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MAGAZINE

May 2009

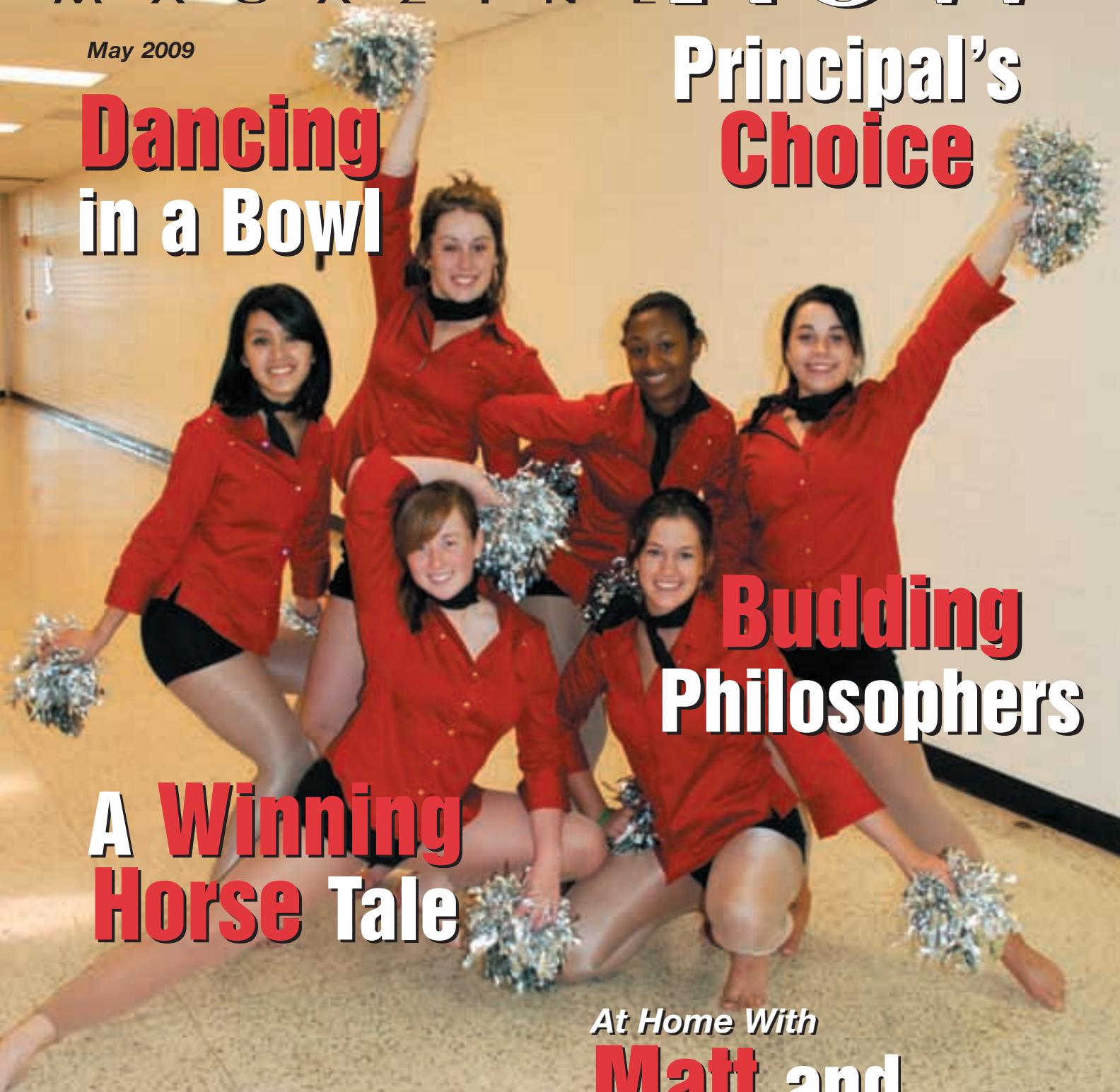
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**Ryan Douglas**  
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**Don't wait until the October 15, 2009** — Extension deadline to get your income tax prepared, because the extension only extends the time to file, not the time for payment.

**\*\*2009 Stimulus aka Making Work Pay Credit** — In tax years 2009 and 2010, the Making Work Pay provision will provide a refundable credit of up to \$400 for working individuals and up to \$800 for couples filing jointly. (This credit is phased out for higher income earners.) Typically, employers will handle the credit through a decreased amount of income tax withheld out of paychecks, resulting in higher tax home pay. Self-employed taxpayers can claim the credit on their 2009 returns.

**Social security recipients should receive \$250 per recipient from the Social Security Administration.**

**\*\*Expanded first-time homebuyer's credit** — The new tax act expanded the first-time homebuyers credit by increasing the credit amount to \$8,000, which does not have to be repaid unless the home ceases to be the taxpayer's main residence within a three-year period following the purchase and so long as the house is purchased by December 1, 2009.

**\*\*Tax deadlines for May** — Franchise tax returns are due by May 15, 2009 for all entities with any kind of limited liability, such as corporations, LLCs, LPs, LLPs, etc. Form 990 is due for most exempt organizations by May 15, 2009.



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*Photo by Terri Ozmy.*

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*CorsicanaNOW* is a NOW Magazines, L.L.C. publication. Copyright © 2009. All rights reserved. *CorsicanaNOW* is published monthly and individually mailed free of charge to residents in Navarro County. Our office is located at 200 N. 13th St., Suite 107 in downtown Corsicana.

Subscriptions are available at the rate of \$35 per year or \$3.50 per issue. Subscriptions should be sent to: NOW Magazines, P.O. Box 1071, Waxahachie, TX 75168. For advertising rates or editorial correspondence, call (903) 875-0187 or visit [www.nowmagazines.com](http://www.nowmagazines.com).

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## Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

Can you believe the year is almost half over and summer is just about upon us? Prom has come and gone, but the excitement for the year is just beginning.

Graduation is June 5 this year. Congratulations to all you seniors! May will be filled with parties, college applications and preparation for the next step in life, so take this time to enjoy your friends and family with the activities going on around town.

The Cancer Relay for Life Walk will be held May 15 and 16 in the community park by the YMCA. Register your team today. Also, the Corsicana Municipal Airport will be hosting its annual "Fly In." It will be a lot of fun for the whole family.

Do not forget to check out our calendar for activities going on around town. If you have a great idea for a story and want to see it in print, please feel free to contact me. If you need assistance with advertising, please call (903) 875-0187.

Samantha Daviss

CorsicanaNOW Editor

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*Dr. Todd Kirk poses with the current members of the Phi Rho Tau Philosophical Honor Society.*

# Budding Philosophers

— By Joan Kilbourne

Describing Navarro College students, Todd Kirk, Ph.D., said, "This is a generation of creative thinkers. They are passionate about life." Dr. Kirk, Associate Professor of Psychology, is the faculty sponsor and devoted mentor of the Phi Rho Tau Philosophical Honor Society. Phi Rho Tau was founded two years ago to "fill a void in the community college system by offering a real functioning and rigorous honors society dedicated to philosophy."

The society began to take shape in April 2007. Some students were meeting informally to discuss what they were learning in their philosophy classes. Then, one day, Whitney Brazell, Jonathan Broadfoot, Jason Holden, Josh Jones, Abby Priest, Kate Sanders, Michael Simpson and Phil Smith approached Dr. Kirk about creating some way to reach out to other students who might want to join in the discussions. "I look for ways to support [the students'] individual opinions, and



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I encourage them to look for information from varied sources," Dr. Kirk said. "I don't know exactly whose idea it was, but we began to explore the idea of a discipline-specific honors society." There are national

**"Discussion is only productive when civility is the rule."**

honor societies that recognize general academic achievement, but Phi Rho Tau was specifically designed to support students of philosophy.

Dr. Kirk advised the group that to secure official standing with the college, they would have to create a charter, decide on bylaws and set standards for membership in the society. The students worked together to establish a foundation for the society, deciding that members

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would be formally inducted into the group. They determined that continuing membership would require that a student attend a forum meeting at least once a month, be enrolled in a college level philosophy course, maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.25 and that they would engage in discussions in a polite and respectful manner. This last requirement is a result of Dr. Kirk's belief that, "Discussion is only productive when civility is the rule."

The students adopted the motto, "An unexamined life is not worth

## "An unexamined life is not worth living."

living." They also designed an official seal that appears on the medal worn by the officers at graduation. Other members signify their association with Phi Rho Tau by wearing a burgundy and gold cord over the academic regalia. According to the bylaws, "The official seal is a seven-sided figure with a symbol in each corner representing each of the seven of the world's great philosophical traditions. The seven traditions are Anglo-Saxon, Greek, Chinese, Hindu, Roman, Hebrew and Arabic. The number '7' is itself symbolic of wisdom, perfection and the pursuit of truth."

The Phi Rho Tau bylaws anticipate the future growth of the society by setting out the process and requirements that students on another campus will follow to associate themselves with the original chapter at Navarro College. Dr. Kirk did extensive research, hoping to find a model for the expansion of the newly created society. "I found campus clubs that are typically organized around a service," he said, "but I found nothing that looked like the model I intended to create at Navarro College."

His vision for Phi Rho Tau focused on an organization that encouraged students to explore intellectual pursuits.

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With no models available to guide him, he set about creating his own plan to expand the society. He began by creating chapters on other Navarro College campuses in Mexia, Ennis, Waxahachie and Midlothian. "Each campus would sponsor its own discussion meetings and maintain its own membership," he said. "Some joint events and ceremonies were also organized."

Other two-year schools in the area would also be invited to join the Phi Rho Tau when its presence was established in the county. What distinguishes Phi Rho Tau from other single campus organizations is the ambition of its sponsors and members to develop chapters on other campuses across the state and eventually the

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nation. "It's a long road to travel to national recognition," Dr. Kirk said, "but if enthusiasm and determination get the job done, this will happen."

On the Corsicana campus, Phi Rho Tau makes itself visible through e-mails sent to students, and it advertises its goals on its Web site at [www.phirhotau.4t.com](http://www.phirhotau.4t.com). On the Web site, the society is introduced as "one of the first two-year [college] philosophy honors programs. We seek to help philosophy students excel in their field and hone their minds as well as facilitate entry into Phi Sigma Tau and other relevant four year national programs." On this site, students can learn about the weekly forum meetings to which non-member students, faculty and the public are invited. A topic is chosen for the first hour of each weekly meeting. The administrative meeting for members follows the discussion period. One recent discussion topic was about

Mrs. Portillo

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string theory in quantum physics and another topic focused on intelligent design. Challenging subjects like these engage students who are, as Dr. Kirk said, "passionate about life." Learning to express ideas and listen with respect to the ideas of others is an important part of learning to be part of the "generation of creative thinkers."

The Phi Rho Tau charter includes a statement that recognizes the importance of ongoing faculty involvement and sponsorship. The charter states: "Inevitably, the active ranks each year will be depleted by graduation and transfers to four-year colleges. This fact emphasizes the importance of having an interested faculty advisor/sponsor who will serve as guardian of the chapter ... to mentor the incoming officers." Dr. Kirk fulfills this requirement with energy and enthusiasm.

Dr. Kirk's family lived on the east side of Fort Worth. He earned his Ed.D. degree in psychology and then studied for a master's degree at Texas Christian University. He married and moved to Alabama and later to New Mexico. "In response to the 400 million résumés I sent out, I was invited to teach at Midland. Texas Tech in Lubbock was nearby, so I decided I might as well pursue a doctorate degree. Both my dissertation and my child were born there in 2003," he said. "When that was accomplished, I wanted to return here where my brothers and their families live."

The eight founding student members of Phi Rho Tau Philosophical Honor Society have already moved on to study at other colleges and universities. One outcome of membership in this honor society is an enhanced résumé that accompanies a student's application for admission to a four-year school. In addition, students have useful experience participating in the discussion meetings, which prepares them to participate with civility and thoughtfulness in upper level classroom discussions. Nine students are currently preparing to follow in the founders' footsteps. **NOW**

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# Cottage *Life*

By Samantha Daviss

## At Home With Matt and Carie Judson



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16

When you envision the quintessential cottage, you probably imagine a house much like the one Matt and Carie Judson and their son, Charlie, call home. The three-bedroom, two-bath, 2,600 square foot house looks as if it were lifted from the island of Nantucket, just off the coastline of Boston, Massachusetts, and dropped into the heart of Corsicana, Texas. The light grey wooden exterior is accented with white trim around the roofline, and the windows and the bright red front door act as the primary focal point of the entire picturesque setting.

"My favorite aspect of this house is its coziness. The house



CorsicanaNOW May 2009



was built before World War II — I believe in the late 1920s, and the front end of the house still has all of the original hardwood floors,” Carie said, pointing out the pristinely kept oak flooring that looks almost new. “The original owner, Harry Burke, loved this house, and it is said from family members that he held some wonderful gatherings in this house,” Carie added with a smile.

Entering the front door, you are greeted with a warm and inviting formal living room filled with the modern day conveniences of an oversized coach and two cozy chairs that invite guests to kick off their shoes and stay a while. “This floor plan was actually a Betty Crocker floor plan, when those were available



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in the '20s," Carie stated, explaining the cottage-like design of the home. Many of the previous owner's additions, such as the gorgeous leaded-glass display cases, remain unchanged since the Judsons purchased the home in March 2006. Pointing out a wooden window seat just below the original stained glass windows, Carie said, "My wonderful mother-in-law, Darlene Judson, came up with the idea to add the window

seat. She came up with the idea to put a drawer in the seat, rather than a lid that lifts, for better, more organized storage purposes. The only thing we really did in here was update some of the wall colors and treatments."

The back half of the great room acts as the Judsons formal dining area, filled with some of Carie's prized possessions, such as the gorgeous hand-carved dark oak blanket chest. "Matt gave this to



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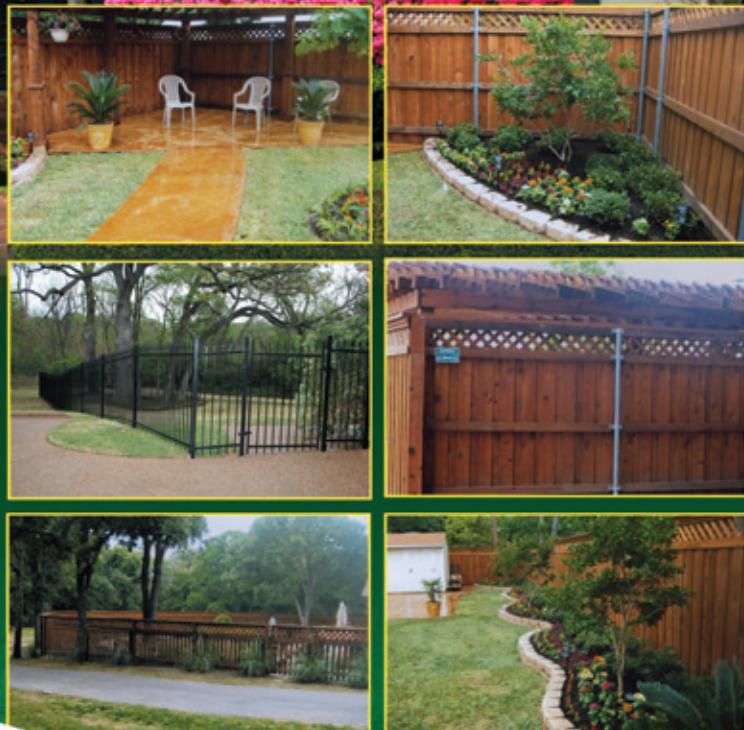
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me for our wedding gift [in July 2005]. I absolutely love it, and it is one of my most favorite pieces in the house," Carie said.

Just off the side of the living room is a quaint hallway with original hardwood flooring that leads to their son's room and to their master suite. They are all lucky enough to enjoy the gorgeous and serene master bath, complete with a walk-in shower and unbelievably oversized garden tub, added on

by the previous owners with the extension of an exterior wall. The bathroom itself combines warm soothing hues and a small, crystal chandelier, offering the perfect ambience needed to relax after a hard day's work.



Guests who climb the front staircase quickly realize that the size and structure of the house offers the amazing history of a home from the 1920s. Obviously, the stature of people has changed over the past few decades, as the steps are incredibly steep and narrow. The room

waiting at the top of the staircase is the perfect guest room, complete with a full-size bath and another wonderful garden tub, not nearly as decadent as the master bath's tub, but delightful just the same.

The interesting history of the house is also expressed in another unusual way. "Another aspect I love about this house is all the storage. You wouldn't know it was there, but there are a lot of hidden doors in the walls," Carie said, pointing out a discrete

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angled door in the back corner of their family room.

Toward the rear of the house is Carie's haven — the kitchen. "I really like to cook. We eat in pretty much every night, so I really get good use out of our kitchen," Carie said, showing off her up-to-date kitchen, complete with a mobile center island, perfect for serving food or storing appliances. "I really like my Toby collection," Carie shared, pointing out her various sized Tobys

that line the vertical shelves around her kitchen sink. "I am always searching online for small antique items like this. I can usually find some really great deals, although Darlene and I did head to England a couple years ago. We found some pretty great deals there, too," she smiled. "But sometimes, I just wander around downtown Corsicana in the various shops, and I have just been lucky enough to hit them at the right time to get some great

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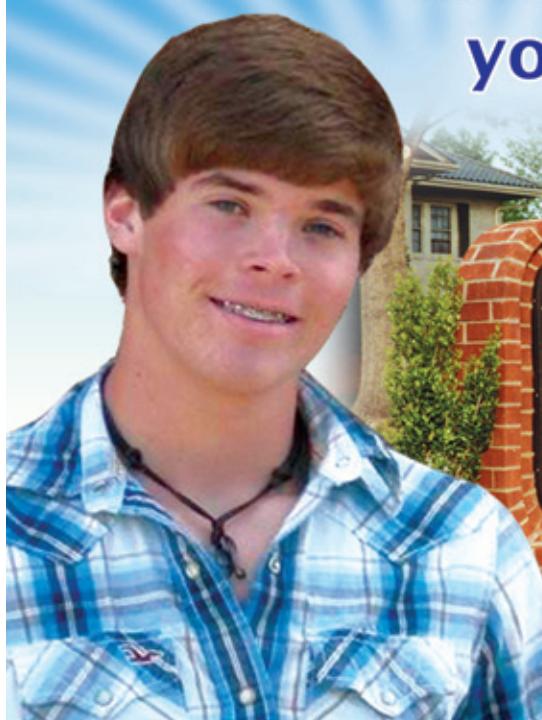
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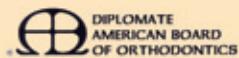
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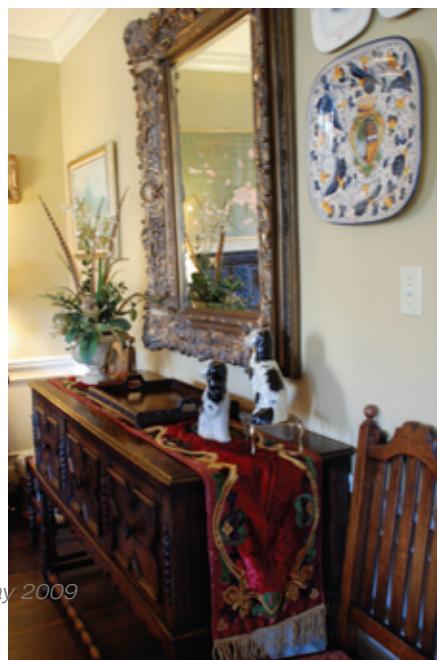
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Just through the kitchen's archway is the wonderfully open and airy breakfast area, large enough for the couple to sit and enjoy their morning coffee while Charlie completes his breakfast of choice in his high chair. "This is probably my favorite room in the house," Matt shared. "I can see into the front room and the backyard, to see our two Jack Russell Terriers [Arby and Lucy]."

The family room, a few paces from the breakfast area, is definitely the pulse of the home, filled with two comfortable chairs, a flat screen television and an inviting over-sized couch. "We found all of this wonderful Spanish tile under the carpet that was here," Matt said. "After I pulled it all up, we discovered that when the tile was laid, a dog must have run through here, because there are a few paw prints in concrete,





that sit on top of the tile," he explained, pointing out two very small paw prints now hidden by an area rug. "This is the room we spend most of our time in," Carie said. "Other than tearing out the carpet, we put the 'library style' wallpaper in the bar, and that is about all we did to this room."

"My favorite room in the house is right out here," Matt stated, leading the way to an apartment-style room, separate from the main house and



accessible by a staircase leading from the interior of the garage. "I get to go up here and watch TV, or do whatever guys do."

Throughout the house, Carie's love of antiques from around the world is reflected and gorgeous photos and portraits of their friends and family are displayed. The Judsons have created a wonderfully inviting home while keeping the focus on what is most important to them, and that is family. **NOW**

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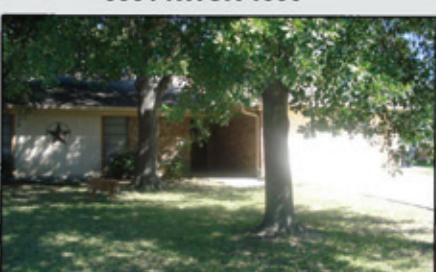
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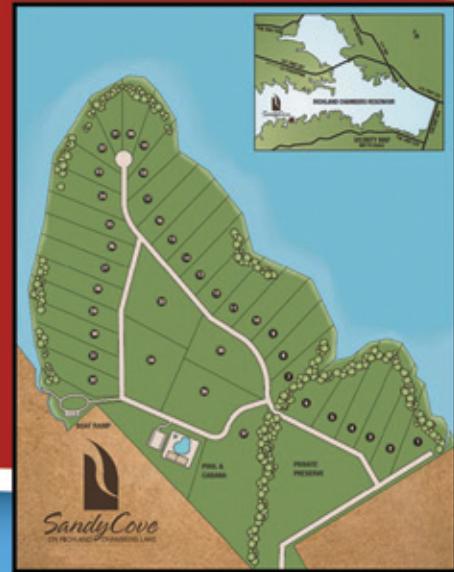


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# Dancing in a Bowl

— By Samantha Daviss

The 2008-2009 Corsicana High School Calicos dance squad officers had the opportunity to perform at the Capital One Bowl game.



For some people, dancing is a seemingly effortless God-given talent, while others have unfortunately been blessed with two left feet. For Kara Guinn and her talented, energetic Corsicana High School Calicos dance squad, dancing is something they have all worked extremely hard to perfect.

Before Kara took the Calico squad over in 1991, she directed the squad at Pine Tree High School in the Pine Tree Independent School District and taught economics for five years. She then moved to the Longview Independent School District where she helped restructure the dance department at Longview High School, so it is obvious that Kara is no stranger to the world of dance and competition. "I started dancing when I was very young," she shared. "Even though I did cheer until my ninth-grade year in high school, I quickly switched to dance." Dancing carried her through to college, first as a world famous Kilgore College Rangerette, and then on to Stephen F. Austin University, where a

dance scholarship enabled her to pursue her Bachelor of Arts in education with specialized certifications in dance, history and social studies.

Kara is a believer in hard work and dedication, a message she sends to her girls both on the field during competition and in life. "I expect my girls to act like ladies, with respect and decency for other squads while at competition or performing on the field, and I receive nothing but the best from them," Kara stated.

Becoming and remaining a Calico requires professionalism and precision, both in a student's dancing and in their personal presence. "Some of the girls that come to me have never danced before. On average, I would say about 95 percent of them have never danced before, but they all work so hard," Kara explained. "We hold tryouts in December, then we always go to camp [American Drill Team School] in the summertime, where the girls practice and learn new routines. There they can also receive

the All-American title." This year at camp, there were several Calicos selected for the All-American team, and the reward for their hard work and dedication was to perform at the Capital One Bowl in Orlando, Florida, on New Year's Day 2009. "I made the decision to allow my officers to perform in the Bowl game, rather than all the girls that had been selected," Kara explained. "We try to have an officer trip once a year, and this was the perfect opportunity."

The preparation for the bowl game was fairly intense and required a lot of dedication and hard work from the girls. "They were required to learn four different dances off a DVD that was sent



to them by the ESP Production company through the American Drill Team School," Kara explained. "In addition to learning the routines, they still had to make time for school and raise money to attend the bowl game, which was \$1,500 per girl."

The girls took it upon themselves to stretch their limitations and imaginations in order to earn the needed money. They sold barbecue sandwiches, waited tables



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at Italian Village for tips, offered dance clinics throughout the year to younger girls hoping to one day become a Calico, sold candles and participated in a number of various other fundraisers. They persevered and really showed their true colors in order to raise enough money to perform at the Capital One Bowl game.

"We arrived in Florida on December 27, where they had to quickly learn to work with 400 other girls and learn the entire halftime routine together," Kara said. "I was personally in charge of the front right squad on the field, which included my girls, to learn their portion of the routine and my squad was selected to be filmed during the halftime show for national television exposure. I was extremely proud of my girls during the entire process; they conducted themselves in a very mature manner," Kara gleamed.

The world of a college bowl game was very intimidating and overwhelming to the girls, but it was a definite positive, eye-opening experience as well. Not only did they get to see college life firsthand, but they also learned to work with and accept 400 other girls' styles of dancing and personalities. The trip was a success for the girls on multiple levels, both personally and professionally. "I felt that maybe it introduced a world to the girls that some of them might not have been considering, and that is the world of college life after high school," Kara stated. "But it wasn't all work; the girls were able to have some fun, too. We went to Walt Disney World one day and Universal Studios another."

With all of the activities and goings on with the Calicos year-round, Kara is definitely a very busy woman. Speaking with pride for her team of girls, she said, "I feel like this is my place to be — that is why I am here. I am constantly learning from the girls, so I have to keep an open mind." **NOW**

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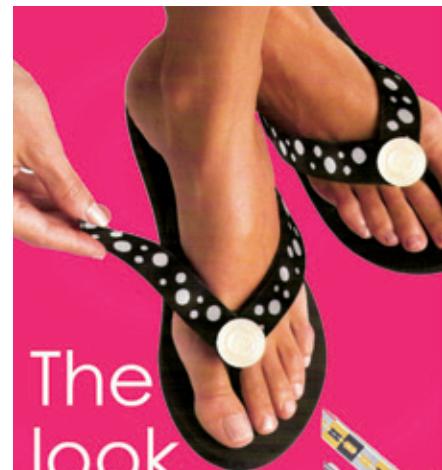
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# A Winning Horse Tale

— By Joan Kilbourne

Cutting is an equestrian event in the western riding style where a horse and rider are judged on their ability to separate a calf from a cattle herd and keep it away for a short period of time. The sport originally evolved from cattle ranches in the American West, where it was the cutting horse's job to separate cows from the herd for vaccinating, castrating and sorting.

Joe Robinson already knew a lot about horses. For 16 years, he and his twin brother, Jeff, raised foundation horses. He studied horse bloodlines and chose which of his 78 mares and studs were to be paired for the next breeding. Two years ago, he decided to find out more about the sport of cutting.

Joe was referred to the training facility

of Casey Crouch, a horse trainer who rides in competitive events in the pro division along with his wife, Chelsa. Joe was hooked on the sport after one lesson and asked Casey to find a cutting horse he could ride in competition. A talented cutting horse instinctively knows how to cut a calf from the heard and keep it from returning. Casey had recently acquired such a horse — a 10-year-old gelding called Captains Choice. It was smaller than most quarter horses, but its dam (mother) was a talented horse Casey had ridden in competition. Joe bought Captains Choice and began to train with Casey.

"Captains Choice is the smallest horse I have ever ridden. When he bends to cut a cow, I get dirt in the

stirrups," Joe said. "A good trainer like Casey helps by noticing little things and pointing out how to change what you do. He helps you fine-tune the way you move in the saddle to get out of the horse's way so he can do what he needs to do."

In a cutting event, the horse and rider select and separate a calf out of a small group. "It's a different way of riding, and I had to unlearn some habits," Joe shared. When the calf tries to return to its herdmates, the rider must loosen the reins — put his hand down — and leave it entirely up to the horse to keep the calf separated, a job the best horses do with savvy and style.

A contestant has two-and-a-half minutes to show his horse. Typically,



three cows are cut during a run. A judge awards points to the cutter based on a scale ranging from 60 to 80, with 70 being considered average. Choosing a "good" cow is important. "I try to pick a fresh cow," Joe explained. "I want a cow that hasn't been worked by riders who rode before my turn. You don't want to pick some sorry cow that is nervous and moving too much. It will run smooth over you. You can be a champion rider and have a champion horse and some sorry cow can make you look like a novice." Sometimes, the rider is not in charge of choosing a good cow. "My wife, Stacey, rides in cutting events, too, and her horse, Marie, has a lot of competition experience. Marie picks the cow," Joe added.

Cutting is one of the fastest growing equine sports in the world. In 1946, the National Cutting Horse Association (NCHA) was formed, which today is the governing body of the sport. Total purses at NCHA-approved shows now exceed \$39 million annually. "There are events every day of the year except Christmas," Joe said. "We ride at weekend events in Texas, even when they take place on holidays." One Valentine's Day became memorable when Joe spotted a loose diamond lying on the pavement in the parking lot outside the arena. It made a fine Valentine's gift for his wife.

Joe bought Captains Choice in February 2008, two months after the show season started. Joe and Casey did not discuss winning a World Championship title because they had missed so many critical shows, but started showing Captains to see what would happen. By November 23, 2008, the last day of the NCHA show season, Captains Choice had gained enough ground in the world standings that he was sitting second going into the World Finals held in Amarillo in 2009.

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30 of the top horses and riders from the United States and three other countries competing for over \$250,000 in prize money. Casey and Captains placed second in two out of the three go-rounds and NBSP, winning enough money to cinch the NCHA Reserve World Champion title and the World Champion Gelding Horse title. Joe also showed a mare named Ima Mauvelus Pistol, owned by Casey and Chelsa Crouch, to finish his 2008 season eighth in the NCHA World Standings.

Only one month later, Casey and Captains competed at the 2009 Eastern National Championships held in Jackson, Mississippi, where they won two classes, an accomplishment that no other horse and rider combination has ever achieved. There are 11 classes held at the Eastern National Finals and over 1,000 entries over the two-week period that the show runs. Casey and Captains had the highest-marking score by 4 points over any other horse and rider at Nationals. However, Casey and Captains were not the only ones who did well at Finals. Stacey also showed at the Eastern Nationals and had an awesome rookie finish, bringing home a Top 10 National Champion buckle and Chelsa finished in the Top 15.

To date, Captains Choice has won over \$73,000, and in one year's time, has won two saddles, four bronzes and numerous buckles. Joe and Stacey continue to show cutting horses and have gone from one cutting horse to five.

Every year, the NCHA approves more than 2,200 shows in every state and in 22 other countries. "We're on the road a lot the first three months of the year. This is the time we try to earn as much as possible toward qualifying for World Finals," Joe proudly said. "Captain has paid for himself in winnings. I turn down offers to buy him all the time." It is unlikely that Captains Choice will have a new owner any time soon. **NOW**

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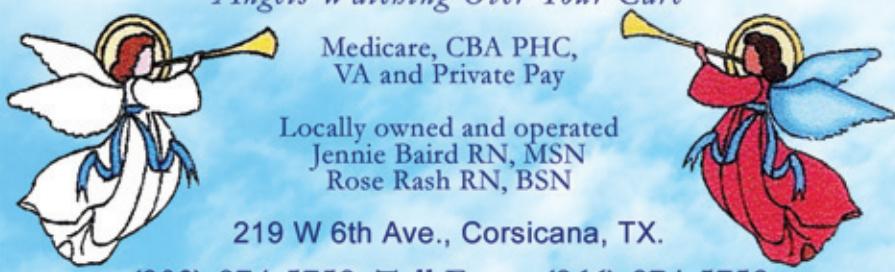
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Above: Wayne's father, James Owen, working the original floor in 1975.  
Below: Three generations of the Owen family: James, Isaac and Wayne.



# Hardware Man

— By Samantha Daviss

Servicing the community for more than 84 years, Owen Hardware store has been a staple on Commerce Street since 1925, when it first opened its doors under the name of Perry Hardware. A gentleman by the name of Thomas C. Perry from Midlothian started the hardware store in its prime location in downtown Corsicana. "The lot across the street from the building was an open wagon yard, so the store was a great location for everyone coming to town," the current owner, Wayne Owen, explained. "They could stop by and

shop for general hardware as they made their way to Beaton Street for other shopping."

In the 1920s, people would come from all over the county on the weekends, making their trip to town. Merchants would sell goods during the day and hold them for their customers until they returned late at night from watching a movie at one of Corsicana's many downtown theaters. The store hours were 6:00 a.m. until midnight.

"Commerce Street was widely known throughout the community," Wayne said. "It offered a little bit of everything to everyone, from burger joints to pool halls and theaters." This allowed everyone the chance to come and shop the street and the store. It was the wagon yard, located directly across the street, which influenced the store's origin as a tack shop.

A man by the name of Paul Mitchell worked for Thomas Perry as a painter and soon, after learning his way around the store, he bought it from Perry in the 1930s. "Also, one of the things the store was known for [in the 1960s], was the ice water they gave away," Wayne recalled, showing off an old store photo from the '60s with a sign in front that read, "Free Ice Water." Paul Mitchell would buy a block of ice and drop it into a cooler, where they would keep the icy water for two or three days for their patrons to enjoy.

Moving into its fifth decade of existence, Wayne's father, James Owen, purchased the store from Paul Mitchell in 1971, after



having worked there as a salesman since 1958. "My dad was known around town and in the store as a very hardworking man," Wayne said with great pride. After those many long years of hard work, James decided to pursue his love for the outdoors and enjoy retirement. So, in 1999, Wayne purchased the hardware store from his father. "I have been working here since I was 12 years old, so I was really familiar with the operations of the place," he explained.

"We are probably most recognized for our Case pocket knife line," Wayne said. "Knives are kind of my babies, a hobby." This particular brand of knives is a reputable, American-made product, and now includes a women's knife line as well — "even some with pink polka dots," Wayne smiled.



James Owen standing in front of the hardware store in 1965.

Even though Owen Hardware Store is your typical hardware store, offering to meet all your hardware needs from hammers and nails to screwdrivers, they also reach those needs off the beaten path with such items as: ammunition, hunting and fishing licenses, fishing equipment, various women's hardware needs such as floral hardware sets, fencing and paint, including a specialized fencing area and a paint store.

Come down to Owen's Hardware, located at 222 North Commerce Street, open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to noon. Their goal has always been, and always will be, to provide you with friendly service, great products and great prices. **NOW**



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# Principal's Choice

— By Samantha Daviss

Walking the halls of Corsicana High School (CHS) is an everyday occurrence for Dr. Keith Moore, something he probably never imagined would be a part of his daily routine when he graduated from CHS in 1988. However, today, after working his way up the ranks, from teacher to assistant principal to principal, Keith has implemented some pretty amazing programs and concepts that have helped the students and teachers of the school work together. He feels his journey has allowed him to really connect with the students and understand what they need as young adults.

"I remember when I was about 12 years old, my family and I moved to Corsicana," he recalled. "Then, after graduating in 1988, I went on to the Naval Academy." After some time there, Keith decided to return to Corsicana where he took some courses at Navarro College before heading off to the University of North Texas for his BBA in business education.

During his four years of teaching, Keith pursued his master's degree in education administration from Stephen F. Austin University. "After graduation, Gilbert Hall [a former principal of Collins Middle School] asked me to come to Collins as an assistant principal in 1997. After about three years there, I went on to become the high school principal for Kerens. All the while, I was working on my doctorate in education at Stephen F. Austin," he recalled. Speaking of his family, he continued, "Even though there were many positives in our lives, we had a lot on our plates as well. Our second daughter had just been born. I was a high school principal; my wife, Lee, was working on her master's. So, something had to give." With over 24 hours completed on his doctorate, he decided to quit working on his degree.

Once life reached a plateau of calmness, Keith and his family moved to Little Rock, Arkansas, in order to allow him to complete his degree. "While we were there, I took a position as a teaching assistant. We got really good at living off beans and air," he said humorously, referring to the salary most teaching assistants bring home.



After their many sacrifices and efforts together as a family, Keith and Lee returned to Corsicana when Keith received a call to become the director of CISD's technical department. Later, he moved into the position of director of secondary curriculum, and finally to his current position as principal. "It was kind of odd when I received the position, because there were only three weeks left in the 2005/2006 school year, so there really wasn't much I could do," he said. Following the summer break, Keith was finally able to jump into his new role with both feet.

Keith is obviously no stranger to education nor to the needs of his students and teachers, thus he created the Principal's Advisory Council (PAC 10). Explaining his inspiration for the new group, Keith said, "It came to me about a year ago. I would lie in bed at night, or any time I had spare time, and try to create this group, and figure out what purpose they would serve."

PAC 10 is an elite council made up of 10 students from each ethnic group with the highest grade point averages from grades 10-12. "It was supposed to go into effect in September of this school year [2008], but there was always something coming up and things happening," Keith admitted. "But, on February 19, 2009, we were able to hold the PAC 10 inception banquet."

"There are three basic principle concepts behind this group of students," Keith explained. First, PAC 10 allows the students the opportunity to work with CHS volunteer teacher sponsors

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## Education **NOW**

to let their voices be heard regarding issues in the school or around the school. Second, it gives each of the selected students more responsibility, motivating them to continue their hard work and efforts as role models for other peers. PAC 10 also allows this group, and all the students of CHS, the opportunity to celebrate and recognize the strengths and goodness of their school.

The group of teachers selected for this committee was handpicked by Keith in order to match strengths and ethnic backgrounds to each student group precisely. "I am currently still a part of the committee, but my goal in the near future is to remove myself from the committee, so it can run on its own, and head in the direction



**He feels his journey has allowed him to really connect with the students and understand what they need as young adults.**

needed," he stated. "I feel this is a positive move forward for CHS. I want the kids to feel like they have ownership or stock in their school, and I want them to feel recognized for all of their hard work and efforts that they put in day after day, for both the school and their tremendous academic triumphs.

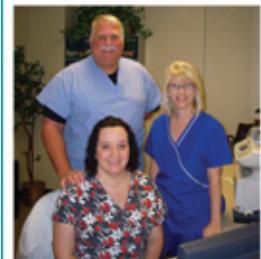
"The kids have been tremendous," Keith added with pride. "There are still a lot of plans in the works and great ideas ahead for them that will both have a positive effect on the students and the school as a whole." **NOW**

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Navarro County dignitaries, top left, were among those who attended the annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet and Awards Dinner. A ribbon cutting, top center, was held at Ajay's Fitness Center. Director Paul Hooper, right, called the Chamber banquet to order. A "soft opening" was recently held at Office Depot, bottom left. The President's Award for Outstanding Support of the Chamber's mission was presented to Larry Turner, bottom center.

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# Look Who's Cooking

By Faith Browning

## IN THE KITCHEN WITH EDNA JOCK

### APRICOT PARTY PIES

#### CRUST:

2 cups flour  
8 oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened  
1/2 lb. Crisco

#### FILLING:

8-oz. pkg. dried apricots  
2 cups sugar  
1/2 tsp. vanilla  
**GLAZE:**  
powdered sugar, to taste  
milk, to taste  
vanilla, to taste

To prepare crust, cut ingredients together. Make into four balls and refrigerate in waxed paper. For filling, cover dried apricots with water. Bring to boil on high heat. Reduce heat; cook until soft. Add sugar and vanilla to apricots after cooked; mash and cool. Roll crust thin, cut with round cutter. Top each circle with 1/2 teaspoon of filling, fold over and press to close. Bake at 400 F for 15 minutes. For glaze combine powdered sugar, milk and vanilla to your taste and desired consistency. Yields 36 pies.

### PINWHEEL COOKIES

1 1/4 cups butter, softened  
1 egg  
2 cups sugar  
1 Tbsp. vanilla  
2/3 cups flour  
1/2 tsp. baking powder  
1/3 cup cocoa  
Cream butter and egg together until smooth; stir in sugar and vanilla. Add flour and baking powder to creamed mixture a third

at a time; set aside half of the dough. Add cocoa to remaining dough. Divide chocolate and vanilla dough in halves; place on plastic wrap. Pat each half into a 1/2-inch thick square and wrap in plastic. Refrigerate the 4 squares until firm, about 1 to 2 hours. Unwrap one piece of chilled vanilla dough, leaving it on the plastic. Cover with a second piece of plastic wrap; roll into a rectangle measuring about 9 x 7 inches. If dough gets too soft or difficult to roll, slide it onto a baking sheet and place in refrigerator until firm, 5 to 10 minutes. Unwrap a piece of chocolate dough; cover with another piece of plastic and roll into an 8 x 7-inch rectangle. Remove top piece of plastic wrap from both rolled dough squares and invert chocolate dough on top of vanilla dough, lining up 3 sides and leaving 1 inch of vanilla dough exposed on one side. Starting at opposite side, lift vanilla dough by plastic wrap and snugly roll up both layers into a log, peeling away plastic wrap as you go. Wrap log in plastic; refrigerate for 2 hours. Repeat the process with other 2 pieces of dough. Heat oven to 350 F. Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper or grease cookie sheet. Unwrap logs; slice into 1/2-inch thick rounds. Bake about 8-10 minutes. They will still be a little soft to touch. Leave on sheet for 1 minute, and then remove. Makes about 4 dozen.

### SAUERKRAUT SALAD

**SALAD:**  
1 can sauerkraut, drained  
1 small onion, chopped  
1 stalk celery, chopped  
1 small bell pepper, chopped  
pimento for color  
**DRESSING:**  
2/3 cup sugar  
1/2 cup vinegar

### 1/4 cup oil

Prepare salad by mixing sauerkraut, onion, celery, bell pepper and pimento. In separate bowl, mix sugar, vinegar and oil. Pour oil mixture over salad. Let stand 2-3 hours. Keeps for several days in refrigerator. Improves with age.

### PEANUT BUTTER FUDGE

2 cups sugar  
1 cup milk  
1/2 cup butter  
2 cups (7 oz. jar) marshmallow crème  
1 12-oz jar chunky peanut butter  
1 tsp. vanilla  
Combine sugar, milk and butter; bring to a rolling boil. Cook rapidly 12 to 15 minutes over medium heat, stirring constantly; remove from heat. Add marshmallow crème, peanut butter and vanilla; beat until well blended. Pour into greased 9-inch square pan. Cool.

### PECAN PIE

3 eggs, whipped  
3 cups sugar  
1 cup Karo syrup  
1/4 cup Griffins syrup (if desired, or an additional 1/4 cup Karo)  
1/2 tsp. vanilla flavoring  
1 stick butter, softened  
2 cups pecans  
1 1/2 Tbsp. flour  
1/4 tsp. salt (optional)  
9-inch crust  
Add all ingredients except pecans; mix well. Fold pecans into mixture; pour into piecrust. Bake for approximately 1 hour at 325 F.

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Since she was a young girl, Edna Jock has loved cooking. "My mother was a great cook. We had a large family and mother always had these unique recipes for making special treats for us," Edna recalled. "She made a taffy (her own recipe) and pinwheel cookies that we thought were the greatest treats!"

Edna's favorite thing to do is spend time with her family. "We are a very close family," she said, "and we have a really great time when we are together." Her biggest fans in the kitchen and her greatest joys in life are her three grandchildren. "My granddaughter, Raeleigh, thinks no one can make mashed potatoes like mine," she explained. "My grandson, Leighton, loves my pecan pie and my youngest granddaughter, Chloe, loves my banana bread. They love to help me cook!" **NOW**

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# Is CD Laddering Right for You?

— By Lynda Housley



With the recent volatility in the stock market, people are hesitant to put their entire nest egg into the market. Additionally, with the economy creating tight times for families, it's often necessary to make sure funds are available if and when we need them. For those investors who are either reluctant to jump head first into the market or those who may have a need for cash, the strategy of laddering Certificates of Deposit (CDs) may be appropriate.

CD laddering is the process of structuring your investment into CDs to take advantage of the higher rates afforded by longer-term time deposits, yet maintaining liquidity by arranging it so that equal portions of the invested money is available periodically. To accomplish this, you begin by buying numerous CDs with various maturities.

For instance, let's say you have \$25,000 to invest. Rather than investing the \$25,000 in one CD that matures at a designated time, by laddering CDs, you may choose to invest \$5,000 in each of five separate CDs. In this example, you would then purchase a 1-year, 2-year, 3-year, 4-year, and 5-year CD in equal amounts of \$5,000. After one year, when your first CD matures, you would invest it in a new 5-year CD. Each year, a CD will expire and, if the funds are not needed, they will be reinvested in a new 5-year CD to take advantage of the higher interest rate typically offered by a 5-year CD as compared to the 1- or 2-year CDs.

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This approach allows you the comfort of knowing that a CD will mature each year in case you need the money, yet still take advantage of the higher rates typically offered for longer maturities. Staggering your maturity dates also helps smooth out the volatility of the market. If interest rates rise during the year, you will have money available to invest in a higher rate CD. Or, if rates fall, only a portion of your investment dollars will need to be reinvested at the lower rate.

CD laddering may be a strategy that's appropriate for your lifestyle. Plus, with the guaranteed interest rate offered on CDs, you will be able to plan your future with confidence. Talk with your insurance agent or financial expert for more information. **NOW**

*Lynda Housley is a State Farm agent based in Corsicana.*



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# Don't Ignore Symptoms of a "Mini-stroke"

## Full-blown Stroke Often Preceded by One or More "Warning Strokes"

— By Ron Rodriguez, D.O.,

When people think about a stroke, symptoms such as paralysis of limbs, or an entire side of the body, and loss of motor coordination come to mind. But a stroke doesn't always happen this way. In fact, when a person experiences milder symptoms, it's easier to explain them away because they don't necessarily point to a health emergency. But dismissing symptoms due to uncertainty can be dangerous.

Strokes are the third-leading cause of death, behind heart disease and cancer, and a leading cause of disability in the United States, according to the American Stroke Association. A stroke is an interruption of blood to the brain, either from a blood clot or the rupturing of a blood vessel, which results in a certain area of the brain not receiving the critical oxygen and nutrients it needs to function properly.

One type of stroke is a transient ischemic attack (TIA), a stroke-like event that can be just as serious. Often called a "mini-stroke," a TIA has similar signs, with symptoms that don't last as long. A TIA occurs when a blood clot briefly blocks an artery that supplies blood to the brain. TIA symptoms may include:

- Severe, sudden headache
- Weakness, numbness or paralysis of the face, arms or

legs on one side of the body

- Difficulty walking, and/or loss of balance or coordination
- Dizziness
- Vision problems, such as blurred or double vision
- Confusion or trouble speaking clearly or understanding communication

A TIA should be considered a warning sign. It has the same symptoms as a stroke, but TIA symptoms are temporary and produce no lasting damage to the brain. However, it's important not to take a TIA lightly; it's a strong predictor of a possible full-scale stroke which could be just a matter of days, weeks or months away. According to the American Stroke Association, more than one-third of individuals who suffer a TIA will later have a stroke.

If you experience any of the TIA symptoms — even briefly — it's important to seek immediate medical attention. If you're not sure, call your doctor or go to the emergency room. Time is critical in treating a possible stroke — and preventing a possible future stroke.

Your doctor can administer several tests to diagnose TIA and determine your future risk of stroke. This includes a review of your medical history, a physical and neurological exam, blood tests and various diagnostic tests. Diagnostic tests may include imaging tests (such as a CT scan or MRI, which take a picture of the brain), electrical tests which examine brain waves or study how the brain handles various sensory information: hearing, touch or vision; and finally, blood tests (an ultrasound or arteriogram, which give an idea of blood flow and the condition of your arteries).

To learn more, talk to your doctor. [NOW](#)

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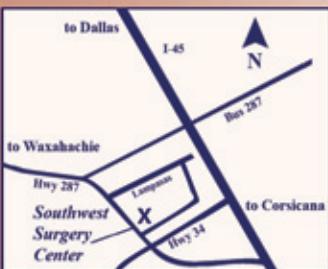


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# May 2009

## Community Calendar

### Third Thursday

Corsicana Education Foundation board of directors meeting, CISD Administration Building. Executives: 4:00 p.m. General Board: 4:30 p.m.

### Fourth Thursday

Corsicana Education Foundation Campus Celebration. This month is Corsicana High School.

### May 1-2

Corsicana Art League's "Art in the Park": Corsicana Visitor Center, Allyn Park.

### May 1-2, 8-9

Ennis Public Theatre presents *Damn Yankees*: 8:00 p.m., 2705 N. Kaufman. For reservations, call (972) 878-PLAY. Special matinee: May 10 at 2:30 p.m.

### May 7

The Palace Theatre presents The Spencers Theatre of Illusion: 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. For more information, contact the box office at (903) 874-7792.

### May 9

Coyote Squadron's 11th Annual Air Show: 9:00 a.m.

at Corsicana Municipal Airport, C. David Campbell Field. The theme for this year's air show is "A Gathering of Trainers." We will feature aircraft used to train pilots for combat in WW II. There will be formation flying by two flying clubs, static displays of aircraft, and flying demonstrations of aircraft. Two automobile clubs will have many cars on display, and radio-controlled airplane clubs will demonstrate their aircraft. There will be food, beverage, and other concessions. Bring your lawn chair and spend the day! \$5/person or \$10 per carload; veterans admitted without charge. Contact Phil Krejci, Coyote Squadron PIO at pnckrejci@att.net for more information.

### May 15-16

Navarro County Relay for Life: 7:00 p.m. Friday-7:00 a.m. Saturday in Community Park by the YMCA. For more information, contact Jamie Kitchen at (903) 875-9729 or jamekitch@yahoo.com.

### May 15-17

Super Chevy Show at the Texas Motorplex. [www.texasmotorplex.com](http://www.texasmotorplex.com).

### May 16

Navarro College Twogether in Texas Marriage

Management classes: 8:45 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Waller Classroom Building, 3200 W. 7th St. Participating engaged couples receive a certificate good for \$60 off the price of their marriage license upon completion of the course. Free of charge. Lunch and workbooks included. Contact Bob and Barbara Zielinski at (903) 874-0077 or [TwogetherinTexas@marriagemanagement.org](mailto:TwogetherinTexas@marriagemanagement.org). [www.marriagemanagement.org](http://www.marriagemanagement.org).

### May 30

Dawg Daze of Summer Sooner Chili Cook-off and Pet Event, benefiting the Humane Society of Navarro County. Chili registration: 8:00 a.m. CASI rules apply. Pet contest: 10:00 a.m. \$5 entry fee per pet. Raffle for big screen TV, gift cards, digital camera and more. Meet Bill McFarlin and his Brittany, Star, from CBS's reality hit *Greatest American Dog*. For more information, contact Kay Lefler at (972) 872-2297 or Marsha McAlister at (903) 875-8705.

For more community events,  
visit our online calendar at [www.now-magazines.com](http://www.now-magazines.com).

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# Is CD Laddering Right for You?

— By Lynda Housley



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