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M A G A Z I N E

March 2008

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On the Cover: Geneva Davis and the Daughters of the Republic of Texas find fun and creative ways to engage school children in Texas history.

Photo by Rod Cordsen.

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Corsicana NOW

Editor's Note

*Hello, Corsicana and
Navarro County,*

Believe it or not, we are into our third month of the year. I cannot believe how quickly time is passing us by, as usual. I say it every year and every year seems to slip away faster. That is why this year one of my resolutions was to slow down a little bit and enjoy the little things in life. I mean really pay attention to them. I hope you all were able to put your resolutions into full swing and stick with them!

March is the month of spring and fun. The children are out for spring break, the flowers are beginning to bloom, and the rains wash away the tiredness of winter.

So, that is why we have some great articles for you to read. March is Texas Independence month, so we are featuring Geneva Davis, the president of the Daughter's of the Republic of Texas chapter here in Navarro County.

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

Samantha Stroube
CorsicanaNOW Editor
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Lone Star Allegiance

— By Samantha Stroube

The history of who we are and where we originated is a fascinating and intriguing hobby to some. In fact, research on the history and genealogy of our families and forefathers could be considered a passionate unpaid vocation. That is exactly what knowing the history of our great state is to Geneva Davis, the current president of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas.

Geneva is currently in her second term as chapter president, serving her third year. She became a member of



Sisters Gelene Simpson and Geneva Davis are passionate about educating the public about Texas history through the Daughters of the Republic of Texas organization.



the Daughters of the Republic of Texas about seven years ago when she began researching her family roots back to the Colonial Period, and the more she studied the more she learned about herself.

Her interest was alive in her entire family. Her sister, Gelene Simpson, discovered that their mother, Vera Chapman Duncan, had family related to William Flatt, one of the original recipients of a Texas land grant from Mexico. This information peaked Geneva's interest and led her to become a member of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas.

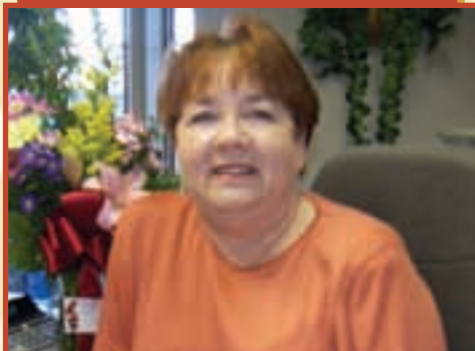
After discovering that her ancestral roots ran so deeply into the history of Texas, Geneva instinctively wanted to

become a part of its living history through this society. To become a member, each interested candidate must show proof they had relatives who inhabited the land of Texas when it was a republic, before it became a state, or when land grants were being offered. The Navarro County chapter currently has 30 active members, some who are the original members of the chapter.

The organization was started by two cousins, Miss Betty Ballinger and Miss Hally Bryan. They conceived the idea of forever perpetuating the memory of the Texas pioneer families and soldiers of the Republic of Texas by forming an association of their descendants. Thus, on November 6, 1891, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas was born.

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Meet **Val Boales**, the newest addition to the firm. Val joins the team as the new office manager and brings great organizational skills to the table. A native of Corsicana, Val is married to Kim Boales, who serves as the project manager for an electric company in Dallas. She looks forward to meeting all of our clients and is at the front, ready to help!



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Richelle Blackwell is now **Richelle Perry!** On October 20, 2007, she married Kacy Perry of Mildred. Richelle continues to work for us, helps run Roy's Cafe and is attending college. We wish her all the luck in the world!



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Vicky Croom, tax manager, has worked in the CPA business for 23 years, and has experience in all areas of accounting. She will be more involved in tax work for 2008 and thereafter.

Justin Lewis, a CPA candidate, should be sitting for the CPA exam early in 2008. He is a 2005 graduate of Sam Houston State University, and is quickly becoming one of our sought after and asked for tax preparers.



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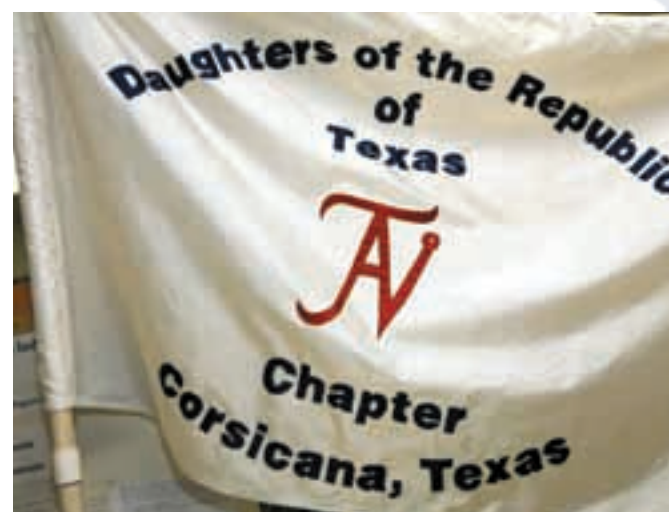


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The idea behind the group is to inform the public of the history of Texas and the genealogy involved in the beginnings of this great state. The Daughters have two primary goals, including educating our students throughout the county and informing the public of the good the chapter does



at an event called A Day in December.

Recently, Geneva was able to cart an antique trunk around from various schools within Navarro County. She and her husband, along with a few other members, were able to re-enact what life might have been like before Texas became a state or when the land grants were being offered. The trunk was nothing short of a mobile museum. It was filled with treasures from pioneers of all ages, from dolls to trinkets to firearms and axes, as well as the various types of foods the pioneers might have consumed. Geneva and her husband, Bill, dressed in appropriate garb to represent just how the women and men of that time would have dressed. The children were able to come up and look in the trunk and touch and handle little pieces of history. It gave them the opportunity to learn outside of the box, to really "feel" what it was like to live and survive in the early pioneer days.

The other informational training the children receive from the Daughters is presented in a speech about the Mexican *empresarios*, or land agents,

and the “invitations” they extended to people to settle in Texas because the land was vast and cheap. Geneva recalls a time when she was informing the children of the *empresarios* and their position and responsibility with all the Texas settlements and land grants. One young man shouted out in

the middle of her speech, “Hey, I know what you are talking about — those *empresarios*! We learned about that in history class.”

“It was such a joy and pleasure to see the light bulb go off with that young man,” Geneva reminisced. Those light bulb realizations are exactly why she works so hard for the Daughters, to see the history and knowledge click in the minds of the generations of tomorrow.

“The other item of Texas history that we stressed were the notes left for family members and friends ...Gone to Texas,” Geneva explained. “Each pioneer typically left a note for those to find that just simply said, ‘Gone to Texas.’”



There is an annual history essay contest that is judged by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas in May. “We primarily work with the fourth- and seventh-graders,” Geneva stated. This year the fourth-graders are to write about the Austin family and the relationship they had with the inception



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and creation of this state. The seventh-graders will be asked to write about the Texas Rangers, another interesting piece of Texas history, that amazingly enough still exists as a very exclusive law enforcement agency.

The Daughters of the Republic of



Buttons from previous Daughters of the Republic of Texas conventions.

Texas have many goals, but their primary one is to preserve the heritage of Texas, and that is exactly what happens at A Day in December. The members of the chapter set up a small booth in the mall. The booth is open to the public to come by and ask questions about the history of Texas, find out information on possible relatives, or just chat about a great memory or experience they may have had with the history of Texas.

The specific objectives of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, aside from heritage preservation, are: to perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who achieved and

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maintained the independence of Texas; to promote historical research into the earliest records of Texas, especially those relating to the Revolution of 1835 and the events that followed; to preserve the records and encourage the publication of records of the individual service of the soldiers and patriots of the Republic of Texas and source



material for the history of Texas; and finally, to promote the celebration of Texas Honor Day.

Geneva went on to explain the fantastic history of this wonderful state and all the sacrifices and decisions that had to be made and upheld by its pioneers. "Those willing to start over, pull up land and move from an independent country to a state are the original Texans," Geneva said with great pride. "Texans have always been independent thinkers, but we know what is best. We all want it to be a state, and not an independent nation any longer. We just all happen to know it's the best state," Geneva shared with a gleaming smile.

The Daughters of the Republic of Texas would like to remind you to celebrate and remember Texas Independence Day and Flag Day on March 2, Alamo Hero Day on March 6 and Goliad Hero Day on March 27. **NOW**

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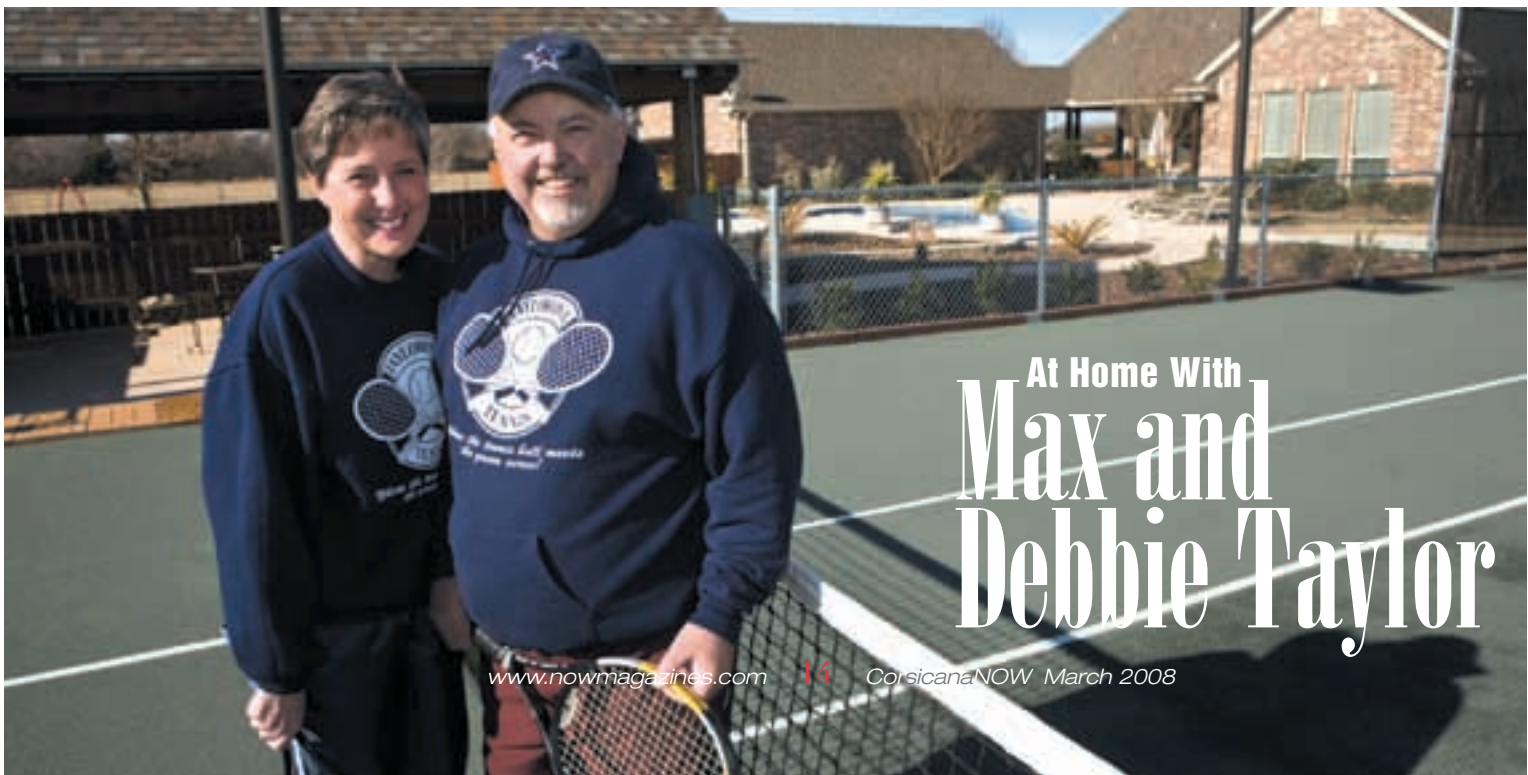


Still Headed in the Right Direction

— By Sandra McIntosh



The three-bedroom, four-bath home on Pin Oak Lane had been on the market for a year before Max and Debbie Taylor were told of its whereabouts. Their youngest daughter, Jill Walker, had attended a baby shower at the home. She could not wait to get back to town to tell her parents all about it. “She told us this was it,” Debbie said, as Max smiled in agreement. “Max wanted to move to the country so he could have his own tennis court, and I wanted to be close to town. Two miles from Wal-Mart is perfect for me.”



At Home With
**Max and
Debbie Taylor**

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The home sits comfortably on 25 acres, thus making Jill happy, too. Jill and her husband, Kendall, wanted to build close to Max and Debbie. The move Jill's parents made to their new home in May of last year has made it possible for Jill, Kendall and their



2-year-old daughter, Maycie, to move in, save their money and start planning the home of *their* dreams. "Their house was on the market for one week and it sold," Max said, further explaining that the home Jill sold was the first house the family lived in when moving to Corsicana in 1979. The Taylors




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remember, a pizza and hands that I'm sure still smelled of formaldehyde," Max interjected. "I'm sure our second date was much better."

Over the years, the couple has experienced the ups and downs of rearing a family, while also trying to decide the best

avenue in which to do so. Max was a tennis coach, while Debbie was ready to hit the ground running as a teacher. "I had been teaching first grade when testing became so demanding. When the school where I had been working burned and the firemen had to enter through my class, I took this as a sign from God to make a change," Debbie remembered. Several months later, the couple decided to go into business for themselves, opening Candy Cane Corner Child Care in Corsicana, later opening similar centers in Ennis, Palestine and Waco. They feel quite blessed with their decision. "The daycare industry has been good to us, but it takes all aspects of daycare to be successful," Debbie said, explaining that she manages the daily operations of the centers while Max manages other entrepreneurial opportunities. Max considers himself to be the dreamer



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and Debbie the doer in all areas of life. "I'm always looking how to change things for the better," he added, while Debbie hates change. "I don't fix it," she said, "unless it's broken."

The style of their new abode is a mixture of traditional, European and rustic ranch all rolled into one. In fact, they remember just how great the house was when they saw it for the first time. "The layout was perfect," they said. "We didn't change a thing



on the inside." As you enter through the front door, the smell of freshly baked cookies automatically shifts your focus toward the kitchen. "My mom, Doris Moore, always told me that when I have company, I should bake something to make the house smell nice," Debbie said. "It's just something I've always done." After you have taken a moment to enjoy the

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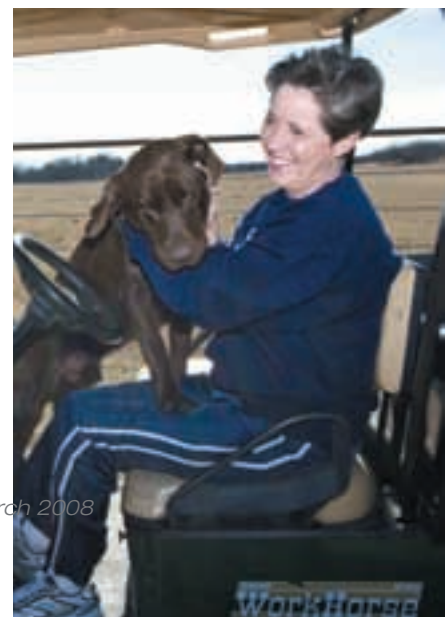
wonderful smell, the home's open interior draws your attention to the floor-to-ceiling Austin stone fireplace in the family room. The windows on the back wall offer a breathtaking view of the pool, outdoor cooking cabana area and the acreage that goes back as far as the eye can see.

Max and Debbie both agree the home's builder, James Selman, went far beyond the norm when it came to building the home in 2002. "The Selmans had an eye for detail," Max said, pointing to the Texas star inlaid in chip stone in the entry. "The attention to details is just amazing." The home office boasts a very special heirloom piece of artwork.

"My dad and stepmom made this for me for Christmas," Debbie said, referring to the framed photograph of her maternal grandmother. "The jewelry surrounding the photograph all belonged to my grandmother."



One of the three bedrooms has been converted into a toy room. This space makes for the perfect place for all three grandchildren to gather when the Taylors oldest child, Amy Pringle, and her family come to visit. "Amy and





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her husband, Shawn, and their two children, Bryce and Hailey, live in Spring, just outside of Houston,” Debbie said, proud of her grandchildren who are 9 and 5, respectively. “Family is our first priority. Being here, living in the ‘semi-country,’ has allowed us to make memories with the grandchildren.” They share a smile over memories made riding around the countryside on a golf cart.

Max and Debbie’s passion for family means the family room and kitchen get the most traffic. Max loves to watch college sports on the flat screen, while Debbie thoroughly loves sitting down with her grandchildren to watch *Barney* for the umpteenth time. “Debbie likes to mother,” Max shared. “I call her our mother hen.” Other items worth noting include a miniature corner hutch in dark wood, displaying

a tea set from Japan sent to Debbie by her father who happened to be in the service at the time of her birth, and a hope chest she received as a teenager, all placed in the master suite. Most of the sentimental items found throughout the home, including oils, watercolors and quilts also done by Doris, came from Debbie’s side of the family for one reason only. “I’m not a pack rat,” Max declared.

Most of the changes came on the outside with the clay tennis court and the swimming pool, which happened to be part of the deal. “I told Max I’d move to the country if I could have a pool,” Debbie said. Max and Debbie credit the longevity of their marriage to several things. “You must be able to accept change, be flexible and give each other space,” Max pointed out. Debbie agreed, but went one step further as she said, “God is the head of our household. He gave me the right person who steered me in the right direction.” **NOW**

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A plan is indeed what Eric R. Meyers needs with the daily schedule he leads. A husband and father of two, president of his family owned company, Oil City Iron Works, and the Navarro County Emergency Management coordinator, Eric is a busy man.

When Eric was a student at Corsicana High School (CHS), he discovered his passion in life — something many do not find until later in life. He took an immediate interest in volunteering for local Navarro County fire departments and aiding people who were in difficult situations. Before he graduated from CHS in 1996, Eric had already attended his first Emergency Management Conference, where he met Steve Vaughn, the former assistant state Emergency Management coordinator. Steve introduced Eric to the world of emergency management, beginning with the huge fire that took place at Fort Hood in 1995. “I just always had

a passion for volunteering to help people in emergency or disaster situations,” Eric recalled.

By the time Eric headed off to Texas State in San Marcos, formerly South West Texas University, he was completely engrossed in the idea of helping others and getting to the root of every situation. While at college, he took specific emergency management courses in Houston or Austin, wherever they were being offered. “I remember coordinating the appropriate emergency management course around my college courses,” Eric said.

“It was inevitable that I was going to return home to Corsicana,” Eric continued. “My life is here. I knew I

would return to work at Oil City Iron Works; it’s who I am.” Before Eric’s graduation in 2000, Alan Bristol, the former County Judge, appointed him as the official Navarro County

Emergency Management coordinator. With all of the extended learning courses and experience Eric obtained, there was no better candidate. “When I was appointed by Alan, Navarro County already had an Emergency Management Program on paper; I just helped put it into play,” Eric clarified. He immediately began his newly appointed voluntary position by writing the *Emergency Operations Plan* manual for Navarro



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"Emergency Management works in close relation to the sheriff's office. Mike Cox, who is my first deputy, is the liaison between the Sheriff's Department and Emergency



Management," Sheriff Les Cotton explained. "Mike did an excellent job working with Eric and the federal government as the Sheriff's Department liaison when the Columbia explosion disaster occurred."

The primary objective of Emergency Management is to coordinate all entities within the public service realm. "I work extremely close with all emergency service agencies and even private sectors," Eric stated. "It is a fine-tuned operation. It really is a coordinated effort between all county officials."

Emergency Management falls under the "umbrella" of the Department of Homeland Security, which means every time Navarro County is involved in an incident requiring state or federal assistance or resources, Eric coordinates the entire situation between Navarro County and those agencies involved.

The current County Judge, H.M. Davenport, is the director of the county side for emergency management, and the mayor, C.L. "Buster" Brown, is the director for the city side. "I work with H.M. and all of the county officials as needed. H.M. has done a really great

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job of self-training himself and through DEM courses, having walked into this with very little experience," Eric said.

Eric's work primarily involves the coordination of the county, so his responsibilities entail coordinating with transportation agencies, fire services, law enforcement, commissioners and even private sector agencies — really any emergency response sector needed for a specific incident. "Don McMullan, Corsicana Fire Chief, is the Emergency Management coordinator for the city of Corsicana," Eric stated.

"When the space shuttle Columbia exploded, Navarro County Emergency Management and NCSO immediately sent deputies out to the sites, and they walked the fields looking for debris. And once it was found, they had to cover it with a five gallon bucket and log it with a GPS device so the feds could come down to find the rubble's exact location," Mike Cox explained.

Other responsibilities Emergency Management may have to handle include coordination of evacuation efforts, especially during hurricanes affecting the Texas coast. "When Hurricane Rita did her damage and everyone was driving up I-45, Emergency Management had to coordinate with state agencies on exits and re-routing options for drivers. Some people were running out of gas, so we had to coordinate impromptu refueling stations, and we also had to make sure there was medical attention always at hand. People were getting ill from driving in the heat so long," Sheriff Cotton recalled.

Upon returning home in 2000, Eric went on to obtain his master's in public administration with an emphasis in emergency management. It is quite clear Eric does not take his responsibilities to the county of Navarro or its citizens lightly, even though he holds this position on a volunteer basis. "I don't know why, it

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is just a passion of mine, and always has been. It is what I do," he expressed. "With Eric on the side of Navarro County, his volunteering, expertise, funding management and experience probably saves Navarro County well over \$100,000 each year," Mike Cox said.

Eric proudly showed off the new OEM (Office of Emergency Management) building, which has been completely funded through government aid. "No money is free," Mike continued, "but Eric manages to file all the right paperwork and get government funding or grants for OEM." The new state of the art facility is equipped with 16 computers, radio and phone stations in the conference area and a digital video link capability with regional or state agencies on a 60" projection screen system.

Eric's responsibilities as the Navarro County Emergency Management Coordinator are endless. He is basically on-call 24/7. No situation is too small and no disaster is too large. Eric is responsible for knowing the status of the grasses and drought indices around the county in order to notify the commissioner's court if a burn ban needs to go into effect, all the way to such major disaster coordination efforts such as tornadoes, effects from hurricanes and other natural or man-made disaster repercussions. "As I said earlier, it truly is a group effort. We couldn't do it without the help of everyone involved. We work closely with all agencies, and other various volunteer organizations such as volunteer fire departments, Red Cross, LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) and VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active and Disaster)," he detailed.

This is Eric's passion. However, you can tell by the humble pride he has in his group and their efforts that none of this would be possible without the aid and assistance of all groups and entities involved on a daily basis. **NOW**

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Behind *the* Whistle

— By Faith Browning

If you are familiar with Corsicana High School basketball, you are sure to know Coach Andy Dotson. Coaching basketball is Andy's greatest love, but behind the whistle is a multit talented artist.

Ranging from pencil sketches to wall murals, his artistic talent is beyond measure. "If I can see it, I can do it," he said.

Andy admits he is not a conventional artist. "I do things my own way," he said. He compares his style of art to paint-by-numbers. He starts at one point on his canvas and then bounces to another area when his inspiration shifts. The same goes for his "works in progress." He jumps from one project to the next, just as he does when painting. Could all his bouncing and jumping in art be a reflection of his basketball influence?

One current undertaking is a painting of all his mother's grandchildren, but he cannot predict when he will complete it due to his other ventures also in mid-creation. "I do things at my own pace," he explained. "It might be a month before I go back and touch something."

A remarkable mural of a lighthouse amidst a warm red-orange Texas sunset



covers a wall in his kitchen. Murals are his favorite paintings to create. His most meaningful work was also his first; he painted his daughter's nursery walls with pictures of Looney Tunes, finishing it before Demi arrived home from the hospital. "One entire wall was a desert scene of the Coyote chasing the Roadrunner," Andy said. "Another wall was all the characters bursting out of the target." On a small wall, he included his love of basketball by



painting Daffy Duck dunking a ball in the net.

Andy was commissioned to paint murals at three schools in Jacksonville, Texas. He created a Peter Rabbit scene for a kindergarten hall and sports scenes in a middle school cafeteria. A job near to his heart was the transformation of an alternative school's walls into beach scenes full of sea gulls and sand dollars. Andy's inspiration for the scenes derived from the

school's theme, which related to a story of an old man on a beach picking up sand dollars and throwing them back into the ocean in the hopes of saving just one. Andy told the school he would do the job for whatever money they had in the Coke machines, but he never went back to collect. "I did that one," he shared, "just because I believed in kids the same way they did."

Due to his love of sports, plus having a close friend associated with the Dallas

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Cowboy organization, Andy was inspired to recreate a photo of Cowboy wide receiver Terrell Owens. The painting renders the Cowboy star celebrating one of his first touchdowns with his arms raised. Andy selected pastel oil on brown wrapping paper as his medium, producing the illusion of a chalk drawing. After he completes this painting, he plans to ask Owens if he

**“I do things
to see if I can.
Maybe I’ll try
Silly Putty
next!”**

will autograph the painting. “If he wants to keep it, that’s fine,” he added. “I’d also like to see if he would be interested in selling prints of it for charity.”

A unique endeavor for Andy was designing an entire basketball court for Lon Morris College where he attended college. With his father and brother

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coaching basketball there, it made this a special accomplishment. "It's really neat to go sit in a place where your father and brother work at every day and see your art on the floor," he said. "I know my mother enjoys seeing it, since she's at every game."

It is hard to believe Andy has only



attended one art class. During his first assignment painting a floral arrangement, the instructor tapped him on the shoulder. Referring to his paint-by-numbers style, she told him he could not do it that way. When he turned in his finished work, the instructor could not believe the outcome. "I told her there is more than one way to skin a cat," he laughed. He withdrew from

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ARTS NOW

the class, but now admits he might have learned some valuable techniques if he had stuck with it.

Like many artists, Andy is very critical of his work. "I can't tell you how many things I've done that I've thrown away," he said. "I can go to any picture I've done and tell you what I don't like about it. That is why a lot of them end



**"If I can see it,
I can do it."**

up in the trash." When he was in the fifth grade, his mother found a discarded charcoal drawing of a snow scene depicting an old ranch and entered it in a contest. This was his first recognition, and it won first place.

Many of Andy's friends are also artists, and he asks them for advice on certain techniques. "It's a never ending process of learning," he said. Challenging himself to create art from found objects, like painting a broken tile shaped like a duck head, drives his passion for art. "I do things to see if I can," he said. "Maybe I'll try Silly Putty next!" **NOW**

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Sports
NOW

Hard Working Girl

— By Samantha Stroube

At the tender age of 20, Brittany Watkins manages a 40-hour work schedule in addition to mastering 14 hours at Navarro College, where she is pursuing her teaching degree in secondary education biology. She juggles schoolwork with her professional duties at Corsicana High School, where she works in the front office and is responsible for attendance and tardy issues. Hammering out her core classes,

Brittany plans to continue her studies at either UT Tyler or A&M Commerce Mesquite.

Brittany fell in love with dance about six years ago, when she became a “baby” on the Corsicana High School (CHS) Calico dance team in December 2001. She began her career as a cheerleader, until her older sister, who was the captain of the Calico dance squad at the time, began using her as her dance routine guinea pig. Brittany joined the squad her freshman year and danced her way to officer in her junior and senior years.

After graduating from CHS in 2005, Brittany headed off to McLennan Community College to pursue her major in

dancing. During that time, she was on the McLennan Dance Company, but she soon changed her career path toward business and advertising after returning home to Corsicana to continue her studies at Navarro College. When she received a surprise call from Kara Guinn, the Calico director, asking her to become the new Calico assistant, Brittany immediately jumped at the opportunity.

“I want to continue with the Calicos, so that is when I decided to change my major to secondary education in biology,”

Brittany said. “I never wanted to become a teacher — my mom and sister are both teachers — but I know that by teaching at the high school I will be able to continue with the drill team.” Brittany now admits to loving her studies and the direction her career has taken. “I feel very lucky to have had everything work out the way it has — my job, the Calicos and school. Dr. Moore has been extremely supportive of me and flexible of my hours. He said that when I receive my diploma, he will put me in the classroom,” Brittany explained, referring to Dr. Moore, the current CHS principal.

The action with Brittany as the Calicos’ new assistant director began in August of the 2007 - 2008 school year. “I love working with the girls so much. In fact, some of the girls that were on



Brittany Watkins, assistant director of the CHS Calico dance team, stretches with girls on this year's squad.

Sports NOW

the squad when I was there are all seniors now," Brittany explained. "I am at every practice and every game. I love every aspect of my job; however, my favorite has to be competition. My primary responsibility is choreography for the squad, during both football season and competition." Brittany is involved with the squad in some aspect all day long from morning practice to after school technique classes. "I do still dance with the girls; it allows me to get my exercise in for the day," she said. "As for competition, Kara really knows how to treat us right. She manages to take us to all these really neat places. This year, the girls are headed to Santa Fe, New Mexico, sometime in March for our annual competition." The girls host fundraisers



and boosters to earn the money necessary to make their trips successful.

"This year at competition, we will be displaying five team routines, three officer routines, one social officer routine, and a bunch of different ensemble routines. I am really looking forward

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Sports NOW

to this year's competition," Brittany stated. "I remember when I was on the squad – we used to have so much fun. We would have great food, go shopping and just all around have a great time.



Brittany instructs Whitley Williams (above) and Engadi Ortiz (below) in proper form and technique.



Kara always made it fun for us."

Brittany is still extremely involved in dance, especially now that she is guiding the girls across Tiger Field and at annual competitions. Formerly

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According to Lance Waggoner, spokesperson for the Navarro County Area Go Texan Committee, this year's Go Texan Scholarship fund-raiser netted enough to fund \$20,000 in 2008 scholarship awards.

Lance estimates that the Navarro County committee will award \$20,000 to the 16 applicants that completed their application before the deadline this year.

To Lance's knowledge, no Navarro County student who has applied has ever been turned down. The scholarship applications (available on hlsc.com) are scored by a non-biased committee from Ellis County, and the scholarship awards are approximately \$1,000 per

applicant depending on need and academic success and are awarded to Navarro County high school seniors who are college bound.

Lance indicated that this scholarship has been in existence since 1989 and has guaranteed at least one \$1,000 scholarship per each Navarro County school annually.

This year's fund-raiser was held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Ennis. They served 710 steak dinners even though the hall seated 675 for the event.

Be sure to look forward to next year's event and join in the great cause and fun and entertainment.

Special Advertisement

Sports NOW

a student on the squad, she is now a mentor and friend to all the young girls under her tutelage. "I feel very blessed to be in the position I am in. Everything has just worked out for me," she shared. Brittany is currently a junior at Navarro College, and works


"I feel very lucky to have had everything work out the way it has — my job, the Calicos and school."



extremely hard to maintain an excellent grade point average in order to sustain her well-deserved Collins Scholarship and Kent Scholarship.

At the end of the day, Brittany can proudly say she is becoming a teacher and educating young minds while being able to live her dream of maintaining her position with the Calicos. Brittany does not view her tight schedule as an issue. In fact, she manages to work 15 plus hours in the office, 25 with the Calicos, take 14 credit hours at Navarro and never miss a beat or stop smiling. "I know how lucky I am to have everything fall into place. I am so happy to know what I want and get to do [it] for the rest of my life, when some of my friends are still trying to figure it out," Brittany said, with great anticipation for her very bright future. **NOW**

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Business
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Going Beyond the Call

— By Sandra McIntosh

Ray Eller feels like his first career more than prepared him for the success he is experiencing as the owner and lone salesperson of Angus Home Center, conveniently located at 5656 S. Interstate Highway 45 West, just three miles south of Corsicana. "I do believe that owning and operating six radio stations for 31 years gave me an edge," Ray said, referencing the way he treats his customers today. Honest, hardworking, dedicated and straightforward are words that best describe the busy man behind the desk, quickly evidenced by the number of phone calls he received in the span of an hour.

Choosing to keep the overhead as low as possible so his customers may reap the benefits could be part of the reason Ray is a one-man operation, but the main reason is for overall, quality customer service. "As a manufactured home dealer and insurance agent

licensed by the state of Texas, I know the product better than anyone I could train," he explained, "and I don't know anyone that would give the full personal service I give when it comes to sales, financing and the overall process of buying a manufactured home." Going one step further, Ray personally handles every piece of paper to further insure there will be no misunderstandings throughout the process. "I know what was said," he added, "because I'm the one that said it."

There are no pressure sales, and prospective buyers will never receive an uninvited phone call from Ray. Knowing that buying a home could very well be the biggest investment of a customer's life, Ray has no desire to pressure them into making a hasty purchase. "I sit down and talk with them. I listen to what their needs are, and then let them decide how to proceed," he said. Even before Ray and a customer come to a firm agreement, he wastes no time in visiting the home site. In fact, Ray makes it his first priority. "I want to make sure the home and the site are compatible," he added. "This ensures satisfaction for all concerned parties."

At Angus Home Center, Ray deals with only three factories – Champion, Redman and Cavco – because they are flexible and forthcoming when it comes to any service issues that may arise. Ray's dealership stands on Champion's reputation of being the largest manufactured home factory in the nation and Redman's 71 continuous years in the business of manufacturing homes. Ray deals in new, used and repossessed homes, thus offering something for every need and budget.

Two years after Ray's "first retirement," a friend who was one of his former radio advertising customers (a dealer himself), convinced Ray to get into the business. In just a few short months, Ray will celebrate nine years in the



Business NOW

home-selling industry. "I signed papers on the business on 9/9/99," he said. "I basically took a defunct business and made it prosperous." In order for him to become a licensed dealer, Ray had to attend several classes to fully understand the Texas laws and regulations that surround manufactured homes. Continuing education is a must to keep abreast of the ever-changing guidelines. Office manager Rhonda Guthrie answers the phones and keeps

"I do believe that owning and operating six radio stations for 31 years gave me an edge."



the office running like a well-oiled machine, while Luci the dog, Ray's special four-legged roadside find, takes her place beside him on the floor or on a special fleece pallet handcrafted by one of Ray's many satisfied customers.

At age 60, Ray is more than a business owner. He is a gentleman who believes in giving 150 percent. He is known for going far beyond the call of duty. "Not many will take the number of steps I take in a single day," he said. "That's just how important customer service is to me." For more information, call Ray at (903) 872-989, e-mail him at angushomes@gmail.com or visit the Web site at www.angushomecenter.com. **NOW**

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Tiger Through & Through

— By Samantha Stroube

From Corsicana Tiger to LSU (Louisiana State University) Tiger, Lora Wood Duncan is dedicated to her craft, and that is educating our students through the power of music. From the time she began taking piano lessons at the age of 4, she knew music would somehow be a part of her life.

Lora realized she loved to sing and perform during her sophomore year at Corsicana High School (CHS). By the time she reached her senior year of high school, she had become extremely involved in the high school choir group and the theatrical group. Because of this, she chose her college, LSU, with the stipulation that it must have a strong liberal arts program.

Lora was unsure what she wanted to do with her talents, but she knew she wanted to make music her career.

"I really wanted to write, play or perform music on some level," Lora admitted. "LSU offered us two avenues at the undergraduate level in my major, which was vocal music education. We could either pick the performance route, and since I knew nothing about solo performance or preparatory literature, I decided to go the other direction, which was education."

Not only did Lora choose LSU for its academic qualities, she also had a little of the Baton Rouge Tiger already in her soul. "Both of my (maternal) grandparents went to LSU. I just love it there," Lora exclaimed.



After completing her undergraduate studies in 1995, Lora went on to obtain her master's in choral conducting and decided law school might be the avenue for her. "I hated it; I really missed music and performing. I would sit in law class at noon every day. I would get really sad, because I knew my [LSU A Cappella] choir was practicing at that time," Lora recalled fondly. "The LSU A Capella Choir shaped my whole life."

Lora decided to leave law school with her educational degree in hand, and headed out into the world of teaching. "I taught one semester of choir at the high school level and one semester at the elementary level," Lora said. After teaching for one year in Baton Rouge, she and her ex-husband decided to move back to Corsicana to begin their family.

Education NOW

In June 1999, after moving back to Corsicana, Lora became the music teacher at Carroll Elementary School for three years. Following her time at Carroll, John DeVos, former band director over CHS and Collins Middle School, contacted Lora to help his wife, Carolinn, start a choir group at CHS and Collins. "John and Carolinn's goal was to align all the teachers within the

**"I love
what I do,
and I really want
to encourage
fine arts in
Corsicana."**

fine arts departments, especially in the music departments," Lora explained. "They wanted to eventually start a choral program up at Drane."

In her new position as assistant choir director at CHS, Collins and Drane, Lora learned much from her mentors, John and Carolinn, but after just one year, John and Carolinn decided to move on to another chapter in their lives. Lora was immediately offered the position as choir director at CHS. While she recognized a great opportunity, she also realized there would be some long hours and travel time due to competitions, and she did not want to spend so much time away from her new little boy, Peyton.

As a result, Jim Dorr was hired as the high school choir director, and Lora began to work with Jim in a more focused way on the Drane and Collins campuses. "I swore I would never work at the middle school level, but look at me now," Lora said with a

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grin. "But I really enjoy it." She especially enjoys her time at Drane, which she says is her "home" campus. "I just love practicing at Drane; I love the auditorium and the building itself. After starting work there, I realized that I was [the] third generation to work in that building. My grandmother was the librarian there for a long time, and my mother, Amelia Wood, taught there for ages."

COLLINS MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR



Lora has a very fulfilling day with all of her students. In the mornings she works at Drane, where she has a girls' treble choir and three general music classes. In the afternoons she practices with her audition choir, the Chorale, and her beginning girls' choir.

"After saying I would never teach at the middle school level, I actually love it. We have a lot of fun; we have numerous performances a year. We typically hold a fall performance, a Christmastime performance, and a spring concert, spring contest and spring solo and ensemble competition," Lora said. "I love what I do, and I really want to encourage fine arts in Corsicana. I want to be able to hook the kids into something positive. I teach because I love music and I want to pass it on to next generations." **NOW**

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IN THE KITCHEN WITH PAM STROUBE

Pam is a dedicated wife of 37 years and has just as many years of cooking experience. Her inspiration came from home. "Mother was an excellent cook," she said. "As the daughter of a military officer, I was Mom's sou chef and waitress during her cocktail and dinner parties." This inspired Pam to further her education in home economics, specializing in large banquet dining and nutrition.

Pam believes in the health of food as well as the taste. "One of my first experiences with a microwave oven in the 1960s was opening a no-lock door that allowed the heat to escape and singed my eyebrows," she recalled. "Healthy food is important to me and cooking at home is better for us and more affordable than restaurants." **NOW**

To view more of your neighbors' recipes, visit our archives at www.nowmagazines.com.

GOURMET CHICKEN

3 chicken breasts, split
3 drumsticks
3 thighs
16 oz. whole purple plums
juice of 1 lemon
1 onion, chopped
1/4 cup chili sauce
1/4 cup soy sauce
1 Tbsp. Worcestershire
2 drops Tabasco sauce
1 tsp. ginger
2 tsp. mustard

Arrange chicken in a single layer in a 19 x 19 x 2-inch pan. Seed and puree plums and add remaining ingredients to make a sauce. Pour over chicken and cook at 350 F for 75 minutes.

OUTER BANKS CLAM CHOWDER

12 large clams
1/4 lb. fat bacon or salt pork
2 medium onions, sliced fine
3 medium potatoes, cubed
salt and pepper to taste

2 Tbsp. corn meal or all-purpose flour
1 cup light cream

Scrub clams and boil in enough water to cover. Remove clams from shells, chop fine, reserve. Strain liquid and add enough water to make 6 cups, reserve. Cut bacon in very small pieces or, if using pork, into 1/2 inch cubes. Fry until crisp and brown. Add onions, potatoes, clams and reserved liquid. Simmer until potatoes are done and season with salt and pepper to taste. Mix corn meal or flour in a little cold water and stir into chowder. Add cream. Serve in warm bowls at once. NOTE: When fresh clams are not available, 2 8-oz. bottles clam juice and 2 8-oz. cans minced clams and their liquid can be substituted.

ANGELS ON HORSEBACK

1 12 oz. jar fresh oysters
8 slices bacon, cut in thirds
1 Tbsp. chopped parsley
1/2 tsp. salt
paprika to taste
pepper to taste

Drain oysters. Place an oyster on each piece of bacon. Sprinkle with parsley and seasonings. Wrap bacon around oyster and secure with a toothpick. Place "angels" on broiler rack and broil 4 inches from source of heat for 8 to 10 minutes.

Turn carefully. Broil 4 to 5 minutes longer or until bacon is crisp and oysters begin to curl at the edges. Makes about 20 to 25 hors d'oeuvres.

ARTICHOKE PANCETTA TART

TART CRUST

1 1/4 cup unbleached flour
pinch of salt
1 stick unsalted butter
ice water

FILLING

2 cups chopped onions (2 medium onions)
3 Tbsp. unsalted butter
1 cup diced pancetta (use meaty part — about 1/2 lb.)
1 cup frozen artichoke hearts, defrosted and chopped
2 red peppers (1 cup diced, 1/2 cup julienned)
1/4 cup chopped parsley
1/4 cup chopped fresh basil
3 eggs
1 cup heavy cream
1 1/2 cups Gruyere cheese, chopped (about 1/2 lb.)
1/4 tsp. salt
few grindings of black pepper

TART CRUST: Combine flour and salt in a food processor fitted with steel blade. Cut butter into pieces and add to the processor.

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Pulse until combined. Add ice water by the Tbsp. until mixture holds together when pinched with fingers. Wrap in plastic and refrigerate for a couple of hours or freeze for 45 minutes. Preheat oven to 350 F. Roll out dough on lightly floured board. Lay pastry in a 9-inch tart pan with removable bottom, folding the overhanging dough back into the pan. Press in place. Freeze tart shell for 15 minutes. Bake shell on cookie sheet for 10 minutes. Remove from oven and let cool. **FILLING:** Sauté onions in butter until they begin to wilt. Add pancetta, half the artichoke hearts, diced red pepper and herbs. Sauté briefly and set aside to cool, then place in tart pan. Whisk together the eggs and heavy cream. Add cheese, salt and pepper. Carefully pour over filling. Arrange remaining artichokes and julienned red pepper on top. Bake tart on cookie sheet at 350 F for 40 - 45 minutes until top is browned and knife inserted in middle comes out clean. If you make this without the pancetta, use a little salt. Will keep for several days in refrigerator. Serve at room temperature or reheat in microwave.

CHEESE WAFER HORS D'OEUVRES

1 cup butter or margarine, softened
1 lb. New York cheddar cheese, grated
2 cups flour
1 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. cayenne pepper
4 cups corn flakes, crushed or 2 cups rice krispies

Blend butter and cheese thoroughly. Add flour, salt, cayenne pepper and corn flakes, mixing well. Shape into balls about the size of a walnut. Place on an ungreased cookie sheet and flatten with a fork. Bake in a preheated 325 F oven 20 to 30 minutes, until dry. These keep well in a tin box.



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Around Town NOW



Mrs. Fain's second grade class, top left, learned about balance brain correlation by rollerblading. Teachers from Sam Houston Elementary, top right, relaxed during their campus celebration luncheon. Hartley Young, second row left, is proud of his little red Corvette. Sam Blanton and Maddy and Emily Young, second row center, showed their pearly whites. Elizabeth Thompson, Elaine Hand, Jennifer Timme and Dyan Bouboushian, second row right, attended a recent art show at the Palace Theatre. Kate Robinson, Kerri Donica and Lesa Goins, third row right, also attended the same art show. Local Weight Watchers leaders, fourth row right from left, Ranae Harrison, Faye Taylor, JoAnn Berna and Delinda Palos took time out from their monthly meeting to smile for the camera. Elise Johnson, Barry Hughey and Tracy Abel, bottom left, posed for a photo. Laurie McCoy, third row center, received a grant plaque from the Education Foundation. Teachers from Navarro Elementary, bottom right, shared lunch in the library.



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When is a Rose Not a Rose?

— By Nancy Fenton

One of the best long-blooming plants for our area is a “rose” that is not really a rose! The common name is Rose of Sharon or Althea and it blooms continuously from spring through fall. This six to 15 foot, small shrub can be trimmed up into an attractive small tree with a festive topknot of blooms or left to its upright, but sprawling, natural shape. One of its best attributes is that it can take the extremes of our finicky

weather in stride and do quite well with little water. Of course, a wide choice of colors does not hurt either!

The single lavender and single white are the most common, but the doubles are more than twice as pretty. As a relative of the hibiscus family, it has large circular, ruffled blooms in striking colors, but with none of the temperamental need for “hothouse treatment.” Rose of Sharon goes into the ground and happily stays there to thrive through our hot summers and cold winters!

With a long European heritage starting in the 16th century, Rose of Sharon was brought to American soil by the colonists as a favorite plant, and has come into the national interest once more. The originals probably were “pass a long” plants given to family as they set out across the world on their quest for new horizons.

Hybridization in the 1960s and '70s expanded the size and the color choices. Some of the newer varieties such as Lavender Chiffon, Blue Satin and Olana, may be available in the nurseries. The standard double white and pink as well as the single purple will be available at the coming Ellis County Master Gardener Spring Expo scheduled for Saturday, March 29 in the Waxahachie Civic Center.

All of these hardy plants tolerate our alkaline soils and prefer compost rather than heavy doses of fertilizer. They bloom on new wood so should be pruned lightly in late winter, while still leafless, to stimulate that topknot of bright blooms. Find a place with full to partial sun and give these beautiful, hardy “roses” a try! **NOW**

Nancy Fenton is a Master Gardener in Ellis County.



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Are You Taking Advantage of a Roth IRA?

— By Lynda Housley

Simply put, contributing to a Roth Individual Retirement Account (IRA) may be a smart money move. The question then is, are you taking full advantage?

The benefit of contributing to a Roth IRA is that money you put into one of these accounts grows tax free and distributions may be tax free¹.

If you have not yet opened a Roth IRA, do it now. You have until your tax return deadline (typically April 15) to set up and make contributions for the previous tax year. Annual contributions are limited — currently \$4,000 annually². That means you can invest \$4,000 for 2007, giving you a solid start to your savings. The contribution limit rises to \$5,000 in 2008².

If you are just getting started investing, the Roth should be one of your first stops — even before you open a regular, taxable account, or contribute to a workplace retirement-savings plan. The only exception is if your employer

offers a match on your 401(k) contributions. That is free money you do not want to pass up. Yes, you can invest in both a Roth as well as a workplace retirement plan.

Not sure where to find the money to fund your account? Consider investing your tax refund. About 70 percent of Americans will get a refund this year, and last year the average check totaled more than \$2,000. That cash would make a great start to your Roth.

Contributions are limited based on a taxpayer's filing status and Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) as indicated below.

The MAGI ranges, for 2007, are:

Single filers: Up to \$99,000 (to qualify for a full contribution); \$99,000-\$114,000 (to be eligible for a partial contribution); above \$114,000, no contribution allowed.

Joint filers: Up to \$156,000 (to

qualify for a full contribution); \$156,000-\$166,000 (to be eligible for a partial contribution); above \$166,000, no contribution allowed.

Married filing separately: \$0 (to qualify for a full contribution); \$0-\$10,000 (to be eligible for a partial contribution); above \$10,000, no contribution allowed.

Your exact contribution amount can be calculated using the worksheets found in Publication 590 on the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov. **NOW**

Notes:

1. Withdrawals are tax-free if you are over age 59 1/2 and at least five years have expired since you established a Roth IRA. Otherwise withdrawals of gain may be taxable (unless the withdrawal is "qualified") and may be subject to a 10 percent tax penalty.

2. An individual can contribute up to \$4,000 (or 100 percent of earned income, whichever is less) for tax year 2007 and \$5,000 for tax year 2008. If you are over age 50, you are allowed to make additional "catch-up" contributions of \$1,000 for tax years 2007 and 2008. Your adjusted gross income may limit your contribution amount.

Lynda Housley is a State Farm agent based in Corsicana.



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When a Tonsillectomy is Necessary

— By Matthew Branch, M.D.

That pesky sore throat that comes with the cold or flu every year may actually be tonsillitis, and a throat lozenge just will not cut it when it comes to relieving the pain. While tonsillitis usually occurs in children, adults can be affected as well.

Tonsils are part of the immune system, which helps the body fight disease and infection. Tonsillitis is the inflammation or infection of the tonsils, or the collections of tissue located on either side of the throat. It is contracted when small droplets, which carry bacteria or viruses, are moved through the air as an infected person breathes, coughs or sneezes.

There are two types of tonsillitis, both with their own symptoms and treatments. One type is a viral infection. A viral infection usually lasts about two weeks and will go away without any prescribed medications. Symptoms of tonsillitis caused by a viral infection are cold-like, including a sore throat, runny nose, sneezing or coughing. Antibiotics are not effective when treating a viral case of tonsillitis, but there are a few remedies to alleviate pain like gargling salt water, drinking warm tea or taking a nonprescription pain reliever.



Tonsillitis may also be caused by a bacterial infection like strep throat. Symptoms include a sore throat and a sudden fever without any other upper-respiratory problems.

Warning signs of bacterial tonsillitis can include a dry mouth and tongue and ear pain. When these symptoms arise, individuals should visit a physician for diagnosis and proper medication since untreated cases can lead to serious complications.

Antibiotics are used to treat bacterial cases of tonsillitis, and it is important to finish the prescribed dosage, even if symptoms have disappeared. Bacteria may become resistant to the antibiotics if they are not taken as directed.

In some instances, a physician may recommend a tonsillectomy. This procedure is performed under general anesthesia and the tonsils are removed completely. The incisions heal naturally in about two weeks. A tonsillectomy should be considered if someone has:

- Frequent or chronic infections.
- Enlarged tonsils that interfere with breathing or general well-being.
- A boil or sore on the tonsils.

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After a tonsillectomy, a humidifier, ice packs and soft food may help alleviate pain or discomfort. Once a person has recovered, the frequency of throat infections should decrease, but may not go away completely.

While tonsillitis will usually go away with time or some medication, there are a few simple tips to keep you from catching the disease, like: avoiding close contact with someone who has been infected, washing your hands and regularly disinfecting surfaces such as door knobs and countertops. If you or someone in your family is experiencing any of these symptoms, or has frequent throat infections, talk with your physician about possible treatment options. **NOW**

*Matthew Branch, M.D.
Navarro Regional Hospital*



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March 2008

Community Calendar

All Month

Spring is almost here and the time is drawing near for fishing tournaments! For more information, contact the Corsicana Chamber of Commerce at chamber@corsicana.org.

Second Thursdays

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

Fourth Thursdays

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

February 15 – March 31

Navarro Council of the Arts presents the Wilcox Exhibit.

March 1

Tables go on sale for the VOICE's 4th annual spring luncheon, held during Derrick Days Week. Location and speaker TBA. For more information, contact Gina Dieterichs at (903) 872-0180 or gdieterichs@voiceinc.org.

Corsicana Opry, Martin's Music Hall, 201 S. Beaton Street. Dining: 6:00 p.m. Show: 7:00 p.m. Tickets: \$10. Dinner is additional. (903) 872-8226.

March 4

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

CISD TAKS Testing. Third and fifth grade: reading; fourth grade: writing.

March 8

Jesse Aron: *The New Voice of Elvis*, 7:00 p.m. at the Palace Theater. Call (281) 764-1920 for tickets.

Gospel Music Concert, Martin's Music Hall, 201 S. Beaton Street. Dining: 6:00 p.m. Show: 7:00 p.m. Tickets: \$10. Dinner is additional. (903) 872-8226.

March 11 – 13

Benchmark testing at Drane Intermediate School.

March 17 – 21

CISD Spring Break.

March 18

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

March 20

"HOP" Downtown, an Easter event including the Easter Bunny, candy, games and prizes will be presented by Corsicana Main Street Project, 3:00 – 5:30 p.m., in downtown Corsicana, Beaton Street. (903) 654-4851.

March 21

City offices closed for Good Friday.

Month of April

Corsicana native Jason Manning and his band 7 Bridges will be performing at the Palace Theatre for Derrick Days. For more information on this and other fun Derrick Day events, contact the Chamber of Commerce at chamber@corsicana.org.

April 1 – 10

Navarro Council of the Arts presents the Heart Gallery.

April 1

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

April 6

Discover beautiful Texas Gardens as you stroll through the elegant neighborhoods and grand lawns of five private homes in Corsicana. Proceeds from this event benefit Women's Club House Association of Corsicana. Tickets may be purchased at the Corsicana Visitors Center or Chamber of Commerce. For more information, contact Barbara Jones at (903) 874-0848 or mallie22@sbcglobal.net or go to www.BarbaraJonesFineArt.com.

For more community events, visit our online calendar at www.nowmagazines.com.

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 www.LaurieMah.com email: laurie@lauriemah.com

Equal Housing Opportunity

Updated 1985 Custom Brick home sitting on 2.8 acres on quiet rural subdivision cul-de-sac. 2019 sq. ft. home has 3/2 1/2 with 3 living areas and office makes for perfect home for large family. Car conversion to family room, game room and 2.5 car garage added in 2003.

Texas-Size Country Retreat situated on 1.7+ acres near Ennis Regional Hospital and convenient to town. 2006 custom built 3040 sq. ft. 2-story home has 5 bdrms, 5th, 3 car garage, 3 tps, energy efficient features, office, covered back porch with stone top overlooking pond and much more. Call Laurie for more details.

Totally updated! All that's left of 1971 is the frame and slab. 3/2 1/2 1131 sq. ft. brick home on corner lot with fenced back yard. Near elementary school and high school. Perfect starter home.

Ideal family home situated on corner lot in established neighborhood within walking distance to fitness and tennis center. Built in 1977 and updated in 2007 this 1969 sq. ft. home has 4 bdrms, 2 1/2 baths, 2 car garage and 2 car (port), wtp. Call Laurie for a showing. 469-831-6946.

Attention home buyers! Preserve your lot today while supplies last and the price is right! Buy now, build later! Exclusive Maker's Run Subdivision is offering 14 acre .173 acre lots for \$27,500. Priced under market value! Live in the best and most convenient subdivision in Ennis, walking distance to exemplary elementary school, close to shopping and fitness/tennis center.

Beautiful 2006 custom built home in prestigious Walker's Run Subdivision. This 2386 sq. ft. home boasts 3 bdrms, 2 1/2 baths, 3 car garage, stone wtp and the conveniences of town. Walking distance to exemplary elementary school. Call Laurie for more info and showing.

Lynch Recreational Arena & Ranch
 Ideal equine facility conveniently located near Bardwell Lake & 13-mile equestrian trail. Property consists of 48,000 sq. ft. enclosed arena / barn w/ 4 horse stalls, PA system, announcer booth, concession stand, restrooms, viewing balcony, sprinkler system, working pens, tack room & more. Main house built in 2001 is 2500 sq. ft. Western Contemporary w/ hardwood floors, open floor plan, 3 bdrms, 2 bath, 4 car garage. There is a 1,200 sq. ft. guest quarters or ranch hand quarters & a beautiful 1.5 acre pond all on 23+ acres. Call Laurie for pricing and personal viewing.

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