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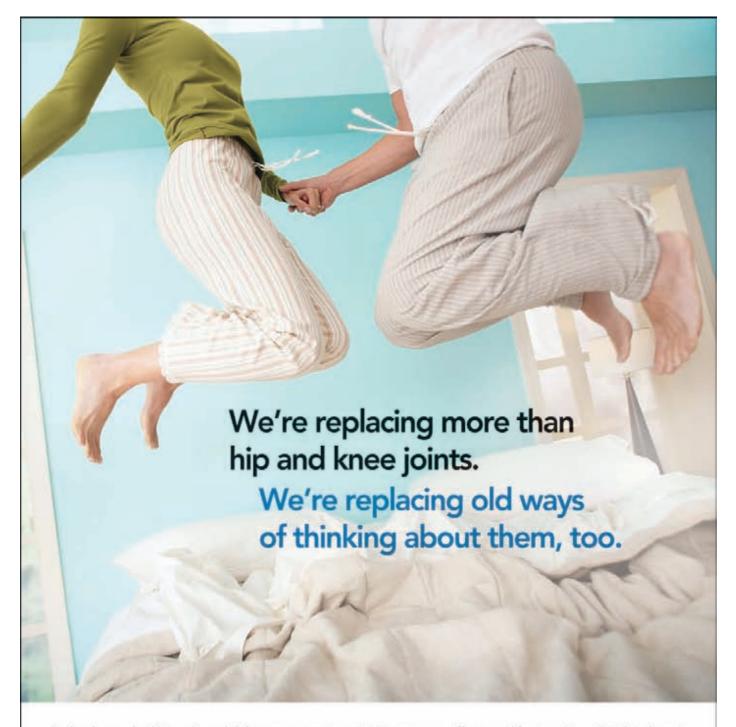
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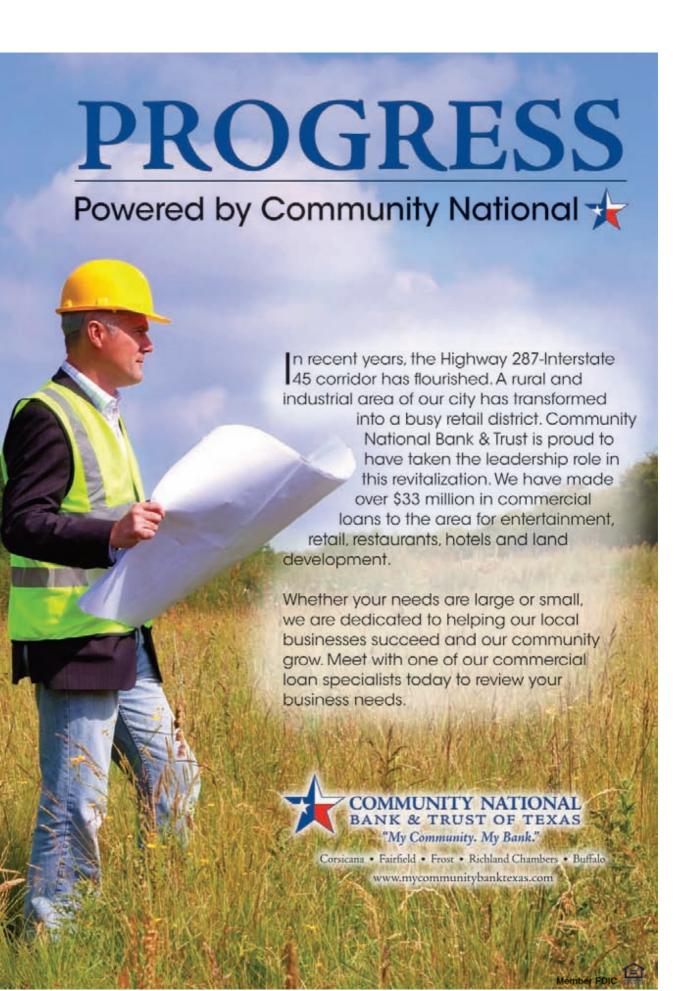
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Subscriptions are available at the rate of \$35 per year or \$3.50 per issue. Subscriptions should be sent to: NOW Magazines, P.O. Box 1071, Waxahachie, TX 75168. For advertising rates or editorial correspondence, call (903) 875-0187 or visit www.nowmagazines.com.



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On The Cover

WWII Seabee Isaac Beam.

Photo by Terri Ozymy.

Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

From the earliest days of human history, storytellers have entertained their listeners with tales about their neighbors and people living in far-off places. Storytellers created vivid verbal pictures about love and war to entertain their listeners before television networks took over that job. The storyteller was a valued member of the community before the story weavers became journalists, filmmakers and bloggers. Now, while you enjoy the warm evenings in May, why not cook up a New Orleans style supper, sit outside awhile and listen to the stories we offer here? Listen to a World War II veteran tell tales about war, and listen to a judge and a police officer talk about keeping law and order. Hear how a teacher creates verbal pictures for his blind students and listen while the singers sing. And don't forget to smell the roses!

Joan Kilbourne
CorsicanaNOW Editor











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A WWII Seabee Remembers

— By Virginia Riddle

Ask Isaac (Ike) Beam about what he was doing during the years of 1943-1945, and he remembers well his days of military service in naval construction battalions. These battalions were more commonly known as the "Seabees" during the height of World War II operations in the Pacific. "I was out around Marathon, Texas, breaking horses on ranches with my brothers. One day, I told them there had to be something better and easier to do. I was going to see what Roosevelt wanted me to do," Isaac remembered. Little did he know that what President Roosevelt wanted him to do would provide Isaac faraway wartime experiences and a lifetime career.

Isaac journeyed to Houston to join the U.S. Navy. He took the highest pay offered, \$75 a month, and joined the Seabees. Isaac had grown up during the



Great Depression on his family's 160acre ranch. The school he attended near Mason, Texas, only went through the eighth grade so the recruiter asked Isaac what he could do. He assured the "Navy man" he could do just about anything since, as one of 11 children with a working ranch, "I did what my mother and dad told me to do. I'd done everything."

Boot camp in Virginia came first

where Isaac found that, "Those of us that came from the country - we could out-walk anyone else." Next, Isaac, a seaman first class, was transferred to Camp Allen where the 36th Naval Construction Battalion (NCB) was in training near Norfolk, Virginia. Advanced training in operating heavy equipment and working with concrete followed at Camp Endicott, Rhode Island. Life was







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not all work at the camps, since Isaac remembered fondly a visit with Kate Smith, one of the most treasured singers of that era, who performed with the USO. Isaac mastered the skills portrayed by the Seabee insignia he still proudly shows to visitors: a flying bee that wears a sailor's cap, carries a machine gun and wears a tool belt packed with carpentry tools.

Trained to do his job for the war effort, Isaac was promoted to motor machinist third class, reassigned to the



91st NCB, and given orders to ship out. "We didn't know where we were going." The crossing aboard-ship was quite the adventure for Isaac since he crossed both the International Dateline and the Equator, at which point he went through the Crossing the Line Ceremony, a Navy tradition. "They placed each of us in an empty 50-gallon barrel, dumped us overboard and pulled us some distance by a rope," he remembered.

Upon arrival in Brisbane, Australia, after the 31-day crossing without baths or showers, the Australians quickly showed the Seabees the way to the local swimming hole. "We couldn't carry enough fresh water aboard back in those days for bathing and drinking, and salt water would eat up your skin," Isaac explained. Orders soon came for the battalion to go to New Guinea.

New Guinea was still a hotbed of fighting so the Seabees' Tommy guns were kept at the ready as they landed. They began repairing damaged runways and buildings that the Japanese had left



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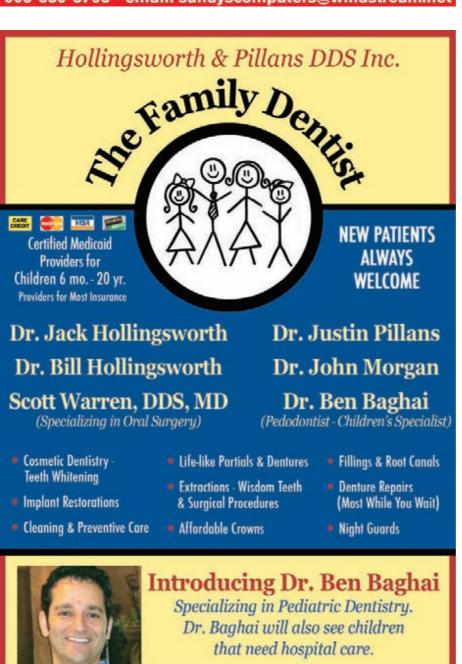


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behind and constructing new facilities for the Allies. New Guinea was needed as a staging area for Allied operations in the Pacific that would ultimately lead to the liberation of the Philippine Islands. One of Isaac's first jobs was to operate a front loader to clear coconut trees from the airstrips. "The Japanese had shot the trees clear through with machine guns, and they fell on the airstrips," Isaac said.

The Seabees built base buildings,



"They placed each of us in an empty 50-gallon barrel, dumped us overboard and pulled us some distance by a rope."

runways, roads, docks and bridges while having to contend with the weather, as well as the Japanese. Rainfall totals on parts of the island could be over 200 inches a year. "We were living in 16-by-16 tents and sometimes it rained 16 inches during the night," Isaac recalled.

The Seabees had other duties. Isaac piloted barges around the islands in order to transport sailors, Marines and materials. Often working under the cover of darkness, Isaac was told to sound the barge's horns when approaching a landing. Soldiers would come out to board. "If they didn't respond with the secret code they were Japanese; we had to get away from there fast!" Duty took Isaac to Manila where he noted, "The soldiers' foxholes were still fresh." Isaac moved torpedoes from ships onto PT boats. A torpedo slipped and crushed the tips of his fingers beyond repair. "Doc put sulfur on the ends and sent me on my way," Isaac remembered, holding up his shortened fingers.

He went on a mission into the mountains to rescue a missionary couple. They were fine and wanted to stay with

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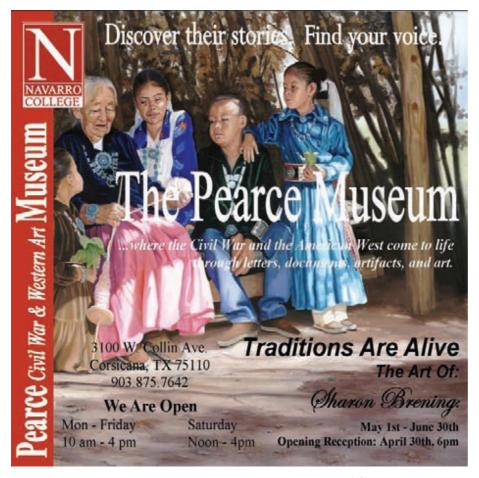
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the indigenous people, but the experience gave Isaac contact with the "natives." He smiled while remembering the grass skirts that all adults wore. "The women wore nothing above and children went naked."

WW II ended for Isaac while he was sitting on a coconut-palm log watching a movie. The commander announced that the Allies thought the war was won. Orders to go to Borneo were forgotten; it was time to sail homeward so he sank his favorite tractor named "Edna." "When



the war moves ahead, if you don't move, you get left behind," he explained. A small, tooled plaque with his rank, name

and serial number was left behind, but years later was found and returned to him. Isaac was honorably discharged as a motor machinist mate first class on December 28, 1945. He had earned the American Defense, Asiatic-Pacific with One Battle Star Medal and the Victory Medal.

Isaac wasted little time in putting his construction training to good use. He courted Bobbie Jean Varnell of Barry, Texas, for three weeks prior to their marriage in 1947. "Everybody said it wouldn't last, but it did for 60-plus years until she passed last year," Isaac recalled. His experience with concrete and heavy equipment helped build the interstate highway system while the couple reared two children. They "retired" to 59 acres in Barry to raise cattle.

In 2002 Isaac returned to Mason for a reunion of veterans from that county and participated in a parade with the governor. Like most veterans of the "Greatest Generation," he has quietly reiterated his WW II experiences only when asked, while continuing a lifetime of service and work. His advice to young veterans returning from war: "First thing, get a job. Keep your mind active. That's what I did." Good advice from an 89-year-old who has come full circle, as Isaac still ranches today.

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AN ADVENTUROUS LIFE

— By Joan Kilbourne

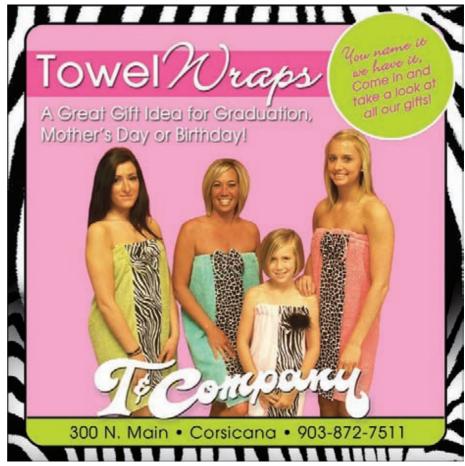
A career in community service can be full of excitement and adventure when the job involves the court system and law enforcement. Calvin and Vicki Gray agree that law enforcement "is a career where you are never bored, you meet lots of people," However, they also agreed that the long hours on the job and the calls to go out in the night are hard on a relationship when your partner does not understand. "You need support from your spouse to work in law enforcement," Vicki

said, looking at Calvin who nodded his agreement. "A cop's wife worries about the dangers he might encounter, but I have learned to give him to God as he goes out the door."



When your days and nights are hectic and unpredictable, it is good to have a cozy place to come home to. Calvin and Vicki found a plan they liked and built their house three years ago. "It is just the right size to fit us the way we live now," Vicki said, "with a room for the grandkids, and a room for the computer." The room for the grandchildren is bright and colorful with a few toys that make the children feel welcome. The computer room is furnished with the dark wood desk and storage pieces that a working couple needs to manage their busy lives.

This was the first time Calvin and Vicki had moved into a house designed entirely to their own tastes. A big octagonal tray ceiling finished with crown molding creates the effect of height and openness that Vicki wanted in the living room. A similar ceiling treatment gives height to the master bedroom, but it is the kitchen where the Grays spend their family time. The cabinets have the furniture look typical of newer homes.









There is a small table and chair arrangement for adults, but the most prominent feature is the granite-topped island in the kitchen where the three grandchildren can sit on the tall stools and watch whatever is going on.

"It was a big change moving to Corsicana from a city like Dallas," Vicki said. "But now I would never move back there. I couldn't leave my church family, my work family. When I had breast cancer 10 years ago, they were all over me. I don't think that would have happened in the city."

Calvin has lived in Corsicana all his life. His mom ran the Scotch





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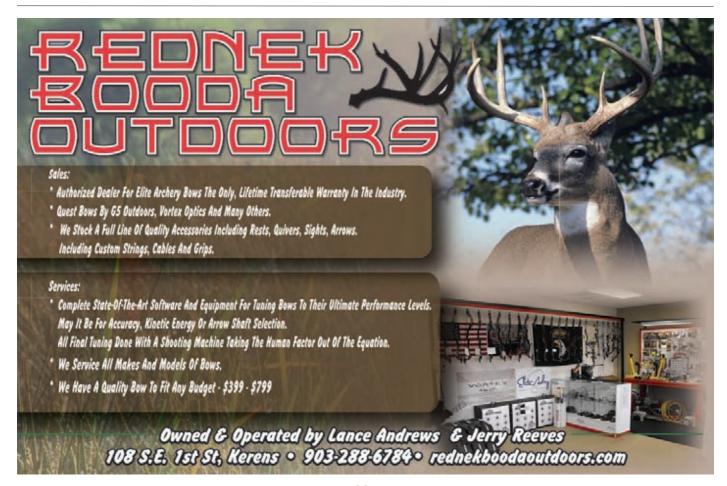


Burger restaurant. "Back then," Vicki remembered, "it was *the* place to go." In 1988, when he had enough of the long commute to Fort Worth, Calvin joined the police force, working first at the jail, then on patrol duty and now as a bailiff with Navarro County.

Working in law enforcement is a Gray family tradition. "My dad was a cop," Calvin said. "My son, Robert, is also a cop with Navarro County." Vicki also has a history of working in law enforcement. "I studied to be a paralegal, and I would have moved to the city to work, but I didn't get hired for a job I interviewed for. It turned out well that I didn't get that job. I love what I am doing now," she said. Vicki began her career as secretary to a commissioner, and was later the secretary for a justice of the peace. "When he retired, I decided to run for office as a judge. Calvin hurt his shoulder

planting campaign signs all around town. I ran for a third four-year term this year, but I ran unopposed. That was really good for Calvin who didn't have to plant signs this time."

As a judge, Vicki also performs the duties of a county coroner. She is called to the scene of any unattended death to determine the cause of death if she is able. If she is not certain or there is reason to suspect murder, she sends the





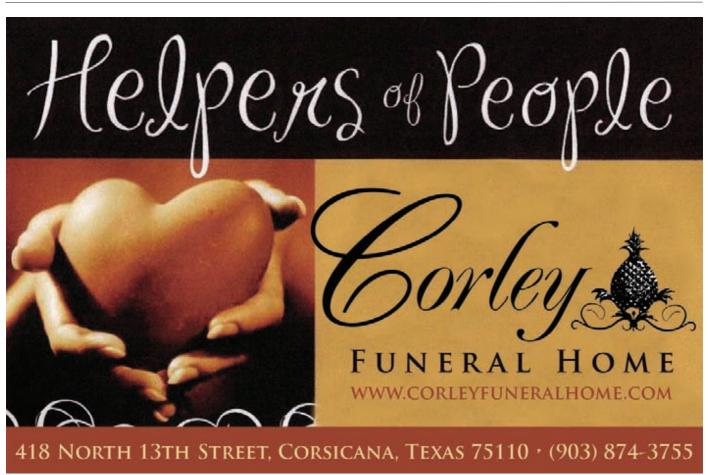






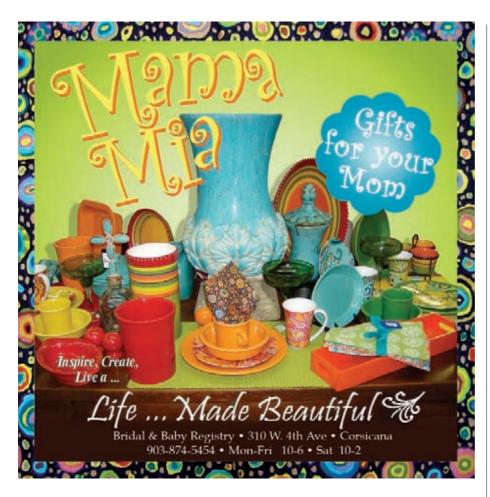
body to Dallas for forensic study. As a coroner, she works on a four-week rotation with the other judges. "I get one or two calls some nights for search warrants or requests to come to the scene of an unattended death. "I go to about 25 of those every year," Vicki said. "When you come home from a tragic scene, it helps that your partner knows how you feel because he has been in situations like that before. The death of a child, under any circumstances, is the most difficult."

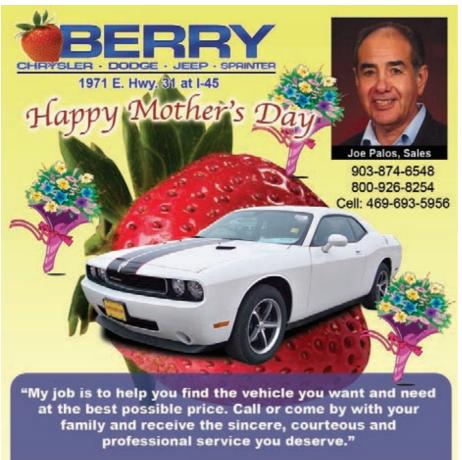
For six years, Vicki has been teaching classes at the Justice Court Training Center. "I always dreamed of being a teacher, and now I am doing that," she said. "I'm big on education. I see the value of a mentor or role model when I am dealing with students coming to me in truancy court. I tell the girls to write to me if they need someone to talk to. I sometimes sentence a mother to get a GED [General Education













Diploma] or go to an ESL [English as Second Language] class instead of fining her. If the parents show they care about getting an education, their kids will benefit. Sometimes, I send the teens to do community service. I tell them to get food for the food pantry programs, and that so much food will equal dollars off their fines. Some of the kids are taking dog food to the animal shelter and some bring school stuff like belts or shoes to the free school clothing program. It opens their eyes to see what is going on with other people, and they feel good about what they are doing, too.

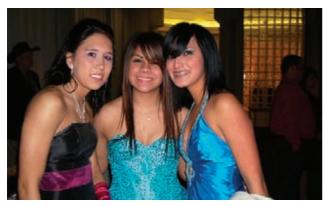
For Calvin and Vicki, home is all about loving their family. Having grandchildren has made a big difference in the way the Grays spend their time off the job. There are three grandchildren living nearby in Rice. Michael is 9, and the twins, Ethan and Emily, are 6 years old. "They will be in three different little leagues this summer, so we'll be busy going to games," Vicki said. "I used to worry a lot about things," she added, "but now, as I get older, nothing keeps me up at night. I have a saying that I keep by my bed. It says, Before you go to bed at night, give your troubles to God. He'll be up all night anyway.""

No matter how comfortable their home, it looks like Calvin and Vicki see more adventures in their future. "We've done some traveling to Reno, Washington, D.C. and San Francisco," Vicki remembered. "Washington was a great place to visit once we learned how to use the Metro to get around." The Grays are looking forward to doing more traveling when they retire. "I was watching the Olympics and I decided I want to go to British Columbia sometime," Vicki said. No rocking chairs on the porch for this couple!





Around Town NOW



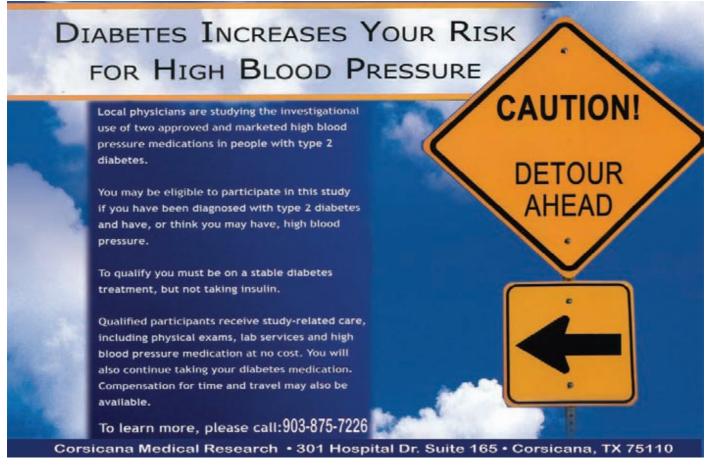


From left: Stephanie Martin, Jessica Nichols and Delores Ramos pose at the Rice prom; Rice High School students grab dinner before heading to prom.





The Randle bunch enjoy a day of Easter egg hunting. From left: Grant shows off his full basket; Shayleigh, Grant and Lacey line up to compare goodies.



-Around Town NOW



Residents of all ages enjoy the bluebonnets that are in full bloom.



Aidan, Olivia and Reagan Lagomarsino had a great time shopping for Easter with their parents at Target.



Rita Edens, Judith Steely, Mike Steely, Jerry Steely, Hugh Stroube, Kay Hable and Joe Brooks smile at the presentation of the last in-town derricks from the Historical Society to the city of Corsicana.



The Texas
Underground kicks
off the 2010 Fun
at the Lake event
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Corsicana residents travel to Fairfield to pick strawberries.



Little tykes smile as they enjoy being out on a nice spring day.





Walking down the hall in the Fine Arts Building at Navarro College you think you hear jazz musician, Dave Brubeck, on the piano playing his signature tune "Take Five." When you reach the choral rehearsal room you hear voices singing the lyrics and you know the Collegiate Singers have gathered once again to make music together.

The Collegiate Singers are a close-knit musical unit of 15 singers plus their accompanist, Sheila Herod, and their director, Rodney Haedge. One singer introduced the group, saying, "We're family," and all of the others nodded in agreement. She went on to describe their special bond saying, "Most of us sing

in the 50-member Chorale and a few [of us] sing with the college Chamber Singers so we spend a lot of time together." Some of the singers also meet one another playing in the college band.

"Membership in the Collegiate Singers is offered by invitation only," Rodney said. Students must audition and, if chosen, they can receive a scholarship. This means they must maintain a prescribed grade point average and faithfully attend class and rehearsals. "I wouldn't be in college if I didn't have this scholarship, so this group means a lot to me," one student said. "It is great that the college makes scholarship money available for singers in this special group," Rodney said. "Dr. Sanchez is very supportive of this group."

The singers work hard to achieve the sound

they want. "We even rehearse our music on our own time," one student explained. "We really know the music, so we can help other singers in the other choral groups. It's an honor to be in the group, so we feel responsibility to set an example." Some of the singers have also auditioned and been chosen for the Junior College State Choir, the All State Choir and the All State Band. Rodney said, "It is remarkable how organized and dedicated they are to be active in clubs, have jobs and keep up their grades."

Another feature of membership in this special group is that they travel. They perform at community events, private



-Arts VOW

parties and banquets, and they sing in churches. "They have a repertoire that includes sacred music," Rodney added. At the Navarro College Jazz Concert, the Collegiate Singers demonstrated a repertoire which also includes jazz, pop and even Doo-wop. They sang a program that included solos, a quartet and they sang as an ensemble. The group had just returned from a performance at the Music Educators Convention in San Antonio. They earned money for the trip by working as valet parking attendants. One student recalled that fundraising event saying, "We wore our uniform shirts, but you couldn't see them; we were so bundled up in the cold."

Many of these talented students come from Navarro County and the others from cities such as Seattle, Washington, and Billings, Montana. One student is from Malaysia. Some of them will continue their studies in performance music, music education or band, but the group includes an aspiring dentist, a physicist, a doctor, an actor, nurses and teachers. Because their present focus is music, they take every opportunity

"It's an honor to be in the group, so we feel responsibility to set an example."

to learn and perform. Many of the singers are enrolled in private lessons with Rodney, with other professors on campus and with teachers from other schools. Rodney likes helping singers prepare for the auditions they must do to enter an upper division music program at a four-year university. "It is the extra time they spend that creates the sound," Rodney said.

Rodney learned with his own children the value of that "extra time" that parents and teachers need to spend to ensure the success of the young people in their care. His daughter, Christina, is now a nurse who does some teaching, and his son, Jason, is a businessman who coaches his own children to give them that "extra time." Rodney is a graduate









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of Southern Methodist University. He was a choir director at Corsicana High School for 14 years before he moved to the coast. When he retired five years ago, Rodney and his wife, Sheren, returned to Corsicana. He planned to work only part time as the choir director at the First Methodist Church, but his commitment to music at Navarro College clearly demands full-time effort. Along with the classes and private lessons, there are

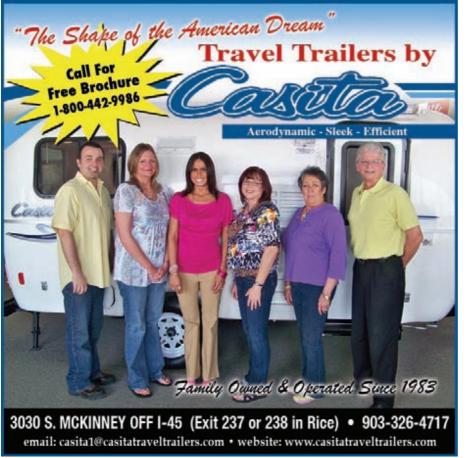


"It is great that the college makes scholarship money available for singers in this special group."

three major performance events at the college to keep him busy. His schedule includes a jazz concert in the fall, the spring musical and a Christmas concert. "President Sanchez has his reception the same night as our Christmas concert," Rodney said, "but he always attends the concert to show support for the music department.

"My accompanist and friend, Sheila Herod, is retiring," Rodney said regretfully. "She is the director of piano studies and music theory here, and she is so valuable to me and to the choral groups." Maybe Sheila will return to visit the group — as do the former members of the Collegiate Singers, who sometimes appear at rehearsals just to enjoy the sound of many voices joined as one.







Sports NOW



In the sports world, Jocelyn Roberts is seen as a talented, award-winning softball player. At home, she is just another one of a family of serious ballplayers. Years ago, her grandmother, Linda, played softball with the Soulful Thirteen, the first Afro-American softball team in Corsicana. Jocelyn's brother, Aston, played baseball for Lon Morris College and is now studying to teach and coach at Stephen F. Austin State University. "My brother claims baseball is faster than softball and said I couldn't hit a baseball like he does," Jocelyn smiled. "But we played together, and I

The drive to play baseball skipped a generation and Jocelyn's mother, Latonia, trained to be a restorative aide and works with Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF). However, when her children chose to play baseball, she became engaged again as a faithful follower of the teams. For many years, Latonia came home from work at 3:00 p.m. and went directly

got to show him I could."

to one field or another to watch her children play. Both her daughter and son played in summer leagues every year. Jocelyn said, "I played for the Silver Bullets in the travel ball teams every summer." "When she started to play for the traveling teams," Latonia added, "I got lost in Houston."

Jocelyn first played softball in the 6-and-under leagues on a team called the Raspberry Rascals. "I was so excited about it that I would not take off my uniform when I got home; I slept in it." What Latonia remembered was the sand! Jocelyn played with the league up to the 15-and-under level. After that, she played on the Corsicana High School team. In 2006-07

she won an award from the Texas Girls Softball
Coaches Association. As a senior at Corsicana
High School, she earned the Texas Sports

Writers of America award in 2008.

Among her trophies and team photos are 15 home-run balls.

"There were more home runs,"
Jocelyn explained, "but when a game is played out of town, the home team keeps the ball." With the prompting of her mother, Jocelyn said, "Once I hit two home runs over the fence in the same tournament. That was the USSSA Softball Series played in Mesquite when I was in 11th grade."

Jocelyn moved to Waxahachie in her sophomore year of high school. She played with the Lady Indians softball team, which led to having to play against her former Corsicana school and teammates. "They knew my strengths and weaknesses and expected to know how to play against me, but I surprised them," Jocelyn said. She felt nervous

Sports **NOW**

before those games, but relaxed when her friends greeted her during the game and celebrated her successes. In one close game, the competing team won at the last minute of a tied game. Following the game, members of both teams enjoyed eating barbecue together.

In her junior year, Jocelyn began to receive recruiting letters from coaches at various colleges. She waited to decide, hoping to hear from Coach Jessica Karenka at Navarro College. When the invitation came she was eager to accept

"Third base is a hot spot. I trained to play more aggressively. and I have always been a strong hitter."

the offer of a full scholarship. "I love how all my coaches have pushed me and helped me. I always thought I would be a coach some day. When you want to be a coach, you have to study to teach a subject too — English, history, health or science." Jocelyn found the first year in college stressful. She had classes from 9:00 a.m. to noon, softball practice from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., then weight lifting and an hour to run. "It helps that my friend, Chelsea Hall, is such a good motivator and works out with me," Jocelyn said. "I met her when we were 6 years old playing with the Raspberry Rascals. I need to concentrate now on getting good grades so I can go on to a four-year school and stay eligible to play for their team. Softball is like a hobby, but college is about my life. Besides, I know about the 'no pass, no play' rule." Jocelyn has always played the third-







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Sports NOW

base position. "Third base is a hot spot," Jocelyn said. "I trained to play more aggressively, and I have always been a strong hitter. In one game, I scored all the points that the team made. They wrote it up in the Dallas newspaper." Latonia was proud to display a copy of the articles written about that game. Jocelyn had to turn down an invitation to play with the travel team in Dallas.

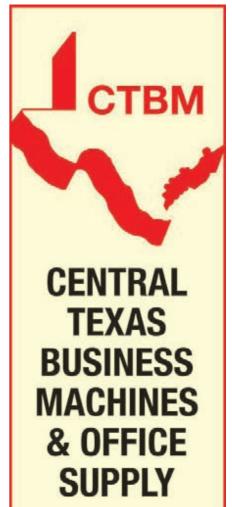


Because she would be paid to play for them, she would no longer qualify to play college ball in the future as an amateur. Since Jocelyn met the coach from Georgia University at a tournament she has been looking forward to finishing her college education at that school.

Asked about the reason for her athletic success, Jocelyn expressed appreciation for the teaching and support of Jamie and Jimmy Prince. "They were the coaches who taught me how to play the game and how to love it," she said. "In high school, Coach Schmidt taught me how to take criticism and how to play with good mental motivation." Maybe there is a home run gene in this family.







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Business NOW



ALIZIN THE

The Cobb family has a long tradition of service to Corsicada.

— By Joan Kilbourne

The family business started when Billy Rae Cobb Sr. began installing heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment for Sears®. He soon started his own business selling, installing and repairing air conditioning systems to serve both residential and commercial needs. His wife, Jeanette, worked alongside him doing the office management tasks. When the Cobbs added a full sheet metal shop, they could take on additional work doing large metal projects. They designed and installed the copper dome on the Navarro County courthouse and the copper "onion towers" on a church. On a smaller scale, the shop can produce such things as kitchen range hoods, lightning rods and gutters. Billy Rae Sr. was especially proud of the "tin man" costume he made. The

"tin man" is a metal suit that looks like something out of a science fiction movie. Billy Rae enjoyed having the tin man stand out on the street waving at passing cars.

Billy Ray Jr. (Ray) entered the business as soon as he was old enough to hand his father the tools. Ray has been working for 16 years doing payroll, accounting and equipment installations. When his father passed, Ray took on additional work as business owner. Ray said, "Some of the employees here joined the family right out of high school, and they are still working here. My dad made this a good place to work. When he would take the payroll to the bank on Friday, he would bring back bags of popcorn from the bank's popcorn machine." Randy Jock, a 30-year member of this business family,



From left:

Fairness and a job well done are principles that are highly valued by the business family at Corsicana Air Conditioning Sheet Metal Co.

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Business **VOW**

is taking on new tasks as the project manager. He does the on-site evaluation of a customer's needs and orders the necessary materials.

The Cobbs have a long-standing relationship with local homebuilders. "I remember how impressed everyone was when Northlake Blvd. was finished," Ray said. "It was a really big boulevard, unlike anything else in town. We were very busy around that time doing HVAC work in the houses and apartments that were going up around the new, big street." Ray recalled working on houses in the Drane Estates, the Corsicana Daily Sun building, retail shops around town, the Palace Theater remodeling and the Warehouse. Ray summed up their many accomplishments saying, "I've been in 90 percent of the houses and buildings in this town."

"SOME OF THE EMPLOYEES HERE JOINED THE FAMILY RIGHT OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL, AND THEY ARE STILL WORKING HERE."

Service to the customer and the community is an important value in this business. "We do HVAC work for the Habitat for Humanity houses and, like other merchants in town, we do the work at cost or as a contribution of time and equipment. We think it is important to do work like it should be done. We keep motors and parts in a warehouse that probably has more stock than the supplier in Waco! When people need a new furnace or air conditioning unit, they want it the next day. They don't want to hear an order will come in after two weeks. We have a good reputation," Ray added, "which is important in a small town. We want to be fair to everyone, so they will call on us again. We try to remind people to test their units before the weather changes, but most times, they call us on the first cold or hot day of a new season. That's OK, because that is what we do. Keep 'em warm in winter and cool in summer." NOW







Education NOW



The Blind Shall See

— By Virginia Riddle

Teaching is a challenging job, but it becomes even more so for the teachers of a student that is visually impaired. Hopefully, long before that student enrolls in a public school, the family and student have been working with Rich Eubank, orientation/mobility specialist with the Tri-County Co-op, which serves visually impaired children in Navarro, Limestone and Freestone counties. "We try to help parents through the grieving process, but we keep moving past that to help the child become independent," Rich stated.

Visually impaired children are served from birth to age 22. To qualify as visually impaired in Texas, a child must have less than 20/80 corrected vision in both eyes. Putting students first, Rich and his fellow professionals, Shonda Prater and Janet Race, travel to the child's home in order to provide weekly training based upon needs. "The goal is to make our students as independent as we can," Rich explained.

Rich did not begin his college career with a goal to help visually impaired children. His early childhood was spent moving with his military family: his mom, stepdad and three sisters. Upon retirement, the family came home to Childress, Texas, where Rich's grandfather owned the local drugstore and Rich graduated from Childress High School, followed by four years in the Army. Back home in Texas again, he obtained a bachelor's degree from Texas Tech University, in Lubbock, and then worked four years as a biologist for the National Marine Fishery Service in Alaska. Being exposed constantly to icecold temperatures and waters prompted him to return to Texas Tech to work on a teaching certificate. Fortuitously, he had to take a special education class taught by the head of the vision department. The professor prompted him to continue his studies in special education, with an emphasis on helping the visually impaired. Rich served his internship in 1987 at the Blind Rehabilitation Unit at the Veterans' Administration in Waco.

Diversity defines Rich's workday. The consortium is comprised of 14 schools within the tri-county area, so traveling is part of his job description. A referral for a child to be assessed can come from the parents, school or anyone in the community. "Anyone can approach us if they think the child has a problem; we will be happy to help out," he stated. If the assessment indicates a need for services, then Rich attends teacher/ parent committee meetings and helps in designing appropriate interventions and therapies for each visually impaired student. This is a continuing process since the needs of students change as they get older and the work gets more demanding. Students also need more independent mobility as they graduate from a self-contained elementary classroom to the hallways of a junior high and a high school. Rich helps teachers through training, networking and attending conferences. At all times though, he remembers, "We are support services; it's not our classroom."

Technology has changed the world of the visually impaired since the profession of orientation and mobility specialist was begun following the return of so many veterans from World War II in need of services. Only four of Rich's students currently use a white cane, and none of

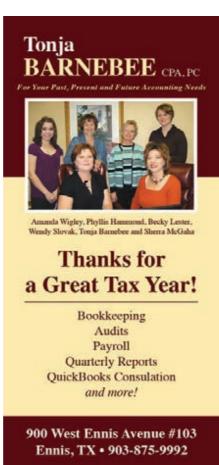
Education **NOW**

the students have a guide dog since most are not yet 18 years old, a requirement by most guide dog providers. Today's visually impaired students use computer assistive systems that can read for them, convert spoken and written language to Braille, search the Internet and present material in large print on large monitors. A student might use something as simple as a monocular or as complex as a hand held computer. Bioptics, a telescope embedded into glasses, can help a student learn how to drive in driver's education classes, if they qualify as drivers. Students showcase their competencies in the Technology Olympics, an event similar to UIL (University Interscholastic League) academic competitions held by the Regional Service Center, Region 12 (RSC) each year. The RSC also hosts demonstrations of new technologies to students, parents and educational professionals.

His work with students is not bound by classroom perimeters. Rich has taken students to The Camp of the Rising Sun, Sports Extravaganza (held in Dallas), Camp Teen Challenge (near Killeen) and the Special Olympics. "You have to have a good rapport with parents to get a signed release so kids can go places," Rich said. The events, while fun, are designed to build each student's confidence level and work skills. Competitions include: rock wall climbing, zip-lining, horseback riding, putt-putt golf, rope courses, obstacle courses and goal and beep ball competitions. Also available are archery, shot put, 25- to 100-meter dashes, long jump, softball throw and scuba diving.

Rich had his own experience with blindness for seven months after losing a cornea in his right eye, which necessitated a transplant. He gained new empathy for how his "kids" felt. "I thought I knew and had experience, but I didn't know what it was like until I went through it," he remembered. Sight restored, he treasures life even more with wife, Angie, who teaches in Rice Independent School District, and their four children and one granddaughter, as well as his "family" of graduates who are better able to meet the world's challenges with confidence due to their work with Rich.







Who's Cooking WOW

In The Kitchen With Janet Legrand

— By Faith Browning

New Orleans is where Janet Legrand and her husband both originated, but they moved away in 1965. Janet's mother and mother-in-law were both excellent Creole cooks, which gave her great inspiration. "We grew up in a city of bakeries, restaurants, fresh food markets, strong coffee and seafood," she recalled. "It would have been unthinkable not to want to cook."

Janet enjoys utilizing the Internet to

find variations of vintage recipes. "I like cooking some of the dishes that bring back memories of growing up in a big, happy family that gathered around the dining room table and where lively conversation was as important as a good dessert," she explained. "It reminds me of something my mom used to say, 'Nothing's better than cooking for folks who hum while they eat." TOW



HERB FOCACCIA BREAD

- 1 11-oz. can refrigerated French bread dough
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 tsp. Kosher salt
- 1 tsp. freshly ground pepper
- 1 tsp. dried oregano
- 1 tsp. dried basil
- 1/2 tsp. dried thyme
- 1. Unroll dough into a 15 x 10-inch jellyroll pan; flatten slightly. Press the handle of a wooden spoon into the dough to make indentions at 1-inch intervals.
- 2. Drizzle dough with oil; sprinkle with remaining ingredients.
- 3. Bake at 375 F for 10 minutes or until lightly
- 4. Cut into rectangles; serve with warm marinara sauce or as a side bread.

BABY LIMA BEANS AND SHRIMP

1/2 cup olive oil 1/2 cup flour 1/2 cup onions, chopped 1/2 cup green onions, chopped 2 cloves garlic, chopped fine

1/4 cup green pepper, chopped

1/4 cup celery, chopped

16 oz. frozen baby lima beans, thawed

3 cups hot water

1 Tbsp. butter

1 tsp. salt

1/4 tsp. red pepper

1 lb. shrimp, cleaned and deveined

2 Tbsp. fresh parsley, chopped

- 1. In a 4-quart pan on medium heat, prepare a roux by combining oil and flour; stir until golden brown.
- 2. Add chopped ingredients; cook for 10 minutes, stirring often.
- 3. Add lima beans, water, butter, salt and red pepper; cook for 10 minutes.
- 4. Add shrimp and parsley; cover and cook for 45 minutes, stirring occasionally. Serve over rice.

CREOLE RED BEANS

1 lb. red kidney beans

2 onions, chopped

1 green pepper, chopped

3 ribs celery, chopped

4 cloves garlic, minced

1 tsp. sugar

2 tsp. vinegar

3 cups chicken broth

3 cups water

2 bay leaves

1/2 tsp. powdered thyme

1/8 tsp. powdered allspice

1/8 tsp. cloves

1/2 tsp. chili powder

1/8 tsp. cayenne pepper

1/4 tsp. black pepper Salt, to taste

- 1. Sort and soak beans overnight; drain and rinse.
- 2. In a heavy pot, sauté chopped vegetables until soft.
- 3. Add beans and remaining ingredients, except salt.
- 4. Cook on a gentle simmer for at least 3 hours, stirring the mixture frequently. As beans soften, mash some against the side of the pot for a creamy texture to the sauce.

THE LAST GO-ROUND TURKEY GUMBO

Turkey carcass after carving



- 2 lg. onions, chopped
- 1 bell pepper, chopped
- 4 stalks celery, chopped
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 cup smoked sausage, cut in 2-inch slices
- 1 cup ham, in small chunks
- 2 bay leaves
- 1/2 tsp. thyme

Leftover gravy (if any)

Chicken stock (if needed)

2 tsp. filé powder

- 1. Boil turkey bones in enough water to cover the bones. Debone meat; set aside. Drain and save broth.
- 2. Sauté onions, bell pepper and celery in olive oil until soft.
- 3. Add turkey meat, sausage and ham; cook on medium heat for 5 minutes.
- **4.** Add bay leaves, thyme, turkey stock and any leftover gravy. Add chicken stock, if necessary.
- 5. Let simmer for 1 hour; remove from heat. Stir in file powder. Serve over rice.

FLOATING ISLAND

- 6 cups whole milk
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 Tbsp. cornstarch
- 6 eggs, separated
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 6 Tbsp. sugar
- 1. In a large pot, heat milk until warm.
- 2. Beat 1 cup sugar, cornstarch, egg yolks, vanilla and salt together.
- 3. Gradually add egg yolk mixture to milk, stirring constantly. Cook on medium heat, stirring constantly. Remove from heat; pour into a large bowl.
- 4. Beat egg whites until stiff; gradually add 6 Tbsp. of sugar, beating constantly.
- 5. Drop egg white mixture into a pan of cold water (about 1-inch of water in pan); bake for 10-15 minutes at 350 F.
- 6. Remove "islands" with a slotted spoon; place over custard and refrigerate. This is usually served in small individual dishes or as a sauce over angel food or pound cake.

CAFÉ BISCUIT

- 1 egg white
- 2 Tbsp. sugar
- 1 tsp. instant coffee
- 1 cup whipping cream
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1/2 tsp. almond extract

Toasted almonds

- 1. In a medium bowl, beat egg white until stiff. Add sugar and coffee.
- 2. In a second bowl, beat whipping cream until fairly stiff; add sugar, vanilla and almond extract. Beat until well-blended.
- Fold whipping cream into the egg white mixture.
- 4. Pour into 4 individual dessert dishes; top with almonds. Freeze overnight.
- 5. Remove from freezer 15 minutes before serving.

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



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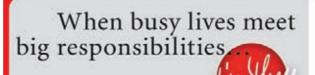
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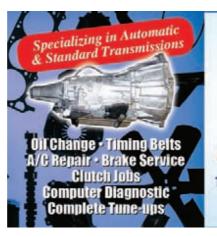


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Why You Need a Financial Plan

— Submitted by Scott Stanley

Studies have shown that financial planning plays a key role in achieving major life goals. Why wait any longer? Start assessing your current situation, setting goals and planning for your own financial future today.

The Best Laid Plans

Before you can start planning, you need a clear picture of where you stand today. Tracking your income and expenses on a regular basis and assessing your net worth — total assets minus total debts — helps you see how much money you can commit to individual financial goals.

Your First Home

Home ownership is at the heart of the American dream. The biggest obstacle facing home buyers is funding a down payment — typically 10 percent to 20 percent of a home's purchase price. The good news is there are many down-payment options for first-time buyers. Check with banks or mortgage companies in your area to see what special programs may be available to you.

If you intend to buy a house within five years, a good way to save for a down payment may be

through short-term investments, such as bond or money market funds. In addition, you can now use money from an IRA to help pay for your first home. Up to \$10,000 can be withdrawn penalty free, although you'll have to pay taxes on amounts withdrawn from a traditional IRA.

Your Child's Education

Ideally, you should start saving for your child's education as soon as — or even before — he or she is born. Tuition and fees at four-year colleges continue to rise between 4 percent and 6 percent annually — more than twice the current rate of inflation.* Depending on your child's age, you may want to consider investing your education dollars in stocks or stock mutual funds. While stocks can be riskier than other investments over short time periods, over the long-term they have historically produced the highest returns. There are many other education savings options, and some, such as state-sponsored 529 college savings plans and the Coverdell Education Savings Account, offer tax advantages as well.

Your Retirement

Planning for a secure retirement is probably your most important long-term financial goal. Experts estimate that, in many cases, you will need at least 70 percent to 80 percent of your final working year's salary for each year you spend in retirement.

That's why it's important to start saving for retirement early in life and keep saving as much as you can throughout your working years. By making regular contributions to your retirement account at work, and by choosing the investment options best suited for your years until retirement, you are taking advantage of one of the easiest — and most effective — ways to save for this important goal.

Get the Help You Need

Knowing the right financial moves to make and when to make them is a complicated job that most of us don't have the resources to handle alone. Consider consulting a qualified financial professional who can help you keep your financial plan on track with your ever-changing needs.

*Source: The College Board Online.

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Scott Stanley is a Woodmen of the World agent based in Corsicana.



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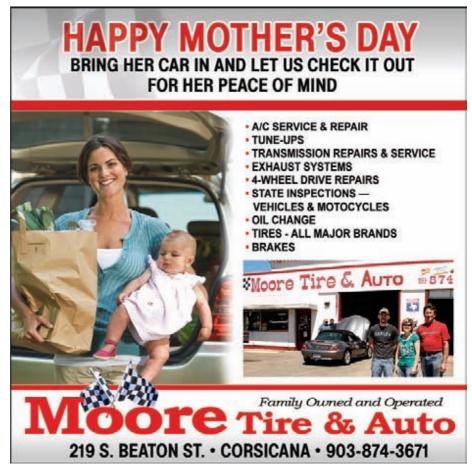
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Health **NOW**

BMI: DECIPHERING THE CODE

Memorial Day — and the official kickoff for shorts and bathing suits — is bearing down upon us. Whether you're dieting toward a certain weight goal, or just trying to eat healthier, remember that good health is about more than looking good poolside, or hitting a magic number on the scale.

Your ideal weight is actually not a single number, but a ratio — known as your body mass index (BMI). BMI is just one of several measurements that help determine the range you should strive to stay within for optimal health.

BMI is a measurement of your weight in relation to your height that indicates your total body fat. BMI does not directly measure body fat, but research has shown that your BMI score is a reliable indicator of body fat.

BMI is interpreted using weight categories that are the same for all ages and for both men and women, over age 20. For children and teens, however, the interpretation of BMI is both age- and sex-specific, in recognition of the fact that children and teens' BMI changes rapidly with age, and the amount of body fat during these years differs significantly between boys and girls.

BMI has become a widely accepted measurement tool for body fat and for determining a person's weight-related health status — for

both clinicians and patients. It is a reliable indicator of a person's risk for becoming overweight or obese, and it's inexpensive and easy to calculate. A person can calculate their own BMI at home, using the simple formula.

Know Your Number

BMI is calculated by dividing your weight in pounds by your height in inches, squared; multiplied by a conversion rate of 703. If a person's weight is 150 lbs. and Height is 5'5" (or 65") the BMI calculation would be: (150 lbs. x 703) / (65 x 65) = 24.96 BMI. The goal for most adults: a BMI that's over 18 and under 25.

Remember, though, your BMI measurement is only one factor related to your risk for obesity and chronic disease. While it provides an accurate indication of body fat, a BMI reading may not provide the full picture of a person's health or risk level in specific instances. BMI can differ according to a person's race, sex or age.

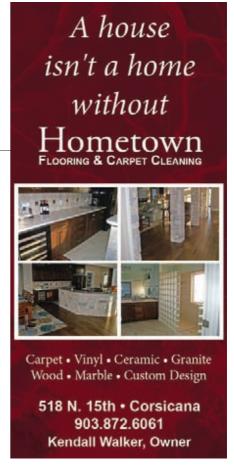
Remember that this information is not intended to replace the advice of your doctor, but rather to increase awareness and help equip patients with information and facilitate conversations with your physician that will benefit your health. **NOW**

Sources: Centers for Disease Control & Prevention www.cdc.gov/healthyweight/assessing/bmi/;

National Institutes of Health www.nih.gov; American Dietetic Association www.eatright.org.

Provided by Navarro Regional Hospital.









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Outdoors NOW



SALVIAS FOREVER

— By Nancy Fenton

Finally, it looks and feels like spring! There is still time to find and plant some great plants that will bloom spring, summer and fall. Salvias are among these great types of plants. They are also known as sages. The most common are: Pineapple Sage, Mexican Bush Sage, Autumn Sage, Scarlet or Lipstick Sage, Mealy Cup Sage and Garden Sage.

These plants make up an increasingly popular group of shrubby perennials, which do well in alkaline soil and dry conditions. Growing from 15 inches to 6 feet high, depending on the type you select, they can fill blank spots in your home landscape

with color. All they need is sunshine, and not even a full day at that, for they will do well in light afternoon shade. Once established, they take little care or water. This is one of the plants I use to get my landscaping to the point that it can do without me, if heavily mulched, for at least three weeks in the hot Texas summers!

Most salvia will die down in the early winter. After the foliage dies back in the late fall, I cut them back to within two or three inches of the ground and remulch them for a little extra winter protection. But in true perennial form, they rise again with the coming of spring! New growth comes from the roots. Any longer limbs that get stuck under the mulch will root and start their own little plants to be shared with friends if the plants do not fit in your flower bed.

Try some of these Texas-friendly plants. You will not be disappointed, and they can be with you forever!

Nancy Fenton is a Master Gardener.



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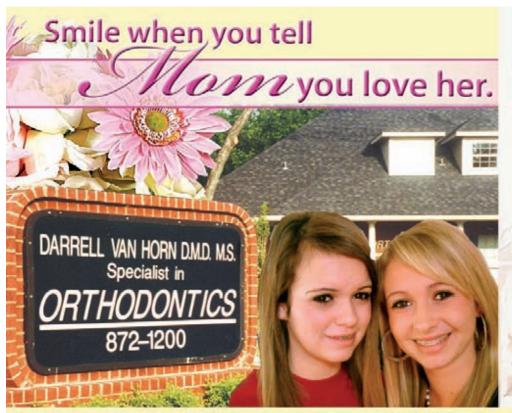
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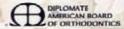
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Genealogical Treasure Trove

— By Adam Walker



If you are researching your family history and do not yet know about the Texas Collection at Baylor University in Waco, you are missing a valuable resource. Tucked away in the historic original library and chapel building from 1903, the Texas Collection is one of 25 depositories for the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Regional History Department. Baylor's collection includes such valuable documents as: marriage, birth, death, tax and probate records for McClennan and the surrounding counties, but the riches to be mined do not stop there.

Baylor has built an impressive collection of small-town newspapers, which can provide birth and wedding announcements and obituaries, as well as

wonderful gossipy details about your ancestor's lives and times. Where else will you learn that your ancestor had out-of-town visitors, or went visiting relatives in another county? What other source would tell you about your ancestor's fortunate recovery from a long illness or the new business venture he or she had launched or the rumor that an engagement was in the works?

Also included in the Texas Collection is a large number of county histories from near and far. Often these histories can give a researcher invaluable information about ancestors by recording information retained by another branch of the family. But Baylor is also actively collecting histories of individual towns and communities, along with histories of local churches and civic organizations to which your ancestors may have belonged and contributed. These documents could offer insights into an ancestor's standing in the community, religious beliefs and civic spirit.

Cemetery and funeral home records are also part of the collection and can often supply valuable clues. Your ancestor's epitaph could include vital information for your search, as could the mortician's or undertaker's notes about the circumstances of your ancestor's death.

If this sounds like a large collection, it is, but the collection of 125,000 books continues to grow by 150 books a month as they actively solicit donations of city directories, yearbooks from kindergartens to colleges, records of fraternal organizations, family cookbooks and cookbooks produced by churches and other organizations, which often include family stories.

Another category of books they are actively soliciting is family histories.

"They are hard to get," the librarian, Amie Oliver, reported, "because families don't often think to donate copies to libraries, but they have lots of information. We have quite a few, and we always want more."

The Texas Collection is also a repository of oral histories, and their collection of genealogical periodicals, and general periodicals of all sorts

relating to Texas, is impressive. If you are ready to take your genealogical search beyond the census records at your public library, Baylor's Texas Collection might be the perfect next stop on your journey of discovery.

The Texas Collection, located in the Carroll Library Building at 1429 South 5th Street, Waco, TX, is open Monday-Friday, 8:15 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Check their Web site, www.baylor.edu/lib/texas for Saturday and holiday hours. Call ahead at (254) 710-1268, and they will even pull your records for you and have them waiting for you when you arrive!





Call today or visit our Web site at trulyskindeep.com!





Happening MDW

Every Friday

Pre-K Story Time at 11:30 a.m., Blooming Grove Library, 301 Fordyce St.

May 3

Registration for Navarro College Summer Math, Science and Tech Academy for Teenagers ages 13-17: 8:00 a.m.-noon, Drane Science Hall, Room 115. The Academy is scheduled Monday-Thursday, June 28-July 1, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Students will experience field trips and hands-on classes. Cost of \$60 includes lunch, snacks and T-shirt. Space for only 28 students awarded on a first-come basis. For information, call Lisa Dillman, (903) 875-7517.

May 4-5

Visual M Pact, Richard Height, in schools for grades 7-12.

May 8

The Corsicana "Airsho" is sponsored each year by the Coyote Squadron of the Commemorative Air Force. This year, the show will feature several WW II training aircraft, a "Devil Dog," Mitchell B-25 bomber and the very last flying Curtis SB2C Helldiver, an aircraft-carrier-based dive bomber. In addition, aircraft that have been modified to resemble Japanese airplanes, a Zero and a Kate dive bomber, flown in the movie Tora! Tora! *Tora!* and other post-war aircraft. The Airsho will also feature formation flying and radio-controlled miniature aircraft. Classic car enthusiasts will enjoy the Shakers & Scrapers car club's collection of classic automobiles. The admission is \$5 per person or \$10 per carload, with veterans and their families admitted free. Spring rains have made airport grounds unstable, so the current plan is to park visitors' cars on the shoulders of the service roads under

-Happening<mark>MOW</mark>

the US-287 viaduct. Shuttle buses will transport visitors from their cars directly to the airport ramp. For more information, visit the Web site at www.coyotesquadron.org.

May 14

All night walk-a-thon and softball tournament to raise money for cancer research and patient assistance: 7:00 p.m. at Lake Halbert Park. For information, call Tammy Broome at (903) 872-3931 or e-mail tbroome@corsicanadailysun.com.

May 21

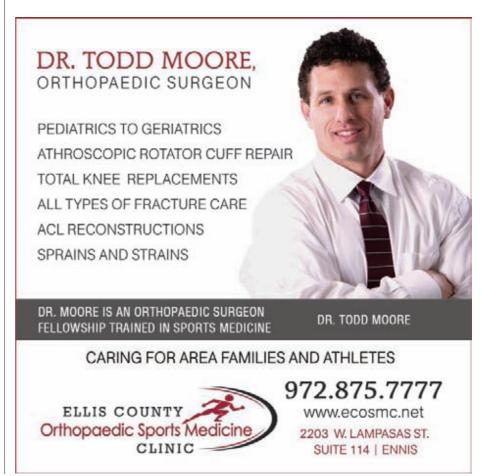
Please join us for the Annual Chamber Golf Classic at the Corsicana Country Club. Prizes awarded to top three teams on gross score and net score. Also, prizes for longest drive and closest to the pin (front and back). Registration begins at 11:00 a.m. Putting contest begins at 11:30 a.m. Final putt for \$5,000: 12:30 p.m. Shotgun start (as soon as putt is over). For information about fees, call Semonna Battenfield at (903) 874-4731 or e-mail chamber@corsicana.org.

May 30

Dawg Daze of Summer Sooner Chili Cook-off at Gander Mountain benefiting the Humane Society of Navarro County. 50/50 Beans \$10 turn in: noon. Junior Chili (ages 8-17) \$5 turn in: 1:00 p.m. (Chili Grind Only). Casi Chili \$20 turn in: 1:00 p.m. (Chili Grind Only). Pet contest at 10:00 a.m. with the following categories: smallest, biggest, best dressed, best trick and owner/pet look-alike. Special appearance by Bill McFarlin and his Brittany, Star, and her companions, Maggie and Lucille. For information, call Marsha Stearman at (903) 874-2500.

For more community events, visit www.nowmagazines.com.





EDUCATION

- · Doctor of Dental Surgery, University of Toronto, Canada
- Oral and Maxiliofacial Surgery, Specialty, University of Toronto
- · Medical Research Council of Canada Fellowship

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND TEACHING

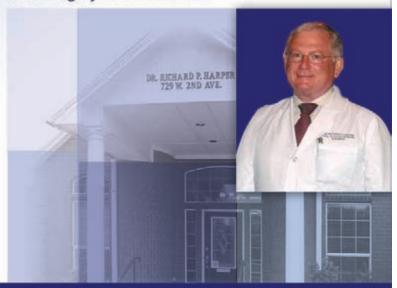
- Clinical Professor, McMaster University Medical School, Canada
- · Associate Professor, Baylor College of Dentistry, Dallas
- · Fellow of the Royal College of Dentists, Canada
- Member American Association Oral and Maxiliofacial Surgeons
- · Diplomate American Society of Dental Anesthesiology

ACADEMIC CONTRIBUTIONS

- · Scientific Research focused on bone and cartilage
- Author of over 100 publications in Scientific Journals

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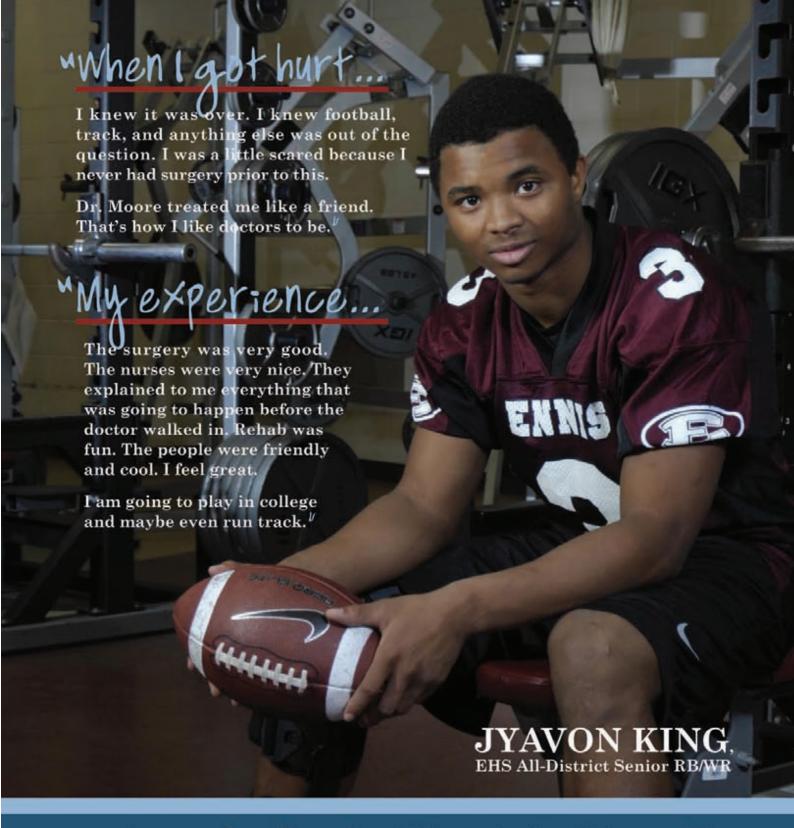
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