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M A G A Z I N E

APRIL 2011

Forward to the Goal

A Navarro College star
shines into the future.

Also Inside

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Tradesmen and Women

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Liz Perez

Cultivating a
Thriving Business

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MARK HOESCHELE, MD

DR. MARK HOESCHELE graduated medical school at The University of Texas Southwestern in Dallas and completed his residency at John Peter Smith in Fort Worth. Dr. Hoeschele has been licensed in the State of Texas since 2002 and he was previously practicing at Limestone Medical Center in Groesbeck, Texas.

Dr. Hoeschele is looking forward to operating a private practice that is closer to home. He enjoys spending time with his wife of three years, Michelle. They enjoy gardening and doing landscape projects, as well as catching up on movies during their downtime.

Dr. Hoeschele started seeing patients in Ennis January, 2011 at his office on the ERMHC campus. He will follow his patients during their inpatient admissions and he will also participate in the rotation through the Ellis County Family Medicine after-hours clinic Monday through Friday 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Medical Office Building
2203 W. Lampasas Street,
Suite 101

Dr. Hoeschele is now accepting new patients. For an appointment, please call 972-875-7799.



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ALFONSO BALLESTEROS, MD

DR. ALFONSO BALLESTEROS, M.D. graduated from Dartmouth College and received his medical degree from The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. He completed his internship and residency at the Phoenix Integrated Surgical Residency Program - Good Samaritan Medical Center in Phoenix, Arizona.

Dr. Ballesteros is Board Certified by the American Board of Surgery and specializes in general surgery. Dr. Ballesteros received medical staff privileges at Ennis Regional Medical Center in December, 2010 and started seeing patients in Ennis in January, 2011.

Dr. Ballesteros will see patients Monday mornings from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in Ennis at his office on the ERMHC campus.

Medical Office Building
2203 W. Lampasas
Suite 222

Dr. Ballesteros also sees patients in Corsicana:
301 Hospital Dr.
Suite 170

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Payroll (382 Employees)	\$30,512,331
Capital Investments	\$6,763,036
Property & Sales Taxes	\$964,209

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY:

Charity & Uncompensated Care	\$23,974,011
------------------------------------	--------------

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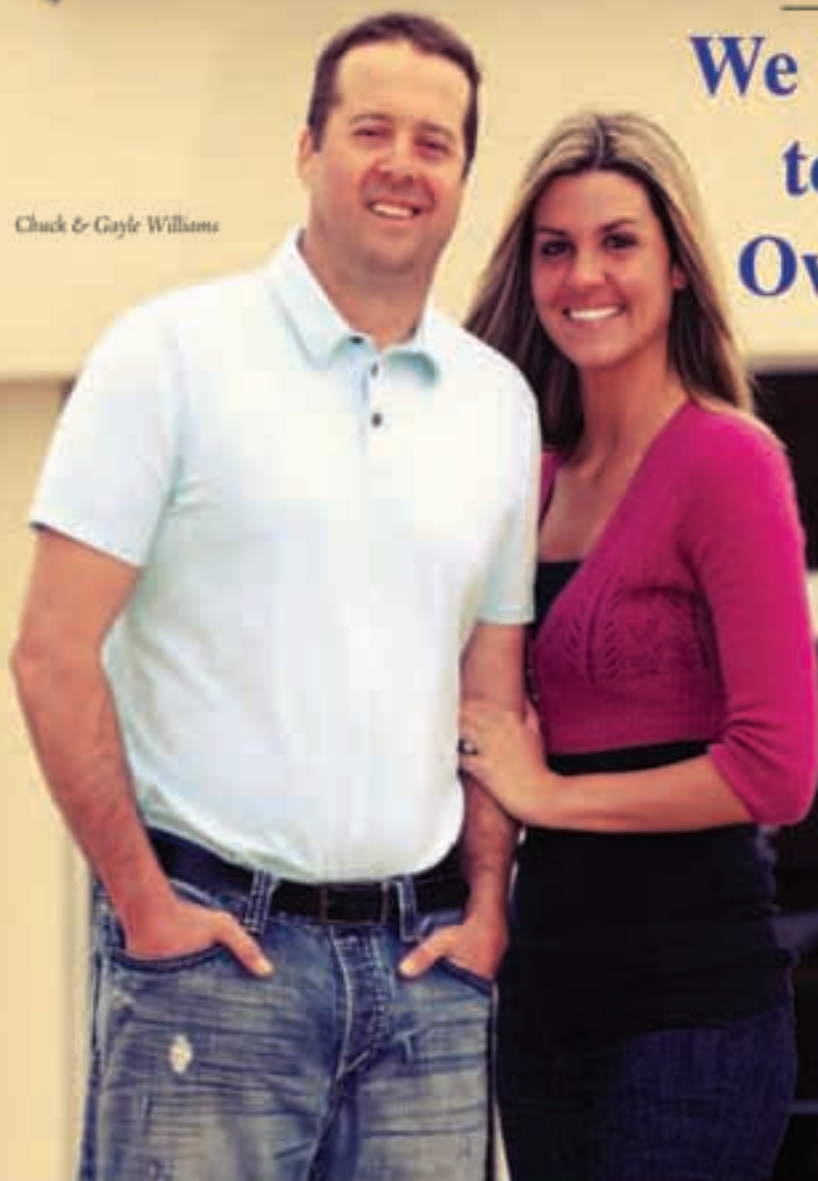
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On The Cover



Brittany Martin perseveres
toward excellence in
academics and sports.

Photo by Opaque Visuals

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Editor's Note

Wow, Corsicana!

I am honored and excited to be serving residents of Corsicana and Navarro County as the new community editor for *CorsicanaNOW Magazine*. As a writer for this magazine for the last 15 months, I have been blessed to meet so many of you whom I haven't had the opportunity to know in my positions as a teacher for Corsicana ISD and adjunct instructor for Navarro College. I have treasured your trust in my ability to communicate your stories.

Dear readers, your wonderful comments have been appreciated, and I look forward to writing more articles of interest. This is a community magazine, so please feel free to contact me with story ideas about homes, neighbors and events that make Navarro County special. Together we can really promote all the good there is about living and working in the greater Corsicana area.



Virginia

Virginia Riddle
CorsicanaNOW Editor
virginia.riddle@nowmagazines.com

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FORWARD



Brittany Martin is moving forward to achieve new goals and build her future on a foundation that she has worked very hard to establish. A native of Ennis who graduated from Rice High School (RHS), Brittany has moved on to Texas Woman's University (TWU) to play soccer after a stellar career on Navarro College's (NC) soccer team and in the classroom. "You have to practice, make a commitment and pay attention to your grades," she said noting a goal to become a coach and teacher.

Soccer was the first sport that really interested Brittany as a 4-year-old. She participated on Ennis teams and then joined the Texas Nomads team in Corsicana. She played with the Texas Nomads until she reached the age of 13. However, since RHS did not offer girls' soccer as an athletic choice, other sports occupied Brittany's interests when she started high school. "Brittany is one of those natural athletes and is faster than greased lightning," Doyle Garrett, Brittany's grandfather said. Brittany performed successfully through the sports seasons playing volleyball, basketball, track and softball, in spite of health problems that plagued her participation all four years at RHS. "I was having stomach issues and ended up having to have surgery," Brittany said. A play during a basketball game her senior year resulted in a broken ankle and forced Brittany to sit out from all sports the remainder of the year.

TO THE GOAL

— By Virginia Riddle

Brittany Martin poses
with Coach Aric Bonner.



Brittany with her sister, Stephanie Martin;
Mother, Tamra Harwell; and Stepfather, David Harwell.



The RHS athletic department still honors Brittany by listing her name on the softball scoreboard for the most stolen bases. A Regional track performer throughout high school, Brittany tried kicking field goals and was so successful that the football team tried to recruit her. “Her mom wouldn’t let her do that,” Linda Garrett, Brittany’s grandmother said laughingly. Brittany’s fondest memory of her athletic career at RHS was made during her junior year when she scored the winning goal in basketball with just 10 seconds before the buzzer sounded to end the game.

Following a four-year break from soccer and health issues in high school, Brittany tried out as a walk-on for the Navarro College soccer team that had established a winning tradition as the 2008 Region IV Champions, 2008 Southeast District E Champions, and as a team known for returning year after year to the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA)

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national tournament. Brittany earned her place on the team as No.15 by showing her versatility as both a capable forward and a defensive player.

Brittany proved her worth repeatedly during her time as an NC Bulldog, from her very first game when she was a starter to her last game. During the 2010 season, Brittany's quick reaction and incredible speed on the field helped to up the score to a 7-0 win over Mountain View College. By October 2010, Brittany had scored a total of 14 points against NC opponents.

Honors quickly followed Brittany's performance. She garnered a place on the All-Region First Team, All-American Team and was named an All-American soccer player while at NC during both years. NC places a critical importance on student athletes performing just as well in the classroom as on the field or court. Brittany enthusiastically followed Coach Debbie Bonner's lead toward the emphasis on academics. She made the Dean's List during her first year and the President's List during her second year at NC. A kinesiology major, Brittany was named to the All-American Academic Team as both a freshman and sophomore. These honors also earned her a key to the city of Rice, presented to her by Mayor Larry Bailey in December 2010. "I liked that all the Navarro College teachers knew who you were because it was a small school. Playing soccer made the time go so fast," Brittany said. She gives her recipe for success with confidence. "You have to have coordination, know your basic skills, be committed, want to do the job when it's not easy and really like your team," she remarked.

Soccer has given Brittany many other great lifetime experiences and opportunities. Traveling is inherent to

playing away games, and Brittany has played in soccer tournaments in faraway sites, such as Minnesota and Wyoming. She has played with and against some wonderful soccer players and coaches. Brittany remembers NC's Venicia Reid well. "She had skills that were awesome," Brittany recalled.

Having already earned her necessary credits for graduation from NC in December 2010, Brittany started her soccer career at TWU with a move to Denton in 2011. She returns to NC to receive her letter jacket and diploma in May, but Brittany wanted to get a head start in preparation for the upcoming seasons that she will play while on scholarship with the TWU Pioneers and Head Coach Fleur Benatar. Brittany is continuing her work toward a four-year degree in kinesiology and education so she can be a coach upon graduation. She now juggles a three-times-per-week study hall and 16 hours of classes. Running and daily sprints are part of her current

"You have to have coordination, know your basic skills, be committed, want to do the job when it's not easy and really like your team."

training to prepare for fall play.

Transitioning from the smaller classes of NC to the larger classes of TWU has provided Brittany opportunities and challenges. "I'm meeting a lot of new people, including my roommate," she reflected. "There are 250 people in one of my classes. My teachers are really great, and I am really busy playing sports and studying," she added.

Family is very important to this talented athlete, and Brittany has been returning home often to see her most important support team: her mother and stepfather, Tamra and David Harwell; younger sister, Stephanie; father, David Martin; her fiancé, Adam Robinson and her proud grandparents, Linda and



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Ralph pictured with Raul and Monica Jimenez


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For Mayor

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Pol. Ad Paid For By Ralph Gonzalez,
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Doyle, who are otherwise known as “Papa” and “Nanny.” Brittany credits her family and God with her success. “They were always at my games, and without God none of this is possible,” she remarked.

As Brittany has moved to the TWU



Brittany with her grandparents, Linda and Doyle Garrett.

team, which will take her to games even farther away, her Papa remarked, “I’ve had some great times watching Brittany, and even though we may not make all of her games in the future, all she has to do is take a deep breath and Nanny and I will be there.” **NOW**



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— Kendra Bunch



Cultivating *a* Thriving Business

— By Virginia Riddle

Seeding and growing a thriving business during these difficult economic times has been made easier in Navarro County by the Navarro College Small Business

Development Center (SBDC) located on the Corsicana Navarro College campus. Entrepreneurs with fresh business start-up ideas or existing businesses find guidance from Robin Lasher, the SBDC's director. "Opportunity walks by us all the time. We just don't see it always, but it's within our grasp," Robin said.

Robin and SBDC counselors, in Navarro, Ellis, Limestone or Freestone counties, meet with established business owners or budding entrepreneurs. SBDC offices are located in Corsicana, Waxahachie, Mexia and Fairfield. Robin and the counselors offer on-site training in each county, with free or low-cost workshops that cover writing business plans, how to start a business, funding a business, getting government contracts and working with business computer applications. Working with other resource providers — including the Chamber of Commerce, economic development board, planning and zoning division and



From left to right: Robin Lasher, director, and Ophelia Mendoza, administrative assistant

Main Street Project — SBDC helps guide a small business to the doors it must enter in order to turn a dream idea into a reality.

Since SBDC provides free consulting services and free or low-cost training seminars to business clients, funding for the center is provided through a



“If you don’t evolve with the times, your business is at risk.”

cooperative agreement with the United States Small Business Administration (SBA) and Navarro College, which acts as the hosting institution. The budget for the center is managed at the college level, but is accountable to the SBA. By design, SBDC is able to adapt its operations to the needs of the communities it serves.

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“In that sense, we are able to operate with much of the same entrepreneurial mindset as our clients,” Robin stated.

Robin is available to go on-site to established businesses that wish to take advantage of the free counseling services. Some of the services involve establishing marketing plans, drafting loan proposals, planning for business expansion, conducting research and handling general management issues. “Businesses used to be able to do things the same for a long time, but you can’t now,” Robin said. “If you don’t evolve with the times, your business is at risk.”

Small businesses that are the mainstay of the communities in this area must work to find their niche, adapt to their customers’ needs constantly and expand their customer base outside this region. Robin recommends that retail businesses reach out beyond their area and that they have a presence on Facebook. “Businesses that are not willing to adapt and move forward are leaving money on the table,” Robin explained. She also helps businesses establish their own Internet identity using do-it-yourself Web site building tools.

“We try to make our services available when it is convenient to the business client because time is precious,” Robin noted. As one of the top 10 in-house research centers in the U.S., SBDC subscribes to different databases that put statistical data at business people’s fingertips, providing another time saver. The databases



give current figures in demand and competition based on local, regional and national demographic regions, which give owners a projection for success in their industry, benchmarks for future financial performance and enable business leaders to make fact-based decisions.

Problems can beset a business at any time, but Robin is available to help no matter how long a business has been around. Optimally, she likes to be involved from the start-up of a business and throughout each stage of its development. "We like to develop a long-term relationship with our clients," Robin said. Often, however, as the business grows the owner is so busy handling day-to-day events that she or he appreciates the follow-up service they receive from SBDC. Even if they "have just a hiccup or a major challenge," Robin can help them overcome.

Creating an understanding that "cash is king" is a goal on which Robin focuses when working with new start-ups, especially. Developing a business plan is not just an exercise taken to get a bank loan. Owners must understand costs, risks and projected gross and net profits. Having all the facts helps.

Effective marketing is a very necessary cost of promoting a business. "You really need to advertise, especially if you are a new business," Robin recommended. There are a great many opportunities to promote a business today using the Internet as well as tried-and-

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true methods. “Social media is the new word-of-mouth,” Robin said. “Reminder advertising,” such as billboards on the highways, still works well since they are a 24/7 type of advertising. Businesses have to understand who their customers are and how best to advertise to them, according to Robin.

Robin, a native of Fort Worth, has the business experience and education that help others to succeed in the business world. She was the owner of several beauty supply outlets in Fort Worth before taking a position in the higher education world. She found her true passion when she was hired by the



Tarrant County College SBDC and was mentored by the director. “He let me take risks,” Robin stated. “Finding your passion is a very motivating force in getting you up in the morning.”

Discovering that she had the job in Navarro County has been only one highlight in Robin’s career. She has had the opportunity to present workshops at the national conference to 1,300-1,800 SBA employees nearly every year since 2002 — a fact that reflects well on this local center. Also, she enjoys working with other SBDCs to collaborate on assisting clients. “They are all very supportive. Many of them have been a go-to person for information and help,” she said.

Life outside of work is enjoyable for Robin, who loves to read books, remodel her home and spend time with Dixie, her rescued terrier. “What I really like about this area is that, compared to Fort Worth, I haven’t seen a traffic jam yet,” she said. “I love this job, but if I wasn’t here, I would be looking for an opportunity to run a small business,” Robin revealed. Businesses in Corsicana are fortunate that Robin’s passion is in offering her expertise to help them succeed. **NOW**

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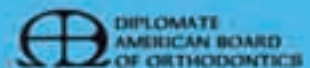
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You Never *Really* Leave

— By Joan Kilbourne

The bonds of home and family are important in small-town Texas. Knowing who you are and where you belong provides the comfort and safety needed to face the surprises of daily living. Wanda Murlene Lilly was born and reared in the small town of Kerens, and like many Texans, she moved away as a young woman. Also like many others, she has come home again. As the poet, Maya Angelou once said, “You can never go home again, but the truth is you can never leave home, so it’s all right.”





“My father worked for Bruner Chevrolet, and my mom worked in a dry goods store,” Murlene said. “There was a hotel in town then, and all of the stores were full. You couldn’t park anywhere on Saturday in town. There was a movie house where we paid 16 cents for a ticket, popcorn and a coke. It is sad to drive



down the main street now and see so many empty buildings. Still, I was glad to move back here.”

When Murlene married L.H. Lilly in 1960, their move to Houston was the first of many relocations. Almeda lured them because it had smaller schools for the children, Kyle, Melissa and Amy. Another

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move took them to Plano, but L.H., who worked as a barber, wanted to return to Houston because he missed his friends there. Some of the baseball players on the Houston Astros team were regular customers, and Houston had become home to him. When their grown children moved away, the couple moved back to Corsicana to be near Murlene's family.

When L.H. died, Murlene moved to her first home in Kerens. She found a house she liked but could not buy because her Corsicana house had yet to sell. Instead, she helped the people who did buy the home paint and wallpaper, a task she had done many times before. Eventually, she moved into the house across the street. In 2009, Murlene moved into her current ranch-style home in a pleasant neighborhood. Not far away a

railroad track runs by. "I am familiar with the coal train that goes by every day," she said. "I used to work for Houston Light and Power Company for 16 years, and I waited behind that train many times on my way to work."


Murlene is content to be back in North Texas, where she has family in both Dallas and Navarro counties. Her parents, her brother and two sisters live in Navarro County and Dallas. She has six grandchildren ranging in age from 4 to 16 years old. "At first, I was bothered by the mess they made pulling toys out of a toy chest when they came for a visit, but now I have learned to enjoy the mess," Murlene laughed. "I have a toy closet, and the youngest grandchild makes a bee line for the closet when he comes for a visit. I also have three friends I have known

since third grade. We go out to eat or go to movies or play cards. All of us were widowed within the same six months, so we are close, and I am glad to be here near them."

Like most family-centered homes, the kitchen refrigerator is covered, front and sides, with photos and mementos. A pot



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with twin amaryllis stalks stands in the sink, a Christmas gift from her daughter. The red blossoms opened to create a beautiful display. "This is where I make my chili supper for the party I have once a year for all my first cousins," Murlene said. "We used to have family reunions with 300 people, but now we have about 60 to 80 at a time. Everyone wants to



come. They just like the family-ness of it." New countertops and an island in the center make the kitchen a comfortable place to cook for her many guests.

Old photographs of Murlene's parents, brother and sisters line the hallway. The two bedrooms off the hall are designated as guestrooms for visiting family. One



is made welcome with a gold print bedspread and curtains that match. In this room, wedding photos of the three children are displayed alongside pictures of the grandchildren. The other guest room has a green print spread on a king-size bed with matching curtains. "The kids race to get here first so they can have this big bed," Murlene said. Family photos decorate the built-in shelves and dresser tops so that visiting children and grandchildren can enjoy memories of earlier days.

Murlene replaced bathroom tile and added linens in bright red and gold colors in the guest bath. Her own bedroom is decorated in subtle shades of beige and



cream, suitable for a retreat when the busy visitors are a bit overwhelming. Murlene recently sewed flower print covers for the pile of pillows on her bed to further invite relaxation. The paneled walls of the living room make it look snug and warm. Two large sofas suggest that family visits and gatherings of friends happen often here.

This busy lady is president of Kerens Garden Club, whose 22 members turn out to create a prize-winning float in the homecoming parade each year. "We create a theme like a pirate theme or Cleopatra, Hawaii or a spring garden, and we placed first for the last seven years," Murlene added. Murlene was also the president of Kerens Ex-Students Association (KESA) for about five years. Some 200 members raise funds for scholarships by catering local parties and events. "We started by raising \$2,000 or \$3,000," Murlene said. "This year, we had \$17,000 to provide higher education for our high school graduates.

"I collect everything," Murlene said. "My sister, Betty Duvall, and I arrange estate sales, and we go to them to find treasures. Some people throw things out when they move, but my things seem to grow." Murlene had cupboards built in the kitchen to hold the colored glass pitchers, cherished wedding gift items, and a kerosene lamp collection. "I like to try new recipes, too," Murlene said. "For the Super Bowl game, I cooked shrimp etoufee, crab stew, French onion soup and a black-eyed pea salad. My late husband came from Louisiana, and his sister shared her recipes with me. I have finally conquered pecan pie," Murlene smiled. "I have six pecan trees and picked 3- or 4-gallon bags of nuts last year, but this year even the squirrels would bite them open and throw them away." Murlene looked around her living room with the contented smile of someone who never left home. **NOW**

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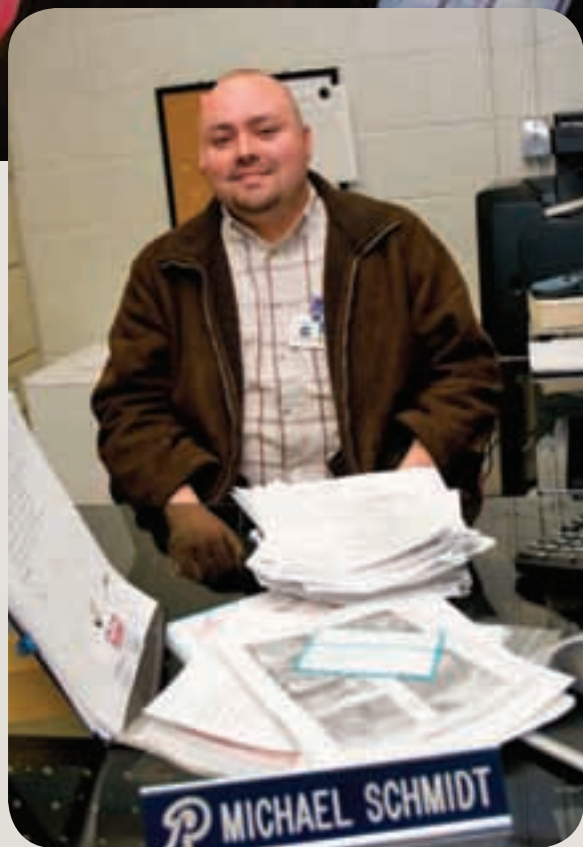
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Training Tomorrow's Tradesmen and Women

— By Joan Kilbourne

The U. S. Department of Labor reports that, even in this tight job market, there is an unmet need for workers trained in the trades. In Corsicana it was the automobile dealerships and the independent auto repair shops that brought their need for competent mechanics to the attention of the career center at Corsicana High School (CHS).





In response, a panel was organized to evaluate the program at the school and to recommend a curriculum that would prepare students who were attracted to a career in this field. Mike Schmidt was one of the panel members representing Texas State Technical College (TSTC) in Waco.

Mike was well-qualified to take on the job of rebuilding the high school program. "I took auto shop in high school in Paris," he said. I had no particular goal in mind when I signed up for auto mechanics, but I took the class and it stuck." He went on to study further at TSTC to earn certification as a master automotive service technician.

Mike worked for a Toyota dealership for three years, for a Honda dealer for a year, and then taught auto mechanics in his former high school for two years. "I

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always thought I would like to do what my former teacher had done for me — motivate students and move them toward a career."

When his students won a national competition in 2006, he came to the attention of the administration at TSTC and was invited to return there as an instructor at the college level. In this position, Mike was a logical choice to serve on the panel that was assembled at CHS. "I liked the challenge," Mike said, "and it was easy to take on the job of teaching the program the panel designed."

The program is an opportunity to give students' efforts a clearer focus. "There are many students who have not seen a goal for themselves," Mike explained. "They come into the auto mechanics program because they have watched their dads work on the family car and they want to do what he did, or they want to know how to take care of their own cars. They know tools and about 50 percent of the work. They need the class work, however, to do the jobs the right way."

Occupational safety and the safe use of tools is another serious aspect of auto maintenance that the 'backyard mechanics' need to learn. This is not a class students can choose hoping for an easy A grade. A student must pass all eight of the hands-on and written parts of the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE)

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Having passed the ASE exam, a graduating student is prepared to go on to work in a dealership or to attend a technical school, such as TSTC in Waco, for additional training. The serious students also have an opportunity to prepare for competitions sponsored by Skills USA.

When a student has enrolled in four years of training in the high school classes, they are ready to compete. In 2008, students won first place at the district level and fourth place at the state level. In Mike's second year at CHS, they won first place at the state contest in Corpus Christi.

Funding for expenses at these competitions comes from the students' work on cars brought to them by teachers and family members. About 15 students join the contest team, but fewer students go the extra mile required to be ready for competition. Three days a week students spend time at the shop after school hours and, when contest time is near, they may be in the shop until 9 or 10 at night.

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scholarships for advanced training. Last year CHS students took first place in automotive, marine and motors categories and second in diesel maintenance.

It is not an easy task to maintain excellence in the auto technology program. The automotive industry makes changes in the electronics and mechanics on existing models of cars and creates new models every year. “A 2011 car has 50 onboard computers in it,” Mike said. “Local car dealerships help us a lot by letting us look at the new cars so we can keep up with the new technology. We run tests on the computerized systems to see how they react. An individual donor has also given us a newer model car to work on in the shop.”

Teachers need to attend conferences, take additional training classes and read trade magazines to keep up with the latest technologies. “I have friends at TSTC who also help me stay up-to-date on new cars like the hybrids,” Mike said. On a lift alongside the teacher cars and the new model car is Mike’s own 1966 Mustang which, except for a patch of body putty on a door panel, is looking good for its advanced age. “I found it in a pasture,” Mike said. “It is my toy, and the boys here like working on a classic muscle car.”

Mike tries to maintain a professional work environment in the shop. “I teach them a work ethic so that they are ready to enter the job world. They are surprised that I insist on proper work clothes, and I have to keep explaining that they will be expected to dress properly wherever they are working.”

In addition to his students, Mike has another youngster whose future he hopes to guide. Nine months ago, he and wife, Amanda, welcomed their daughter, Heidi. Heidi has become a frequent visitor to the shop, where one corner houses her colorful toys.

Perhaps someday Heidi will join the increasing number of girls winning prizes in the Skills USA technical fields, by listening to the simple advice her father gives students every day: “They need to be ready to meet the expectations of their employers to be on time to work and to be persistent at their work all day,” Mike said.

When it comes to tomorrow’s tradesmen and women, Mike said his role is clear: “I want to help them find a direction in their lives.” **NOW**



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THERE IS ALWAYS TIME FOR MUSIC

— By Joan Kilbourne

Robert Horvath heard drum and guitar music in the Pentecostal church when he was 8 years old, and he wanted to play like them. "My mother bought me a beginner guitar that I still have," he said. "When I had practiced enough, they let me play with them because my acoustic guitar was not so loud that they could hear me if I made mistakes. And I did make them."



From left to right- David Dowd, Todd Jones, Allan Barnes, and Robert Horvath. (not present - Sissy Perry)



He became interested in gospel music, and he was on call to play at the First Baptist and Calvary Worship churches.

Robert's family first came to this area in 1899 to farm cotton on 2,000 acres in Cryer Creek, near Barry. "There are only two houses there where there used to be stores and a town," Robert said. He grew up in Corsicana and remembers visiting his grandparents at the farm. His wife, Jill, came to Texas with her parents as a young woman, and when her parents returned to the Middle West, she stayed. They have been together for 24 years.

A more accomplished guitar player when he was a teen, Robert met Alton Hurley, a singer who asked him to play lead guitar for him while he sang his honky-tonk music. "I kept getting groups together in high school, until five of us won the title at a state competition in San Antonio. We cheated a little, I guess," Robert smiled. "We had a nice looking girl singer, whose mother dressed her up in those little hot pants. Do you remember them? The guys in the audience all cheered every time she came

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on stage, and it worked out for us.”

Robert remembers when they met a singer named Tony Tollivara in San Antonio. Tony knew a recording engineer who asked him to bring “that band from Corsicana” and record something. “That was a pretty big deal for us to do a record. We went to the studio at 11:00 p.m. and played all night. Tony went on to be a professional in Nashville. He invited us to back him, but we were young and not ready to go for a full-out professional career.”

Robert had to juggle his passion for playing guitar with the need to work at other jobs. He had been working in construction when he saw a chance to do house moving work at the airbase in Austin. They needed to clear 300 houses from the property to build an airport. Robert met a retired house mover who showed him the basics, and a new career was launched. Robert’s dad was a trucker, and Robert had his CDL license while he was in high school, so he felt ready to try this new venture. His first job was on the Roy Rogers ranch where he had to cut a house into three pieces to move it away. Recently, he and his crew repaired the foundation and leveled the Halbert House and did the outside work to restore the balconies and porches. Robert is justly proud to drive by this beautifully restored house and see what he helped to accomplish.

Robert’s musical career began when he played with Randy Blue for 25 years. He



became interested in gospel music, and he was on call to play at the First Baptist and Calvary Worship churches. "The phrasing is different in gospel music," Robert said, "but I adapted and had fun with it." Robert recalled another fond memory saying, "Back when I was 18 and Zaneda Tally was my age, she used to drive around in her green car, singing, and I ignored her requests to listen to her sing. Then she got the band at the VFW hall to let her sing with them, and they told me, 'You have to hear her; she's great.' She was, and she began to sing with my band."

Robert remembers playing in clubs where fights were common. "It was all right with us when we were young. It was kind of exciting," he said. One time Robert got sick with chicken pox. His band was scheduled to perform, but many phone calls failed to turn up a substitute guitar player. "My face was covered with calamine lotion. I felt terrible, but I went with them, and I played bad," Robert said. "I was too sick to play the last set, and one of the group [members] had a hard time convincing the club owner to pay them." Then, one night, a customer jumped onto the stage and broke the neck of Robert's \$4,000 guitar. "We are careful now about where we choose to play," Robert said.

Robert has good memories, too. "I think the most fun I ever had was at a wedding where the bride had a typical American wedding ceremony that

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alternated with her husband's Persian ceremony. Our band played a set and then the Persian musicians played their music. Everyone danced and had a good time, and the guests were so appreciative of our music. We left at 1:00 a.m., and the dancing went on until 5:00 a.m."

Robert said he is with a band of experienced musicians now. "David Dowd plays bass, Allan Barnes plays drums, Todd Jones plays keyboards and is the lead singer and Sissy Perry can sing harmonies to anything we play." Their band, The Groove Tones, plays weddings,



reunions and festivals featuring music from the '60s and '70s, pop and rock, and they sprinkle in some from the '50s and '80s. "People want to hear the songs they remember," he said.

As a band, they like to keep it fun. Robert's favorite story about Todd happened on the drive to a job in East Texas when the group conspired to keep Todd, who had not slept the night before, from sleeping while they drove. Todd shook his head when he explained how that night, exhausted, he sang "Simple Man," a song with a wide vocal range, and he did it "the best I ever sang it."

In the 1980s, Robert built a recording studio and made tapes for local musicians. He sold the business when digital recording came in. "Later, I got digital equipment of my own and got back into a studio where I have isolation booths and good equipment," he said. "You need a good ear and good communication with the artists in that business. The musicians know what they want to do, and you have to help them get the sound they want." It's Robert's plan to spend all of his time now experiencing the joy of making music. **NOW**

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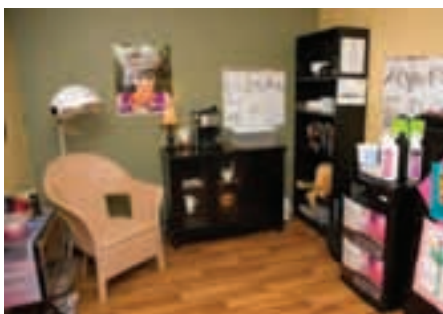
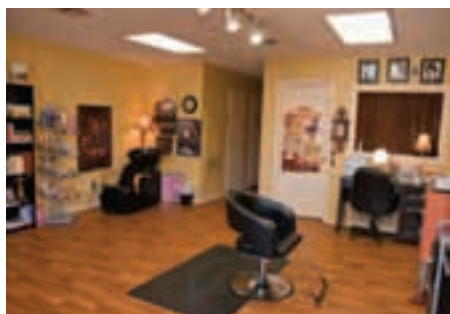


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Chanda Willis has created a hair spa with a peaceful, Italian theme.

Complete Leap of Faith

Chanda Willis fulfills her passion by making clients beautiful inside and out. — By Sandra Strong

After years of working for others, Chanda Willis, owner of Bellissimo Hair Spa, decided to take what she called a “complete leap of faith.” Just last month, she celebrated her one-year anniversary. Somehow, starting a business during the recession seemed like the right thing to do at the time. “It doesn’t seem to matter what’s going on in the world around us,” Chanda stated. “Women still want to look their best. When you look good, you feel better. Your confidence shows.”

Venturing out on her own means she is her own boss; she is able to make her own rules; and most importantly, she is able to offer the Christian atmosphere she was hoping for from the very beginning. “I wanted to create a place where clients could come to relax,” Chanda said. “The Italian theme within inspires

my creativity, while the Christian radio station and water fountain add to the overall peaceful ambience.”

Her goal has remained the same from the start — for her business to exude positivity. Her mantra could easily be, “Only positive thoughts.” “Honestly, I never think about the negatives that can come with owning your own business,” Chanda said. “I always know that God will take care of me. Like attracts like, so I look forward to the positive in every day while being the best I can be every day.”

Offerings at Bellissimo Hair Spa focus on hair care. “The spa is a luxurious, healthy spring for the hair,” Chanda said. “We offer a full line of loving things to care for the hair.” To build clientele over the past year, Chanda held several events that not

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only saved the client money, but grew Bellissimo Hair Spa's reputation and success within the community. "I've discounted prices on hair colors a time or two," she said, "and I also gave free haircuts for an entire day." Needless to say, many nights she goes home with sore hands and tired feet, but admits it's all worth it because she is living her passion.

There seems to be very little down time in Chanda's busy schedule. When she isn't at the spa her customary two to three days per week, she can be found in a variety of other places. Two days per week she teaches a cosmetology course at Navarro College. She also travels to Dallas on the weekends to promote her other business venture, Chanda's Wedding Hair & Makeup Craft. Her most recent goal is to utilize a room in the spa that is now empty. "I want to dedicate it to the inner client," she said, explaining



that she currently attends classes to become a certified yoga instructor. "The name of the practice is going to be Yoga for Jesus. I want to offer private lessons so my clients can be beautiful on the inside, too."

Chanda admitted that this venture into the world of business owners would not be possible without the support of her husband, Jonathan, and the unconditional love of their daughter, Canaan Cross. "I have to smile when I think of her," Chanda confessed. "She loves her name. She tells me all the time, 'Canaan stands for the land of milk and honey and Cross stands for Jesus.'" Today Chanda might say she has it all, and all it took was a complete leap of faith. **NOW**



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Carmen and Michael Macias stop by WalMart with their grandkids, Desirae, Cianna, Chris and Christasia.



Garrett and Colby Talbott enjoy a boat ride at Navarro Mills.



Carolyn and Nicky Andrews have lunch at Carpenters with their dog, Scooter.



Starlene Stringer, Ashley Caudle, Deborah Caudle and Cynthia Clawson are all smiles at the When Are We Going Home Ministry Leadership Conference.



Bill and Pam Gray enjoy a fish fry at the lake.

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Jason Taylor and Derrick Anderson enjoy a game of Blackjack at the Collins Catholic School Casino Night at Corsicana Country Club.



Vicki and Mark Barber join their son, Dylan, as the Groove Tunes have a benefit to support his fight against leukemia.



Linda Gober and Shirley Nussbaum smile for the camera at the closing reception of the Western Artists of America Exhibit at the Pearce Museum.



David Thomas, Monica Martinez, Barbara Jennings, Tom Ross and Jack Vaughn show off Collin Street Bakery's fruitcake.

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Prediabetes means that a person exhibits the risk factors for developing diabetes: being overweight or obese and exhibiting elevated blood glucose levels. If you are at 45 years old or older, overweight and inactive, your doctor may recommend a test for prediabetes. If you're under 45, it's a good idea to be tested if you have other risk factors: low levels of HDL cholesterol, high triglycerides, high blood pressure or a family

history of diabetes, or you're a member of an ethnic group with increased risk (African-American, American Indian, Asian-American, Hispanic or Pacific Islander).

A prediabetes diagnosis doesn't mean diabetes is inevitable; in fact, it can be a valuable wakeup call. By making changes in nutrition and lifestyle habits — even if you already are prediabetic — you can actually reverse the disease and put off developing full-blown diabetes. In some cases, you can prevent diabetes entirely.

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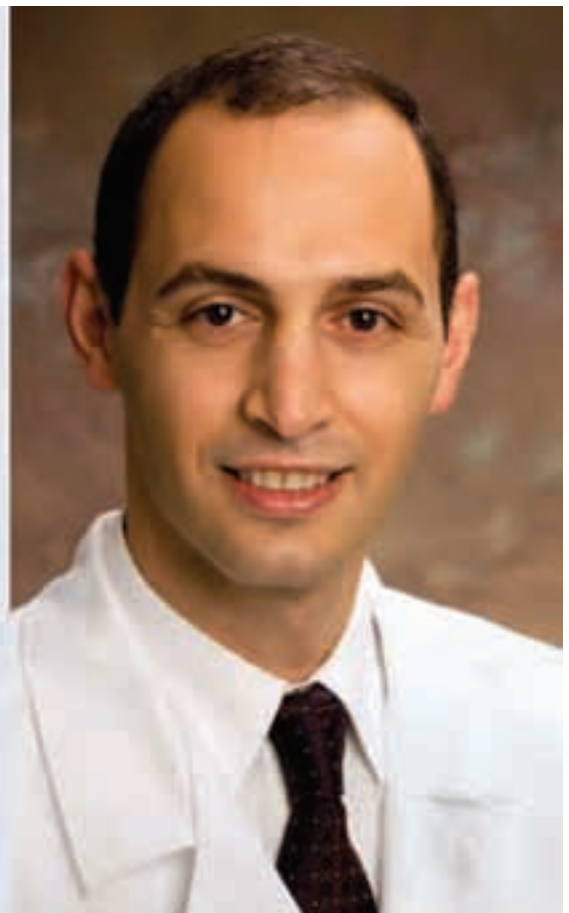
Dr. Al-Housseini, the newest member of our team, provides a full range of obstetric and gynecological care. Compassionate and dedicated, Dr. Ali is your partner in health. Dr. Ali's wealth of experience includes time as a faculty member at Emory University, where he conducted award-winning research, and was published in *The American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*. We're delighted to welcome him to Navarro County.

Dr. Al-Housseini is accepting new patients.
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Blooming Time for Bulbs

— By Nancy Fenton

All over our area, you will find blooms. Our state bluebonnets are lovely, but not too common in the urban areas. Narcissus, daffodils and tulips are much more common. They are fun bulbs, but take planning ahead since we have to plant them in the fall in North Texas. Most years, we don't have the long cold seasons a great many bulbs require. There are several varieties that do well and naturalize here (come back stronger each year). White Flower Farms has a Web site listing varieties, the zones in which they do well and if they will naturalize. Ice Follies are one variety of narcissus that is commonly available in local outlets.

As for tulips, I have been known to put them in the same boat as azaleas — plant once, enjoy and throw away — but I'm learning every day. Through a Master Gardener class on bulbs, I discovered what is called the "Species" variety of tulips. These varieties are originally from the Mediterranean, Asia Minor and the Caucasus. They are not planted quite as deep as others, and they come up year after year. They aren't as large as many tulips, but do well in our hardy clay soils. I am ordering them for planting this fall and will let you know how they do! If you order, be sure and check the zone. We are in zone 7b, but I usually look for zone 8 to be on the safe side.

Our other big bloomer is the iris. There are lots of them



around, and they are all beautiful. You can make your own iris garden any time of year. Unlike tulips and narcissus, they aren't particular about when or where they are planted. Just give them a chance, and they'll make it. They do better in a mostly sunny area and planted shallowly so the rhizome has some sun. In planning a bed, watch the amount of shade, as well as the drainage. Irises can't take wet feet happily. Put the short ones in front with the taller ones staggered back, and be ready to thin them every three to four years. These are great plants to share.

You really can't plant much on top of irises, but narcissus and daffodils are planted deeply enough to accommodate shallow rooted plants. Try some. They will cover fading foliage as the weather heats up.

Enjoy the spring blooms and spot out places to plant your bulbs next fall. For other questions, call the Master Gardeners at the Ellis County AgriLife office at (972) 825-5175. **NOW**



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Is a Rollover in Your Future?

— By Lynda Housley

Have you recently left one employer to begin working for another? Were you covered by an employer-sponsored retirement plan, such as a 401(k)? If so, you may be wondering about the future of your account.

In the event of a job change, there are many options available to you regarding your employer-sponsored retirement account assets. The options you have will depend on the provisions of your former employer's plan. Sometimes, your money can stay in the plan with your previous employer until you reach a specific age, and you then can begin taking withdrawals without a tax penalty.

Remaining with your old plan may have drawbacks. Sometimes, fees are charged to former employees to offset managing the account. A minimum asset balance may also be required. Other times you must take your money out when you terminate employment. You should contact the Human Resources department or benefits counselor of your former employer to determine your options. If you withdraw plan assets, you may need to find another funding vehicle.

Transferring the balance of the assets in your previous employer's tax-qualified account to a plan sponsored by your new employer may be an option. This can be done without paying taxes if the money goes directly to the new account (known as a direct rollover). However, your new employer may not allow a rollover, thus you will need to look at further options.

One choice to consider is rolling the balance of your account to a Traditional Individual Retirement Arrangement (IRA). With this choice, you are able to control the investment options within the IRA. You can also avoid the need to make a further rollover if you change jobs again. Rolling your 401(k) assets into a Traditional IRA can be costly if not done correctly. If you take a withdrawal, the trustee of your old plan must withhold 20 percent of the money for federal income tax purposes. You have 60 days to roll the distribution to a new qualified retirement vehicle if you do take a withdrawal. The 20-percent withholding



will count as a distribution if you do not roll over that amount to an IRA or other qualified plan. A 10-percent tax penalty will usually apply if you are under age 59 1/2 and you don't roll the entire amount into an IRA or other qualified plan.

In order to avoid the 20-percent federal income tax withholding, a direct rollover should be considered. The assets of your employer-sponsored plan are transferred directly from your former employer's plan to a Traditional IRA or other qualified plan. You don't touch the money, and neither does the government. Your assets can grow tax-deferred until you begin withdrawals.

Once you determine where you want the money to go, the IRA custodian can request the money from your employer-sponsored plan in the form of a check or wire transfer.

Your current IRA contributions are not affected by a rollover. You may contribute the allowable limit to an IRA even after rolling a substantial amount from your previous plan.

With so many choices available, it may be in your best interests to discuss a Traditional IRA rollover with a financial professional. You have some options. Take advantage of one with which you are comfortable. **NOW**

Lynda Housley is a State Farm agent based in Corsicana.

Happy Easter!

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Calendar

APRIL 2011

April 1-16

"Native American Skies" Fridays and Saturdays: 3:00 p.m., Cook Center Planetarium.

April 5

Micronesian Festival: All day event, Clock Tower Courtyard, Navarro College. Call (903) 875-7481.

April 7-16

Grandest Canyon: Warehouse Living Arts Center, 119 W. 6th Avenue. Call (903) 872-5421 for ticket and performance times for this hilarious comedy.

April 8

Ronnie Milsap in concert: 7:30 p.m., The Palace Theater, 110 W. 6th Avenue. Contact: (903) 874-7792 or corpaplace@sbcglobal.net.

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 with bingo to follow. Call (903) 654-6800

April 9

Living History Day: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Pearce Civil War & Art Museum, Cook Center. Re-enactment of the Civil War in honor of the war's sesquicentennial anniversary. Free admission to the museum.

April 12

Firing on Fort Sumter Reception: 6:30 p.m.,

Pearce Civil War & Art Museum, Cook Center. Dr. Tommy Stringer will talk about the events that brought the nation to the beginning of the Civil War.

April 16

Healthy Kids Day: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., IOOF Park (45th Street and State Highway 22). Sponsored by the Corsicana YMCA and VOICE. Event is free for children and their families. Activities include bounce houses and games. Free hot dogs and giveaways for everyone. Contact: VOICE at (903) 872-0180 or Corsicana YMCA at (903) 872-2412.

Bogeys for Bears: 1:00 p.m., Corsicana Country Club. 2nd Annual Golf and Bunco Tournament sponsored by James L. Collins Catholic School. Contact (903) 654-2838 or bogeysforbears@hotmail.com.

April 21

Corsicana High School Choral Spring Concert: 6:30 p.m., CHS Auditorium.

April 22

Berry Dodge Rodeo: 7:00 p.m., Navarro County Youth Expo Center. Call (877) 324-0859.

April 24

Holy Week 2011: 8:00 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service, 11:00 a.m. Easter Service and Communion,

Westminster Presbyterian Church.

April 27

Lunch in the Park: Pocket Park, 120 N. Beaton Street. Live entertainment, free hot dogs and drinks.

April 28

7th Annual VOICE Spring Luncheon: 11:30 a.m., Cook Center, Navarro College. Speaker: humorist, motivational speaker and author Sally Baskey. Call Gina Dieterichs at (903) 872-0180.

Mystery Art in Tuckertown: 5:30 p.m., Warehouse Living Arts Center, 119 W. 6th Avenue. Free fundraising event. Bid on the art. Benefits Navarro Council of the Arts and VOICE's programs for the children of Navarro County. Call (903) 872-0180 or visit gdieterichs@voiceinc.org.


April 29

Annual Derrick Days Celebration Lefty Frizzell Tribute Concert starring Dale Watson: 7:30 p.m., W. 6th Avenue by The Palace Theater. Music and fireworks at intermission.

April 30

Annual Derrick Days Celebration: Parade: 9: a.m., downtown historic district.

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 Liz Perez

— *By Joan Kilbourne*

Lizabeth Perez was born and reared in Mexico City where she graduated from the National Polytechnic Institute as a nutritionist. During her studies, she discovered a passion for cooking, including calculating nutritive values and combining foods to create healthy menus.

The different colors and flavors of food woke her enjoyment of creative cooking. She creates wonderful pastries from traditional family recipes, which she shares not only with her family, but also with the customers who have come to anticipate wonderful treats during the manicure and pedicure parties at Downtown Salon and Spa. Liz and her husband, Rafael Perez, and their sons, Carlos and Alex, have lived in Corsicana for seven years. **NOW**

Beef Rolls

- 1 1/2 lbs. ground beef**
- 1/2 cup raisins**
- 1/2 cup seedless olives, chopped**
- 1/2 cup chopped onions**
- 2 egg yolks**
- 1/2 cup ground turkey**
- 1/4 cup chopped, uncooked bacon**
- 1 Tbsp. parsley**
- 1/2 cup bread crumbs**
- 2 chopped garlic cloves**
- Salt, to taste**
- Pepper, to taste**
- 10 hardboiled eggs**

- 1.** Mix all the ingredients, except eggs, with ground beef.
- 2.** Spread mixture on a sheet of aluminum foil; using a rolling pin, flatten beef until 1/2-inch thick.
- 3.** Place whole, shelled hardboiled eggs in the middle of the beef next to each other and roll the beef around the eggs to make a roll.
- 4.** Cover the roll with aluminum foil, and place roll in a large pot. Cover with salted,

hot water.

- 5.** Cook for 45-50 minutes.
- 6.** When done, remove roll from pan and place on a serving dish; remove aluminum foil and slice. Serve with a salad.

Green Salsa

- 10 medium green tomatoes**
- 2 Serrano peppers**
- 1/2 medium white onion**
- 2 cloves garlic**
- 1 cup cilantro leaves**
- 1/2 tsp. salt**

- 1.** Wash off all the vegetables.
- 2.** Boil the green tomatoes and Serrano peppers for 5 minutes after water begins to boil.
- 3.** Drain the water. Pour the tomatoes and peppers in an electric blender.
- 4.** Add the remaining ingredients to the blender and mix thoroughly.
- 5.** Salsa can be used for enchiladas, tacos, burritos, or it can be enjoyed as a dip with chips. If you like it spicier, just add more Serrano peppers.

Cherry Bread

- 1 cup sugar**
- 8 oz. butter at room temperature**
- 4 eggs**
- 1 1/2 cups flour**
- 1/2 Tbsp. salt**
- 1/8 Tbsp. nutmeg**
- 1 Tbsp. vanilla extract**
- 1 Tbsp. almond extract**
- 1/2 cup pecans**
- 28 maraschino cherries**
- 1/2 cup cherry juice**

- 1.** Preheat oven to 350 F.
- 2.** Spray pan with cooking spray.
- 3.** Blend sugar and butter with a mixer, until the mix looks white.
- 4.** Add eggs, one by one.
- 5.** Add flour and continue mixing.
- 6.** Add remaining ingredients and mix well.
- 7.** Pour batter into prepared pan and bake for 45 minutes.

Corn Bread

- 8 Tbsp. melted butter**
- 4 eggs**
- 4 cups maize (corn meal)**
- 1 Tbsp. baking powder**
- 1/4 cup milk**
- 1 cup condensed milk**

- 1.** Preheat oven to 350 F.
- 2.** Whisk together all the ingredients very well.
- 3.** Pour into a bread pan sprayed with cooking spray.
- 4.** Cook for 45 minutes, until bread is crispy on top.

Avocado Dip

- 2 avocados**
- 1/2 onion**
- 1 8-oz. bar cream cheese**
- 1/2 cup cilantro**
- 2 green peppers**
- 1/2 cup sour cream**
- Salt, to taste**
- Pepper, to taste**
- Cut-up vegetables of your preference**

- 1.** Blend all ingredients.
- 2.** Serve with tortilla chips or raw vegetables cut into strips.

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