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M A G A Z I N E

September 2008

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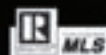
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Business or Hobby? The IRS isn't trying to spoil your fun, but if your favorite activity makes a profit every year or so, there may be tax implications that surprise you. An activity is considered a business if it makes a profit during at least three of the past five years. However, losses from a hobby may not be used to offset other income. The IRS lists, in one of their publications, examples of "possible hobbies" as fishing, gardening, golf, sewing, woodworking, horsemanship, scrap booking and stamp and coin collecting.

Having IRS Troubles? Do you owe money to the IRS? Do you have returns you have not filed? Remember, if you put off something you should have done, it can start to threaten you with fear. The IRS expects voluntary compliance, so if you keep a positive attitude, be optimistic and let us help you make a plan, in most cases, the IRS is happy to assist you and get you back on track. (An installment agreement may be requested if you cannot pay the liability in full.)

Corporate Tax Deadline? The deadline for corporate income tax returns is September 15, 2008 for corporations with calendar year ends.

Individual Tax Deadline? The deadline for individual income tax returns is October 15, 2008, but it's best not to wait until the last minute. The IRS is urging taxpayers to file by October 15, 2008 to ensure receipt of the stimulus payment prior to year's end. It can take up to eight weeks for the IRS to process the return and issue the payment.

Credit for Sending Kids to Day Camp? Here's a tax break for the busy summer. Many working parents who send their children under age 13 to day camp can count that cost towards the child and dependent care credit. Expenses for overnight camps do not qualify.

Mortgage Workouts – Struggling Homeowners? There is now tax relief for struggling homeowners whose mortgage debt is partly or entirely forgiven during 2007, 2008 or 2009. Normally, debt forgiveness results in taxable income, but under the Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act of 2007, special tax relief (form 982) may result in exclusion of up to \$2 million of debt forgiven on a principal residence.

New Mileage Rates? The standard mileage rate for the final six months of 2008 has been increased from 50.5 cents per mile to 58.5 cents per mile, for all business miles driven from July 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008.



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Tiger Stadium home of the blue
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Corsicana NOW

Editor's Note

Hello Corsicana and Navarro County!

School is back in full swing, and we are all back to our nine-month routines. To help you ease into the fall months with pleasure, we bring you some fascinating stories, which include donkeys, a wonderful woman who crocheted her way into soldiers' hearts, and the latest addition to Tiger Stadium.

Meet 46 smiling faces that have worked their way into the heart and soul of one city girl, gone country.

Step onto the field of Tiger Stadium this fall, as we bring you the newest addition to all the sporting teams at CHS.

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

Samantha Stroube

CorsicanaNOW Editor

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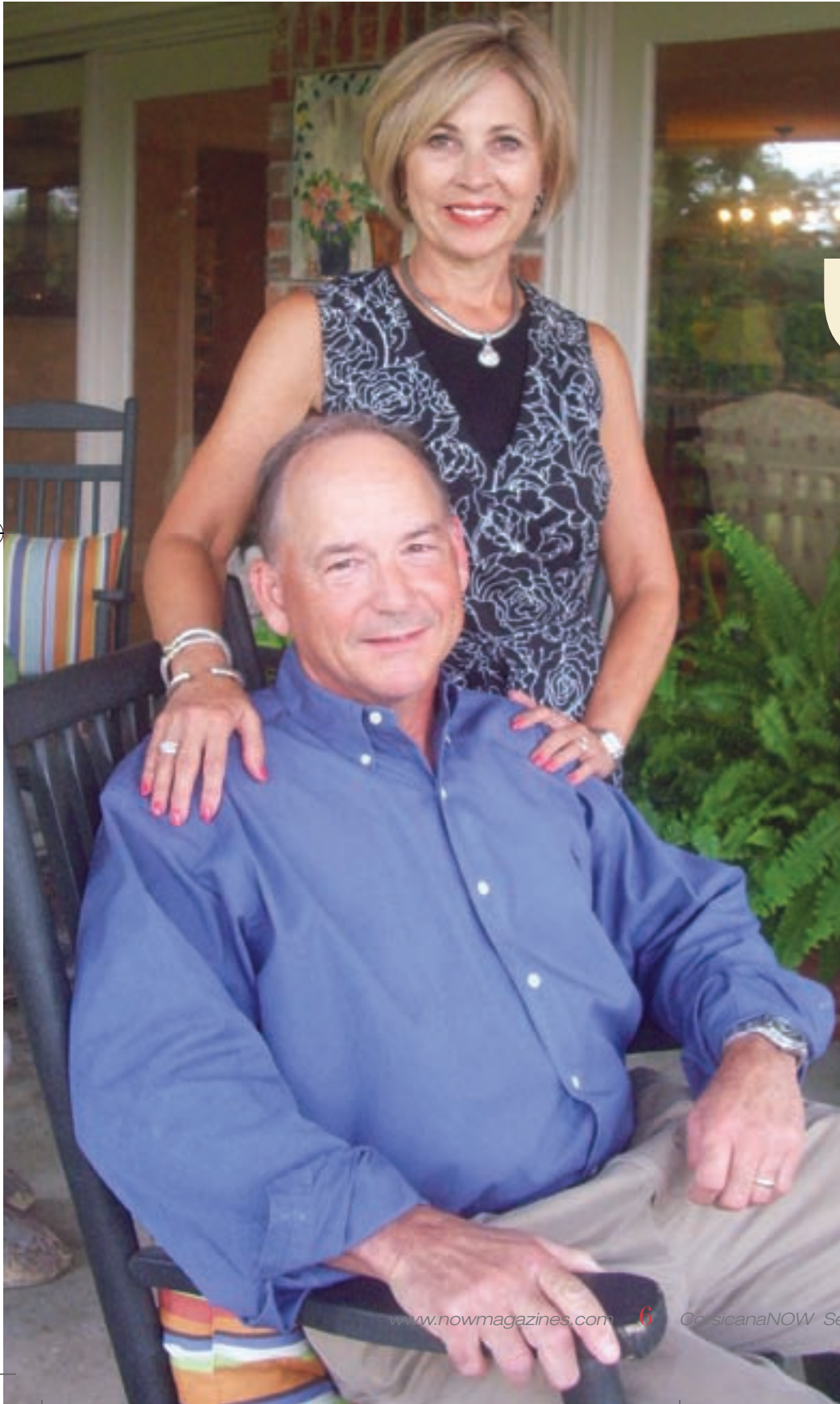
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Legacy of Learning

— By Sandra McIntosh



John Harper believes in giving back to his community. He acquired this valuable attribute from watching his parents. “My father was on the Corsicana School Board from 1962 until 1971,” he said, remembering back to his childhood. “My mother was also very active in the community. They taught me how best to give back. They inspired me by example.” Since education was so important to his parents, it is only fitting it would be on the top of John’s list of things to do as an adult with a family of his own.

After graduating from Corsicana High School in 1972, John left his hometown to pursue a college education at Baylor University. Nine years later, after meeting and marrying his wife, Denise, and living in Chicago for a time as a young pilot for American Airlines, John returned home to his roots. Continuing to follow in his father’s footsteps, it was not long before he began his service on the school board.

A year prior to retiring as a school board member, John was encouraged to attend a meeting in Houston, Texas. “Jim Dixon was the school superintendent at the time,” John recalled. “He was a seed planter.” The seed planted during that trip quickly took root and grew into the Corsicana Education Foundation. “It took almost a year to get the foundation started,” he said. “We researched other foundations to see what would work best within our own community.”

The Corsicana Education Foundation started in the spring of 2002, thanks to John and many other former

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Corsicana ISD board members, as well as interested members throughout the community. As a collective group, they desired to supplement the district's budget in an effort to award outstanding teachers for their innovative ideas within the classroom, as well as recognize student performance.

John further explained that Corsicana may not have been on the cutting edge when it came to a successful foundation, "but we definitely weren't too far behind," he said. "Corsicana personifies children and we're blessed to have the education foundation." John's philosophy on life has filtered its way down to the foundation. "An organization is only as good as the people you have on the front lines," he explained. "People in Corsicana stepped up from the very beginning. The trusts gave the foundation a solid start."

Growth has definitely been experienced since the foundation's inception, to include grants expected to total no less than \$20,000 per semester this year alone. "At the start, the emphasis was on grants," John said, "but it grew to include so much more." The so much more that John referred to includes the Distinguished Teacher's Award and the Bright Lights of Success banquet, both held annually. "It's about attracting, retaining and rewarding educators for going above and beyond in the classroom," John added.

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"As good stewards, the education foundation must distribute the money in a way that impacts the most students. We want the most bang for the buck!"

The tale behind the first Bright Lights banquet, which honors the top 10 percent of the graduating senior class, is well worth the retelling. While being honored themselves, each student in the top 10 recognized their number one teacher; that special someone who inspired them to be the best they could be. "When we started talking about hosting a banquet that first year, several individuals tried to discourage the idea," John stated. "They said to hold off; it's only the first year."

Their comments lit a fire under John, Denise and all the others who have been instrumental in the overall success of the program. "Just telling us not to do it caused us to want to do it even more," he said. "Their comments challenged us to go ahead and try." Because of their "never give up, can do" attitude, the education foundation won the national award for their banquet that year. The initial year set the bar and they have been soaring higher and higher ever since.

The Distinguished Teacher's Award goes to teachers on each campus who have been nominated for the prestigious award by their campus principals. "This also includes a vocational and special education teacher," John said,



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proud of their inclusion. Another spin-off which is a direct result of the education foundation is the Rising Star Award. "This award recognizes the new teachers," John said, "who have been teaching anywhere from one to five years within the district."

The goal for the foundation is to one day be self-sufficient, but until that day comes, those who work closely with the organization are thankful for the ownership the community has shown. "The donations and trusts show that the community cares," Denise shared. "I've never seen a community that gives like Corsicana gives. We've

"An organization is only as good as the people you have on the front lines. People in Corsicana stepped up from the very beginning. The trusts gave the foundation a solid start."

told our story to people at conventions from all over the nation. They were amazed at the generosity we've experienced here at home."

Fundraising is the key with any new venture of this magnitude. Another way the Corsicana Education Foundation raises necessary funds is through a telethon. "Donna Ralston was instrumental in getting this event off the ground," John said. "Students, cheerleaders, teachers and community members perform for the phoned-in pledges, while many others work behind the scenes, making calls to solicit donations." The telethon has proven to be the ice breaker the foundation has needed on more than one occasion. "Fundraising is a tough deal," John echoed. "We've found that the education foundation sells itself."

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To be a member of the board takes three “Ts” — time, talent and treasure. Many times, individuals can give all three, while others are able to donate one or two. “One business owner is ready for me when I arrive,” John said, referring to going door-to-door for donations. “He is unable to give his time and talent, but he always gives his treasures.”



A lot of qualities are synonymous with any foundation — from organized and dedicated to hardworking and selfless. For John, the first word that comes to mind when sharing his thoughts on the Corsicana Education Foundation is *community*. “It [the foundation] touches all aspects of the community,” he said. “In Corsicana, it always comes back to the kids.”

John and Denise are the parents of three children: Sarah, Caroline and Walt, and the grandparents of Madeline and Ellis. John’s parents led by the same example John has mirrored throughout his adult life. This same example has become the legacy known as the Corsicana Education Foundation. The legacy is grounded on education, based on teaching the whole child by including the family, as well as the community. “We have to care about the children,” John said. “They’re our future.” **WWW**

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After about two years of marriage, and numerous visits to the farm in Corsicana to see Marc's family, Marc and Debra decided it was the perfect time to build their dream house. What better place than on their family's land? Debra originally found the floor plan they chose to use from a model home she had visited in Bedford, Texas, while still living there. "I walked in, and there were only two bar stools in the





entire house, and I sat there and knew that it was my house," Debra recalled.

The Prestons moved to the Corsicana area in 1990, after deciding to rear their daughter, Alissa, in a more rural setting. "Bedford was growing way too fast, and we knew that we wanted her to grow up in a smaller town," Marcus



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admitted. Debra agreed it was time to move, when her father's prediction came true. "My daddy took me to this big field in north Dallas when I was little, and he said, 'Someday, baby, this will all be covered in concrete and will be one of the largest airports in the world.' So when DFW became what it is today, I knew it was time to go rural," Debra said.

"The only changes we really made to the house was the fact that we basically added a foot to the entire house, we widened the front entry hall, and made the third-car garage into my office (which they loving refer to as the 'Guys' Room')," Marc said. "The other reason we were so in love with the floor plan was so our daughter could have a place for all of her stuff upstairs, but it was out of sight," Debra admitted, with a grin.

The house was completed on December 3, 1990. Twenty-one days later, they hosted their annual Christmas

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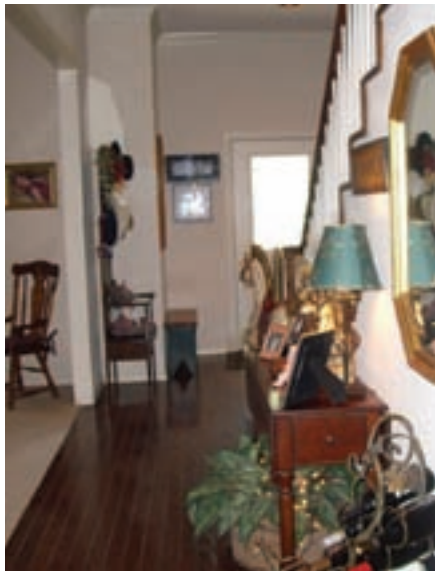
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Eve party for 60 people. During the massive visitation all the toilets overflowed in the house, Debra recalled. "I just thought of it as a city girl's initiation to the farm life," Debra said, remembering the trauma of the evening.

Split Tree Farm is named after a lonely mesquite tree still standing in the backyard today. It is a fairly decent-sized mesquite tree, which had a small split down the middle of the trunk. The night before they began building, lightning struck that very tree, and split it even further down the trunk. "The builders wanted to bulldoze it down, but I told them, 'Absolutely not,'" Debra said. The tree still stands today, remarkably thriving in its loving home.

The Prestons have tons of special memories and personal touches brought to the farm and the house itself. The one aspect of the four-bedroom, four-bath house which really sets it apart is the mother-in-law suite on the far side of the kitchen, fairly separate from the



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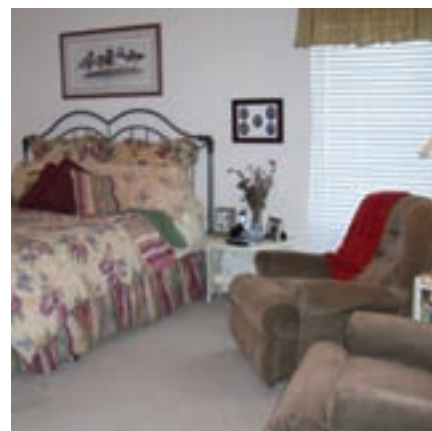
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rest of the main house. "We call this the grandmother suite for many reasons," Debra explained. "The most obvious, is it is where the grandparents stay when they come to visit; but every piece of furniture in the room has been acquired from each grandparent or great-grandparent." Debra went on to explain that every photograph in the



room is a picture of a great-grandparent or grandparent with their grandchildren.

"I remember the first night my mom spent the night in there, she woke up the next morning very uncomfortable," Debra admitted. "So I asked her what was wrong, and she told me she had a hard time sleeping with the photos of her deceased grandmother and mother on the walls." Today, Debra's mother delights in sharing the room with her ancestors' photographs.

A trademark of the home is the beautiful transom above two doorways in the home. Jamie, Marc's sister, did a sketch of the split mesquite tree in

the backyard, and took it to a local company, James Manufacturing, who in turn created a beautiful transom for their home.

"We also have a Whitesell brick (a former bricking company of Corsicana) that I personally placed in the wall on our back patio," Marc said with pride. "And my dad put the coin shaping



into the columns on the front porch," Debra said. As you wander around this loving home, you can see the thought and effort put into its various aspects.

Even the interior tells a story all its own, through the various collections, the décor and the relaxed feeling found inside the walls.

"We always felt a home is built for living and for family," Marc said. "If Alissa happened to drag a fish through the middle of the living room, it wouldn't matter."

One of Debra's favorite collections is her pelicans. "I went on a trip once with a group of ladies, and we went to



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visit an old church. The docent told us that there were pelicans in the church because the pelican is the only bird that will actually rip the flesh from their breast to ensure their young are fed," Debra explained. "Well, my best friend and I were sitting across the church from one another, and just simultaneously started to bawl, because that is how we feel about our children." Debra went on to explain that when she started her collection, people were buying her pelicans left and right, but it has seemed to taper off a bit. However, she adores every bird in her collection.

Everywhere you turn, the walls are decorated with some



sort of farming or hunting memorabilia or trophy. In fact, their bar area is covered in deer heads, which were not all acquired by Marc. "One of my very dear friends passed away, and his son asked if I would keep them for him, with the understanding that he could come and get them at anytime," Marc stated. "And he knows it, too; he knows that I am happy to keep them for however long, and he is welcome to them at any point."

The Preston's home illustrates their love of the land and their love of family. That is the feeling you get in every corner of this home; it is all about friends, love and family. Many fond memories fill the rooms and adorn the walls, and with a 4-year-old grandson, many more fond memories are soon to be added. **XXX**

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Robert and Toni Miles live the quiet life of solitude most people dream about, when owning land just outside the city limits. Robert grew up in Corsicana, and would visit the land where their home now sits, almost every weekend, and during the summer months, in order to see his grandparents and just be a part of the land. Toni and Robert built their current home in 1998. "This house was built with love and family in mind," Toni explained. "We want everyone to feel comfortable in our home, not stuffy."

Soon after that, in the year 2000, Robert's sister, Mary, and her husband, Bob Lakin, returned to the Chatfield area as well; they now live in their grandparents' old home. Mary and Robert decided it would be beneficial to share the family



Donkey Talk

— By Samantha Stroube

land between each other. Robert manages registered Beefmaster cattle on his portion of the land, and Toni and Robert's son and daughter-in-law, B.J. and Allyson, manage Black Angus on Mary's portion of the land. So for the benefit of two more generations, the Miles' family farm in Chatfield is serving as a place of business and pleasure for the entire family to enjoy.

The only problem that the Miles ever encountered was the occasional loss of a newborn calf. Toni decided she would do some research on how to stop this problem. After talking to their neighbor, Don Parrish, whom Toni lovingly refers to as "a horse trading old codger," she learned that donkeys, amazingly

enough, were the only solution. About 16 years ago, the Miles purchased their first two donkeys with the understanding that Toni would take care of them. It is true that in the past 16 years of their donkey love, they have not lost a calf to any predators. Donkeys are revered as protectors and guardians. They are very family-oriented animals; they will even run off

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dogs that are not family dogs. "They typically run at the predator, trying to stomp at them," Toni explained. "Donkeys are extremely low maintenance and easy to handle. In fact, they eat a third less than what horses require."

"Right now, we have 46 donkeys on our land," Toni stated, while showing her name board. The board, which Toni keeps current daily, lists each donkey by name. It also lists any



possible foals they may be producing soon or foals they just recently produced.

Walking through the pasture gave a more personal connection to each and every donkey she owns. She called out "Here donkey, donkey, donkey ..." and they all came running to see their "momma." The affection she has toward each one is adorable. They adore and protect her, as well.

Toni currently only has one breeding Jack (male donkey), fondly known as Cracker Jack; 28 Jennies (female donkeys), 11 Jenny foals and six Jack foals. Some of the foals were only a few weeks old and still had "peach fuzz" hair all over them. They are obviously friendly and comfortable around humans, without an ounce of fear in any of their eyes, nor any sign of anger or hostility.



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Donkeys are their own breed of equine, complete with a bad reputation for being stubborn. But they are not that way at all, if they are treated properly. They are also extremely sure-footed and cautious. In fact, Toni personally ensures that none of her babies are stubborn, skittish or fearful of people. "It is called imprinting," Toni explained. "I am there for every single birth of my donkeys, and as they come out of their mommies, I am there constantly rubbing their ears, their legs, their bodies. I even constantly rub on the momma during the birthing

"These donkeys are, like our pets, actually members of our family."

process. The minute they come out of their momma's tummy, I immediately lay them next to her, so they can feel her heartbeat and her warmth."

The constant rubbing and touching (better known as imprinting) shows them the world is a good, safe place, and lets them learn Toni's scent and touch. "If you love on them a lot, they have no reason to fear humans," Toni said. "These donkeys are, like our pets, actually members of our family," Toni admitted. "Even though we do sell them to people all around the country, we are very particular who they go to. We like to meet the people before we allow them to purchase the donkeys. We don't need to sell them, so I want to make sure they are going to a good home."

Robert and Toni typically sell the donkeys as pets for young children, since they are so gentle; or to cattlemen, in order for the donkeys to serve their purpose as protectors in every way. They have sold their donkeys all over the United States, including New

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Toni has such a passion for her “babies” and an admiration for their purpose on the ranch; you would never know that she was not reared on a ranch herself. In fact, Toni grew up and lived in inner-city Dallas, until she met Robert. “The first time I was



“Just remember to be kinder and gentler to everyone and everything.”

on this ranch, I felt like this is where I was supposed to be,” Toni admitted.

Even though her days are filled with love and compassion for her donkeys, and sometimes her evenings are filled with bringing a new life into the world on the floor of her barn, Toni still makes time to share her huge heart and kind smile with the world. Every Tuesday she volunteers at the Gun Barrel City spay and neuter clinic, and typically works the American Red Cross Blood Drive that occurs on the first Thursday of every month at the Palmer Crystal Ball Room building on Commerce Street in Corsicana. “Just remember to be kinder and gentler to everyone and everything, from animals to people. We are all living things,” Toni encouraged, as her huge loving smile spread across her gentle face. **NOW**

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"Her act of kindness allowed the veterans to keep their legs warm during their hospital stay and their hearts warm by knowing someone really cared about the service they provided our country."

Respect, loyalty and patriotism are a few of the words which describe Colenia Canfield's inner motivation and aspiration to honor our nation's veterans. For many years, she desired to show her gratitude for the veterans who served her country. "My brother served in the Army during World War II and was awarded the Purple Heart," she proudly said. "I wanted to give something back to them for all they have done for me and my family."

In 1998, Colenia joined the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 305 in The Woodlands, Texas. After several years of service, she was encouraged by others to use her talent for



Colenia Canfield presents her 100th lap robe to Navy veteran Robert Kurtz.

ARTS NOW

crocheting to create colorful lap robes for our nation's amputee veterans who visited Houston's Michael E. DeBakey Veteran's Affairs Medical Center. This idea was a perfect way for Colenia to show her appreciation.

Not wanting to toot her own horn, Colenia insisted the auxiliary's Veteran's Affairs (VA) representative, Verda Blome, hand out the lap robes at the hospital. "She kept begging me to go with her to distribute them," she recalled. "I told her, 'No, I did not do this to come



Josh Washington was the recipient of Colenia's 200th lap robe.

here to get everybody to tell me how wonderful I am.' I was happy being behind the scenes." On October 14, 2000, after much coaxing, Colenia presented the first lap robe she completed to a grateful veteran. Her act of kindness allowed the veterans to keep their legs warm during their hospital stay and their hearts warm by knowing someone really cared about the service they provided our country.

Most of the colorful yarn used to produce the granny squares made to assemble the lap robes costs approximately \$5 and was funded by the auxiliary. Yet, Colenia spent much of her time going to garage sales hunting for this needed treasure. "There are 81 squares in each of these [robes], and each one of the squares took me an hour to make," she explained. "That makes 81 hours of work for each lap robe."

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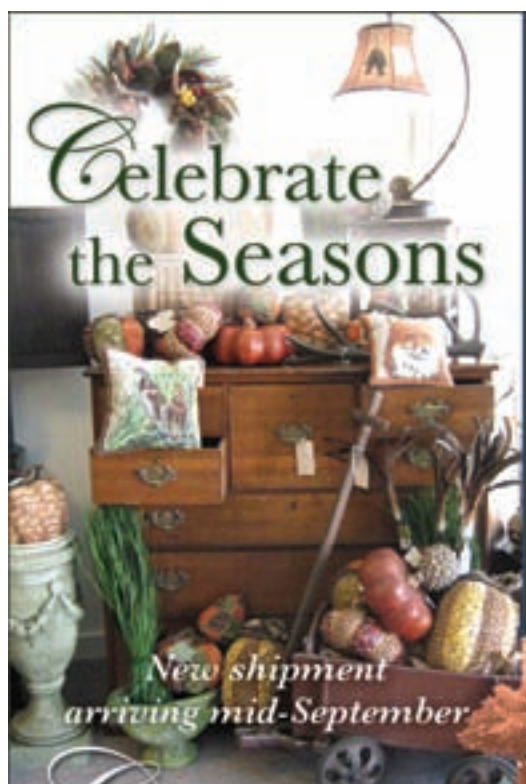
Finding time to make the lap robes was like breathing to Colenia. She has never cared for being idle, so while she waited to see her doctors or spent time watching the news, she would crochet one granny square after another. In 2002, Colenia presented her 100th lap robe to retired Navy veteran Robert Kurtz, who served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. In 2004, she hit another landmark by finishing her 200th lap robe and presenting it to veteran Josh Washington.

For 10 years, Colenia has assisted the auxiliary in raising money to fund the many projects in which they were involved. "We made all kinds of things,"

"We made heart pillows for veterans who had open heart surgery to hold when they coughed or sneezed."


she said. "We made heart pillows for veterans who had open heart surgery to hold when they coughed or sneezed." The VA hospital had a contest to see which county could make the most heart pillows. "We won the contest with 502 heart pillows," Colenia proudly stated.

Her efforts have been spotlighted in many Houston newspapers and she has even had exposure on a few Houston television stations. On July 15, 2004, Congressman Kevin Brady honored Colenia by reading a tribute of her dedicated service to the House of Representatives, which was then recorded into the Congressional Record. She proudly keeps her copy of the letter in a treasured binder her daughter made for her.



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It all started with a 10-cent crochet book she purchased from Woolworths and the incentive she received from watching her grandmother crochet as a child. "I taught myself from the book," she remembered. "I learned when I was expecting my first baby and she's 63 years old now." From that point, she made many crocheted creations for her children and their families.

Colenia met her husband, Frank, at a Parents without Partners dance in 1979 and they were married in 1982. They moved to Corsicana from The Woodlands over a year ago to be close to her oldest daughter, Marilyn Smith, who is a retired teacher from Blooming Grove. Her youngest daughter, Pat Lagieski, is a flight attendant and resides in Minneapolis, Minnesota and her son, Thomas Conkling, a custom cabinet builder, makes his home in Houston.

Since moving to Corsicana, Colenia has been overwhelmed with several health issues and is currently hoping for a rapid recovery. It has been difficult for her to not be as active as she has been accustomed to, but you can bet the bank she will find some new project to dig her creative crocheting talents into as she is able. **XXX**

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Tunnel Vision

— By Samantha Stroube



Photo by Stephen R. Farris,
Navarro County Times Newspaper



As we all know, Texas is a state of sports and extracurricular activities — probably most widely recognized for its football prowess on professional, college and high school levels. In line with that tradition, Corsicana has created something to support all of its high school sports teams: the Corsicana High School Booster Club.

The Booster Club has existed for decades; raising money for all the sports teams in order for the students to have decent equipment, uniforms and gear needed to make their game time fun and successful. However, the Booster Club is in constant need of

support from the parents of the students on all the sports teams, not just parents of football players and cheerleaders. The more involvement the club has, the more funding will be available to all students.

“The sole purpose of the Booster Club is to raise and spend money on things for all sports teams that is outside of the school district’s budget, in order to make high school a more pleasurable experience,” Steve Kirkpatrick stated.

Steve, a long-time resident of Corsicana, truly believes that behind each successful student, is a supportive parent. This is the message he is trying to get out to each and every parent. He

Sports NOW

has been the president of the Corsicana High School (CHS) Booster Club since August 2007, and feels that the involvement of all the parents from each sport offered by CHS will truly make a difference. He intends to break the myth that the Booster Club exists

“The sole purpose of the Booster Club is to raise and spend money on things for all sports teams.”



solely for the purpose of raising money for the football team.

“I originally got involved in the Booster Club to be more active in my son’s sporting career in high school, but it has allowed me to see the direction the club was headed, in addition to helping the students out in any way I can,” Steve said.

The Booster Club successfully raised enough funding and awareness last year to replace the old, worn out, inflatable tunnel with a magnificent new one. The beauty of the new tunnel was first seen when it was put into commission at the Special Olympics, which took place this May at Tiger Stadium.

Watching the participants of the Special Olympics excitedly run through the tunnel for the very first time brought true joy to the Booster Club. Each sports team can use the tunnel to make their grand entrance onto whatever field or for whatever

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L. to R. Lance Waggoner, Rachel Jenkins, Ralonna Fitzgerald

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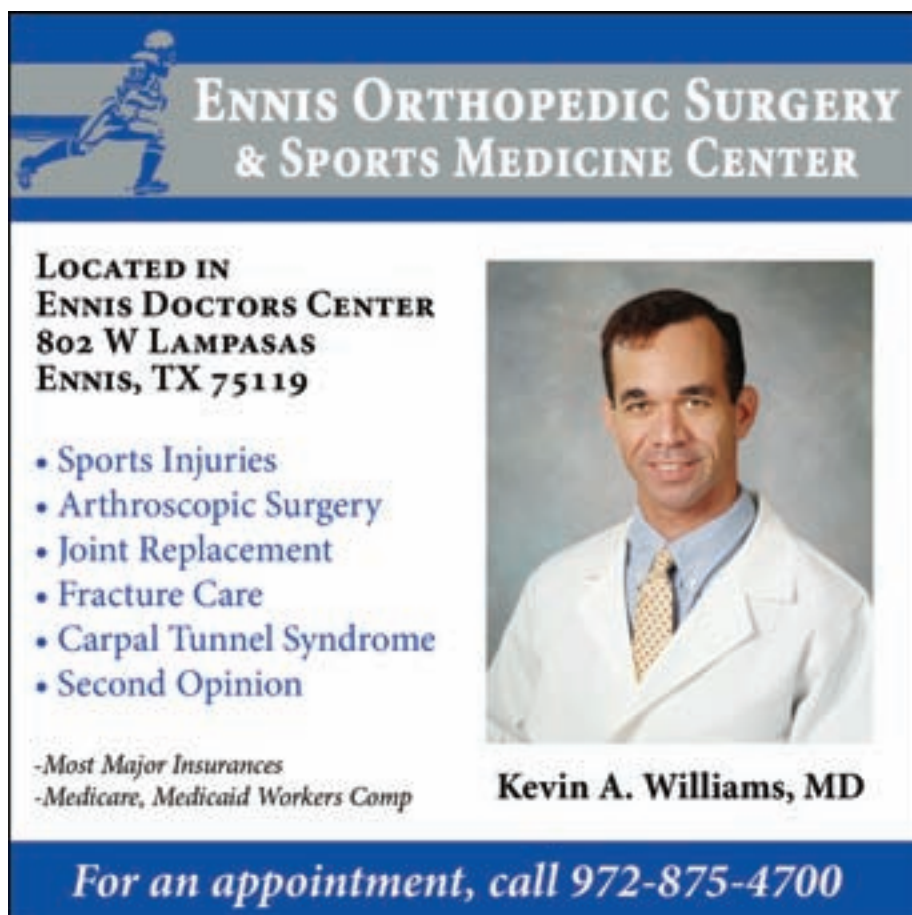
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Sports NOW

event they are gearing up for. It is such an adrenaline rush for the students to gather in the back of the tunnel. The pure excitement they feel as they run onto the field for the first time during the game creates a sense of unity each team needs before a big game or tournament.

“The beauty of the new tunnel was first seen when it was put into commission at the Special Olympics.”

Besides the tunnel, the Booster Club bought video equipment, to help with training the football team, who generously split the cost of that investment. They also bought new equipment for the beautiful new state-of-the-art field house, and assisted Coach Billy Harlan with some equipment for the baseball team this year. “In addition to the tunnel, probably the most exciting thing we were able to purchase was some traveling uniforms for our student trainers who assist ‘Doc’ with the football team,” Steve said.

The Booster Club is working extremely hard this year to get all the coaches and the community involved. Along with Steve, Joe Young, the newly appointed athletic director to CISD, hopes that the Booster Club will be a means of forming a tighter bond and connection between the coaching staff and the parents. Joe is

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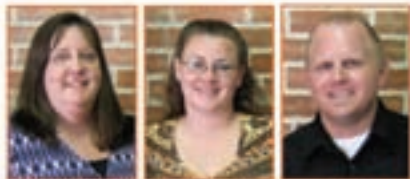
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Sports NOW

really excited and hopes to start selling merchandise at the football games and all other sporting events, in addition to holding more tailgate parties as a means of fundraising.

"I feel that the coaches teach them [students] life lessons and responsibilities," Steve said. "They are trying to teach life skills to the kids, and make them aware that there are other things in the world other than selective sports."

"The interest in the teams shouldn't be dictated by a team's record," Steve said. "They are children representing our community." Steve encourages everyone to come out and enjoy the sporting events offered by CISD and show support to our students.

"I have also learned by being a part of the Booster Club and closely connected to the coaching staff, that their main concern is the kids; not just wins and losses," Steve commented.

To the CHS Booster Club, it is all about the support and presence of the parents at each sporting event and being involved in making the students' experiences better, one day at a time. With the support of the community and the understanding of the involved parents that the Booster Club is not here just for the football team, but for each sport, CISD undoubtedly will create a stronger, more solid infrastructure between the students, coaches and parents. **NOW**

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Business NOW



Life Made Beautiful is a treasure chest of wonder to all. It caters to all walks of life in the newly renovated 2,500-square-foot building, which previously housed Deb's Dollhouse clothing store and Fireside Gift Shoppe. Jennifer Farmer and her entire family have taken this quaint little house, which has catered to generations of Corsicana natives and turned it into a plethora of collections, including flatware, china, baby items, bridal registry and educational pieces, as well.

"It is family business," Jennifer said. She and her mother began the shop together, her husband helps with the buying, her dad is lovingly referred to as "the trash guy" and her mother-in-law runs the shop on a daily basis. "Mom and I actually called each other on the exact same day when we heard

that Fireside was closing its doors, and we knew we always wanted to do something like this, so we went for it."

Moving back to Corsicana in 2001, both Jennifer and Stan Farmer understand the importance of being home and near family, which is why running the store with their family is so important to them. In addition to running and operating the store, Jennifer manages to balance her life with two other jobs: as a third and fourth grade teacher at Bowie Elementary and as an aerobics instructor at the YMCA, in addition to being a wife and mother to her two boys.

Walking into the store is a breath of fresh air. The displays and organization make every item visible and readily available for patron viewing. There are an abundance of items to look at



Business NOW

and choose from, but you never feel overwhelmed with the amount of gifts and collectibles surrounding you.

"We headed to market in Dallas, in March of 2007, once the renovation was completed on the store," Jennifer stated. "And we opened our doors on July 2, 2007." The renovation was just a slight face-lift for the store. "We repainted all the walls, put in fresh carpeting, and my husband redid all the counters and cabinets." Jennifer pointed out that every single display table or display piece had been hand-picked by her mother and herself from various auctions, giving the store a more of a homey feel.

Not only do Jennifer and her mother consider the shop a family environment, they also consider their community as part of their family as well. With both of Jennifer's parents, her mother-in-law, her husband and herself all having graduated from Corsicana High School, they definitely welcome the community into their shop, as patrons and as vendors.

Artisans from around the Corsicana area showcased in the store include: Amy Smith, and her glamorous belts; Susan Farmer, who creates beautiful floral arrangements and wreaths; Deena Davis, with her one-of-a-kind aprons and purses; and Rose Lahon, with her adorable wire cross ornaments. Some newcomers to the showcase arena in the store include: Jamie Owen Wilson and her adorable tutus for little girls, and Traci Petty and her self-designed hair bows.

Life Made Beautiful makes it easy for anyone to shop for themselves, friends or family. They offer baby and bridal registry, as well as a "Wish List" registry for those who have spouses, family members or friends who are always looking for that "perfect something" and never know what to give.

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Education NOW



Inspiring Students

— By Joan
Kilbourne

Two new, innovative student-support programs were launched at Corsicana High School last year. Dick Martin was one of several who initiated the Success Through Active Role Modeling (STAR) program, and Kimi Muldner organized and taught classes in the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program. Each of these programs has its special focus, but the staff members of both work together in a manner which models for students how their education relates to their careers and to the community in which they live and work.

Through meetings with the Corsicana Independent School District superintendent and staff, Dick, Lee McCleary and Bill Spae put their collective heads together to form the STAR program, which recruits business and community role models who will

then work with individual high school students. Dick said, "It's only in recent years that educators and businessmen and women have seen how they could all benefit by working together to motivate and direct students who are about to enter careers."

Dr. Keith Moore, principal of Corsicana High School, became another enthusiastic member of the group. He had recently initiated a new student-support program called AVID at the high school. He thought the goals of both programs were closely matched, so he introduced Kimi to the group. "It was love at first sight," Dick said, as he described their first meeting.

The STAR program was launched as a subcommittee of the Corsicana/Navarro County Chamber of Commerce. Members of the STAR board set out to locate volunteer role models from varied

backgrounds, ethnicity and occupations, who have been successful in their life and careers and who are enthusiastic about helping young people achieve their full potential. "The role models are not mentors or tutors," Dick pointed out. "They are individuals whose careers are matched to a student's own ambition." The AVID program provides qualified testing and interviews with the students and their parents to assure a good fit.

The AVID program also arranges informal meetings with students, parents and role models so that they can become acquainted with one another and be comfortable in their new connection. The volunteers report their goals, their activities and the outcomes of their phone and in-person meetings with students monthly.

Last year, STAR assigned eight role

Education **NOW**

models and recruited 14 other community members. New applicants receive a three-hour training by CISD and background checks are completed. "The role models currently in the program are like a Who's Who in Corsicana," Dick said. "They are business persons, Realtors, attorneys, bankers and public servants. Students are encouraged to seek advanced education and then return to their hometown to build their careers and become community leaders like their role models. The future of our community depends on the students

"My best reward is being inspired by the students who work so hard to develop skills and become successful."

expanding their vision while developing leadership skills at an early age."

When the teachers embraced the AVID way of helping their students, Kimi became the director and classroom teacher of this elective class. The program is designed "for anyone who needs educational support," Kimi said. "It is not remediation, but advancement. It is not designed specifically for students with low scores or social/economic problems, or students who are top achievers," Kimi explained. "[It is] for students in the middle. Students in the middle may go unnoticed earning C and D grades when, with support and guidance, they can do better and begin to see college as a possibility for them."

Students apply to take the AVID class as an elective. They are interviewed and tested to help AVID staff teachers select students whose needs for social or academic support are appropriate for the program. "Some students just need focus," Kimi said. "AVID kids get along like a family."

In the first year, 60 students were enrolled and only two chose not to take the pre-Advanced Placement (AP)



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classes. Kimi was proud to point that out. "Many of those who did take the pre-AP classes surpassed standards and demonstrated leadership skills that were recognized by both their pre-AP teachers and their classmates." Kimi stated. Along with the pre-AP classes, students learn organizational strategies, time management, Cornell note-taking



methods and get training in the Socratic method of learning.

Twice last year, students visited college campuses to experience what it is like to be a college student. Faculty from Navarro College came to the class to engage students in their Reality Check program, which is designed to familiarize students with college life. Students are also guided in test-taking skills on the SAT and ACT tests they need to take when they apply to enter a college.

This year, there will be both freshman and sophomore AVID classes. In coming years, junior and senior students will have opportunities to earn college credit in dual-credit classes at Navarro College. Kimi's wish list includes more classroom space and money for more trips, computers and science calculators. "Like every other teacher in the school," she laughed. "I really like it when a pre-AP teacher tells me my student is outstanding as a leader in the class. My best reward is being inspired by the students who work so hard to develop skills and become successful." **NOW**



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Around Town NOW



Matt Ralston, top left, is surrounded by excited family members during his high school graduation. American Business Women's Association members from the Corsicana Chapter, top center, held a club meeting recently where Jerry McClanahan served as guest speaker. Ella and Tyler Swartzentruber, top right, exchanged some sibling love. Lacey and Grant Randle, with sister, Kaylee Reed, second row left, spent time with other children from daycare at a local water park. A ribbon cutting, second row right, was held at Longhorn Industrial Supply. Employees of Black Jacks, the newest downtown restaurant, third row right, gathered for a picture. Clayton Ralston, third row left, celebrated his 12th birthday in July. A ribbon cutting, fourth row right, was held at La Quinta Hotel. A couple, bottom left, enjoyed a cocktail in the bar area of Black Jacks. An after hours gathering, bottom right, was held at the Hampton Inn.





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— By Faith Browning

Look Who's Cooking

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DEVELOPED EGGS WITH HAM

4 eggs
1/2 cup mayonnaise
1 tsp. Dijon mustard
dash of white pepper
1 Tbsp. capers, drained and rinsed
1/2 cup baked ham or prosciutto, finely chopped

Place eggs in a 2-quart saucepan; cover with water. Bring water to a boil; reduce heat; simmer 12 minutes. Rinse eggs well with cold water. Fill pan with cold water; allow eggs to stand in water 30 minutes until cooled. After eggs are cooled, carefully remove shells. Cut eggs in half lengthwise; spoon yolks into a bowl. Mash yolks; reserve 2 teaspoons for garnish. Mix yolks with mayonnaise, mustard and pepper until smooth. Reserve 2 teaspoons of ham for garnish. Fold capers and ham into yolk mixture. Mound mixture in egg white halves. Arrange eggs on a bed of lettuce; garnish with remaining egg and ham.

CORNISH GAME HEN OREGANO

4 1-lb. Cornish game hens, thawed if frozen
1 Tbsp. olive oil
salt, pepper and oregano to taste

STUFFING:

1/4 cup butter or margarine
1/4 cup onion, finely chopped
1/4 cup celery, finely chopped
2 cups white bread, cut into 1/2-inch cubes
1/2 tsp. dried oregano leaves
1/4 tsp. celery salt
dash black pepper
1 Tbsp. water

SAUCE:

1/2 cup water
2 Tbsp. butter or margarine
salt and black pepper to taste

Remove bags of liver and neck from hens; wash and pat dry. Rub skins with oil. Season inside and out with salt, pepper and oregano; set aside. Prepare stuffing by heating butter in a saucepan until bubbly. Add onion and celery; cook 1 minute. Stir in bread, oregano leaves, pepper and water. Loosely stuff each hen with 1/4 of stuffing. Place hens in roasting pan. Roast 20 minutes at 450 F. Reduce heat to 350 F; roast 30 to 40 minutes longer or until juices run clear when the thigh joint is pricked. Arrange hens on a warm serving platter. To make sauce, skim excess fat from roasting pan and transfer to a saucepan. Add water and butter; simmer for 2 minutes. Add salt and pepper.

Serve sauce in a gravy boat.

BACON, APPLE, SPINACH SALAD

6 slices bacon, cooked crisp
1 lb. fresh spinach leaves, wash and remove stems
1 apple, un-pared, cored and sliced
3 green onions, thinly sliced
1/4 cup salted sunflower seeds or toasted sliced almonds

SALAD DRESSING:

3 Tbsp. white wine vinegar
1 tsp. sugar
1 tsp. Dijon-style mustard
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. pepper
1/4 cup olive oil or salad oil

Crumble bacon; toss with spinach, apple and onions in a salad bowl. In a small bowl, whisk together vinegar, sugar, mustard, salt and pepper; whisk in oil until well blended. Drizzle with dressing just before serving salad; toss well. Sprinkle salad with nuts. *NOTE: You can transform this salad into a main dish by topping each serving with tuna or chicken. Be sure to save a little dressing aside to drizzle over the meat. Sometimes I add some mixed spring lettuce for variety.*

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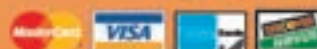


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Costly Misconceptions:

Most People Mistakenly Believe Long-term Care is Covered

— By Lynda Housley

Have you failed to get insurance for long-term care in a nursing home because you think you already have coverage? If so, you are like a lot of other people, according to a Roper survey of Americans 45 years of age and over recently released by the American Society on Aging (ASA).

That misconception can become costly when you consider long-term care in a nursing home currently averages \$56,000¹ a year, according to the U.S. government, and is expected to quadruple by 2030². People could easily find their assets depleted, their choices limited and their independence gone if they need long-term care, but have made no plans to pay for it.

And chances are good they will need long-term care. Statistics released by the Health Insurance Association of America say that after age 65,

Americans have more than a 70 percent chance of needing some form of long-term care, whether it is an aide coming to their home, a stay in an assisted care facility or an extended stay in a nursing home³. Younger people may also need long-term care if they have had a stroke, for example, or have been in an accident.

"This survey confirms that Americans need to wake up to the realities of long-term care," said Jim Emerman, senior vice president of the ASA. "All it takes is a phone call to a financial services professional to find out the truth behind the misconceptions so many have about long-term care."

Some of the common misconceptions uncovered in the Roper study⁴ are these:

- **Forty-two percent were**

not aware that Medicare only covers long-term care expenses for a short time, and only after someone is released from the hospital.

- **Thirty percent were not aware that Medicaid coverage for long-term care is only available after someone's financial resources are exhausted.**

- **Almost half, 46 percent, are under the impression their health insurance will automatically cover long-term care.**

It is dangerous to assume you are covered for long-term care. When the need for a nursing home stay or other long-term care arises, you may discover you are not covered and have



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waited too long to buy insurance. Long-term care insurance is an important part of a financial plan. I urge people to speak with a financial services professional about their need for long-term care insurance now, before it is too late to get coverage.

Sources:

1. Estimates from: Health Care Financing Administration, Office of the Actuary, National Health Statistics Group. Pandya, Sheel. "Nursing Homes Fact Sheet." *AARP Public Policy Institute FactSheet*. February 2001:3.

2. "Can Aging Baby Boomers Avoid the Nursing Home? Long-term Care Insurance for Aging in Place." *American Council of Life Insurers*. March 2000:15.

3. Lewin Group estimates based on the Brookings-ICF Long-term Care Financing Model, 1992. "Long-term Care: Knowing the Risk, Paying the Price." *Health Insurance Association of America (HIAA)*. 1997:12. The level of coverage provided by long-term care insurance depends on the type of policy you purchase. Some types of care received may not be covered by long-term care insurance.

4. Study conducted by Roper ASW, August 2002. Released by State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company and the American Society on Agency (ASA), April 2003.

The American Society on Aging is not an affiliate of State Farm®. **ADULT**

Lynda Housley is a State Farm agent based in Corsicana.

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Health
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Heatstroke: Causes *and* Treatments

— By Charles Williams, MD

While millions are exposed each year to the danger of intense outdoor heat, some are unprepared for the risk of a heatstroke. Generally, the human body can control its own temperature by producing sweat, which then evaporates and cools the skin. However, heat from internal metabolism, outdoor temperatures and intense physical activity can sometimes overwhelm the body's internal temperature control, leading to heatstroke. A very serious and sometimes fatal illness, heatstroke can be treated or avoided with proper preparations and knowledge of the risks.

Although heatstroke is rarely fatal, it is uncomfortable and can be avoided by taking precautions. It occurs as a result of abnormally elevated body temperature, or hyperthermia, when the body's internal temperature reaches 104 degrees Fahrenheit. The body's internal temperature is likely to reach this level during intense physical exertion in extreme heat, especially when dehydrated. Without adequate fluids, a person will not sweat enough to cool down. The elderly, young children, individuals who are obese and those with compounding medical conditions are most likely to suffer from a heatstroke. Those with medical conditions such as heart disease, lung disease or kidney disease are at the highest risk for experiencing heatstroke.

Older individuals who are inactive and have other complicating health factors often suffer from classic heatstroke, because they may not sweat as much as necessary to regulate their body temperature. In contrast, another form of the condition called exertion heatstroke affects those who physically

exert themselves under the sun. They visibly sweat while participating in activities and tend to be active, young and healthy. Any person taking medication with side effects may also be vulnerable to heatstroke.

Because heatstroke is a potentially life-threatening condition, it is important to treat an individual for heatstroke upon the first onset of symptoms. Symptoms of heatstroke may include:

- High body temperature
- Rapid pulse
- Difficulty breathing
- Strange behavior or hallucinations
- Confusion or disorientation
- Seizure
- Dry mouth
- Agitation
- Tender cramped muscles

To treat the symptoms of heatstroke, seek medical attention as soon as possible and begin intervention to lower the patient's body temperature. Move the patient to a cool area, such as in the shade or an air-conditioned building. Spray the individual with cold water or remove clothing. Place ice packs under armpits and near the groin, and fan the patient. Check the individual's temperature to ensure that it drops to around 101 degrees Fahrenheit. Immediate treatment of heatstroke is important to avoid the results of a nervous system breakdown, such as organ damage, brain damage or even death. Consult a medical professional if symptoms appear and persist. A physician will confirm heatstroke and



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The best approach to heatstroke is to avoid experiencing it, if possible. To prevent heatstroke, consume plenty of water and sports drinks to keep the body hydrated, replace lost energy and maintain a normal body temperature. Avoid drinks that contain alcohol or caffeine, such as tea, coffee and soda, as caffeine can cause dehydration. Take frequent water breaks and wear light-colored and loose-fitting clothing. Schedule outdoor activities during the morning and evening hours and protect your body from the sun with sunglasses, a hat or an umbrella. With knowledge and intervention, heatstroke and its dangerous effects can be avoided altogether. **NOW**

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September 2008

Community Calendar

September 5

Corsicana High School varsity football game, 7:30 p.m., Tiger Stadium.

September 9

Navarro Small Business Development Center's How to Start a Small Business workshop, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., Corsicana/Navarro County Chamber of Commerce conference room, 120 N. 12th St. To register, call Ophelia Mendoza at (903) 875-7667 or e-mail ophelia.mendoza@navarrocollege.edu.

September 11 - 13

Midnight and Magnolias, Warehouse Living Arts Center Gallery, 119 W. 6th Ave. (903) 872-5421.

September 12

Shakers and Scrapers Car Club meeting, 6:30 p.m., Emmanuel Baptist Church, 2217 W. Seventh Ave.

Corsicana High School varsity football game, 7:30 p.m., Tiger Stadium.

September 13

Navarro County Genealogical Society meeting, 10:00 a.m., Corsicana Public Library Civic room, 100 North 12th St. The Society will be celebrating its 30th

Anniversary. The program will be presented by first officers of the group. Organized in August of 1978, the Society has been very important in preserving and publishing historical and genealogical data of Navarro County.

Comedian Jeff Watson presents "It's My Dream; I Can Tell It if I Want To," 7:30 p.m., the Palace Theatre, 112 W. 6th Ave. (903) 874-7792.

September 18

Empowering Women Express Network (ABWA) monthly meeting, 5:45 p.m., Midlothian Conference Center, 1 Community Circle, Midlothian. Please RSVP to Daphne Brewer at (972) 723-6551. www.abwa-empoweringwomen.org.

September 18 - 23

National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) Fall Nationals. Texas Motorplex. For information call 1 (800) Motorplex or visit www.texasmotorplex.com.

September 20

Fiesta at the Palace Theatre, featuring The Spinners at 5:00 and 8:00 p.m. Spinner Tickets: \$50, \$40 and \$30. Fajita Dinner: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Dinner tickets: \$20. For tickets, call the Palace Box Office

at (903) 874-7792.

September 23

Navarro College SBDC's Creating a Business Plan, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., Corsicana/Navarro County Chamber of Commerce, 120 N. 12th St. To register, call Ophelia Mendoza at (903) 875-7667 or e-mail ophelia.mendoza@navarrocollege.edu.

October 2 - 3

Corsicana Art League is sponsoring "Paint Corsicana." This is an opportunity for artists, both local and from out of town, to come and paint pictures of Corsicana. There will be a judge and prizes and the paintings will be exhibited at the Chamber of Commerce and/or the Visitor's Center.

October 4

Corsicana Education Foundation's Annual Golf Tournament. For sponsorship or team reservations, please contact Samantha at (903) 654-2838 or Samantha@corsicanaeducationfoundation.com.

For more community events, visit our online calendar at www.nowmagazines.com.

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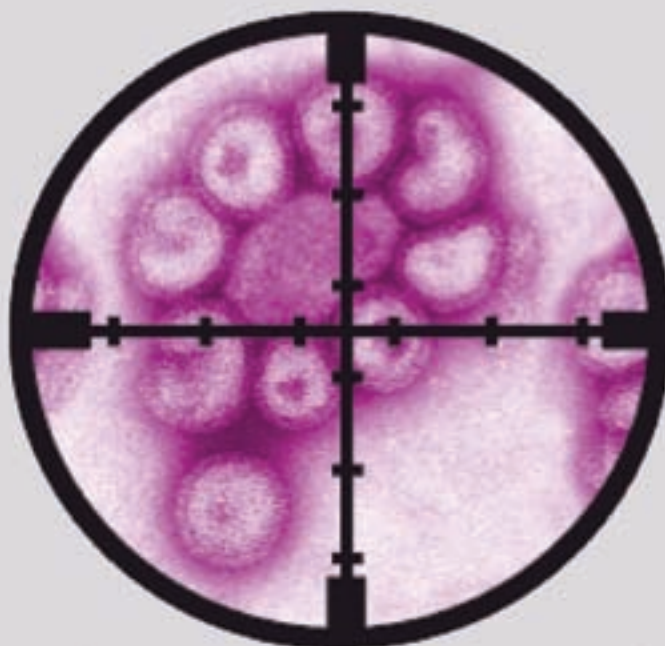


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