness, illnesses and Alzheimer's all benefit from the interaction with the dogs and students. Non-ambulatory residents





stay in their beds, and the dogs come to them. The dogs feature their individual talents. Rosie and Mia love to "Velcro" themselves to laps, and Bubbles was the champion Thera-pet with soft fur that invited petting.

The Psi Beta students gain knowledge through the Thera-Pet experience and wish to expand the program to more locations this year. Some of the students are far from home, especially the international students. Thera-Pet allows intergenerational conversations to occur, which help to alleviate homesickness. The program gives the international students a chance to acculturate into a part of society away from the campus. Members become more outgoing and generate more positive attitudes.

Nursing students who are members of the program are challenged to make time around clinical requirements but find the Thera-Pet experience to be most helpful. Emily Lynch, Psi Beta's president who is originally from California, said, "This is just out of the realm of normal college stuff." As she cuddled Rosie, Emily added, "Rosie's very social. I have a dog at home like that."

Students learn from the dogs' behaviors, as well. "Absolutely, dogs can tell who needs them the most," Emily observed. "Gigi goes from room to room until she finds who she needs to visit the most."



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Last, but certainly not least, the dogs are the angels and heroes of the program. These dogs have known starvation and isolation while living through their “thrown away” days. Physical and behavioral problems are common in rescued dogs. One Thera-Pet dog is blind. The dogs that Shanda, a volunteer with the Humane Society of Navarro County, chooses get a great home with Shanda and Tom, who provide loving training and discipline. “Dogs want a job. They are pack animals and want a human to be a pack leader,” Shanda said. She gives the dogs many socialization opportunities with the hope that the training and exposure will gain homes for the dogs. Time spent outside the shelter and the loving training make the dogs more adoptable.

For Shanda and Tom, Thera-Pet is a way to give back to the community by using their chosen professions of psychology and biology. “For me, it all comes back to rescuing dogs. It’s my love and vocation. These little thrown-away dogs can give back so much love and joy,” Shanda said, as Rosie exhibited that love by giving Emily a big doggy kiss. **NOW**

Editor’s Note: For more information, contact Shanda at (903) 875-8331.

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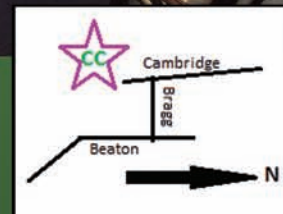


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Return of the West

— By Randy Bigham

For the first time in more than 35 years, two rodeo clowns, who have performed throughout the country, are giving an encore of their popular skits for local crowds. Billy “Wild Bill” Jordan and Curtis “Catfish” Lambert were once staples on the rodeo circuit, joining other top specialty acts



Billy Jordan, Duane Stephens and Curtis Lambert.

like Mo Bandy and Ray Price, revving up crowds that included politicians, movie stars and even royalty.

After parting and going their separate clowning ways in the mid-1970s, Billy and Curtis have reunited in their home state of Texas to present a series of comedy acts that are sure to revive nostalgia of the heyday of rodeo

entertainment. Billy, a 2008 inductee in the National Rodeo Clown Hall of Fame, said he’s looking forward to hitting the arena



again with his erstwhile partner. "Curtis and I were invited to do some of the old-time routines again at area rodeos, because they're getting to be rarer these days," he explained. "A lot of acts have retired, and younger fans don't even recall the way the programs used to be. So, we're glad to be back to help keep the fun of the early days of rodeo alive." Billy is a member of the Texas Rodeo Clown Hall of Fame.



Curtis agreed that it's exciting to return to the rodeo scene with send-ups he and Billy used to present to laughing spectators, some original, others based on vaudeville sketches, but all with an Old West twist. "It's great to know the fans still appreciate the old parodies we used to do and are ready to see them again," Curtis said. "We can't wait to get at it!"

A preview of the cowboys' upcoming roster took place recently at the 9th Annual Lone Star Rodeo at Hubbard, where Catfish and Wild Bill made a special appearance to reacquaint crowds with their routines and to speak to the press about their comeback. Surrounded by radio mikes, TV cameras and the trusty pens of print journalists, the clowns were in their element, recalling the days when their comedic repertoire included shooting rubber chickens out of cannons, milking a steer and a pickpocket act that had fans in stitches.

The pair's partnership, which lasted from 1968 to 1974, sprang from a chance meeting. Billy, now 75, and Curtis, 63, had been bull riders before deciding to

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apply their skills as clowns. Billy was a football player in high school, when in 1952 he joined Buck Wilson's program at the Mesquite Rodeo. To keep his amateur status, he performed under a pseudonym,



*"It's great to know the fans
still appreciate the old
parodies we used to do and
are ready to see them again."*

hence his Wild Bill moniker. Seven years later, Billy segued into clowning and was enjoying steady stints at rodeos across Texas when he ran into 19-year-old Curtis, a baseball player fresh out of high school. "I met Billy in the winter of '68, and I was instantly drawn in by his stories of the times he had had," Curtis recalled.

Billy said that he and Curtis pulled from an assortment of more than 20 routines during their clowning years together. "We had a regular slot at the

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rodeos, but we also had to jump into the ring and cover for the riders, if something happened or broke down," he said, adding that one of their best-known acts was called the "Bucking Ford," after the jalopy they had rigged with an exploding gas cap and other mechanical tricks.

The sequence often involved the twosome fighting over who would drive the car around the arena, or stopping to check under the hood which, when lifted, would release a flock of ducks. "Once things went wrong, and the old Ford crashed into the stands," Curtis laughed. "People thought it was part of the show. While I was driving, the brakes got hot. I couldn't control it, and it didn't have a kill switch, so the car shot right through the fence and up to the third row!"

A so-called "Milking the Steer" act was another favorite. The men would take over from a steer wrestler while the animal was still down and start a succession of pranks that included

fake milk (made of water-soluble white paint) spurting in their faces and around the arena.

"We also had fun with our 'Shootin' a Chicken to the Moon' bit," Billy recounted. "We had a trick cannon, and we'd put a live chicken into a special compartment that the audience couldn't see and pretend to shoot it out." It was really a rubber chicken that was blown up, Billy pointed out, along with a bag of feathers that had been stuffed into the nozzle.

The clowns also did an exploding outhouse routine and a pickpocket act that ended up with a pair of "fat lady's bloomers" being stolen. Among the men's regular performances was a "Hat Cleaning" sketch that went awry once. The caper called for the use of an old Stetson that would be blown to bits, but a spectator "well into his cups" insisted Billy use his brand new hat. Repeatedly,



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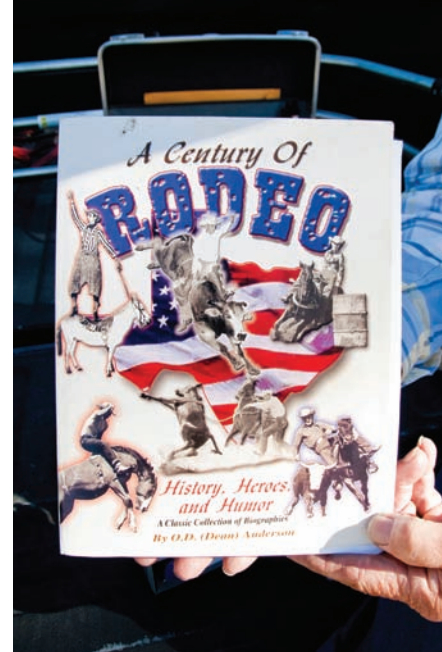
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Billy told him it wouldn't work, but the inebriated fan persisted. "He kept throwing his hat at me, so I finally took it, threw some dirt on it, blew it 50 feet in the air, and it came down in three pieces. Well, that old drunk came over the fence after me, and the sheriff's posse had to restrain him." Billy said the rodeo manager promised the man a new hat if he came to the next show, but he never turned up. "I guess he finally sobered up!" Billy laughed.

Over the years, Billy and Curtis traveled widely with their act, appearing at rodeos as far away as Washington, D.C., and California, where diplomats and celebrities packed the stands. Former President Lyndon B. Johnson came to one show, while another performance was attended by the Prince of Monaco. "Prince Rainier's wife was Grace Kelly," Curtis said. "But she didn't come. We were told she was off shopping in New York."

The duo's athleticism was the key to their routines, but success also hinged on perfect comic pacing, although neither man has had any theatrical training. "I was a football player," Billy said. "I didn't take acting classes in school." Maybe his talent for drama is in the genes: Gene Autry was the cousin to the father of Hollywood stars Randy and Dennis Quaid. "And Randy and Dennis are my nephews," Billy added with a grin.

Curtis and Billy are looking forward to future gigs at Hubbard and other local rodeos. "We're tickled that people still remember us," Curtis said. "It sure is special to know people care!" **NOW**

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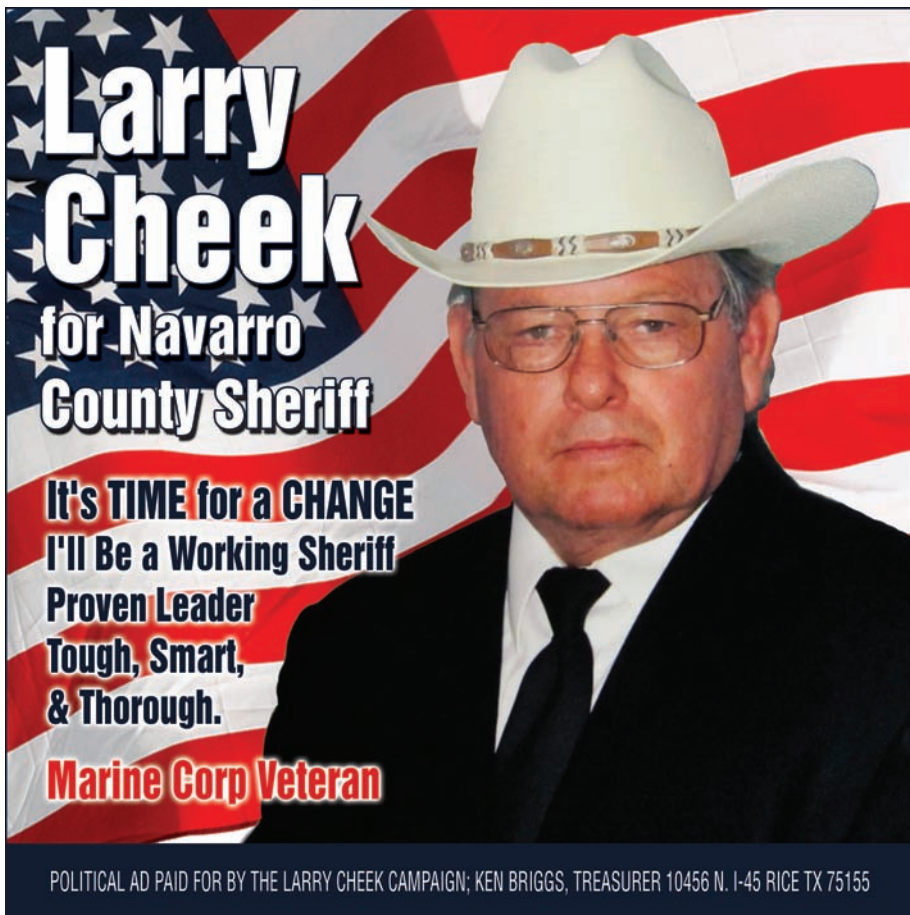
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Making people feel more like friends than patients as they enter his office is Dr. Gary Hocker's No. 1 priority. From the time a patient is greeted by the ever-smiling Alice Hocker, Gary's wife and front office manager, to the completion of the appointment, everything is done to make the patient feel comfortable and pleased with his or her dental procedure. "We never rush patients. We give them time and keep them informed," Gary said.

Following his graduation from Texas A&M Health Science Center and Baylor College of Dentistry, Gary served as a naval officer in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps and Indian Health Service on a Sioux Indian reservation in Montana. His extensive knowledge and experience qualify him to

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While Gary is a down-to-earth dental professional who just happens to wear boots and jeans every day to the office, he becomes a high-flier during his time spent out of the office. He enjoys flying powered parachutes at a Ft. Worth airfield. "You are sitting on a chair with nothing around you. Just about my whole family does it," Gary explained. Family includes daughter, Jayna, a student at The Art Institute of San Antonio, and Jacob, a recent graduate from Corsicana's Agape Christian Academy, who is interested in what else — aircraft mechanics.



Gary and Alice moved to Corsicana from Flower Mound, where he had previously practiced dentistry. "We didn't know our neighbors there," Gary said. His Corsicana practice opened December 11, 2008, the anniversary on which Gary and Alice host an open house celebration "just to say thank you" to their patients and Corsicana. "I remember the first time somebody outside the office recognized me and knew my name. I was so excited. I thought, *I'm home*," Alice remembered.

The couple gives back to the Navarro County community by hosting a yearly canned goods drive for local charities. "The drive is so much fun and very popular," Alice said. Gary also volunteers his time and office services to Navarro County patients who are helped through Giving Neighbors, a 501(c)(3) organization. "I like this community," Gary said. "It's home." **NOW**

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Dr. Robert Kingman and wife, Liz, are a few of the many community volunteers who help build a home for Habitat for Humanity.



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Preventing Cancer Starts With a Pap Test

— By Rebecca Guinn, M.D.

The Pap smear is the primary test for cervical cancer. Once one of the most common causes of cancer death among women, today it is one of the easiest cancers to detect and prevent.

What is the Pap test?

The Pap test collects cells from the cervix for examination. The test is painless, and takes only seconds to perform. Regular Pap smears monitor any tissue changes in the cervix and can help diagnose potential problems early, when they are most treatable.

Who needs a Pap test?

Women are now advised to get their first Pap test at age 21. (Previously, the recommendation was to begin having the tests three years after becoming sexually active, or at age 21, whichever came first.) However, it is now known that women under 21 clear the human papilloma virus (HPV) #2 very effectively and almost never develop cervical cancer. Repeat Pap smears should be performed on a regular basis based on age and other risk factors. Discussing your personal and family history with your physician will help determine how often you need this, as well as other cancer screening tests.

Women age 30 and older can also sometimes be tested for cancer-causing types of HPV at the same time as their Pap test. Because HPV diagnosed in women under 30 is often cleared by the woman's own immune system, routine HPV testing for younger

women is not recommended. Under certain conditions, women age 65 and up or those who have had a total hysterectomy may choose to discontinue Pap smears.

Cervical cancer is most often diagnosed in women age 40 and older. Even if you think you are too old to have a child, or are not sexually active, it's still important to get tested regularly. Annual examinations, including pelvic exams, are still important regardless of the recommended frequency of Pap tests. **NOW**

Sources:

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, www.acog.org
Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, www.cdc.gov/women
National Cancer Institute (NCI), www.cancer.gov

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

Dr. Rebecca Guinn, OB/GYN
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Managing Your Investments in Retirement

— By Lynda Housley

Saving for retirement is a huge financial responsibility, and it does not end when you turn in your notice to your employer. You will need to continue to invest your money to meet your changing needs in retirement.

The money you've saved will need to last a while. The National Center for Health Statistics reports that a man who turned 65 in 2009 was expected to live another 17.3 years, to just over age 82. A woman who turned 65 in 2009 would be expected to live another 20.0 years, to age 85.

In retirement, your financial needs may change. Most retirees want their money to last throughout their lives, to keep pace with inflation and to support their current spending needs.

Bond funds are one choice for many retirees, because they are managed to generate regular income payments. This money can be used to help fund your retirement spending needs. Bonds generally have less risk than stocks, although they do have some risk.

Stock funds are designed for long-term capital appreciation. These are often used to help people save for retirement, and they may make sense for many people after retirement. That's because in the long run, stock funds are better at outperforming inflation

than bond funds are. Because the prices of the things you buy are likely to go up while you are retired, you'll want your income to go up, too. Incorporating investments that have the potential for capital appreciation into your post-retirement portfolio can help your overall portfolio keep pace with inflation. Keep in mind — all types of investing involve risk, including potential for loss.

Because investing is a lifelong pursuit, you'll want to learn as much as you can so that you can adapt your investments to your changing life needs. Whether you are currently retired or just hope to be some day, your investments will need your care and attention.

Investing involves risk, including potential for loss.

Diversification and asset allocation do not assure a profit or protect against loss. Foreign investments involve greater risks than U.S. investments, including political and economic risks and the risk of currency fluctuations. Bonds are subject to interest rate risk and may decline in value due to an increase in interest rates. The S&P 500® Index tracks the common stock performance of 500 large U.S. companies. **NOW**

Lynda Housley is a State Farm agent based in Corsicana.

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February 2

The Corsicana and Navarro County Chamber of Commerce's 94th Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony: 6:00 p.m., I.O.O.F. Event Center. For more information, contact Semonna Battenfield at (903) 874-4731 or e-mail chamber@corsicana.org.

February 4

Camp of the Rising Sun Mardi Gras Party and Silent Auction: 7:00 p.m., Corsicana Country Club. For more information, contact Rhonda Sherman at (903) 802-2902 or e-mail campoftherisingsun06@yahoo.com.

February 9

Corsicana and Navarro County Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours: 5:30 p.m., Northland Communications, 1500 N. Beaton Street. For more information, contact Semonna Battenfield at (903) 874-4731 or e-mail chamber@corsicana.org.

Financial Aid Expo: 6:00 p.m., Corsicana Boys & Girls Club. Presenter is Dr. Tommy Stringer, vice president of institutional advancement at Navarro College. All parents of and/or teens interested in attending college are invited to attend this free community-at-large event. For more information, call (903) 872-9231 or

visit www.bgcnavarrocounty.org.

February 10

Senior Circle Pot Luck Luncheon: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Navarro Regional Hospital. Bring a salad, vegetable, casserole or dessert for lunch. Bingo to follow. For more information, call (903) 872-5411.

February 18

Biscuit Brothers Live! 10:00 a.m., the Palace Theatre. For more information, call (903) 874-7792.

"Evening of Dreams": 6:00 p.m., the Cook Center. The Navarro College Foundation Board celebrates education with this benefit for Navarro College students. For more information, call (903) 875-7591.

February 23

Navarro College PAL (People for Active Living) Luncheon: 11:30-1:00 p.m., Cook Center. All persons age 55 plus are invited to attend. Bring a covered dish or dessert. Drinks are provided. Meet new friends and fellowship together. For more information, contact Misty Holloway at (903) 875-7448.

Corsicana Newcomers Club Luncheon: 11:00

a.m., Kinsloe House. For more information, contact Marge Oslick at (903) 872-3508.

February 25

Best of Broadway: 7:30 p.m., the Palace Theatre. For more information, call (903) 874-7792.

March 3

"Destination Celebration 2012" Passport to Paradise Fiesta Style: 6:00 p.m., the Cook Center. This benefit for James L. Collins Catholic School requires that attendees must be 21 years of age. For more information, contact Stephanie Folmar at (903) 872-1751 or e-mail sfolmar@collinscatholicsschool.com.

Ongoing:

Tuesdays and Thursdays

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site: **Tuesdays:** 2:00-5:00 p.m., **Thursdays:** 2:00-7:00 p.m., Corsicana YMCA. For more information, call George Burrell at (903) 879-2091 or Stuart Schoppert at (903) 874-8276, ext. 3900.

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



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In The Kitchen With Lori Cason and David Bridges

— *By Virginia Riddle*

Morrison Food Service Executive Chef Lori Cason and Director of Food and Nutritional Services David Bridges are responsible 24/7 for preparing meals and snacks for Navarro Regional Hospital patients, many of whom have special dietary needs. A staff of 16 makes service to the patients, public and groups, such as Healthy Woman members, a treat for the eyes and taste buds.

"I was born in a restaurant," Lori said. "My mother and aunt owned it." David has owned a catering company and restaurant and has executive chef experience. "We have a passion for quality and service," David said. **NOW**

Quinoa Salad With Roasted Vegetables and Chipotle Lime Dressing

Salad:

- 3 cups water
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 cup dry quinoa
- 1 3-inch corn on the cob
- 1/2 cup canned red roasted peppers, diced and drained
- 3 green onions, chopped

Dressing:

- 1/3 cup fat-free Italian salad dressing
- 1 small chipotle pepper, seeded and chopped
- 1/4 cup fresh cilantro, chopped
- 1 Tbsp. lime juice

1. Prepare salad by bringing water and salt to a boil in a saucepan.

2. Cook quinoa in a non-stick skillet on medium heat for 3-6 minutes, or until golden brown. Shake pan continuously, but do not stir.
3. Add quinoa to boiling water. Reduce heat to medium-low; simmer for 10 minutes.
4. Drain in a sieve; place in a bowl; fluff with a fork.
5. Roast corn and cut kernels from the cob. Add corn, red peppers and onions to quinoa mixture and mix lightly.
6. Place dressing ingredients in a blender and blend, until smooth.
7. Pour over quinoa mixture; mix lightly. Refrigerate at least 1 hour before serving.

Strawberry Fields Salad

Salad:

- 1 lb. spring-mix greens
- 3 cups fresh strawberries, sliced
- 6 Tbsp. bleu cheese, crumbled
- 12 Tbsp. pecan pieces

No-Salt Vinaigrette:

- 1/2 cup red wine vinegar
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 1 tsp. lemon juice
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 1 Tbsp. Italian seasoning
- 1/8 tsp. white pepper

1. Mix all salad ingredients in a bowl.
2. Whisk all vinaigrette ingredients together in a small bowl. Mix into salad.
3. Let stand at least 15 minutes before serving.

Zesty Vegetarian Couscous

- 2 garlic cloves, peeled and minced
- 1/2 small onion, diced
- 1 3/4 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 cup water
- 1 can diced tomatoes in juice, with no added salt
- 1 3/4 Tbsp. Frank's Red Hot Sauce
- 2/3 cup dry couscous
- 1/3 cup fresh parsley, chopped

1. In a heavy pot, sauté garlic and onion in olive oil.
2. Add water, tomatoes and Frank's Red Hot Sauce and bring to a boil.
3. Add couscous; stir; reduce heat. Cover and cook for 5 minutes.
4. Add parsley and mix all ingredients. Serve hot.

Rotisserie-Style Chicken

8 chicken quarters

- 1 tsp. honey
- 2/3 tsp. salt
- 2/3 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1/3 tsp. Tabasco sauce
- 2/3 tsp. dried thyme leaves, crushed
- 2/3 tsp. dried basil leaves, crushed
- 2/3 tsp. dried oregano leaves, crushed
- 2/3 tsp. dried rosemary leaves, crushed
- 3 1/3 Tbsp. olive oil
- 2 garlic cloves, peeled and minced

1. Wash chicken and pat dry.
2. Mix remaining ingredients in a bowl and brush mixture onto chicken.
3. Bake in a preheated oven at 350 F for 45 minutes or until an internal temperature of 165 F has been reached.

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