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M A G A Z I N E

July 2010

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## On The Cover

A Patriot Guard Rider's motorcycle and flag.

Photo by Terri Ozymy.

# Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

The value of teamwork is the theme of this month's stories; even men who cook together demonstrate this theme. Young children are preparing for a future in which cooperation and the ability to work as a team will be important skills. Dance teams and the ROTC drill teams teach them what can be accomplished when people work together. As children enter adulthood, it is their mission to explore the world to discover that people in all nations share common interests, appreciating the interesting and varied ways that others experience life. Grant Magness tells us about his first journey of discovery. It is the mission of adults in this generation to preserve what is beautiful from the past, just as the Smiths have restored their historic home. Finally, we honor those veterans who took seriously their responsibility to preserve such values as duty, honor, individual freedom and rule of law.

Joan Kilbourne  
*CorsicanaNOW* Editor



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# Standing for Those WHO STOOD FOR US

— By Joan  
Kilbourne

*Many people in Corsicana first became aware of the Patriot Guard Riders when they saw men and women standing with their flags in a line around the Northside Baptist Church. That was in March of 2008, and the flag line was there to honor Cpl. William O'Brian of Rice High School who died in Iraq. After the service, the flag bearers mounted their motorcycles and escorted the funeral procession to the Dallas Fort Worth National Cemetery.*

Hugh Garland was riding that day. "We made no stops along the whole way," he said. "The police escort stopped traffic at the intersections. All along Hardy Avenue and I-45 Business, people came out of their businesses to wave flags and show yellow ribbons. When we were passing Rice High School, the classrooms emptied out and kids came running down to stand by the highway. At graveside," Hugh said, "one of the two brothers was wearing his jump boots and it reminded me of when I was in the 101st Airborne. Hugh's son, Marine Sergeant Christopher Garland, served with the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines at Camp Pendleton to become the fourth generation in his family to join the armed forces. "Many of the Patriot Guard Riders are veterans of Iraq, Afghanistan and Vietnam, like me," Hugh said.

The first Patriot Guard Riders group was founded in 2005 in response to a group of people in Topeka, Kansas, who protested at the funerals of veterans and active duty soldiers. To protect the grieving families, the motorcycle riders gathered at gravesite to stand in a "flag line" between the protestors and the family. The organization spread quickly to other states. In many places there are no protestors and the Patriot Guard Riders assemble in their flag line out of respect for the veteran or soldier killed in action. Nationally, there are about 190,000 riders signed up. Some of them are veterans themselves. Others represent dozens of different riding clubs made up of police departments, firefighters, church-sponsored groups, active duty and reserve military, blue- and gold-star families (families with a loved one who is actively serving in the military or those whose loved one died during service). Some riders do not even know anyone in the military service. They just come to honor the sacrifice others have made.

The Patriot Guard Riders' Dallas unit started when there was a disturbance 14 years ago, in 1996. The flag line was





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## “Many of the Patriot Guard Riders are veterans of Iraq, Afghanistan and Vietnam, like me.”

organized at the cemetery to keep the war protesters away from the family in mourning. Mike Lambert is the Deputy State Captain of the North Texas Region of the Patriot Guard Riders. The Assistant Deputy is Dewey Dyer. Mike served 22 years on active duty in the Navy, and is a veteran of Vietnam. “I knew it was time to quit when I was training kids who were born the year I left Vietnam,” Mike said. “I have retired so I can ride full time now. Mike explained, “When a family requests our presence, the information is posted on the [www.txpgr.org](http://www.txpgr.org) Web site. Riders meet at the gravesite to honor veterans, police and firefighters.” When someone is on



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active duty or is killed in action, the riders accompany the return from the airport to the funeral home or memorial service and then they stand in a flag line at the burial service. "We make a flag wall between protesters and the family so the family doesn't have to see them," Mike said. "We don't engage them [the protesters] or even look at them. We are just there to protect the mourners."

All the riders are volunteers; men and women, young and old. "One woman brings cookies for the riders," Mike added. (It turns out that she is Mike Lambert's mom.) "Truckers are the most respectful of all," Mike said. "They will sometimes turn the truck to block other cars that try to break into the procession." Riders can sign up for e-mail notices of funerals or burials or they can just look at the Web site where the missions are posted and ride to whichever mission they choose to attend. The Patriot Guard Riders turn out in all kinds of weather. "It's the right thing to do," Mike said. Recently 23 riders were on hand at 4:30 a.m. at DFW Airport to accompany the return of a Vietnam veteran whose body was discovered after 41 years. They accompanied the body to burial in the Dallas Fort Worth National Cemetery where the soldier was buried with full military honors. "At DFW cemetery we surround the pavilion with the flag line," Mike explained. "That way the family does not see all of the other graves."



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The riders pay all of their own expenses on mission. "They come to the first one for themselves," Mike said. "Then they see how honor is given to the fallen, and they get involved in coming for others. Most riders agree it is not a sad event. It is inspiring. When a new rider joins us and we find out he is a veteran of Vietnam we say 'Welcome Home,' because no one said that to them when they came home. There is the

**"It is not about any one of us, not about the riders, but about them — the ones who served their country."**

kind of camaraderie in the group that is special to the men who served in the military; only it is a broader loyalty than being loyal to the Army or Navy. It is about all branches of the military."

Patriot Guard Riders attend from one to four missions a week. "When there is a mission for someone killed in action there may be more because people take a day off from work to attend," Mike said. There is also a special yearly event in Gainesville when Congressional Medal of Honor winners are invited to celebrations with local citizens at a series of events. The Patriot Guard Riders escort the medal winners from the airport to town. There have been as many as 260 riders in that procession and a police escort shuts down the freeways.

Both Mike Lambert and Hugh Garland said repeatedly, "It is not about any one of us, not about the riders, but about them — the ones who served their country." The Patriot Guard defines a veteran, whether active duty, retired, National Guard or reserve, as someone who, at one point in their life, wrote a check made payable "To the United States of America," for an amount "up to and including my life." **NOW**

*Editor's Note: The calendar of future missions and photos of previous missions are seen on the Web site at [www.txpgr.org](http://www.txpgr.org). The national PGR Web site [www.patriotguard.org](http://www.patriotguard.org) is an inspirational source of history, information about missions and photos.*



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# A Lasting, Classical Beauty

— By Virginia Riddle



## *At Home With Gene and Nancy Smith*

Palladian windows gracefully frame the entry across the broad two-storied front porches lined with massive Ionic columns befitting of the prosperous economic times during Corsicana's turn-of-the-century oil boom. The resulting construction boom made Mr. Tatum's hardware business very profitable. He completed this mansion prior to 1900 for his son, Clifford, and his bride, as a wedding present. In 1983 the home was designated as a Texas Historical Landmark and received a Texas Historical Commission's marker. "People stop and have their picture made at the marker," Nancy said.

Gene and Nancy, Indiana University sweethearts, decided upon Dallas as a place to establish a manufacturing business after having lived in San Antonio during Gene's 20-year career as an Air Force pilot. An opportunity to sell that business gave the couple the freedom to look for a more relaxed lifestyle with less traffic, but in close proximity to "Big D." They

*In 1894, oil was discovered in Corsicana, and the next year Lyman T. Davis began selling his newly created Wolf Brand Chili for 5 cents a bowl from a wagon to oil workers throughout the resulting boom years. Also in 1895, William M. Tatum, a Corsicana pioneer, began construction on Gene and Nancy Smith's classical Greek revival home in Corsicana's West Side Historic District (or Carriage House Neighborhood). Bringing the classical mansion back to life has been Gene and Nancy's passionate project even prior to moving to Corsicana. "It was a competition between raccoons, squirrels and us as to who was going to live here until we got the new roof on," Gene remembered.*



found exactly what they were looking for in Corsicana and their mansion. "We can walk to town," Gene remarked, "and not have to stand in long lines."

They purchased the home in 1986 and went to work. Gene, now owner of a construction firm, was in possession of the original plans drawn on linen cloth by architect, H.O. Blanding. Blanding designed many buildings in Corsicana's



three historic districts including Corsicana's skyscraper which is now the Chase Bank Building. Since the home had not exchanged ownership often, much of the hardware, chandeliers, flooring, woodwork and tile were original to the structure. Nancy even found a receipt from Sanger Brothers Department Store of Dallas dated 1915 for the velvet draperies and lace panels which were still hanging on the downstairs windows. "The fabric was great," Nancy recalled, "but only the dust was holding the drapes together."



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Besides polishing and refinishing the salvaged components of the structure, Gene and Nancy have completed the downstairs remodeling and made substantial structural improvements. The leaky roof was a major problem. "We were up to 17 buckets before we got the new roof on," Nancy laughed. In addition to the new gabled roof, the plumbing, wiring, walls and some flooring and tile work have been replaced. Some of the old-fashioned push light switches remain since the electrician noted that they were better than new switches. Gene added, "Wherever we travel, we visit hardware stores to find new faucets and tile." They even found an artisan in Dallas who created the

new plaster columns that grace the front of the home. "It was a challenge to find someone to do it," Gene admitted. Newly installed heating and cooling units enhance their life in the home.

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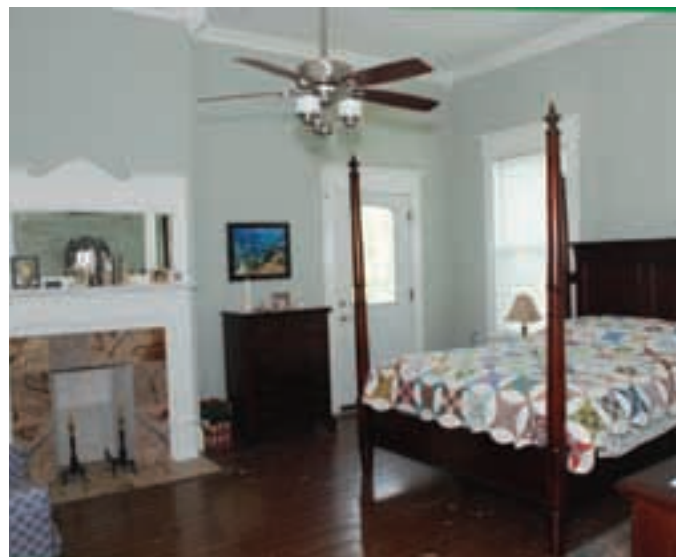


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“The downstairs front of a home was for ‘show’ while the kitchen was for servants and the upstairs for family, so it was plain,” Nancy explained.

The informal family dining room joins the formal dining room with the kitchen. The kitchen has been completely modernized with all new cabinets, tile, lighting and appliances. Gene and Nancy enlarged the space to accommodate a

large work island and large commercial appliances and double ovens. They created a large pantry out of a space that had been a bathroom for the servants. The original back porch was enclosed to create an office space for Gene and the resident dog, Bella. “She lets me come in,” Gene said. Back stairs leading to the second floor existed for the servants, but adjoined with the front stairs at a

landing which was out of sight of the front door, thus keeping the front of the house elegantly entertaining to visitors.

The second story is now a work-in-progress. Gene and Nancy have, by necessity, remodeled one of the original five bedrooms into a beautifully relaxing master bedroom and bath area. The bath required new flooring and tile work, cabinets, plumbing and lighting fixtures

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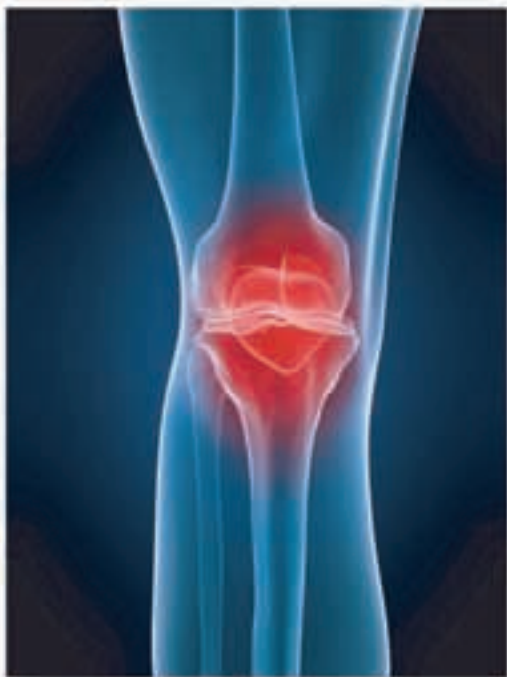
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that coordinated with the original small chandelier. The bedrooms, along with a guest bath, all open onto a large open hallway at the top of the stairs. The front bedroom leads to the second story balcony on which Gene and Nancy can enjoy the sights and sounds of Corsicana from their swing. "We can hear the children playing at Drane Middle School nearby," Nancy said.

The third floor is a full-sized attic space which is completely floored and has a soaring 20-foot ceiling. Storage space like this can be envied. According to Nancy, no ghostly apparitions inhabit any of the three floors. "Our home has a good feeling; no ghosts," she said. Life in the house is not totally easy, however. "We can't make turns in the stairwell with beds and couches,"

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Gene noted. “We have to get a forklift and lift them over the balcony.”

Active with their church, Westminster Presbyterian, Gene and Nancy also enjoy spending time with their two daughters’ families including a special granddaughter. Nancy enjoys traveling to places she has not seen during the family’s 14 moves. In recent years, she has renewed her love

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of archaeology by going to “digs” at the Alamo and at Oxford, England, through the Smithsonian Institute. “Old” takes on a new meaning when on the digs or attending “rehab” conventions. “Corsicana has such a treasure of historical homes. These houses are irreplaceable,” Nancy stated. With loving care from Gene and Nancy, their classical home will be a lasting reminder of Corsicana’s history, as well as a part of the city’s future. **WWW**



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*Hunter Folmar and Emily Hines take a break to pose for the camera.*



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*Size matters to Van Neason Jr., who takes "old school" to the next level with his '89 Caprice Classic on 28-inch wheels.*



# SQUARED AWAY AND PROUD



— By Joan Kilbourne

You can tell something big is going on when you pull into the parking lot next to 23 yellow school buses. Inside there is a kind of orderly movement everywhere in the halls, and a quiet confusion in the gymnasiums and auditoriums of Corsicana High School (CHS). This is the final Junior ROTC drill team competition held once a year in Corsicana. Cadets in full dress uniforms walk in small groups, or they march smartly down the hall looking “squared away” in formation with their teammates. Parents and friends follow behind the cadets as they move from one competition venue to another.

The Corsicana ROTC cadets are the hosts of this event. Five times during the year, CHS teams travel to compete in competitions held at other high schools and at Baylor University, but this final meet is theirs to plan and carry out. Preparations begin in the first semester when invitations are sent to the ROTC programs in other schools. Final preparations are stepped up after the last away competition in March. The ROTC Commander, Colonel Pailles and Master Sergeant, Roger Hardie, oversee the drill team competition, but the student cadet officers supervise the event as part of their leadership training.

Arrangements must be made for parking buses that are bringing teams of 30 or 40 students and their parents. Attendants must be assigned to guide the visitors to the registration location. The reception desk in the cafeteria is staffed and each of the visiting team members are provided with a folder containing the day’s schedule of events and a map of the school so they can locate the gyms and auditoriums used to house the competitions. Signs are posted all over the building so cadets and parents do not



get lost in the maze of hallways. Food must be prepared and scoring programs made ready. The CHS host cadets arrive at school at 6:00 a.m.; even the ones who were at home making tamales until 3:00 a.m. The parents of the cadets also arrive bringing the Mexican food they prepared along with the standard teen food such as hot dogs and hamburgers.

Cortnie Needham, the Vice Corps Commander, is in charge of scorekeeping and collecting money. Scheduling the teams is a complex business that is managed on a spreadsheet. Each school competes in one or more of the competitions held at different locations throughout the day. Scoring is recorded by computers and the high-point winners will be honored

**“The best part is learning discipline and respect.”**

at an awards ceremony at the end of the day. Cortnie explained, “One event is the inspection for military bearing, and for complete and immaculate uniforms. Sometimes the judges ask questions, such as ‘Who is the president?’ or ‘Who is the secretary of defense?’ But they do not score the answer so much as the manner in which the cadets respond.” The Precision Drill Teams perform both with and without sabers or rifles, and they are expected to respond to any of 59 commands to be performed in the proper sequence. The Exhibition Teams perform marching drills and Color Guard Teams demonstrate their ability to present colors according to military rituals. The Physical Training Teams run, do pushups, sit-ups and broad jumps. Two judges, senior Army and Air Force ROTC cadets from Baylor University, score the team performance at each event.

Corps Commander Jessica Beaman, carrying her clipboard with the event schedule and essential notes, seems to be everywhere at once. Until she was chosen to be the corps commander, Jessica was the logistics officer and in charge of the equipment used when the cadets perform in community events in Corsicana and in the out-of-town competitions. Her uncle and grandfather were both military men.



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She plans to work toward certification as an occupational therapist associate next year at Navarro College. Vice Corps Commander Cortnie Needham followed her aunt into the ROTC program. She took enough college credit classes to have 23 hours behind her when she enters Navarro College in the Texas A&M program. Always around horses on her uncle's ranch, Cortnie wants to specialize in veterinary medicine. Cortnie said,



"The Corps officers are nominated by the current senior staff and Colonel Pailes makes the final choice for corps commander, vice corps commander and cadets in charge of operations and logistics.

"As seniors," Cortnie said, "we have to model what the cadets are supposed to learn. They watch us. We are recognized by all of the students in the school when we wear our uniforms one day a week. Other students we don't know may stop us and comment on what we are doing." It is evident that the student cadets take pride in being recognized as members of a group that is honored in the school. They also feel pride wearing the uniform of the United States Air Force. Cortnie added, "The best part is learning discipline and respect." When this busy day is over, she and Jessica will also enjoy the good feeling that comes from accomplishing something that is important to the students and families from 23 visiting high school teams and to their own community. **NOW**

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Monica Aldama and Jeri Watkins are co-owners and co-coaches of Corsicana Tumbling Academy.

## ABOVE AND BEYOND WINNING

— By *Virginia Riddle*

Exuberant enthusiasm and extreme athleticism are characteristic features of Corsicana cheerleaders of all ages. Joining national winners from Navarro College and Corsicana High School (CHS) are the 2010 United Cheer National Championship winners, the Senior Coed Team, from the Corsicana Tumbling Academy (CTA). Competing against 91 teams from throughout the United States, this team was declared the Level Three Champions as well as the Overall Grand Champions. “Our kids worked so hard the whole year,” Joey Davila, team choreographer and gym manager, declared proudly.

Winning a championship at this level of competition takes a total commitment from the team, parents and coaches. Team members, ages 9-16, practiced once a week from March through August,

but as school started, they began the more rigorous training schedule of three practices per week. “With private lessons, some members and their parents are at the gym five days a week,” explained Jeri Watkins, team co-coach and co-owner of CTA. Members also attended four summer camps and spent weekends at qualifying competitions. “These kids are very active in everything. We constantly have to work around all their other activities and school schedules,” Monica Aldama, co-coach and co-owner of CTA stated. Next year will be challenging since the team will be comprised of students from six area schools.

The 2010 Senior Coed Team members were Ally Aldama, Devan Bray, Jourdan Bruce, Shelbi Corder, Macee Curry, Dolcya Gilmore, Bailey Hardin, Abby Harlan, Alisa Horn, Brooke Janecka,

Cassidy Jock, Baileigh Johnson, Kenneth Martin, Katie Miller, Addison Moore, Amy Nunez, Addison Ray, Ashlynd Ray, Caroline Talley, Claire Vadasy, McKenna Watkins, Kayla Wilkie, Sagen Williams and Emily Young. Three of these tumblers also took home individual honors: Kenneth placed second in the senior male tumble pass, McKenna was national champion in jumps and received the high point jump honors, and Sagen was national champion in the tumble pass competition. McKenna and Sagen also competed in the best cheerleader duo event and were named national champions after achieving the high point duo honors.

The team won trophies, banners and \$3,000 for their accumulated wins. The most treasured of all awards, however, is the prized letter jacket that each team



member received and proudly wears. "The kids will do anything to receive their jacket," Jeri stated.

Great kids often have great parents. The team parents were active contributors to this national win by doing far more than just the usual parent duties of paying the bills and chauffeuring from one activity to another. Much of the money needed to pay for the tuition and competition fees, travel expenses and costumes was covered by several fundraisers held and organized throughout the year by parents. "The parents are extremely supportive," Jeri said. "They are so appreciative and happy that they don't have to drive to Dallas for coaching."

Jeri and Monica grew up in Corsicana, cheerleading at Corsicana High School and at the college level. Monica continues as the cheer coach for the seven-time Navarro College national championship squad. They both credit Sallie Wasson,



**Winning a championship at this level of competition takes a total commitment from the team, parents and coaches.**

their former coach at CHS, for starting the move to compete at the national level. "The district hired a professional coach, and she really started to change things," Jeri stated. Jeri and Monica recalled that their parents, Ann and Sonny Jamison, Bill Holcomb and Carolyn Yates were supportive, but these two future coaches were really self-motivated and inspired by Coach Wasson. "She took us to camp. She was strict, but she was a great mentor to me," Monica remembered.

The February days of the national meet dawned dreary and cold in Galveston, Texas. Parents text messaged

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from the stands to the coaches reporting on the competition. "Following the preliminaries, the team had added pressure. They knew they were in first place going into finals," Jeri said. One team member was sick from stress. Nervous team members were panicky thinking that they had forgotten the routine. However, when the music began everyone fell into step and the performance was perfect. That is when



Sagen Williams and McKenna Watkins proudly show off their trophies.

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all of the practice helps. "Muscle memory just takes over," Jeri said. Following the award ceremony Joey paid off a promise he had made to the team during the heavy practice period; he would go swimming in the ocean if they won. "Even though the sun had come out like it was blessing us, the water was so cold! But it was worth it," he grinned proudly. "It was a 'Dream Weekend,'" team mom, Kelli Williams, remembered.

Jeri and her daughter, McKenna, are cheered on by husband and father, Scott, and son and sibling, Caleb. Monica and daughter, Ally, enjoy enthusiastic support from husband and father, Chris, and son and sibling, Austin. But family includes the team as well. Macee revealed, "The CTA Senior Coed is not just a team to me; they are my family." Her mother, Belinda Curry added, "I cannot say enough good things about 'our family.' God has truly blessed us with a great thing." The team's 2010 motto, "A Champion Needs a Motivation Above and Beyond Winning," continues to inspire this team and "family" to carry this winning formula into all their future endeavors. **NOW**



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# Offering an *Artistic Edge*

*Imagination and family effort launch a new salon. — By Joan Kalbourn*

Rebecca (Becka) Tomberlin worked for many years in a variety of businesses before she found herself the owner of a hair salon, spa and gift shop in Corsicana. "This is more fun," Becka said. It was a family affair from the beginning. Becka designed the sophisticated black and red color scheme that gives the shop an "Uptown" look. Her son, Brady, took the first advertising photos and her daughter, Heather, helped with the startup. "I have four beautiful grandchildren, and one of them, Abby,

got this whole thing started."

The idea for a salon began when Abby was a student in cosmetology school. As a class assignment, she was to find an actual building in town where a shop might be located. When Abby found a building on Beaton St., her grandfather, Paul Tomberlin, guided building of a model of the shop. In August, Becka and Paul bought the space Abby had found and in November opened the doors to Artistic Edge Salon. "It happened so fast," Becka said. "I still ask myself, *How*

## **From left:**

Becka Tomberlin, Abby Cabezas and Natalie White welcome you to experience the difference at Artistic Edge Salon.

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did this happen? I furnished the shop for future expansion thinking we would start slowly with just two stylists, but it grew quickly." Now there are six experienced and very talented stylists, two massage therapists, one esthetician, and three women at the front desk to greet you.

Becka's daughter, Natalie, was a teacher who left her job to stay at home with her new baby. She works part time now as assistant manager and party lady. It was Natalie's idea to offer birthday parties for girls on Saturday evening and Sunday afternoons when the shop was closed. She entertains a birthday girl and six other guests along with moms and dads and grandparents who come to watch the fun. For the Princess Party, Natalie dresses in her Cinderella costume and provides princess dresses and a tiara for each of the little girls. She does their hair and paints their nails and tells them how important it is to be beautiful inside

**"I am so grateful for the ladies who work here and the great job they are doing."**

as well as outside. Natalie also offers little girls a "Hello Kitty" party wearing her Hello Kitty mask to entertain them. Girls who are 11 or 12 can have a rock party with costumes and karaoke music. The paparazzi party features a runway for the girls to model their outfits while Natalie takes photographs. Party pictures can be seen on the Web site [www.artisticedgeonline.com](http://www.artisticedgeonline.com).

Becka said, "I am so grateful for the ladies who work here and the great job they are doing. One of our goals is to pay attention to each of our clients while they are with us. We are a diverse staff and we are respectful of the diversity of our clients. Another goal is to give back to the community. The stylists are all enthusiastically behind the program we offer to the schools. We choose one school a month and ask the school to name a teacher and a student who will be treated to whatever salon services they want at no cost. Recently, we gave 20 free haircut and styling prizes to winners of a raffle at Collins Middle School. We are grateful that Corsicana has been welcoming and supportive." **NOW**

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On the 22nd of January, Grant Magness boarded a plane in Houston, Texas, and got off in Amsterdam, Holland. "A year ago, some students told me about the Baylor University's Semester Abroad program," Grant said. After learning about the program, he and 36 other students were looking forward to their own three-month adventure. The program is designed in cooperation with the Center for European Studies at the University of Maastricht which has an enrollment of more than 6,000 students. Students attend classes from Monday through Thursday so the weekends and four weeks at the end of the term are free for independent travel. Grant said, "I had four classes in international management and abnormal psychology taught by a professor and graduate students from Baylor who came with us as program sponsors. I also took business writing, and Dutch art history classes that were taught by faculty from Maastricht University." All the course hours fit into Grant's plan for a degree in finance and economics.



# Off to See the World

— By Joan Kilbourne

"We stayed in the dorms at the campus guest house and had classes there," Grant said. "Altogether we were in class 28 days out of the 90 day tour. Not a bad way to earn credit for a semester." The group spent time in London before classes started, and after that they traveled in small groups on weekends to nearby destinations such as Austria and Germany. After the last class, the students were responsible to plan their own itinerary and make arrangements for transportation and housing.

"We averaged a two-night stay in each city," Grant said. "We mostly stayed in hostels because they are cheap. We spent three nights in airports so we could take the early flights. We had to be there at 4:00 a.m. to check in for a 6:00 a.m. plane, so we just slept in the airport. We traveled to the western European countries and then to Prague in the Czech Republic, Budapest in Hungary, and in Poland, we went to see the Auschwitz concentration camp. I met more people from America than Europeans. When someone on the street

hears you talk, they come up to you and ask if you are American, and they stay to talk," Grant said.

"My three favorite cities were Interlaken, Switzerland, Santorini in Greece and Paris, France. When we were in Interlaken, I went paragliding. That was great. We were about 3,000 feet up in the mountains, and we flew off the mountain under a parachute. In Greece, we stayed for four days in a villa near a beach. It was one time we just relaxed. And then Paris," Grant said. "You just had to be there." Grant's favorite foods were the Irish stew in Ireland and the schnitzel in Germany. "I liked the tour of the Heineken brewery in Amsterdam, and we took a bike tour of Paris," he said. Surprised to find free admission to the Louvre Museum on a Sunday, Grant marveled at the size of the collection there.

Baylor University provided extensive support for the students traveling on their own. The students set off armed with cell phones and e-mail contacts along with addresses for medical and consulate resources. In the pre-trip literature, just



about every possible emergency situation was addressed. There was no suggestion, however, about what students should do if a major volcanic eruption halted air traffic all over Europe. Just a few days before Grant's group planned to leave Italy to rejoin the group in Amsterdam for their flight home, they got word about an ash cloud that halted flight plans. They made the very wise decision to cut short their stay in Italy in order to secure train reservations that were suddenly very much in demand. "On one train," Grant said, "we had to stand for the whole four-hour trip. People were crowded in the aisles and in the areas at the end of the cars. It took 26 hours to get back, but we were on time for the flight home. Ours was the first flight out of Amsterdam when traffic resumed." Six of the students got stuck in Portugal behind a train strike in France, and they missed the flight. They did not get back until a week later.

Born and reared in Corsicana it was an adventure for Grant to "step out." It was an adventure also for his parents, C. E. and Sherry, to see their only child fly out



of Houston bound for Amsterdam. Grant financed his adventure with money earned as an intern with a local law firm and with his own business driving "Grant's Iceberg" snow cone

trailer around the neighborhoods in the summer for the last four years. Now that he has traveled on his own, Grant feels confident that he can travel anywhere he would like to go. "I would like to go back to Switzerland someday, and I want to see New Zealand and South Africa. There are places in the U. S. I want to see, too." He knows that when problems arise he can solve them and move on to wherever he wants to go. Not even a raging volcano can stop him. **NOW**



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# In The Kitchen With the KC Barbeque Team

— By Faith Browning

The present crew on the Knights of Columbus (KC) Barbeque Team has been together since 1999. Charley Smith contributed the design idea of an old-time steam train engine. With an old diesel tank as the main component, several of the Knights helped build, cut and weld the frame together. "Our intent was to provide not only a way to barbeque for different events and functions," they said, "but to instill camaraderie into our group."

The team participates in Corsicana functions including Derrick Days, Christmas parades, air shows, the Ethnic Food Show, Texas A&M cook-off and Immaculate Conception Church functions. Some of their church functions include grilling and frying fish on Fridays during Lent, selling briskets at least three times a year and cooking sausage and hamburgers for the Parish Festival. **NOW**



## COLESLAW

- 1 16-oz. bag coleslaw mix
- 2 Tbsp. onion, diced
- 2/3 cup Miracle Whip
- 3 Tbsp. vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1 Tbsp. white vinegar
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. poppy seeds (optional)

1. Combine coleslaw mix and onion in a large bowl.
2. Whisk together the Miracle Whip, vegetable oil, sugar, vinegar, salt and poppy seeds in a medium bowl; blend thoroughly.
3. Pour dressing mixture over coleslaw mix and toss to coat. Chill 2 hours before serving.

## MEXICAN BLACK-EYED PEAS

- 1 16-oz. pkg. black-eyed peas
- 2 lbs. pork sausage
- 1 med. onion, chopped
- 3 Tbsp. celery, chopped

- 1 28-oz. can tomatoes, un-drained
- 1/2 cup water
- 2 Tbsp. sugar
- 2 1/2 Tbsp. chili powder
- 2 tsp. garlic salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper

1. Cook peas as directed on package.
2. Brown sausage; add onion and celery and drain. Stir in remaining ingredients and simmer 1/2 hour.

## HOT PICKLES

- 1 gal. sliced dill pickles
- 5 cups sugar
- 1/2 jar chopped garlic or 6 cloves
- 1 to 2 oz. Tabasco sauce

1. Drain pickles and put back into jar, alternating layers of pickles, sugar and garlic; repeat until all pickles and other ingredients have been used.
2. Pour Tabasco over all. Let the pickles set for 5 days, turning the jar over every day (upside down-right side up until the 5th day).

Refrigerate before serving. Place pickles in smaller jars and keep refrigerated. If you do not like them hot, use less Tabasco.

## BBQ SAUCE

- 1 cup water
- 1/2 cup white vinegar
- 2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. black pepper
- 2 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1/4 lb. butter

1. Combine all ingredients and cook just to a boil. This makes enough for 3 1/2 chickens. Seal leftover sauce in jar and store in refrigerator.

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1. Roll ribs around in batter to coat them.



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2. Heat oil in kettle to 350 F. Lay coated ribs in oil. They will sink to the bottom.
3. Ribs are done when they rise to float on the surface, and they are golden. Remove carefully from kettle and drain on paper towel.

#### THE KC SMOKED BRISKET

**20 to 25 beef briskets, about 10 lbs. each**  
**Many packets of fajita seasoning**

1. Buy briskets from a meat processor. Trim fat from briskets.
2. Rub with fajita seasoning of choice and let baste in its own juices for 24 hours.
3. Set up poker table, get chairs for about 10 players, and locate cards and poker chips.
4. At 2:00 p.m. put brisket, fat side up, into the three ovens in the steam engine smoker and cook six hours. Play poker and eat snack food and beverage of choice because the meat is beginning to smell good, making everyone hungry.
5. At 8:00 p.m. remove briskets and double wrap in aluminum foil. Put briskets back into the smoker for six more hours.
6. Resume poker game. Switch to snacks that resemble breakfast food.
7. Remove briskets from ovens and pack into foam containers to keep warm for delivery to Texas Hold 'em tournament, after church sale, or Knights of Columbus event. The secret to a good smoke ring is constant heat and keeping the lid closed. No peeking! Serves 800 brisket sandwiches (about 1/4 pound per person). Recipe may be reduced to one brisket.

#### KC FRIDAY-IN-LENT FISH FRY

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**KC Secret Seasoning** (This special mix of many seasonings is the result of 15 years of experimentation. You may season to your family's taste, or try seasoning with salt, black pepper and cayenne or garlic pepper for spice.

1. Soak filets in a bowl of cold water.
2. In deep skillet or deep fryer, heat oil to 350 F.
3. Put cornmeal in a shallow plate or bowl (or for variety, try a mix of dry potato flakes and cornmeal); add seasoning. Dredge fish filets in seasoned dry mixture.
4. Fry in hot oil 5 minutes or until fish flakes apart easily.
5. Remove from oil and place on paper towel to absorb excess oil.

**VARIATIONS:** For the calorie-conscious, the seasoned fish filets may be cooked on a flat grill "like you cook hamburgers." For summertime grilling experts, fish may be barbecued. To prevent drying out, wrap filet in foil or dip it in oil before placing on grill. Watch closely, and turn when one side is just half done.

To view more of your neighbors' recipes, visit our web site at [www.nowmagazines.com](http://www.nowmagazines.com).



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# Winning Strategies for Business Succession Planning— *Provided by Gary Hayden*

As a business owner, you've probably worked hard to build and manage a business that provides income and wealth for you and your family. In fact, most of your time, energy and finances may have been invested in your business. As a result, it has more than likely become a significant portion of your estate. Unfortunately, the business that provides for your family during your lifetime may not do so at your death. Only a small number of family businesses are actually passed on to the next generation.

What will be the legacy of your business after your death? The business may be so dependent upon your involvement that, after your death, it may have little remaining value. In addition, attempts to pass the business on to the next generation may be thwarted by estate taxes, which may force the liquidation of the business.\* Even if your business survives, finding a buyer may not be easy. Unlike a publicly traded firm, a small, closely held business may not command its real value

on the market. If a family member does not actively manage the business after your death, the dividends from the business — on which your family will depend — may be insufficient to provide for their needs.

## Planning for the Eventuality

Most owners begin succession planning by deciding whether they want to pass the business on to a family member, an associate, an employee or an outsider. The business will command its greatest value when it is running at full speed. In other words, you should find a buyer now.

The cornerstone of a good business succession plan is the buy/sell agreement — a contract between owners, or the business itself and owners. Such an agreement is legally binding and obligates the estate of the deceased owner to sell the interest of the business defined, at a predetermined price, to the business itself, to co-partners or shareholders, or to both. It creates a market

for the business interest of the deceased, sets the price and governs the orderly transition of the business.

A buy/sell agreement is only as good as the funding available to execute it. For this reason, most agreements stipulate how the purchase is to be funded. Since the agreement is triggered at your death, life insurance may be the logical and most cost-effective choice.

Selecting the best method of buy/sell can be an involved process. Certain tax, estate planning and control advantages exist with each method. The decision is almost always case-specific and should be discussed with experienced professionals. In conjunction with your attorney and accountant, your insurance professional will play a critical role in developing and executing your business continuation plans. Long-range planning is always subject to change, and your buy/sell agreement should, therefore, be reviewed periodically to help assure it continues to meet your needs. **KNOW**

*\* Under current law, the estate tax is repealed December 31, 2010. Consult your Certified Public Accountant for more details.*

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Before heading outdoors to enjoy the long, summer days, make sure you're armed with all the essentials for spending time in the sun safely — a pair of sunglasses, a hat and, most importantly, a good sunscreen.

In addition to premature aging, excessive sun exposure puts our health at risk. Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States, with more than one million cases diagnosed each year. And melanoma cases — the most serious and fastest-growing type of skin cancer — have doubled in the past 20 years.

Around 90 percent of skin cancers occur on the head, neck, ears, lips or hands — those areas that are in the sun most often. Other factors that play a role in the risk of skin cancer include our age, complexion (light-skinned people have the greatest risk), any prior family history of skin cancer, and geographic location of the country (the sunny Southern states are a hot spot for increased risk of skin cancer).

A sunburn can happen anywhere, not just at the park or the pool. You are exposed to sun while driving, through a glass window in your home, or reflected off another surface such as concrete,

sand or snow. The good news: it's never too late to begin protecting your skin.

## Protect your skin

To protect your skin, start with a good sunscreen that has a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15. Remember that it's still possible to get a sunburn on cloudy days, too. Apply plenty of sunscreen (about an ounce, which is the equivalent of a shot glass of lotion), 20 to 30 minutes before going outdoors, and reapply frequently — about every two hours — particularly after exercise or water activities.

**One in five  
Americans will  
develop skin  
cancer during  
their lifetime.**

## Size, shape and color

Keep an eye on freckles, moles and other spots on your skin, and show any changes to your doctor or dermatologist. Warning signs to look for include a mole, birthmark or brown spot that over time

changes color or texture, increases in size or thickness, has irregular outlines, or is bigger than 6 millimeters or a quarter-inch (the size of a pencil eraser). Also, any spot or sore that itches, hurts, crusts, scabs or bleeds, or an open sore that does not heal, should be brought to the attention of your doctor. **NOW**

*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.*

Sources:

The Skin Cancer Foundation: [www.skincancer.org](http://www.skincancer.org),  
American Academy of Dermatology: [www.aad.org](http://www.aad.org).

**A 2010 survey by the American Academy of Dermatology polled 7,000 adults around the country about sun protection and skin cancer detection. The study, "Suntelligence: How Sun Smart is Your City?" ranked 26 cities around the country according to their knowledge, attitudes and behaviors about sun safety and skin cancer. Questions asked ranged from knowledge about UV rays to whether surveyed individuals had ever had a skin cancer screening. Cities that scored at the top — and bottom — of the poll, respectively, are:**

- No. 1 - Hartford
- No. 2 - Salt Lake City
- No. 3 - Denver
- No. 4 - Tampa
- No. 5 - Boston
- No. 6 - Phoenix
- No. 7 - Atlanta
- No. 8 - Philadelphia
- No. 9 - Portland
- No. 10 - Baltimore
- No. 11 - Dallas
- No. 12 - Houston
- No. 13 - Miami
- No. 14 - San Francisco
- No. 15 - Washington, D.C.
- No. 16 - Detroit
- No. 17 - San Diego
- No. 18 - Cincinnati
- No. 19 - New York City
- No. 20 - Minneapolis
- No. 21 - St. Louis
- No. 22 - Los Angeles
- No. 23 - Seattle
- No. 24 - Cleveland
- No. 25 - Chicago
- No. 26 - Pittsburgh

You can take the AAD's "Suntelligence" poll at [www.melanomamonday.org](http://www.melanomamonday.org) to see how your knowledge stacks up.



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# July is Crape Myrtle Time

— By Nancy Fenton



Look around at all those gorgeous, blooming trees! If you do not have some crape myrtle trees, try them. There are varieties for every space, taste and color preference. They can run from 2 feet (miniatures) to 20-plus feet (tree size). They are all ultra-hardy and do very nicely on natural rainfall after the first year. The key is to pick your color and know the maximum height you can tolerate in the space you are considering for planting. Do not plant 20-plus foot trees under your power lines!

Texas A&M recommends some good varieties for our mid-Texas areas. Their sizes and names are as follows:

## RED

2-3 feet	Pocomoke
3-6 feet	Dwarf Low Flame
5-12 feet	Cheyenne, Tonto
10-20 feet	Comanche
20-plus feet	Arapaho

## PINK

3-6 feet	McFadden's Pinkie
5-12 feet	Caddo
10-20 feet	Osage
20-plus feet	Biloxi

## PURPLE

2-3 feet	Velma's Royal Delight
3-6 feet	Dwarf Royalty
5-12 feet	Zuni
10-20 feet	Lipan
20-plus feet	Muskogee, Wichita

## WHITE

5-12 feet	Acoma
10-20 feet	Byer's White
20-plus feet	Fantasy, Kiowa

You will notice not all sizes have all colors available. Take your pick of size and color. Buy from a reputable nursery. Ask if they will take it back if it is not the right size and color. Good nurseries will! Plant the tree in the full sun and water thoroughly each week until the days no longer hit 85 degrees or higher. All new plants need special care and crape myrtles are no different. Your investment in thought, time and money will bloom and bloom and bloom! **NOW**

*Nancy Fenton is a Master Gardener.*



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# COWBOY CAPITAL

— By *Becky Walker*

Nestled away in the beautiful, but rugged Texas Hill Country less than an hour west of San Antonio, is the little town of Bandera. Known as the “Cowboy Capital of the World,” it was the staging ground for the last of the great cattle drives in the 1800s, and is famous for its strong rodeo tradition, dude ranches and horseback riding. In fact, many national rodeo champions have called Bandera home.

Here in this town, which prides itself in keeping the Wild West alive, it is not uncommon to see a horse tied to a hitching post or entertainers in period costume. Each Saturday, re-enactments of gunfights take place near the courthouse and horse-drawn wagons offer tours of the downtown area.

If music and dancing spark your interest, there are plenty of local honky-tonks, or you could drop in on an old-fashioned jam session, held every fourth Friday at the Silver Sage Corral. If apple picking is more to your liking, you might think about a mid-July

visit to Love Creek Orchards located about 20 minutes away in Medina. (Call 830-589-2588 ahead of time to be sure the crop is ready for picking.)

Historical tours emphasize the area’s unique blending of Indian, Mexican, Polish and Western cultures, and much of the local architecture is Polish — including St. Stanislaus Catholic Church, the second-oldest Polish Catholic church in the United States.

Scenic drives offer views of canyons, rivers, winding roads and wildlife. Over 200 species of birds have been identified in the area. The Lost Maples State Natural Area in northwestern Bandera County preserves the Big Tooth Maple, a variety of maple not normally found in other parts of the state. Axis deer, feral hogs and wild turkeys make Bandera a

favorite place for hunting. Information regarding hunting leases may be obtained through the Bandera Visitors Center at (830) 796-3045 or (800) 364-3833. If you love the great outdoors, Bandera just might be the vacation spot for you! **NOW**







*Evonne Blackwell*  
CPA, CGMA



*Charlene Coker*  
Bookkeeper



*Val Bosales*  
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*Richelle Perry*  
Administrative Assistant

## Evonne Blackwell CPA, Cr.FA

Certified Public Accountant

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**WOW**, what a hot summer already! Here's what is "hot" with the IRS lately, in "bullet" form (no pun intended). If you need more details, please call us or e-mail me at [evonne@blackwellcpa.net](mailto:evonne@blackwellcpa.net):

**\*\*New Hire Rules:** Don't forget about the new Business Tax Credit for new hires. It can save employers 6.2 percent for employees hired after Feb. 3, 2010 and before Jan. 1, 2011, who were previously unemployed.

**\*\*New Individual and Business Tax Strategies:** We now have a brochure with some very interesting individual and/or business tax strategies. If you would like a copy, please call, and we'll be happy to mail you one.

**\*\*How to Make Money on Vacation:** Be sure to make all of your business appointments before you leave on vacation to make the trip primarily for business purposes. In order to deduct travel expenses, you must be traveling for business. Make the majority of your trip business days and keep good records of all expenses, including tips and other gratuities. Even if you travel with a companion, at least some part of the travel expense can be deductible when the primary purpose of the trip is business.

**\*\*Home Office Deduction:** This is one of the most difficult deductions, but can be well worth the effort because there are so many tax advantages. You may need to have clients sign guest log books, keep time and work activity logs, retain receipts and paid invoices, etc ... but it could be well worth the effort.

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# Happening **NOW** —

## July 4

Come to the IOOF Park. Bring your picnic and watch the Annual Freedom Festival Fireworks display at dark.

## July 3 and 17

Pickett Riding Club play day series: 6:00 p.m., 0049 County Line Road, Streetman. Cost will be \$4 for events, \$2 for exhibitions and \$20 for membership. Divisions will be 6 and under, 7 to 9, 10 to 12 and 18 and over. There will be cloverleaf and straightaway barrels, flag and speed race, potato race, poles, keyhole and free 6 and under flag race. Call before you haul. For information, call Tona after 5:00 p.m. at (903) 388-4846.

## July 14

The Navarro College Small Business Development Center (SBDC) "Funding Your Small Business" seminar: 10:00 a.m.-noon, Corsicana Chamber of Commerce, 120 N. 12th Street, Corsicana. Learn about the different types of funding sources to start and grow your small business. Topics cover financing options such as bank loans, SBA guaranteed loans, non-bank lenders and private investors. Attendees will discover the variety of loans available and the process for getting funds guaranteed by the U.S. Small Business Administration. Information will also be presented that covers what lenders want to see when making a business loan, the myths and realities of grant funding and alternative lending sources to consider. The cost of this workshop is \$20. To register, call the Navarro College SBDC at (903) 875-7667 or e-mail sbdc@navarrocollege.edu.

## July 20

Family Services meets the third Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. at the Chamber of Commerce. Please call ahead to confirm meeting



## —Happening **NOW**

date and time as these meetings are subject to change. Contact Semonna Battenfield at [chamber@corsicana.org](mailto:chamber@corsicana.org) or phone (903) 874-4731.

### July 21 and July 23

The Navarro College Small Business Development Center (SBDC) “Writing a Winning Business Plan” session at the Corsicana/Navarro County Chamber of Commerce, 120 N. 12th Street, Corsicana. Wednesday, July 21: 2:00-4:00 p.m. Friday, July 23: 10:00 a.m.-noon. Cost of the workshop is \$20.00 and is for anyone wishing to start a business or already in business. Attendees will explore the reasons why a business plan is critical to the success of any business, especially if the business owners are looking to get a loan or an investor. We will explain the general format, the sections of a business plan and what information is required for each section. Pre-registration is required, as seating is limited. To register, call the Navarro College SBDC at (903) 875-7667 or e-mail [sbdc@navarrocollege.edu](mailto:sbdc@navarrocollege.edu). Navarro College SBDC is a partnership program with the U.S. Small Business Administration.

### July 22-31

*Circus Shambles*, a wonderfully wacky musical comedy by Corsicana’s own Norma Russell, presented by the Warehouse Living Arts Center. For more information, visit [www.warehouselivingartscenter.com](http://www.warehouselivingartscenter.com).

### July 24

3rd Annual Golf Gala, sponsored by Boys & Girls Clubs of Navarro County: 9:00 a.m. at the Corsicana Country Club. 4-man scramble. \$65 per player; \$260 per team. Food served on location. Many prizes: “Long Ball”; “Closest to Pin.” For more information, call D.R. Washington, Sr. at (903) 215-6501. Please RSVP By July 23.



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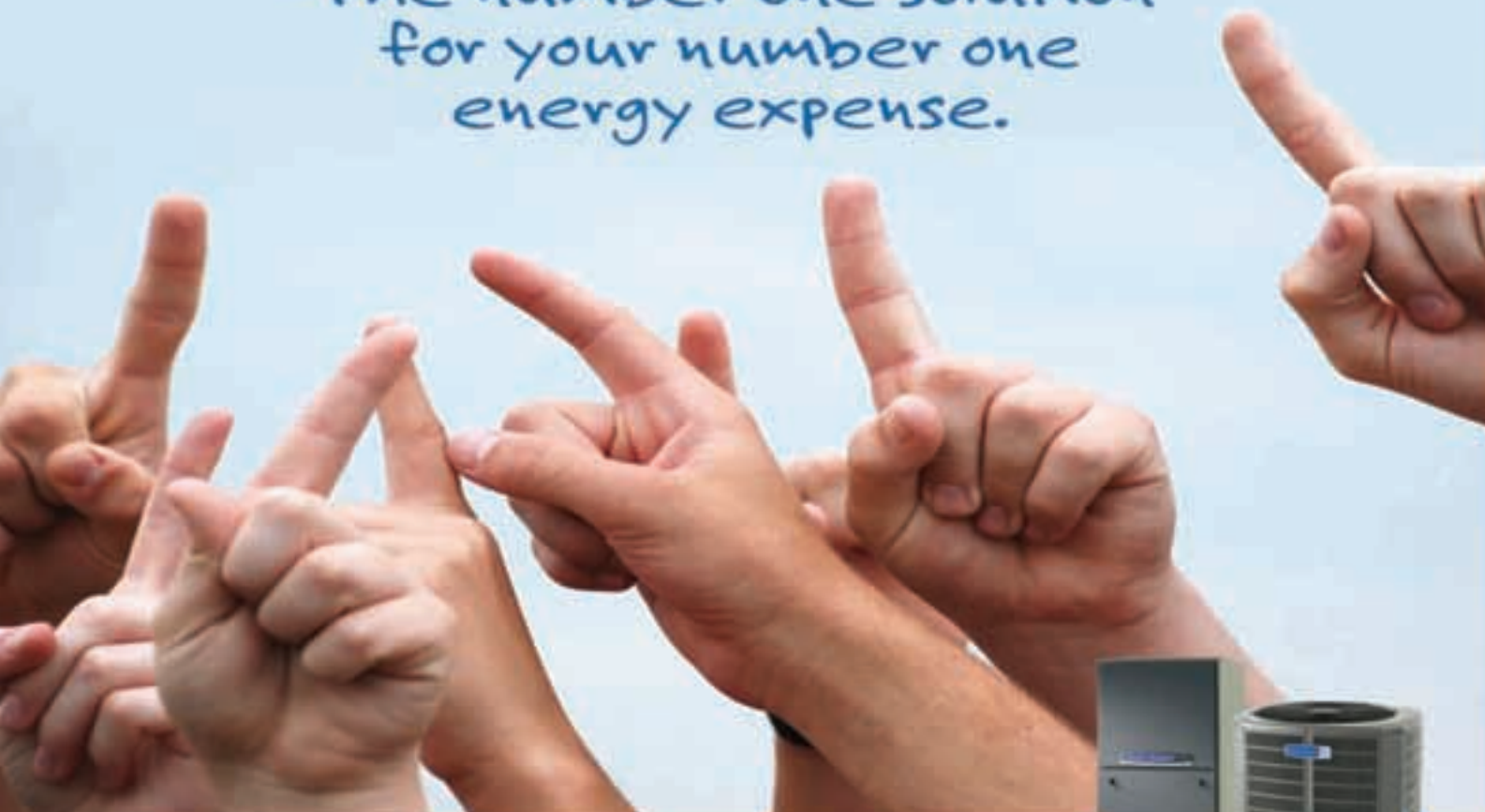
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