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August 2008

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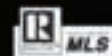
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**** Taxpayer and Employer News for August, 2008 ****

****Don't forget to increase your minimum wage on July 24, 2008:**

According to the U. S. Department of Labor: Compliance Assistance: Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA): the 2nd step of the bill signed by President Bush on May 25, 2007 to increase the federal minimum wage will be effective July 24, 2008 and will increase to \$6.55 per hour. The third and last increase in the federal minimum wage is scheduled for July 24, 2009 and is expected to increase to \$7.25 at that time. (See www.dol.gov/esa for more information)

****Still waiting on your stimulus rebate from the IRS?**

If you have not received your economic stimulus payment, yet feel you were eligible for one and have filed your 2007 return, you may need to go to the IRS website at www.irs.gov and click on "Where's My Refund?"; then scroll down on that page to "Where's My Stimulus Payment?"; then scroll down again to "Where's My Stimulus Payment?" and enter the required SSN and # of exemptions you claimed and you can find out if and when your payment will be or has been sent. If all else fails, call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040.

****Want to earn credit card rewards and/or travel miles via the IRS?:**

You can pay your taxes and estimated taxes by credit or debit card and earn rewards and miles! It's convenient, safe and secure and a confirmation number is provided to ensure proper recording. The only downside is that there are some fees charged for electronic payment options with the IRS — you should be sure to weigh those fees against the rewards earned. See www.irs.gov and search e-pay service providers and fees for more information.

****Exempt organizations and new rules for IRS reporting:**

Don't forget to check www.irs.gov for any new update on exempt organization reporting requirements!!

****Extension Reminder:**

Just a friendly reminder for those of you who have filed an extension for your individual income tax returns, the due date is October 15, 2008. Try to file as soon as possible because if you owe additional tax, it can help avoid additional penalties and interest.



Richelle Perry,
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Sharon L. Watts,
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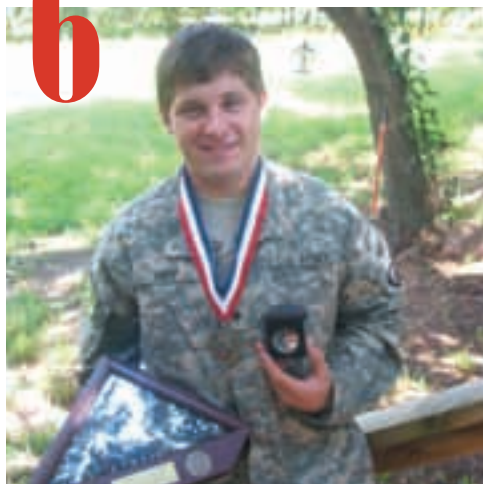
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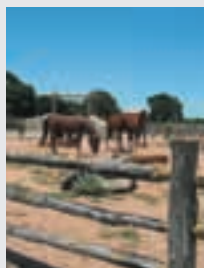
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Photo by Linda Moffett.

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Corsicana NOW

Editor's Note

Hello Corsicana and Navarro County!

Believe it or not, summer is coming to a close. I hope everyone has enjoyed time with their families, and that you all were able to have a getaway during these beautiful summer months.

This issue has a lot to share with you. We feature an amazing educator who packs a powerful punch. On a daily basis, Deedy Fletcher, of Collins Catholic School, pours her heart and soul into every lesson she offers her kindergarteners.

Also, please read up on the goings-on with Habitat for Humanity in and around Navarro County. Dr. Robert (Bob) Kingman offers his insights into the wonderful blessings Habitat has offered this community.

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

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— By Samantha Stroube

Just a mere three years out of high school, this amazing young man is laying his life on the line every day under the direction and guidance of our Commander-in-Chief and other capable military leaders. After graduating from Blooming Grove High School in May 2005, Spencer Hipp soon joined the ranks of the elite in the U.S. Armed Forces. In July 2005, he enlisted in the National Guard unbeknownst to his friends or parents. "It was no surprise to anyone that I would do this, because when I was a kid, I used to always play 'army guy' in the woods behind my house," Spencer admitted. "School was really not my thing either, so I definitely knew this is the direction I was headed," he added.

So in August 2005, just three months after graduating from high school, Spencer was sent to basic training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. "I remember it being really cold there all of the time, and my mom worried a lot," Spencer said. "I



tried to call every Sunday when we had an hour of personal time, but sometimes the lines were too long." "We went two weeks one time without hearing a word from him," interjected his concerned mother, Leslie Hipp.

Once his basic training was complete, Spencer was stationed in Rio Grande City, Texas, from December 2005 to October 2006 for border patrol duty. When that assignment ended, he returned home to try his hand at semiprofessional football for the Texas Extremes in Athens, Texas, for the next seven months. "It was too hard to do both; I still had weekend training for the National Guard and it was exhausting traveling



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back and forth," Spencer stated.

After realizing he could not do both, and that his loyalty was always with the military, Spencer filed three waivers to go to Iraq, but he was denied each time. "The best way to

"It was no surprise to anyone that I would do this, because when I was a kid, I used to always play 'army guy' in the woods behind my house."

explain why he was denied," interjected Leslie, "was because he is the last male in his bloodline. Remember in the movie *Saving Private Ryan*, where their sole responsibility was to bring back Private Ryan because his other two brothers had been killed? Well, Spencer was denied because they actually hold that rule up to this day. They don't want a family bloodline or name ending."



However, after extensive follow up and convincing on Spencer's part, who insisted that he understood the severity of what he was considering, he left for Camp Shelby, Mississippi, on Mother's Day of 2007 for training. He deployed to Iraq that August.

Upon his arrival at Camp Adder, Tallil Airbase, Spencer had not quite realized what he had gotten himself into until he stepped off the plane. "It was just as you would imagine it," Spencer recalled. "It was hot. The wind blew like a hot blow dryer; the sand was constantly blowing into your teeth and mouth and the camels roamed like cattle do here (there are no fences). And on top of that, you are hauling around 75 pounds of gear.

"Soon after our arrival, I really didn't think much was going to be taking place there," Spencer said. "But as we were headed to get settled into our rooms, five rockets hit the center of our base.

"I really joined the military to see new things," Spencer admitted. But he apparently got more than he bargained for with the Iraqi countryside.

Spencer explained that his base was the point place between Kuwait and Baghdad, sitting closer to the Iran border than anything. He was a part of the Delta Company BDF (Basic Defense Force), which acted as cavalry



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was finally released for a 15-day leave. "I surprised my mom at work; she thought my trip had been delayed a day due to weather," Spencer said with a smile. So from February 24 to March 7, 2008, Spencer was able to relax, visit with friends and family and rest before heading back over to Iraq for two more months.

During his time home, Spencer took some time out of his "R & R" to head up to Grapevine with his mom to

"When I got home, I wanted to share with them what I had been doing."

show a slide show to some students who had been sending him letters and care packages the entire time he was overseas. The group was made up of sixth-graders who were being taught by a family friend of Spencer's, and the teacher suggested they all write to him. "I really enjoyed all of their letters; it kind of gave me something to look forward to," Spencer said. "So when I got home, I wanted to share with them what I had been doing, and let them all know that because of the soldiers, little girls were now being allowed to attend school."

"I couldn't believe it was my son up there speaking to these kids. He has never been one for public speaking, but my and his sister's jaws dropped when we watched him in action at that school," Leslie said with the greatest of pride.

Spencer finally returned home in May 2008, as a proud and reverent soldier. However, much to his parents' chagrin, he is considering returning to Iraq in the near future.

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See menu for details

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See menu for details

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Memories Old and New

— By Sandra McIntosh

Being reared in the same community is no guarantee that two people will meet and become high school sweethearts; quite the contrary, for Ronnie and Marsha Odom. "We both grew up in Corsicana," Marsha said. "He was a bit older." As they reminisced, they smiled at the memory of meeting in 1965 at the wedding of mutual friends. "He was the best man," she said, "and I was the maid of honor."

Their courtship lasted for five years. Ronnie went to college at Arlington State College after graduating from Navarro College in Corsicana. Before he earned his degree, he was drafted into the United States Army. On March 7, 1970, soon after his discharge from the service, the two were married and made their first home in Arlington. They were getting nowhere fast in Arlington, so they moved to Huntsville.

At Home With

Ronnie and Marsha Odom

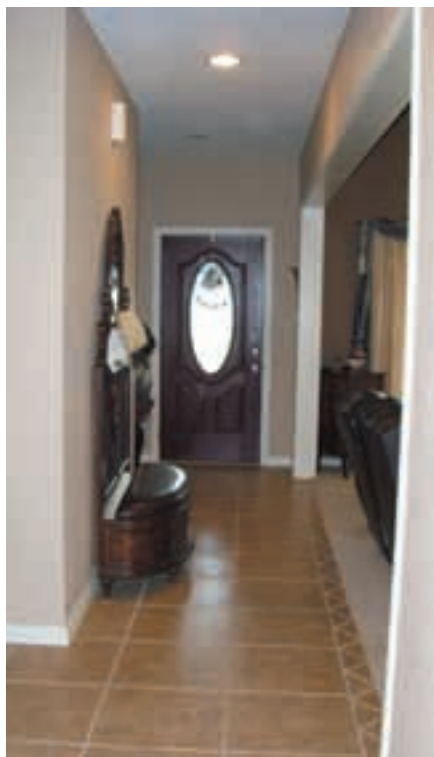


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"Ronnie completed his master's degree in special education at my alma mater, Sam Houston State University," Marsha added.

While in Walker County, they celebrated the birth of their oldest daughter, Shannon. The decision to move back home to Corsicana came in the summer of 1974. "Ronnie was offered a job at Drane Middle School," Marsha said, "and I got a job with the Texas Department of Human Resources." She started as a case worker and, years later, was promoted to a supervisor before retiring in 1999. Ronnie spent 13 years at Drane before climbing the ladder that saw him spend time at Lincoln Elementary (now Carroll



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Elementary), central office, Travis Elementary and then lastly, at Navarro Elementary. "I retired in December of 2002," Ronnie said, "to be a field supervisor for teachers. I helped student teachers get started."

While all this working was going on, Ronnie and Marsha had made a stable home for Shannon and her younger sister, Alyssa, born after the couple returned to Navarro County. "Our old house was close to the school," Marsha added. "It was a solid neighborhood." The decision to move to the country was something the Odoms had been contemplating and planning for a very long time. "It was something we both had always wanted to do," Ronnie said, explaining that





Marsha had, over the years, accumulated stacks of magazines with ideas. "We had originally intended to build at Cedar Creek, but when it came to our final decision, we decided to look for something closer."

They both agreed that finding the five acres that serves as the perfect backdrop for their new three-bedroom, two-bath, energy-efficient home with wraparound front porch was a "fluke." It took five months of procrastination before Ronnie placed a call to their real estate agent. "The lot grabbed us," Marsha interjected. "The trees, the open prairie and the one-acre tank was the perfect spot for the home we had envisioned."

The home was built large enough



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to accommodate visits from their ever-growing family, which now includes Shannon's two boys and Alyssa's husband, Brad, and their two girls. Ronnie and Marsha were able to incorporate energy efficiency from top to bottom, while continuing to be ever-mindful of conserving natural

“The trees, the open prairie and the one-acre tank was the perfect spot for the home we had envisioned.”

resources. The home is their contribution to “going green.”

The foundation is pier and beam. The 21 piers, reinforced with oversized rebar and anchored using the bell process, are drilled 16 feet into the ground. “It makes the foundation solid,” Ronnie said. “There will be no cracks because it doesn't move.” The plumbing, known to contractors as PEX tubing, is fairly new to the area. “It's a space-age material that does not corrode,” Ronnie explained. “It's impervious to heat of 120 degrees and can withstand cold temperatures to 20 degrees. All connections are brass, with independent piping for both hot and cold water.”

Icynene foam was sprayed in the walls and the attic, making for half the electric bill the Odoms received while

living in town. The construction process itself further added to the decreased use of electricity. "LP Tech Shield, a custom type of sheeting that covers the exterior, was used," Ronnie said. "This added extra insulation." Marsha added, "Radiant barrier was added to all the outside walls and the roof. It looked like plywood that was silver. It shoots the heat back out away from the house."

The 21 insulated, double-paned windows were positioned so that no



direct sunlight, except for a single bank of windows in the kitchen, would make its way into the house. The concrete found under the flooring was made with a 30-percent flyash component. "This makes it much stronger," Ronnie explained. "It provides a barrier to hot and cold." The water heater and the air conditioning unit are located in the attic in a room completely insulated that remains the same temperature year-round, thus adding to the overall efficiency the couple were looking for when planning their French country-style home.

Ronnie's job when planning and building the home dealt with the technical aspects, while Marsha was in charge of researching ceiling fans and appliances to keep the home true to its energy-efficient status. "We knew the price of energy was going up," Marsha said, "so we purchased Energy Star appliances, ceiling fans and even the TV in the living room." The Delta faucets in oiled bronze and chrome will no doubt last a lifetime, the sink drains located in the back of the

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kitchen sinks allow for water to flush properly without leaving any behind and the TOTO low water-use toilet flushes fast and uses less water overall.

The entire home is designed to conserve energy, water and time, while also offering a warm, cozy atmosphere to enjoy their retirement years. They both like antiques, so their new home is a blend of old favorites mixed with several new purchases. "The first thing I bought for the new house was the hall tree," Marsha said, as she pointed to the entry hall. "It's brand new, but it's made to look like an antique. I liked the

"Children need to know where they came from."



inlaid oval mirror because it matched the oval glass in the front door." A very special room among many is what the couple like to call their "heritage" room. Family history is found among the framed photos that date back to the 1920s, as well as photographs of Ronnie and Marsha, both at age 18. "Children need to know where they came from," Ronnie added. "They need to see who their family is."

Due to the two full months of what seemed like continual rain, the home took eight months to construct from start to finish. The move-in date of December 2007 quickly became March 2008. Ronnie and Marsha's new home is filled with memories. Everything within the home, from the family photographs and dining table to the cartoon tie quilt and antique music table, has a story of its own to tell. To Ronnie and Marsha, it is a home filled with memories; some old, some new. **XXX**

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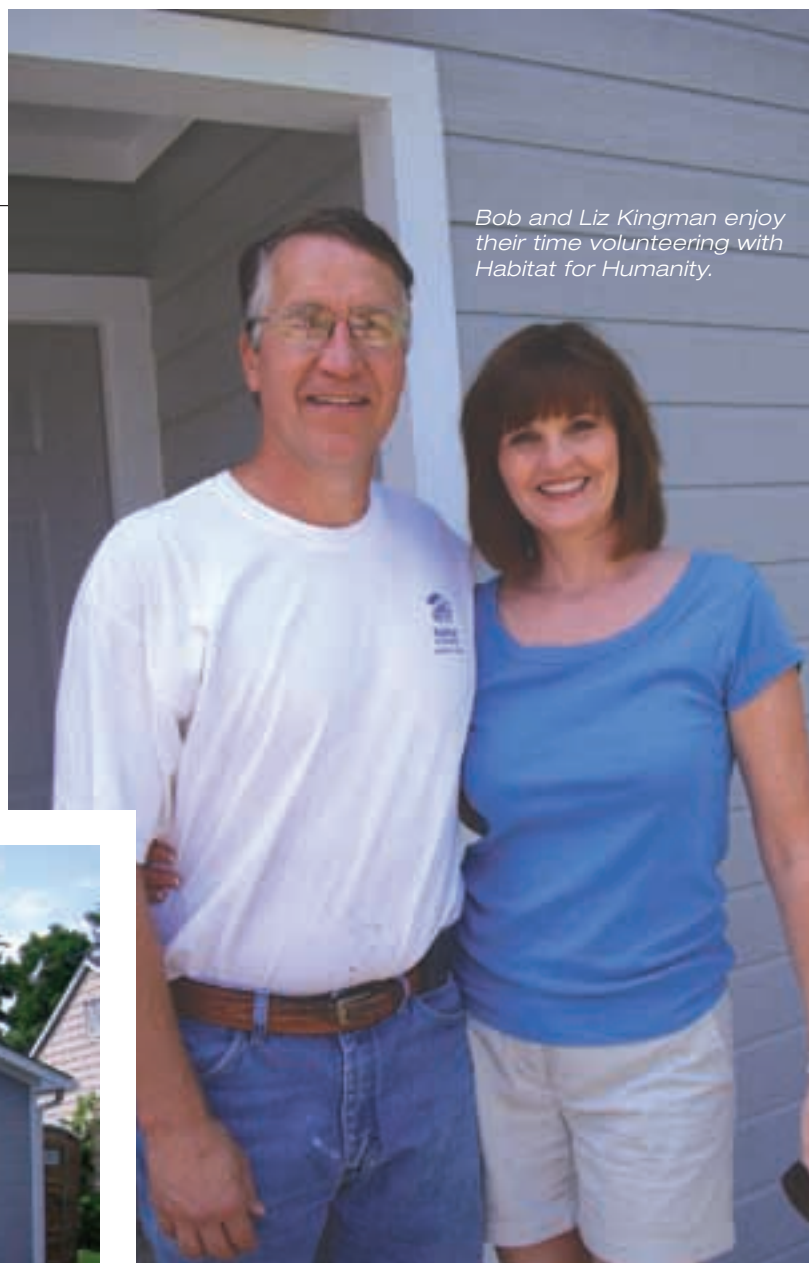
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Navarro County
NOW

Helping Those in Need

— By Samantha Stroube



Bob and Liz Kingman enjoy their time volunteering with Habitat for Humanity.



As the president of Habitat for Humanity of Navarro County since its inception in May 2006, Dr. Robert “Bob” Kingman has been taking his magic beyond the walls of the surgical room to the construction sites of houses for families in need. Bob first began his journey with Habitat for Humanity during a project he was involved in out of Dallas. He then decided that his own community could benefit from this amazing organization. “Many of the churches around town got together to talk and get involved in the project,” Bob recalled. “However, St. John’s Episcopal Church (in Corsicana) really stepped up to the plate to get involved. In fact, they even donated some office space to us.”

“A gentleman by the name of Millard Fuller and his wife, Linda, traveled overseas to help the underprivileged build homes,” Bob said, explaining the beginning of Habitat for Humanity. “When they returned home, he wondered why we weren’t offering the same services to those in the United

States.” Thus, in 1976, Habitat for Humanity began and is now currently active and utilized in 89 countries worldwide.

Habitat for Humanity in Navarro County began its national affiliation process in November 2005 and everything was finalized in May 2006. With very little hesitation, the board of directors had their first project underway by July 2006, after having selected their first family to award a new home. “There are several different committees within Habitat, but the Family Selection Committee is in charge of following specific criteria for which a family can be rewarded a new home,” Bob explained.

For a family to be selected, their existing housing must be considered unsuitable under the guidelines of being overcrowded, in poor or unsafe condition, or they are currently paying too much in mortgage for where they are residing. To ensure that the family will be able to pay for the mortgage on their new home, Habitat offers the new homeowners a 0 percent interest rate on a 20-year mortgage. To obtain housing assistance from Habitat, the family must also incur “sweat equity,” meaning every family member over the age of 18 must contribute at least 200 hours of time in building their home.

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"All area-wide chapters are affiliates of the original Habitat for Humanity," Bob said. "Each site, project and home must follow specific guidelines, directions and criteria for each new home being built. For example, the Habitat for Humanity logo must be present in certain locations on a home or site."

With those guidelines, the assistance of a well-oiled corporation is backing each affiliation. Habitat runs and operates like a large corporation, with numerous committees and subcommittees. The first committee, Site Selection, headed



up by Tom Sullivan, is in charge of selecting an affordable lot in a great location. "So far, we have been fortunate enough, with the involvement of our mayor, C.L. "Buster" Brown, III, and our city, to have had our first two lots donated to us," Bob said with enthusiasm, explaining that the site of their second home is located in a newly created neighborhood off of North 9th Street in Corsicana. "It is going to be named Gioia Circle, in memory of Gioia Keeney, one of the greatest and most loving volunteers that Corsicana has ever been blessed to have had," Bob said.

Sherry Stewart chairs the Family Selection Committee, which takes

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the time to research and review every application received by the foundation. Habitat is not allowed to have a waiting list, but they are able to put a name on the back burner, so to speak. "We are always looking for suitable families," Bob said.

Family Support is a third committee, directed by Debra Preston, which "stays involved in the family's needs and shows that we still care," Bob explained. "We want to know that they aren't having issues with the house, and the mortgage payments are being met, or anything that needs attention in their new home."

**"Thus, in 1976,
 Habitat for Humanity
 began and is now
 currently active
 and utilized in 89
 countries worldwide."**

The Church Relations committee, under the leadership of Liz Lucik, emphasizes that Habitat is a Christian-based organization. That does not mean, however, that a family cannot receive a home or assistance from Habitat if their religious beliefs are not Christian. "Habitat is a nondenominational organization. We do not discriminate," Bob expressed.

Construction is an obvious committee, chaired by Lary Reed; they are in charge of erecting the actual home. "This committee is typically led by the site foreman, or lead contractor, not typically a board member," Bob stated. "So far, we have had two fantastic contractors working on both houses." The goal of Habitat is to eventually be able to have enough volunteers and builders to handle two projects in different stages at the same time. Therefore, efficient and knowledgeable contractors are a must.

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Development Committee handles the fundraising, from the initial mailings that were sent out in 2006 and general donations from community members to a few trusts from the community at large. Currently, Elizabeth "Liz" Kingman, Bob's wife, is the volunteer coordinator. "When I got involved in Habitat, Liz really wasn't all that involved, but now she is almost more active than I am. It is like a little hobby for us," Bob said, adding that because his term is up and he has to step down from his position on the board this year, "Liz is kind of filling my active roll and has the greatest intentions at heart, but I do, however, plan to stay involved and hopefully return to the board after a year of required absence."

"This is a fantastic organization to be involved in. I have met and made so many new friends that I wouldn't have typically been able to meet if it weren't for Habitat," Bob said enthusiastically. It is a dedicated and hardworking group of volunteers, with more than 280 community members working diligently almost every Saturday from 8:00 in the morning until about noon, when they break for lunch. "Not much work really occurs after lunch. Everyone is so full and tired, we usually stop around then," Bob grinned. "Volunteers are always needed and welcomed at any site. They can just stop by any Saturday morning."

"I personally want to thank some people that have been involved in this organization from the beginning, and have really made a difference," Bob stated with feeling. "First of all, I want to thank Larry Morrison and McKee Lumber for giving and offering us supplies at a discounted rate, continuously made timely deliveries and assistance with the ordering of necessary supplies. I also want to thank Buster Brown, Representative Byron Cook, Kit Herrington and H.M. Davenport for their involvement." **NOW**



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Talent Beyond Measure

— By Faith Browning

With overflowing talents as abundant as God's love and a giving heart as big as Texas, 14-year-old Evan Edwards will do much to improve our world. He is a singer, an actor, a dancer, a musician, an athlete, a humanitarian and a missionary. Even though he has lived in Corsicana for only two years, he has already made a grand impression in many of its venues.

The love and encouragement Evan receives from his father, Pastor David Edwards, his mother, Lyndy, and his two older sisters, Kate and Emily, have given him the fertile soil to grow strong in all aspects of his life. "My mom is my biggest fan," Evan claimed. "If she could, she would be at all my performances."

Growing up in Georgetown, Texas, allowed Evan to take advantage of the great opportunities the Austin area has to offer. He remembered when his interest in performing started. "I started getting

into piano lessons and singing around age 7," Evan recalled.

His acting career began when he was 8 years old with the Georgetown Community Theatre. He is currently active with the Corsicana Community Theatre and The Warehouse Living Arts Center. "My very first performance was *Annie*,"

Evan remembered. "In the play, there are boy orphans, and I was one of them." Since *Annie*, he has performed in many plays and musicals, including: *The Music Man*, *Oklahoma!* and his two favorites: *Christmas Story* and *The Sound of Music*. "In *Christmas Story* I played Flick," he recalled. "He was the kid that got his tongue stuck on the flag pole." This year, Evan held a lead role in *Beauty and the Beast* as the 'Beast.'

Evan has been just as active in the Collins Middle School drama class.

In seventh grade, he performed in a one-act play called *Neighbors*. "I got all-star cast in that," Evan stated. In eighth grade, he added more awards to his theatrical résumé. He won best actor in the one-act-play



Evan poses with two children on his mission trip to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

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Performing in musicals sparked Evan's interest in singing. At age 9, he started voice lessons and soon began singing in Austin's Conspirare Children's Choir. After moving to Corsicana, he joined the Children's Chorus of Greater Dallas, which performed at the Myerson Symphony Center. Although he thoroughly enjoyed singing in the choir, the choir's practice schedule conflicted with another love Evan has — football.


Fortunately, junior high choir did fit into his busy schedule. "I made All Region Choir both seventh and eighth grade," he said. "He was the only eighth-grader from Corsicana to make All Region," Lyndy proudly stated.

Evan's other musical talents include playing the baritone for the Junior

"It is one thing to have a natural talent, but he works hard at everything he does. He has a great character and a servant's heart."

High Symphonic Band and the guitar for church and private enjoyment. In the symphonic band, he made All Region both seventh and eighth grade, and he is looking forward to being a part of Corsicana's High School Marching Band this fall. He is now taking guitar lessons so he can fill an open position in the music program at First Baptist Church of Corsicana,

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where his father serves as senior pastor.

Paintball battling, snowboarding and skiing are a few more of his never-ending talents. In junior high, he threw the discus on the track and field team and played defensive end and center for the football team. Team sports have awarded Evan with valuable learning experiences. "He came home



"The children there gravitated to him. The children in Uganda and Brazil treated him like a rock star."

one day and told me the whole team was disciplined for what only a couple of guys had done," Lyndy recalled. "I said, 'Didn't that irritate you?' and he said 'No, Mom, it was great, because that's what makes us a team!'"

Working with Habitat for Humanity, Christmas in Action and the children at his church are local endeavors Evan gives his heart and sweat to. His global endeavors have taken him to Uganda and Brazil on mission trips with his parents. "The first time we went, it was a little awkward for a 6-year-old," Pastor David explained. "The next time we went, he was very comfortable and was able to share his faith with the kids." Evan enjoyed sharing his

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music and playing games with the children. "The children there gravitated to him," Lyndy fondly remembered. "The children in Uganda and Brazil treated him like a rock star."

This summer, Evan has toured with The Young Continentals, a nondenominational ministry, which utilizes the singing and dancing talents of young men and women to present



Above: Evan in Young Continentals.

Below: Evan in his performance as "The Beast" in "Beauty and the Beast."



the Gospel around the world. "It is a very high-energy group of kids," Lyndy explained. "They come from all over the nation and Evan was the only one from Texas."

The world is still full of more opportunities for Evan's future. "It is one thing to have a natural talent, but he works hard at everything he does," Pastor David expressed. "He has a great character and a servant's heart." Lyndy remembered some wisdom her father always gave his children and grandchildren: "He always told us, 'The greatest joy in life comes when you serve people,'" Lyndy recalled, "and Evan is clearly learning that." **NOW**

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Finding a Balance

— By Sandra McIntosh



Jason White is happy to be home. In fact, this year marks the beginning of his 13th year as the tennis coach at Corsicana High School. As a Tiger himself, he never dreamed he would one day return to share his passion and hard-earned talent with students at the junior high and high school levels. "I played all sports until the seventh grade. That was the first year the sport was offered at school," Jason remembered. "By the time I got to eighth grade, I didn't play any other sport but tennis."

Long before tennis was offered at public school, Jason's parents had already introduced him to the game that takes more persistence and dedication than one might think. "It's an individual sport. I just fell in love with it," he stated. "Me and tennis just clicked."

Jason and tennis did so much more than just click. What started at the junior high level soon progressed to high school, college and beyond. "Even

though things didn't come easy for me, I still wanted to be the best ever at it," he said. "I had to learn to be persistent and determined early on, especially after getting what many considered a late start." His hard work paid many large dividends. During his senior year at CHS, he had the honor of making it to the state quarter-finals. "And I have yet to have a student beat me!" he said with a smile.

After graduation in 1992, Jason traveled to Texas Tech, where he played tennis competitively during his freshman and sophomore years. Another opportunity presented itself the summer before his junior year that warranted a move to Cameron University in Lawton, Oklahoma. "I transferred on a tennis scholarship," he explained. "I graduated the summer of 1996 with a degree in business finance." He then moved to Nashville, Tennessee, where his parents had relocated sometime

Sports NOW

after he graduated from Corsicana High.

While in Nashville, he took a position at a local church as an intern/youth minister. He also got involved with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. "I felt like I didn't want to do anything

"It's an individual sport. I just fell in love with it. Me and tennis just clicked."

with my degree," he said. "I prayed for wisdom and discernment on what to do with my life." During that same summer, Jason received a call from his hometown. "Lee McCleary called to let me know of an opening the school district had for a coach," Jason said. "I basically told him, 'Thanks, but no thanks.' At that time, I wasn't interested."

While being uncertain about putting his degree to work, Jason was sure about one thing. He wanted whatever he did as an adult to be a ministry to others. "After talking with Lee, God just wouldn't leave me alone," Jason explained. "I decided to go ahead and apply for the coaching job, which I got in the fall of '96." Looking back, Jason realizes what a unique opportunity he was given, and he works hard not to take it for granted. "I can see some students up to 300 days a year, six years in a row," he said, talking about his tennis players. "I can't help but view this as the ministry God had for me."

The two seasons of play are what make it possible for Jason and his assistant coach, Phillip Keltner, to really get to know their tennis players,

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both male and female. August through November marks the fall season, while January through the first week of May represents the spring season. Both seasons have district, regional and state matches, but one of the biggest differences between the two are the number of times a student can play in any one competition. "Fall consists of singles, doubles and mixed doubles. A



student can participate in two of these," Jason explained. "Spring choices include: singles, doubles and mixed doubles where students can only play in one." Fall is team tennis and spring allows the individual players to shine.

During the summer months, there is nothing official scheduled for those who participate in tennis. "There's nothing mandatory," Jason said. "We do offer one big tournament — the Corsicana Summer Open." As the beginning of the school year nears, Jason offers specific practice times. "These times are laid back and fun," he said, "or they can be as serious as the kids want to get."

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Natalie and a new foster parent, Jason understands how difficult it is to find the perfect balance for himself, so he works to instill this philosophy in his players. "It's not easy, but finding a healthy balance is so important for the players," he said. "Hard work and discipline need to be balanced



**"In doing so, I
expect nothing less
of my **players** than
what I expected
of **myself**."**

with just having fun." This way of thinking has proven successful year after year. "We all want to be part of a winning team tradition," Jason added. "In doing so, I expect nothing less of my players than what I expected of myself."

For Jason, coming home has been so rewarding. If he could leave one legacy behind when his coaching career comes to an end, it would be to have coached with integrity. "I want the kids to say they enjoyed the program," Jason said, "but I hope they've learned lifelong lessons while also learning the most they can about the game. I hope I taught by example." **NOW**



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Business
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Lock, Stock and Fatty Amines

— By Samantha Stroube

Corsicana Technologies, formerly known as JetCo Chemicals, is located on Highway 31 on the east side of Interstate 45 and has been in operation for more than 35 years. In 1963, George Weinschel and James Wheelock started the company under the same basic operating principals the company still uses today. In short, they take fat and oils and convert them into additives used in a variety of industrial applications such as corrosion inhibitors and asphalt adhesives.

"The company has been under the ownership and direction of numerous people over the years, but now that it is under the private ownership of Permian Mud Services Inc., it is considered one of the larger chemical facilities south of Dallas," Tom Kowalski explained. Tom has been the general manager of the company since 1997 and the vice president since 2007.

The owners started the business as a hometown-based company. From 1963 to 1975, Wheelock and Weinschel owned and operated the company together; then from 1975 to 1984, CECA (a subsidiary to Elf Aquitaine out of France) handled all major operations. Proctor & Gamble held ownership from 1994 until 1996, then sold it to a private owner from Indonesia for the next year; followed by the current and reigning ownership of Permian Mud Services Inc., who have successfully made the company what it is today.

Tom explained that even though the company has held many names and purposes as well as owners, Corsicana Technologies is standing strong. In 1997, Permian Mud Services Inc. purchased JetCo chemicals, changing the name to Corsicana Technologies, creating a more internationally known and recognized corporation throughout the oil and



manufacturing industries.

The core component of Corsicana Technologies is the extensive knowledge of alkyl nitrogen based chemistry. In laymen's terms, this is a variety of fatty amines and their varying derivatives used for application in markets such as the energy industry, asphalt road construction, mining, lubrication oil additives and textiles, just to name a few of the industries affected by their chemical breakdowns and abilities.

"Since the new ownership in 1997, Corsicana Technologies has successfully increased their revenue 30 times over," Tom stated with great pride. "We have over 100 employees here on site, which includes: three Ph.D.s, three master's degrees and three bachelor's degrees in our chemical/technical department, plus six various engineering degrees

in the engineering department."

The facility itself is extremely impressive, sitting on a 110-acre site, with 45 acres developed, two railroad spurs used for large volume movement of both raw material and finished product, 10 huge batch reactors for chemical production, extensive blending and warehouse operation and one main lab assisted by two smaller laboratories for continuous, extensive research and product development. Not only is the



Business NOW

site impressive with a 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week operation, it is also one of the largest movers of chemical products by truck or rail in Navarro County. Though it maintains an international standing, serving over 18 countries worldwide, Corsicana




Above: Kim Maxwell, receptionist, purchasing assistant and receiving clerk.

Below: Dr. "CRC," senior research assistant.



Technologies still recognizes and highly supports its local community through donations, employment and other various causes that benefit the Corsicana community.

"It is a great place to work," Tom said. "I get to work with experienced people in a reputable company. I also really like working with the new products, while still maintaining the use of the traditional products."

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Education
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Patience, Love *and* Understanding For Our Future

— By Samantha Stroube

As the saying goes, “Good things come in small packages.” This could not be more true than in the case of one of the most phenomenal educators with whom Corsicana has been blessed. Some people would fear the idea of even entering a room filled with 21 kindergartners, but Deedy Fletcher, standing not much taller than the students in her class, does it with grace, poise and control.

Deedy is currently the 5K kindergarten

teacher at James Collins Catholic School in Corsicana. She has been a teacher there since she and her family moved to Corsicana in 2003 from Waco. When she first began, she was the second grade teacher for two years, and then she moved into her current position. “I really love teaching

kindergarten the most; you get to see those ‘ah-ha’ moments a lot more often,” Deedy admitted.

The best description of Deedy ever offered was at this year’s kindergarten class graduation. “She always seems to be going 95 miles per hour in a 25 mile an hour speed zone,” Mr. Phillip Riley, current principal of James Collins Catholic School, said. Every time you open the door to her room, the 21 little faces turn to greet you with a smile, and amazingly enough, they are all always calm and attentive with their eyes on “Mrs. Fletcher.” Deedy’s focus is always on the children, while still managing to multitask numerous other things at once.

Deedy graduated from Lorena High School in 1982, and then completed her bachelor’s degree from San Angelo State University in 1990, all the while working and putting herself through school. “I guess I always knew what I



Education NOW

wanted to be," Deedy said. "I was well-influenced by all my teachers. I never had a bad experience in school." She once had a counselor tell her there was no money in teaching, but that did not seem to matter to her. After working in the school's early childhood endorsement lab, she knew that educating youth was for her.

The awesome thought of handling 21 5- and 6-year-olds all day long may baffle many peoples' minds, but not Deedy's. "I have three children of my own, and I always manage to find the patience for them because I think to myself, *If that were my child how would I want them to be treated?*" Deedy explained.

"I really love kindergarten the most; you get to see those 'ah-ha' moments a lot more often."

"I love every day of the year, from the first day they walk in until graduation. I usually do cry at their graduation because they are 'my kids' for seven hours out of the day."

Deedy has been fortunate to teach at all levels of the learning curve, providing her with experience and new techniques on how to open the eyes and minds of all of her students, no matter their grade level. "My favorite thing to teach is probably reading; you can actually see it in their eyes when they get the concept and ability to read," Deedy stated. Even though teaching is rewarding and

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inspiring to most educators, it can at times become tiresome and exhausting. "You just have to remember you are teaching children and not subjects," Deedy said, explaining her daily mantra.

Deedy is the type of teacher who not only connects to each and every one of her students inside the classroom, but she understands their personal needs, strengths and weaknesses outside of the classroom as well. She makes it a point to contact every parent, and if she notices or questions anything that may be different — good or bad — in a child's life, she is the first to recognize it and bring it to the attention of the student's parents. She takes her job very seriously, treating the children as if they were her own, and letting it be known to each parent that they can call day or night to discuss a matter.

In fact, Deedy knows firsthand what it is like to treat her students as if they were her own. She has had the opportunity to educate her own child, not for one, or two, but for three-and-a-half years in a row. Her youngest daughter was blessed with the incredible teachings of her mother, beginning at the age of 3 and continuing half-way through her first grade year, when they moved to Corsicana.

Deedy Fletcher goes beyond the two syllable term we all know as "teacher." She is an educator, a mother to others, a caregiver, and a disciplinarian. If a student is lucky enough to have her for a teacher, or one like her, they should consider themselves fortunate for the rest of their educational career. You can feel the devotion and concern she gives each child. "I really do have a passion for what I do; everything I do really does matter to me," Deedy said. "I never get burned out with the kids, the teaching or subject matter." The best encouragement that Deedy has to share with other educators is this: "You really do make a difference each and every day!" **NOW**



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ARTS NOW



Cathy Douglas and Margaret Evans, top left, posed beside their “church on wheels.” Several *NOW* Magazine employees, top right, recently attended a Texas Rangers baseball game. Ann Jackson, second row left, treated Karen Long to a birthday luncheon at Motyckas Tea House. Summertime t-ball, second row left center, was sponsored by the Corsicana YMCA. Mayor Buster Brown, second row right center, was present at the Impact Press Conference. He welcomed all those in attendance. Lowell Thompson, second row right, served as the guest speaker at the Impact Press Conference. Jacob Huffman, third row left, was a happy camper as he took a seat inside a big red fire truck. A ribbon cutting, third row right, was held at Willstaff Worldwide. Orrs Swimming School, bottom left, opened for lessons in 1978 and was still going strong this summer. Billy Huffman and son, Jacob, bottom right, smiled for the camera in front of the Corsicana Fire Rescue vehicle.



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Look Who's Cooking

— By Faith Browning

IN THE KITCHEN WITH LINDSEY BARAK

Bringing new life into the world as a labor and delivery nurse at Navarro Regional Hospital makes Lindsey Barak's days very rewarding. "My job is amazing!" she expressed. Busy weekly schedules and odd hours keep her on her toes preparing quick and nutritious meals for her children, Lexi and Walker, and her husband, Philip. "He is my biggest fan," she claimed. "He eats anything I cook!"

Lindsey gets most of her ideas from old family recipes and her mother, Sharon Wolfe. She gives much credit to her grandmothers and mother for playing a large role in generating her love for baking. "I remember watching all the ladies cook for the holidays," she recalled. "I was always amazed at how much they cooked in that little kitchen!" **now**

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

SWEATHEART SALAD

1 3-oz. package lemon Jell-O
1 3-oz. package strawberry Jell-O
1 1/2 cups hot water
1 8-oz. package cream cheese
1 8-oz. can crushed pineapple
1 8-oz. tub Cool Whip

Mix Jell-Os with 1 1/2 cups hot water; add cream cheese; blend well. Chill for approximately 30 minutes. Combine rest of the ingredients. Chill overnight.

OATMEAL PIE

2/3 cup butter
2/3 cup sugar
2/3 cup Karo syrup
2 eggs
dash of salt

2/3 cup coconut
2/3 cup oatmeal
1 tsp. vanilla
1 9-inch unbaked pie shell

Combine all ingredients; place in unbaked pie shell. Cook at 350 F until golden brown and set.

MAMA WILSON'S CHICKEN 'N' DUMPLINGS

1 quart chicken broth
salt and pepper to taste
2 12-oz. cans biscuits
1 lb. boiled chicken, shredded
1 14-oz. can evaporated milk
1/2 stick butter

Bring broth to a boil; add salt and pepper. Roll out biscuits until flat; cut in half. Drop into boiling broth; let simmer 10 to 15 minutes. Add chicken, evaporated milk and butter; simmer until done.

DEER LEASE TACO SOUP

1 16-oz. can Ranch Style beans
1 16-oz. can whole kernel corn
2 16-oz. cans water
1 10-oz. can Ro-Tel tomatoes
1 lb. ground deer meat, browned (can use beef)
1 1.5-oz. package ranch dressing powder
1 1.5-oz. package taco seasoning

Place all ingredients in a large pot. Bring to a boil; simmer for about 20 minutes. Serve with grated cheese and tortilla chips.

MOM'S CASSEROLE

1 lb. ground meat, browned and drained
1 12- to 16-oz. bag macaroni, cooked according to package directions
1 16-oz. can green beans
1 16-oz. can corn



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Who's Cooking NOW

2 12-oz. cans cream of mushroom soup
4-6 slices cheese, your choice

Combine meat, macaroni, green beans, corn and soup in a casserole dish; cover top with sliced cheese. Bake at 350 F for 30-45 minutes until bubbly and cheese is melted.

NO-BAKE COWPATTIES

1/2 cup butter, softened
1/4 tsp. salt
1/2 cup milk
1/3 cup baking cocoa
2 cups sugar
3/4 cup creamy peanut butter
3 cups quick-cooking oats, uncooked
1 tsp. vanilla

Combine butter, salt, milk, cocoa and sugar in saucepan; boil for 1-2 minutes, stirring constantly. Remove from heat; stir in all the remaining items. Drop by tablespoonfuls onto wax paper; cool. Makes about 4 dozen.

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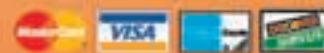


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Re-thinking Retirement

— By Gary Hayden

Addison Cole Hayden was born on May 13, 2008.

Gary Pierce Hayden was born on June 20, 2008.

Needless to say, life has, and will continue to change. Having a granddaughter and grandson certainly puts life in perspective. Addison, Pierce and “Pops” plan to have a lot of fun and exciting times together.

Oops! There is that dreaded “p” word again. Plan. No matter what stage of life we find ourselves in, the question remains: What are your plans? What kind of lifestyle do you envision? More specifically, how is your retirement planning?

In regard to retirement planning, it comes down to some simple questions:

- How much will it cost you to live?
- How much have you saved?
- How much can you continue to save?
- What is your life expectancy?
- What is the best allocation of your assets to meet your goals?

As we have mentioned in previous articles, the proper diversification of assets is the key ingredient to a stress-free retirement. Too aggressive — volatility and sleepless nights haunt you. Too conservative — your purchasing power is eroded by inflation and rising prices. As you meet regularly with your financial advisors, make sure your asset allocation is in the proper balance to respond to changes in your lifestyle or economic market shifts.

Also, we in the financial services profession are sometimes guilty of poor communication in relating investment and retirement language to practical and tangible concepts. For instance, a person has approximately 10 years to retirement. That can be very vague and certainly does not create any sense of urgency. It would be better to say, that is about 250 paychecks. What are you going to do with each of these paychecks? Hopefully, that will help you focus.

Another positive concept is to help client's envision retirement. Think of retirement as a long, three-day weekend. At first, retirement is like 10 to 15 years of Saturdays. Then it may be 10 to 15 years of Sundays — possibly a little slower paced, with a little more family-oriented lifestyle. And finally toward the end, there may be a lot of Mondays, where

you might be somewhere you do not necessarily want to be. This can be the most expensive stage of retirement. Saturday is fun but it costs money, while Sunday is when your affairs





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are in order and you do not want to be stressing about money — and here we are talking about asset allocation again. Saturday asset allocation is much different than Sunday and Monday asset allocation.

Grandkids have caused me to pause and think about the truly important things in life. Addison's and Pierce's births have encouraged me to think about living my life well. What about you?

Wishing you the very best that life has to offer! **NOW**

Gary Hayden is a Registered Representative of and offers Security, Investment Advisory and Financial Planning services through, MML Investors Services, Inc. Supervisory Office: 777 Main Street, Suite 2260, Fort Worth, Texas 76102 • (817) 332-4451. Hayden Financial Partners is not an affiliate or subsidiary of MML Investor Services, Inc.

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Summer Physicals Keep Kids Fit for the Fall

— By Dr. Fatiregun



The summer is probably our nation's favorite time of year. For generations, children have been known to celebrate their freedom from the classroom with hearty barbeques, camping trips, swimming expeditions, as well as trips to the many amusement parks in the metro area.

It is important, though, for the kids — as well as for Mom and Dad — to squeeze in an appointment (between carnivals and street fairs) with their primary healthcare provider. While children usually stay pretty healthy, especially after receiving their recommended vaccinations, it is still a good idea to be seen once a year for a thorough physical examination. Sports physicals done in school are helpful, but fairly limited. A complete checkup done by your child's doctor helps screen for certain problems that our youth can be at risk for such as: anemia, high blood pressure, low iron and high cholesterol. It also helps to make sure there are no

It helps to make sure there are no vision or hearing problems that could affect children's education when school resumes in the fall.

vision or hearing problems that could affect children's education when school resumes in the fall. Children of families that have histories of medical issues like heart disease or asthma should especially be seen because of certain genetic traits that can be inherited.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.



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Health NOW

Getting a yearly annual checkup this summer for children as well as adults helps catch certain conditions early enough so that they do not pose a health risk later in life. It is also a great opportunity to ask your doctor or clinician any question that has been on your mind for a long time, but you have not had the time to call about. Nutrition, acne, exercise regimens, dry skin, sleep habits and improving children's academic performance, are all topics that can be discussed at an annual checkup.

So be safe this summer. Enjoy the double scoop ice cream cones at Russell Stover. Spend some time relaxing at the lake. Just be sure to remember to mark your calendars with an annual physical for the kids so they will be fit for the fall. **NOW**

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August 2008

Community Calendar

July 24-August 2

Sylvia, a comedy by A. R. Gurney, will be on stage at the Warehouse Living Arts Center. (903) 872-5421.

August 4 - 8

9th Annual Theatre Camp for grades K-12 will be offered by the Warehouse Living Arts Center. (903) 872-5421.

August 5 - 7

Navarro Small Business Development Center sessions. Tuesday: How to start a small business. Wednesday: Copyrights and patents. Thursday: Sales tax session. Registration required. (903) 875-7667 or e-mail ophelia.mendoza@navarrocollege.edu.

August 12

Tickets on sale for the September 20th Fiesta at the Palace Theater, featuring The Spinners. Shows: 5:00 and 8:00 p.m. Tickets: \$30.00 - \$50.00. Fajita Dinner: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. \$20.00. (903) 874-7792.

August 14

Corsicana Education Foundation executive meeting: 4:00 p.m. General board meeting: 4:30 p.m.

August 16

Texas A&M Navarro County Club annual Fajita Cook-off: 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., Fannie Mae Vernon Room/Youth Expo. \$12 adult, \$6 for 18 years and under, children under 6 are free. To enter, call Matt at (903) 654-7599.

August 19

Navarro College SBDC session on creating a business plan: 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., Corsicana/Navarro County Chamber of Commerce, 120 N. 12th St. Cost: \$20.00. Limited seating; registration required. (903) 875-7667 or e-mail ophelia.mendoza@navarrocollege.edu.

August 20

Collins Catholic School begins. Half day, first day back.

August 21

Navarro College SBDC workshop on creating an employee handbook: 10:00 a.m. - noon, Corsicana/Navarro County Chamber of Commerce, 120 North 12th St. Cost: \$25.00. Limited seating; register early. Call (903) 875-7667 or e-mail ophelia.mendoza@navarrocollege.edu.

August 22 - 23

Chili Appreciation Society International (CASI)

sanctioned chili cook-off competition: 1:00 p.m. turn-in time for judging. Proceeds benefit the Navarro County Animals at Risk Foundation. Call Kay Lefler at (972) 646-5159 or (972) 872-2297 or Marsha McAlister at (903) 875-8705.

August 23

Pet Contest: 10:00 a.m. Categories are: Smallest, Biggest, Best Dressed, Best Trick and Owner/Pet Look-alike. Bill McFarlin and Star, his Brittany, and Maggie and Lucille, his Border Collies, will make a special appearance on Saturday morning. Call Kay Lefler at (972) 646-5159 or (972) 872-2297 or Marsha McAlister at (903) 875-8705.

August 25

CISD school year begins.

August 28

Navarro Small Business Development Center combination workshop for government contracting at the federal, state and local level: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Corsicana/Navarro County Chamber of Commerce, 120 North 12th St. Cost: \$25.00. Limited seating; register early. Call (903) 875-7667 or e-mail ophelia.mendoza@navarrocollege.edu.

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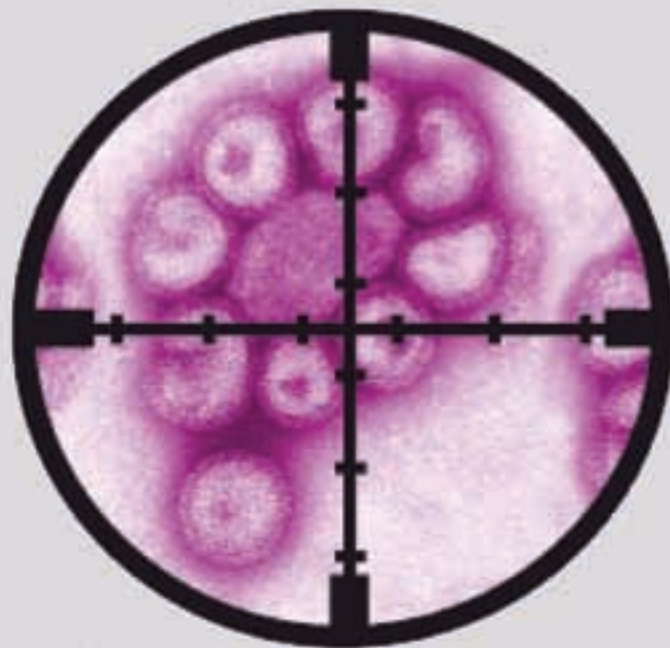


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