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M A G A Z I N E

September 2009

**Opening Doors
to Extraordinary Lives**

**The Changing Face
of Education**


**Add a Little Swing
to Your Life**

**Cheers
to It All!**

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At Home With

**Robert
Gegenheimer**



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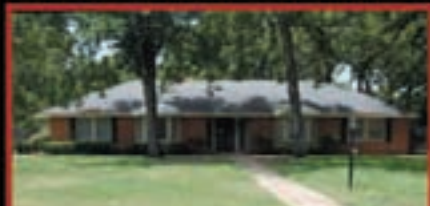
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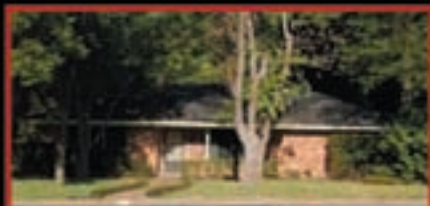
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The Changing Face of Education



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Photo by Terri Ozymy.

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General Manager, Rick Hensley
Managing Editor, Becky Walker
Editorial Coordinator, Sandra Skoda
Creative Director, Jami Navarro
Art Director, Chris McCalla
Billing Manager, Lauren De Los Santos
Office Manager, Angela Mixon

Corsicana Editor, Samantha Daviss
Contributing Writers, Faith Browning
Nancy Fenton • Joan Kilbourne
Kelly Kovar • Bruce Robinson
Shahzad Syed
Contributing Editors/Proofreaders,
Pat Anthony • Angel Jenkins Morris
Jaime Ruark • Beverly Shay

Advertising Manager, Linda Moffett
Advertising Representatives,
Linda Roberson • Rick Ausmus
Linda Dean • Will Epps
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Graphic Designers/Production,
Julie Carpenter • Allee Brand
Cherie Chapman • April Gann
Marshall Hinsley • Arlene Honza
Brande Morgan • Pamela Parisi
Jennifer Wylie
Photography, Terri Ozymy
Natalie Busch • Ivey Photography

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Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

September is here and with it comes the beginning of autumn and the promise of cooler temperatures, at least part of the time. In Corsicana, September means football! Be sure to support the Tigers as they chase their dreams into the end zone.

Just as the seasons are changing, transitions are also taking place at *CorsicanaNOW* magazine. We would like to thank Samantha Daviss for her contribution as community editor over the past year-and-a-half. As she moves on, we wish her well in all of her endeavors!

Starting next month, Joan Kilbourne will be the new face of *CorsicanaNOW*. She has been writing for us for some time now, so many of you may already know her. She looks forward to meeting you and telling your stories. If you have any story ideas, feel free to e-mail them to Joan at joan.kilbourne@nowmagazines.com.

Have a great fall, everyone!

Becky Walker

Managing Editor
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Ryan Douglas
Tax Preparer



Sharon Watts
Bookkeeper

Sharon was born in Upland, California and moved to Canyon, Texas in 1995, where she worked for West Texas A&M University in their financial aid department for nine years. She met Jody Watts in 1998, and they married in 1999. They have four children, two boys and two girls, and four grandchildren. She moved to Corsicana in 2007 and worked at Collin Street Bakery for a year before coming to Evonne Blackwell's office in June, 2008. Sharon is in charge of all of the bookkeeping and most of the payroll reporting and special projects reporting. She has been a very valuable employee, and the Blackwell group really doesn't know how they ever made it before she came to work here!

The Latest "Fall Facts":

- * Prepare for natural disasters by safeguarding your tax records. Create a backup set of records electronically and document valuables by compiling a room by room list. Update your emergency plans and consider keeping a photographic or videographic record of your belongings stored away from home.
- * We have been getting a lot of questions about the "special tax break on new car purchases," but most of the tax breaks deal with states that do not have a sales tax. Since Texas does have a sales tax, we have already been able to deduct sales tax on car purchases so this is not a new tax break for Texans. There still are some energy credits available on certain hybrid and electric vehicles.
- * There is still the first-time homebuyers credit available of 10 percent of the purchase price of the home up to \$8,000, which is a fully refundable credit, on homes purchased prior to December 1, 2009.
- * Do not forget minimum wage went up to \$7.25 per hour at the end of July of 2009.



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Proud to announce that Tammy Irvin-Carter has joined us again! Contact her at 903-641-5243 or tammyirvin_remax@hotmail.com.



1605 Dobbin Rd - Extras, extras & more extras! 4.5/1.3 custom home w/ pool, gameroom w/ bar, 2 fireplaces, gourmet kitchen & more. Tammy 903-641-5243



2201 Highland Ct - Fabulous 3-3/2 on quiet cul-de-sac. Open concept w/ stainless appls., slate floor & backsplash, granite & beautiful landscaped. Tammy 903-641-5243



Location - Location! Beautiful 35 ac w/ rd frontage on Hwy 287 & CR 4250. Only 1.5 miles from RC Lake. Perfect for commercial or residential! Tammy 903-641-5243



2629 Fish Tank Rd - Lake New! Beautiful 3/2 w/ huge backyard. Lots of windows, incredible granite work in both kitchen & baths! Tammy 903-641-5243



3004 Hillside - CUTE! CUTE! Move in ready! BRAND new carpet, open floor plan, sprinklers in front & back, cul-de-sac with privacy fenced backyard. Carolyn 903-467-8145



412 Sundance - Awesome 4/3 waterfront home w/ iron fencing, beautiful trees & sprinkler system. Open concept, security system & more! John 903-641-3359



333 Knights Cr - Spectacular 3/2-2 w/ open water views! Built-ins, huge utility, great master suite w/ double vanities & walk-in closets. Julie 903-654-3970



407 Hidden Oaks - Fabulous 4/3 waterfront home on 1.7 acres! Large living area w/ fireplace, beautiful kitchen, & tile & hardwood floors. Julie 903-654-3970



3004 Winfield Dr - Well maintained 3/2-1 in good neighborhood! Walk-in closets, carpet, & vinyl. Move-in-ready! Karen 903-641-9998



402 Fiddler Lane - Sensational waterfront home w/ incredible views of lake! 3 living areas, study, walk-in closets, alarm system & more! Julie 903-654-3970



330 Lincoln Dr - 8,778 sq ft of waterfront luxury on 1.69 ac! Home theater w/ 16x9 screen, 4 bedrooms, 5.4 baths, 3 living areas & much more! Julie 903-654-3970



711 W 9th - 3/2 w/ outside completed, inside of home will feature ceramic tile & carpeting in bedrooms. Karen 903-641-9998



418 Clubhouse Dr - Gorgeous 4/3.5 custom-built family home in The Shores. Granite, hardwood floors, carpet, crown molding & more! John 903-641-3359



Lot 326 in The Shores - Exclusive waterfront lot on Paradise Point! Perfect home site and priced to sell! Carolyn 903-467-8145



525 Bay Hill Ln - Exquisite 5/5.4 waterfront villa! Media room, wine vault, gym, boat dock, & so much more! Julie 903-654-3970



8000 NWCR 2071 - 3/2 on 16 acres w/ additional DW at back of property! Fenced for horses & storage/back building. Julie 903-654-3970



118 SECR 3186 - Spectacular waterfront home w/ over 70 windows overlooking lake! Marble, granite, guest quarters & more! Carolyn 903-467-8145



516 Lakewood - Cute 3/2 home with updated kitchen, tile flooring, corner fireplace, & fenced backyard. Julie 903-654-3970



15323 SWCR 2390 - 3/2 on heavily wooded acreage w/ tank, trails, fenced on 3 sides and road frontage on 2 sides. Julie 903-654-3970



000A CR 2160 - 76.5 acres located close to Corsicana/Kerrville RC Lake. Native grasses, pecan trees & easy access to Hwy 31 & I-45. Christine 903-654-0720



18000 Nelson Loop - Secluded 3/3-2 waterfront on 2+ acres! Floorplan in master, double walk-in shower, 2 balconies & natural setting. Julie 903-654-3970



709 S Kerr - 3/2 in Blooming Grove. Formal dining, garage conversion, built-ins and huge backyard! Julie 903-654-3970



125 Sweetwater Trail - Awesome 3/2.1 waterfront home w/ gym, dream workshop, office, media room & so much more! Julie 903-654-3970



720 SECR 3122 - 4/3 with granite in all baths & kitchen, hardwood floors, open water view, & electric boat dock. Carolyn 903-467-8145

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“We really do help people; it’s why I stay.”

From the first time parents hold their newborn in their arms, they begin to dream about their child’s future. They look forward to the joy of watching their child become a healthy, happy, productive adult who will experience the satisfaction that comes with meaningful work and personal and community relationships. Before long, parents recognize some children will become fully independent and others will need support at some level all of their lives. Support beyond that which a family can provide is available in Corsicana through the generous and loving people who work at Mosaic and those who donate time and money to the organization.

Mosaic describes itself this way: “A mosaic creates a single picture by combining many tiles of unique shapes and varying colors. Mosaic is formed by numerous individuals, each with unique gifts and contributions, coming together to create a single ministry. Mosaic works in the lives of people with disabilities, so they may access the supports and advocacy they need to experience open doors leading to extraordinary lives.” Mosaic is a nonprofit organization formed in July 2003, by the consolidation of two Nebraska-born Lutheran ministries dedicated to the needs of people with disabilities: Bethphage began in 1913 and Martin Luther Homes began in 1925. Today, Mosaic continues to provide support and services so individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities can live active, full lives in their communities. Mosaic offers services to more than 3,800 people in 14 states, four foreign countries, and nine locations in Texas.

In Corsicana, Mosaic offers services guided by Deanna Abraham, executive director. Direct support managers (DSMs) oversee seven group homes. Three or four individuals live in each home. During the day, these adults work at paid or volunteer jobs or they may attend the day program supervised by Annette Betts. In the evening, a direct support associate joins the group and another DSA spends the night in the home. Nancy Laird, program coordinator, explained, “Some adults can live independently, but they can’t do everything

Opening Doors to Extraordinary Lives

— By Joan Kilbourne

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for themselves. If they don't drive, we can provide transportation. They may have trouble paying bills or making out budgets." She smiled and added, "I guess all of us can have trouble with that." Having roommates in the group home provides companionship for the residents, and in addition, each one can share his or her individual strengths and talents for the benefit of the others.

Some individuals, who need less than 24-hour supervision, live in independent homes or with their families and they receive residential support as needed. Respite care is also available for family members and caregivers who benefit from "time away" in a less stressful environment. Another group of consumers live in state-qualified foster homes. Foster families are trained by Mosaic to meet state standards for safety and responsible care. They provide the kind of individual, family interactions that empower individuals to achieve their full potential. Case managers, DSMs and nurses provide support night and day to individuals and their foster families.

Mosaic in Corsicana has more than 50 staff members who work in full-, part-time and volunteer positions. Direct service and nursing staff are on call every day. Cheryl Jordan, public relations specialist, said, "You have to be dedicated to work here. I have the utmost respect for the direct support staff and what they do." Nancy added,



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"We really do help people; it's why I stay. What I like best here is the work environment. We're all a team. The team approach is the way we work with our consumers as well. In every important decision they make, their case manager, nurse and another person are present with the individual to make the decision." Dan Dazey, a case manager who joined the staff only two months ago, commented on his decision to work with the Mosaic team. "I



wanted to help people," he said. "I see what I do as a higher calling."

Nancy summarized Mosaic program goals when she said, "Our aim is to enable productive and full lives." She explained further, "Some of our consumers need total physical care; others have minimal needs. They may marry and raise children. A couple might only need someone to help their children with homework. Individuals sometimes need only occasional help with the paperwork that is required to retain membership in the Medicaid

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Jerrie **Shea**

program and social security." She referred again to the fact that even in the general population "some of that paperwork is hard."

Nancy advised that parents look ahead to their child's future needs and apply early for the services their child may require. Individuals apply through the Mental Health and Mental Retardation program to get on the state list for funding. There is a waiting list many years long that is growing even longer as state funding continues to be cut. Once an individual is funded, they can choose any provider such as



Mosaic. "We are ready to serve," Nancy said. "We are always working to improve what we do and how we do it."

Cheryl provides community outreach to schools and churches, offering workshops and presentations to promote understanding and respect for individual differences. She also works to recruit volunteers who will share their talents and hobbies like painting, quilt making and doing craft projects. Some volunteers plan and make arrangements for group outings. Other volunteers make one-on-one connections with individuals as friends and mentors who go together to community events, to the movies or to athletic events.

Cheryl also works with a newly formed Civitan group to locate organizations that will welcome individuals in the

Mosaic program who, like the rest of us, want to have the satisfaction of doing worthwhile work. "Some of our consumers do have behavioral issues," Cheryl said. "They just need advocates to help them find appropriate jobs." Volunteers also sponsor special activities such as a Halloween party with costumes and prom night when



"We are always working to improve what we do and how we do it."

everyone enjoys elaborate decorations and dancing, and each dancer is a prom king or prom queen.

The Spring Spectacular event in May, raised funds with a carnival, sports, games, art projects and an auction. In December, Christmas boxes can be found at local stores so the generous people of Corsicana can make donations to individuals who can then purchase special things beyond the basics they buy with their own funds. **NOW**

Editor's Note:

For more information, call Cheryl Jordan at (903) 874-3364.

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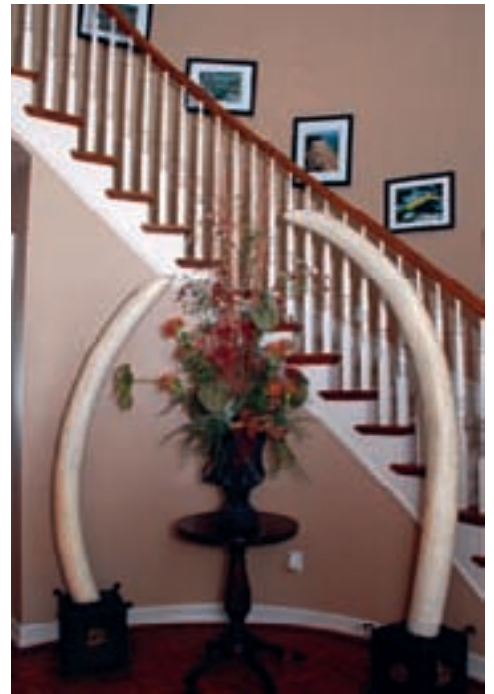
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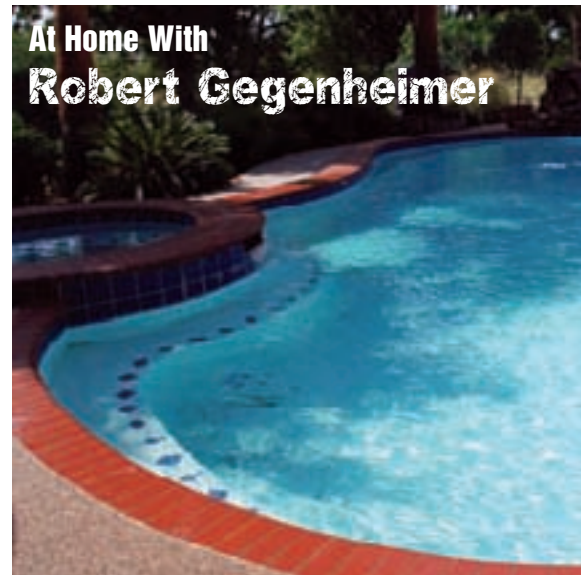
A Hunter's Haven

— By Samantha Daviss

Hidden on the outskirts of Navarro County in a quiet haven surrounded by 4,000 acres of rolling pastures, is the ideal house for Robert Gegenheimer. He and his girlfriend, Sonya, consider it “paradise.” The home is surrounded by hundreds of exotic animals, including two zebras.

Robert built the home over 16 years ago, with his hobby/livelihood in mind. Pulling through the front wrought iron gate, supported by two redbrick columns, and making your way up the drive to the traditional two-story redbrick house, you can believe the home is over 7,000 square feet in size. The house itself is amazing, but the contents are what draw you in — contents once alive. “I built this house with my trophy room in mind,” Robert said standing in the middle of a 1,000-square-foot room with a vaulted ceiling, large enough to house a portion of his mounted animals. “I found a floor plan that I loved, and then I added the trophy room onto it.”

**At Home With
Robert Gegenheimer**





"About six years ago, I discovered that I needed more space for my mounts, so we added this room on," Robert stated, referring to the 2,000-square-foot room complete with built-in bar, large screen television and 500-gallon, built-in aquarium. Walking through these two amazing rooms is like walking through a museum of natural history. Mountings include polar bears shot in Alaska, water buffalo, gazelle and a photograph of an enormous alligator recently killed that will soon be added to his collection.

All total, there are 125 mounts in Robert's collection, ranging in size from a small red fox to a large polar bear. The origin of his mounts is fascinating. Even though they now call Robert's living room home, they came from all over the world, places like Africa, Canada, Alaska, New Zealand, Australia and Mexico.

Robert started hunting with his father when he was about 12 years of age, and his hobby turned into his passion and now his livelihood. "In



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today's standards, I guess I started hunting at a late age, but I think parents were smarter back then; they didn't want to take us until we were 12 or so," he said smiling.

Robert runs a successful hunting expedition company called Cotton Mesa Trophy Whitetail. The name originally came from a 10,000-acre ranch he owned in Colorado. He would take hunters and clients up there for various elk and deer hunting excursions. He recently sold that ranch for a number of reasons. "I mainly got rid of that ranch because of all the federal and state laws Colorado had against high fencing areas," he explained.

However, Robert still takes his clients on about five major hunting trips a year all over the world. During the fall months, one of those places includes his home. The house is not just

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home to Robert and Sonya and her children; it also doubles as a hunting resort for various hunters a few months out of the year.

The 4,000 acres surrounding the home contain a wild game preserve and hunting grounds. You seldom get to walk out onto your pool deck and see your pet elk walk by, or your friendly wild pig run past. This is, however, the case for Robert Gegenheimer. He has divided his land into four specific pastures. One pasture holds his "pets"; another is a breeding ground for whitetail deer; and the other two pastures are for the hunting pleasure of his clients.

This household certainly enjoys their life out on the ranch. They know just how fortunate they are. Even though their home





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is lovely and adorned with souvenirs of all types from their travels and explorations, they very rarely stay inside. "We are very outdoors people," Sonya stated. "In fact, we would rather be outside than inside. We take a drive every night along the fence line to make sure everything looks OK to us."

As hunters come to use their land and the home, the couple enjoys every aspect of its beauty even more — from the four wonderful upstairs bedrooms and the beautiful dining room table Robert received from his parents to the oversized couches in the trophy room that also doubles as their family room. Even so, the outside of the home is what captivates them the most. "We love our pets so much,"

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Sonya stated, “that we head to the pen every day to care for them and to feed them.” Visitors are amazed when they see a wild pig and an elk, with a set of antlers that would make most hunters swoon, run up to the fence for a handful of corn.

When the house and land are being used for hunting, Sonya welcomes the



“I built this house with my trophy room in mind.”



hunters with a home-cooked meal every night. There are three other lodges on the property to accommodate the hunters' sleeping arrangements, but “we like to treat our guests like family, so we offer a dinner in our house every night,” Sonya stated.

The view from the back of the house and across the pool deck seems to go on and on for miles, as you gaze out over the pastures observing all of the

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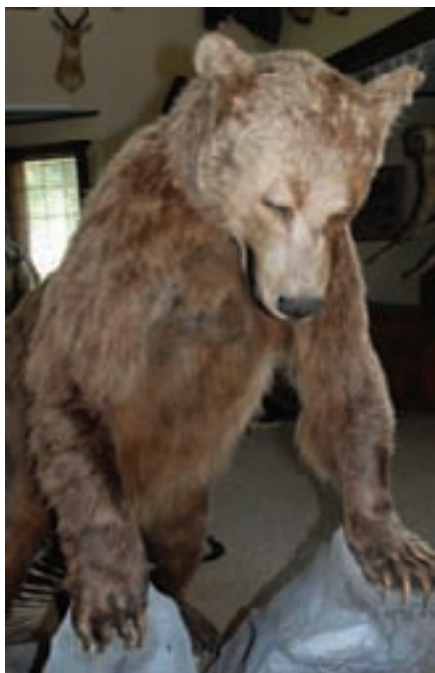
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known as American bison), scimitar oryx and Corsican sheep. They are animals, most people only read about in books or see captured in the zoo, but Robert gets to see and enjoy them every single day of his life, from the comfort of his own back porch.

This life is like no other — one very few can imagine. “Sometimes, when we are gone on a trip and we come home, I wonder how we ever left,” Robert said proudly. **WOW**

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Add a Little Swing to Your Life

— By Samantha Daviss

Twelve years ago, a group of musicians were assembled by Jim Stubbs, former band director of Navarro College, who in turn created the Corsicana Swing Orchestra (CSO). With their multiple talents, abilities and love of music, they have brought back the delightful sounds of the Glenn Miller Orchestra and Big Band era. They also play arrangements from more recent times and music genres, such as: Dixieland, country, rock 'n' roll and Latin just to name a few.

In addition to being able to use the Navarro College band hall for their rehearsals, the CSO is fortunate to consist of such a diverse, but wonderful group of talented people. "We are like a big family, we have all been together so long that we know each other's quirks and just accept them," said Jerry Ballew, CSO manager and first chair trumpet player.

The band made their debut at the Highway 75 overpass dedication downtown in the late '90s, thus igniting a powerful and wonderful journey for this talented group of musicians. Since then, the band has performed at weddings, dances, celebrations, Fourth of July events and various concerts. They also make public appearances for hometown events, such as the lighting of the Christmas lights in downtown Corsicana. "We typically average about five gigs a year," Jerry said, referring to their band's motto: We love our music, but for now we are keeping our day jobs.

Half the band is comprised of educators, some of whom are vocal or music teachers in their respective communities. The other half of the band consists of professionals, who either love or have a background in music. Jerry himself went to Stephen F. Austin State University, transferred to the University of Texas on a trumpet scholarship, and received his degree in electrical engineering. Clearly, although they may not all be surrounded by music in their careers, they certainly do love it.

"It's a passion and a joy for us all to get together for practice,"



Jerry expressed. "We never tire of it; in fact, most of the band members look at it as therapy." The 16-member band experiences a full year of exposure with all of their engagements. "We have never done any competitions and probably never will. This is just something that we all do for pure enjoyment and pleasure.

"Our one standing gig that we have every year, which really ties in with who we are, is the Hanger Dance at the Corsicana Municipal Airport," Jerry said. "In fact, this year it is going to be October 9; it's going to be a lot of fun!"

The CSO is so well-prepared and put together, that after 12 years of performing and raising funds, they have managed to purchase all their own equipment, such as music stands and risers, as well as two sound systems, one large and one



small. The band looks like a professional ensemble while performing on stage. Depending on the occasion, they have the choice between black polo shirts, complete with the CSO logo and a picture of the instrument they play, or a black tuxedo or blue blazer. They are an ensemble group ready for any occasion.

The band members have been together so long, their music abilities just flow. "There are five original members that are still with the band: Mary Kuhl, Carey Kuhl, H.M. Davenport, myself and my wife, Brenda," Jerry said. "Even though we do sometimes get new members in, it does take them some time to get used to the new techniques and rhythm of swing music, not so much the band itself." Other current band members are Ladena Baggett,

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Paige Billings, Kory Jumper, Matt Hazelwood, Gust Witt, Michael Kaster, Adam Walthall, Russell Holland, Clint Sherman, Cindy McCary and Lareese Arnold.

"The difference [between] swing music and other types is swing is a little shorter and sharper to play the notes; they don't drag out as much," Jerry explained. "Swing pieces usually allow each section [of instruments] to carry the melody for a while. It will jump from group to group, allowing the sound to travel through the band."



"This is just something that we all do for pure enjoyment and pleasure."

The CSO members truly enjoy each other's company and the music they play. They will cater to their audiences' desires. If you want more Latin style music, they will produce it for you, but you cannot beat the sounds of the Big Band era. "In fact, we almost always close every show with the classic 'In the Mood,'" Jerry said. "And we typically play 'Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy' from the Glenn Miller Band as well." If you feel like stepping back in time, just drop in on a band practice or try to catch them at their next venue. **NOW**

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Black Cats on the Prowl

— By Kelly Kovar

At Mexia High School, Lee Wiginton, head football coach, is beginning his second year at the helm of the football program. Last season was big news for the Black Cats when, for the first time in several years, they made it to the playoffs. This has generated a lot of confidence and excitement for this year's team. "We made it to the second round of the playoffs," Lee said of last season and he thinks the team is shaping up really well for this season. "We plan to make it to the playoffs again this year." There are five home games, and five away games on the books. The final scheduled game of the season is November 6, and playoffs begin after the regular season's games finish.

"This year's varsity team consists of a good mixture of kids with experience and new kids coming up," Lee mentioned. "We have a lot of players coming up from junior varsity. The team is shaping up well for this season."

During the summer, the Mexia coaches held a workout camp for the players. "The coaches put the kids through strength and conditioning training," Lee explained. "Four days a week they lift and run." For seven weeks, the athletes dedicate two hours a day, Monday through Thursday, for training. "We had a good

turnout and the kids had a great summer."

The players have honed their skills. "One of the strength's of this team is that we have really good senior leadership," Lee said. "I plan to continue to build leadership skills in the players, in order to help them to develop in the classroom and on the playing field."

Lee grew up in Lampasas. Before he came to Mexia, a 3A school, he was head coach at a 2A school in Comfort, Texas. "Mexia has been great," he said. Lee's interest in coaching football came to him at an early age. "My dad is a retired football coach, so I have been around it all my life. The main thing I like about coaching football is you never feel like you are working. You have an opportunity to be around kids and to help shape the kids' lives."

Making a difference in the youth he works with is what motivates Lee. "I want to give them a desire to be better people and to make better choices on a daily basis." Every day, during training, coach Lee talks to the boys about a different character trait.

The Mexia homecoming game is scheduled for September 11 and the Black Cats are ready. "I look forward to getting out there and competing," Lee said. "There is an excitement of not knowing how each game will turn out, but we are prepared." **NOW**



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Photo by Brandi Garza.

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Cheers to It ALL!

— By Samantha Daviss



As adults, most feel they lead pretty full lives with hectic schedules and very little time for themselves. Many are up and out the door by 6:00 a.m. and finally wind down for the evening after the children are in bed by about 9:00 p.m. Now imagine being a teenager with a schedule like that from your freshman to your senior year of high school.

Lauren Woldt, a recent graduate from Kerens High School, is an amazing student who managed to balance her academics, social life and all her extracurricular activities beautifully. “I moved to Kerens during my fourth-grade year of school,” Lauren said. “Everyone at Kerens is kind of involved in everything,” she said, explaining her involvement in band, cheerleading, cross country and track, tennis, powerlifting and volleyball.

Lauren did every one of her activities well. Instead of just being extracurricular activities, they became real-life accomplishments. Even with all of these involvements, Lauren managed to stay focused on her ultimate prize and goal — good grades and a future at college. Graduating in

May as fourth in her class, Lauren’s future is bright.

“I never visited the University of North Texas, that’s just where I decided to go,” Lauren stated, and she is doing so with the help of several academic scholarships, as well as a cheer scholarship. Her dedication to success is evident. While at UNT, she has been selected as an elite member of the 20-person cheerleading squad, in addition to pursuing her academic goals.

“Science has always been my favorite subject, so I plan to major in behavioral analysis and go on to medical school to become a pediatrician at Children’s Medical Center,” Lauren stated with confidence.

Lauren definitely shines as a cheerleader. “I love to cheer, it is probably my most favorite thing to do,” she said, “but the difference at UNT is that there is a lot more tumbling involved than what I am normally used to.” She explained that the typical cheering and chants performed during high school are not a regular occurrence at UNT. Lauren has nothing to worry about, though. She was co-captain of her squad her senior

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year at Kerens High and her cheering experience goes back to seventh grade. "When I found out that I was going to try out at UNT, I started tumbling classes to help me out a little bit," she said.

Lauren's other accomplishments include being the top runner on the cross country team for Kerens. "I have always liked working out and running,"



she said. She has been a part of the track team since her seventh-grade year, as well. Her tennis and powerlifting involvement did not really begin until her freshman year. Although starting those a little later, she was no slacker in either sport. The tennis team managed to go all the way to regionals, and though you might not imagine it by looking at Laura — long blonde hair, standing at 5 foot 3 inches tall with a petite stature — she and the powerlifting team also went to state one year.

To round out her list of "to-dos" Lauren managed to squeeze one more sport into her senior year — volleyball. "I wasn't very good at it," she said smiling, explaining that Kerens had

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just initiated the volleyball team that year. "It is so much fun, but kind of crazy to go to a school the size of Kerens, as everyone is expected to do everything," Lauren said explaining that during halftime, the cheerleaders and football players would leave their posts to go play in the band if they held a position. Lauren's band experience started when she was in junior high playing the trumpet. She played with the high school band from seventh grade through her senior year. "We got to go to state twice as a band," Lauren said proudly.

Lauren was involved in the Beta Club (Kerens' equivalent to the National Honor Society) and Fellowship of

She was co-captain of her squad her senior year at Kerens High and her cheering experience goes back to seventh grade.

Christian Athletes. She competed in UIL in both math and science and went to regionals with those as well. She served on the yearbook staff her senior year and was on the honor roll. In addition to her academic and sports activities, Lauren is extremely involved in First Baptist Church of Kerens. "I actually get to lead a discussion group of high school girls," she said.

While it may sound like Lauren is being pulled in every direction, she stays grounded through her faith. She said, "I focus more on God, and everything else just sort of branches off." **NOW**



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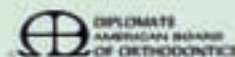
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THE COUNTRY STORE

— By Samantha Daviss

The Store, which accommodates the needs of everyone living near or around Richland Chambers Lake, just celebrated its second anniversary, on July 4, under the ownership of Dale Hurbrough, Jane Guerin and her son, Matt Guerin. “The ole girl is really 37 years old,” Dale stated about the actual building itself. “The 1,600-square-foot store was originally known as the Winkler Country Store.” In January 2007, Dale and Jane decided their community, friends and the lake dwellers needed a small store, which could offer almost everything imaginable, with great hours. “Everything around here closes down [early], so we wanted to stay open later, if someone was craving ice cream or something,” Dale said smiling. “We know the streets in Streetman ‘roll up’ at 8 o’clock,” Dale said. “So that is why our hours go until 9:00 p.m. seven days a week.”

“We got tired of driving 80 miles round trip for our

groceries, so we figured everyone else was, too; that is how we came up with the idea of The Store,” Dale explained. “We offer a little bit of everything, from groceries to a full-line bakery. Winkler’s Country Store was always known for their desserts, so we wanted to carry on the tradition of delicious desserts. I have to admit our specialties are our pies and our carrot cake.”

The Store is more than just a convenience store. In addition to selling brand-name gasoline, they also provide their customers with groceries such as rib eyes, T-bone steaks, and various other needed items. Along with their full-line bakery, they also offer their customers a restaurant with homemade cooking, where they can either dine-in and enjoy the company of local patrons or take it with them — anything from a delicious burger to a steak cooked just the way they like it.

The atmosphere offered by Dale, Jane and Dale's mother, Beth Hurbrough, who helps with the cooking, is nothing short of a friendly country store. "You walk in and are immediately welcomed by all; we want all of our customers to



feel like family," Dale said. Their desire is to service friends, family and community members, with a smile and good food, not just to sell them items and rush them out the door.

While a seven-day-a-week operation might seem like a lot of time and dedication, Dale is no stranger to long restaurant hours and hard work. In fact, he was a restaurant supervisor in Houston for more than 35 years. Both a sense of family and a sense of pride has gone into The Store through, blood, sweat and tears with the rebuilding, remodeling and overall return to the friendly "country store" atmosphere. "We moved here to Streetman about 10 years ago," Dale said. "We love the small-town life, especially for the safety and security of our kids. It is such a nice feeling knowing everyone in the town," he said. Their patrons are broken down into two groups: weekenders and locals, and Dale claims to know them all.

The Store, located at 10620 FM 416, Streetman, TX, is 15 miles outside of Streetman and 53 miles outside of Corsicana, by way of the Richland Chambers Lake dam. It is open seven days a week from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., with the grill being open 10:30 a.m. to 7:45 p.m. Monday-Friday; 6:00 a.m. to 7:45 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. You can reach them at (903) 599-1175. **NOW**

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The Changing Face of Education

— By Joan Kilbourne

According to the U.S. Charter Schools organization, nearly 3,000 new schools have been launched since state legislatures began passing charter legislation in the 1990s. Chartering is at the center of a growing movement to challenge traditional notions of what public education means. Charter schools run independently of the traditional public school system, and they tailor their programs to community needs. Policy makers, parents and educators are looking at chartering as a way to increase educational choice and innovation within the public school system. In Texas, charter schools serve more than 90,000 students in some 500 schools.

When Tanis Stanfield was an elementary school special education teacher, she said she met the children who fell through the cracks of larger, more impersonal schoolrooms. “Some kids just do not do well in a seven-hour school day. I am a hands-on learner,” she said. “What worked for me was visual learning and doing things.” So Tanis designed a program that focused on small group learning and one-on-one teaching and opened the original ComQuest Academy in Tomball 10 years ago. The success of the students enrolled in her Tomball program prompted school administrators to encourage Tanis to open a new campus in Corsicana.

In Corsicana, the ComQuest Academy enrolled its first class last January with six students, two boys and four girls, in attendance. As a school fully accredited by the Texas Education Association, the Academy can award a diploma like any other high school. The Academy offered a structured program of studies that included all of the required secondary subjects, but in the place of elective courses, it offered workforce development for high school credit. It is this combination of academic and job-related learning that distinguishes this program. Tanis explained, “The ‘Com’ part is about communication and community and the ‘Quest’ part is about the student’s quest for communication skills and membership in a community of learners.”

In a pre-enrollment process, parents meet with the teachers to present academic records and discuss their child’s needs and goals. Incoming students are counseled to understand the expectations of the school and to commit to the rules that are designed to make the classroom a safe environment where all students can prosper. “We are trying to create a win/win



situation where students experience success,” Tanis said.

Students attend classes from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., and then they report to a job for four hours in the afternoon. Students with jobs can earn 1.5 credits per semester for 15-20 hours of paid or volunteer work. “It all counts,” Tanis said. “It allows them to try out different interests, develop job skills, learn appropriate workplace conduct and one of the most important lessons is the chance to discover the consequences of poor performance or attendance. If they get fired, they still have a second chance to do better in another job.”

Employers write evaluation reports on a student’s performance. This helps the teacher encourage the student by recognizing a job well done and helps them advise the student/worker on ways to improve in less successful areas. Those who need more time to study can work with college student tutors in a second session held in the afternoon. Students have computers to do research projects, learning how to search for information and to evaluate it for its authenticity and usefulness. They also use a tutorial program that gives them experience in taking tests in the format used by the TAKS test.

While Tanis was organizing the Academy, Ricky Walter was dreaming of an optional school for students who needed help to prepare for the TAKS test. He made space available in his Lifeline Fellowship Family Church and gathered some young people from his congregation, as well as other congregations within the community. “I wanted them to have a place where they don’t feel threatened by expectations they believe they cannot meet,” he explained, “a place that won’t label them, but show them alternative ways to achieve their goals.”

The students’ success reawakened a previous interest in

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starting a charter school that would provide support to students at risk of dropping out of high school. "That's when Tanis Stanfield came by," Ricky said. "We talked about a partnership between Lifeline and ComQuest that would offer a high school core curriculum along with training in how to learn and how to work." They planned to serve 50 to 75 high school students who, for various reasons, were encountering obstacles to their education, but were motivated to earn a diploma.

During the summer, Lifeline ComQuest Charter High School moved to the Lifeline building on Highway 31.



There are four full-time teachers who teach English, social studies, science and math. Part-time teachers will come in to teach music and Spanish. Volunteers will be welcomed to bring an array of talents to share with the students. ComQuest Academy offers the kind of learning environment that works well for students like the young man who said, "I know this is my last chance. I've got to make it work." "Students who have this kind of determination," Ricky added, "will find the opportunity and guidance they need to reach their goals here at ComQuest." **NOW**



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• Larkin Joles, top left, displayed his ability on a bicycle. • Participants of the YMCA water aerobics class, top right, took a break to smile for the camera. • OMI owner Julius Flores II, second row left, was caught on camera dining in his restaurant with friends. • Nate McNair, second row right, decided it would be faster to get out and push his own stroller. • Twins Kate and Will and little John Higgs, accompanied by Laura Martinez, bottom right, enjoyed the water park experience. • A ribbon cutting, bottom left, was held at S&S Design.

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- Donna Gantt, top left, celebrated her birthday with a piece of cheesecake.
- A ribbon cutting, top right, was held at Miles Furniture celebrating the addition of the J.C. Penny catalog service center now located inside the furniture store.
- Krista Sifers, second row left, sang her heart out with her parents, Tim and Judy Draper.
- Rose Aldama, along with her friends and family, second row right, celebrated her 50th birthday with a surprise party.
- Todd Jones, bottom left, was captured on camera singing karaoke.
- A family from Corsicana, bottom right, took advantage of the school supply giveaway at Refiner's Fire Ministries located in Ennis.



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Look Who's Cooking

— By Faith Browning

IN THE KITCHEN WITH MARILYN CLOUD

CHICKEN TETRAZZINI FOR A CROWD

Makes 25 servings.

- 1 1/2 gal. water
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 lb. 14-oz. spaghetti, broken in thirds
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1 1/2 cups onion, diced
- 1 1/2 cups fresh carrots, diced (or 1 lb. 4 oz. frozen mixed vegetables to replace carrots and celery)
- 1 cup celery, diced
- 1/2 cup green peppers, diced
- 12-oz. fresh mushrooms, sliced or 5-oz. can, drained
- 1/2 cup canned pimientos, diced (optional)
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 qt. 1 cup low-fat milk
- 1/2 qt. plus 1 cup chicken stock
- 1/2 tsp. white pepper
- 1 tsp. onion powder
- 1 tsp. garlic powder
- 3 lbs. 2-oz. chicken, cooked and diced
- 4 cups Parmesan cheese, shredded

In a stockpot, boil water with salt; add spaghetti. Cook until the spaghetti is firm and tender, about 8 minutes. Drain and hold in cold water; set aside. In a saucepan,

heat oil. Sauté vegetables until tender; set aside. In a stockpot, melt butter; add flour and cook for three minutes. Slowly add milk to the flour mixture. Simmer, stirring frequently until mixture is thickened and is at 180 F. Add the chicken stock, pepper, onion powder and garlic powder; simmer for five minutes. In a greased 12 x 20 x 2-inch steam table pan, combine the spaghetti, chicken, vegetables and sauce. Sprinkle Parmesan on top; bake at 350 F for 30 minutes or until golden brown. Cut into 5 x 5-inch squares.

SOUR CREAM CORN BREAD

- 1 1/2 cups yellow corn meal
- 3 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 cup grated cheddar
- 1 small can cream-style corn with jalapeño peppers
- 1/2 cup corn oil

In a bowl, sift together the first three ingredients. Add the remaining ingredients; stir until just mixed. Pour into greased baking pan. Bake at 450 F for 30 to 40 minutes or until bread tests done.

All three of Marilyn's children are grown and do not live near enough for her to enjoy spending the time she would like with her 13 grandchildren, but she does make the most of what time she gets. "I have to go see them, and when I go visit them I cook whatever they want," she laughed. "They look forward to Nanny coming, because Nanny loves to cook for them!"

Marilyn has been sharing her love for cooking with many children attending Corsicana ISD for almost 20 years. Currently, she manages the cafeteria at Collins Middle School. "I love my kids and getting to know their names and getting to know what they like to eat," she expressed. "I have one of those jobs I enjoy getting up and going to that doesn't excite anybody but me!" **NOV**

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

NEVER FAIL PIE CRUST

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 1 cup shortening
- 1 Tbsp. vinegar
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup water

Sift flour and salt together. Add shortening; blend with pastry blender until well mixed. Add vinegar, egg and water to flour mixture; add more flour if needed to roll out. Divide into three balls. Each ball can be rolled out to fit a 9-inch pan. Bake at 400 F for seven to 10 minutes.

BUTTERMILK PIE

- 1/2 cup butter
- 2 cups sugar
- 3 heaping Tbsp. flour
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 tsp. lemon flavoring

Cream together butter, sugar and flour. Add the eggs; mix well. Add buttermilk and flavoring. Pour into a 9-inch pie crust. Bake at 350 F for 30 to 35 minutes.

Dining Guide

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	Corn on the Cob	Macaroni & Cheese	Lettuce Salad
	Steamed Cabbage	Baked Potato	

Dessert of the Day: Banana Pudding or Cobbler

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Chicken Spaghetti	7.95	Chicken Fried Steak (Beef / Pork)	7.95
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Fried Chicken (2 pcs white or dark)	7.95		

Choice of 2 Vegetables	Green Beans w/ New Potatoes	Mashed Potatoes	
	Cole Slaw	Pinto Beans	Fried Okra
	Potato Salad	Lyonnaise Carrots	Macaroni & Cheese
	Lettuce Salad	Broc & Rice Casserole	Baked Potato

Dessert of the Day: Banana Pudding or Buttermilk Pie

Wednesday

Meatloaf w/ Tomato Sauce	7.95	Chicken Fried Steak (Beef / Pork)	7.95
Fried Catfish	7.95	Roast Beef	7.95
Fried Filet of Codfish	7.95	Fried Chicken	7.95

Choice of 2 Vegetables	Green Beans	Fried Okra	Cole Slaw
	Navy Beans	Macaroni & Cheese	Potato Salad
	Mashed Potatoes	Baked Potato	Lettuce Salad

Dessert of the Day: Banana Pudding or Bread Pudding

Thursday

Chicken & Dumplings	7.95	Chicken Fried Steak (Beef / Pork)	7.95
Fried Catfish	7.95	Roast Beef	7.95
Fried Filet of Codfish	7.95	Fried Chicken	7.95

Choice of 2 Vegetables	Green Beans	Fried Okra	Cole Slaw
	Butter Beans	Macaroni & Cheese	Potato Salad
	Mixed Greens	Baked Potato	Lettuce Salad
	Baked Potato Casserole		

Dessert of the Day: Banana Pudding or Cobbler

Friday

Grilled Chicken Breast over Rice with Vegetables	7.95	Chicken Fried Steak	7.95
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Fried Chicken (2 pcs white or dark)	7.95		
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Choice of 2 Vegetables	Green Beans	Mashed Potatoes	Cole Slaw
	Baked Beans	Fried Squash	Potato Salad
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Dessert of the Day: Banana Pudding or Bread Pudding

Saturday

Smothered Hamburger Steak	7.95	Chicken Fried Steak	7.95
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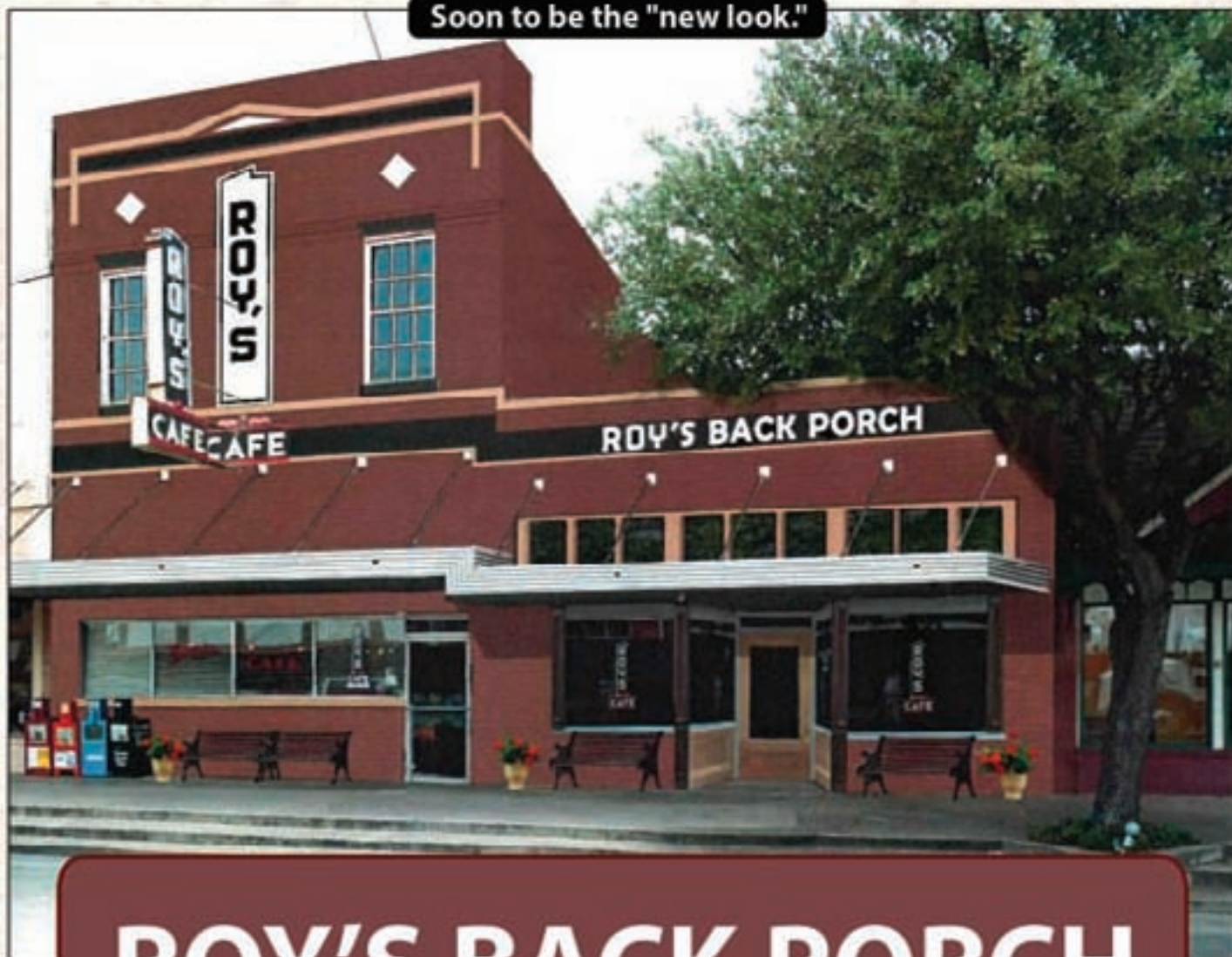
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Coping With the Lost Decade

— By Bruce Robinson, CFP®

As this article is being written, traders on Wall Street are buzzing about the stock market's historic move over the past few months. From April through July, the S&P 500 gained 34.3 percent, which is the best five-month gain in the past 70 years. Why aren't individual investors toasting this impressive run? Some investors were overcome with worry and bailed out of the stock market in those dark days of late 2008 and early March 2009 when predictions of another Great Depression seemed all too plausible. Others are choosing to avoid or ignore the bad news by refusing to open their statements. Yet even engaged investors aren't celebrating. Some fear another shoe will drop, and some are still discouraged that despite the surge, the market is still down 20 percent for the past year and is even slightly underwater for the past five-year and 10-year periods. Some market observers describe the last 10 years in which investors experienced little or no growth in their retirement accounts as the "lost decade."

Now that Great Depression II appears to be off the table, financial writers are sharing their thoughts on how investors should deal with this lost decade of investment returns. This is a particularly vexing reality for baby boomers who are entering or about to enter their retirement years. One of the more interesting articles appeared in the July issue of the *AII Journal*, a publication of the American Association of Individual Investors. William Reichenstein, a finance professor at Baylor University, and Larry Swendroe, the director of research at a St. Louis investment firm, offer sage advice in an article entitled "Bear Market Grads: What You Should Learn From the Financial Crisis."

The final section of the article is entitled "Have a Plan B." Reichenstein and Swendroe ("R&S") describe what is going wrong with the long-range financial plans (Plan A) of many investors. To

summarize their explanation of the problem: A widely accepted financial planning practice is to employ sophisticated statistical models built upon 73 years of financial market data to project investment returns. Unfortunately, the reality of the "improbable" events of the past 10 years (such as 9/11 making a normal recession much worse and then in 2008, the perfect storm of the housing/credit crisis) were too far out on the bell curve to be captured by this statistical analysis. In other words, your Plan A may have had a 95 percent success probability according to the statistical model, but reality is occurring outside of the probability of success envelope.

R&S conclude, "Since 'unexpected' (improbable) things can happen to good people and good plans, it is important to have a Plan B. If things turn out worse than expected, how will you respond?"

- If you are still working, you may be able to delay retirement.
- If retired, you may be willing and able to return to work.
- You may have to eliminate one or more goals from your wish list.
- You may have to reduce or eliminate discretionary spending for travel and dining out.
- You may have to move in with a family member."

Readers may cringe as they consider these Plan B options, but that is why they are called "Plan B." Plan A can come true despite its detour. Future returns from stocks, bonds and CDs can bounce back to those long-term historical numbers upon which Plan A is based. Nevertheless, having lived through the improbable events of the last 10 years, one can see the wisdom in having a Plan B. Flexibility and creativity are imperative in the face of an uncertain future. **NOW**

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Five Steps to Colon Health: Part 1

An easy formula to promote prevention, awareness of common cancer

— By Dr. Shahzad Syed

Cancer of the colon is the third most common cancer in the United States — and, caught early, it's also one of the most curable. About 90 percent of individuals whose cancer is found before it has spread survive five years after diagnosis. But, if not caught at this point, the five-year survival rate is less than 10 percent.

Colon cancer is cancer of the large intestine, the lower part of the digestive system. Most cases begin silently, as a polyp that causes few symptoms. Five simple steps can protect your health:

1. Get tested.

All adults starting at age 50 should begin routine colon cancer screenings. In 2008, the American Cancer Society (ACS) issued new screening guidelines

to stress prevention as the primary goal and steer providers and patients toward those tests with the highest potential to prevent cancer.

The recommendations add two new tests and more specifically define the differences between tests: those that find cancer, and those that can find precancerous growths (also known as polyps). ACS recommends those tests that actually examine the interior of the colon because they can not only detect cancer, but also prevent it by finding — and removing — polyps or growths that can potentially cause cancer. These tests include a flexible sigmoidoscopy (every five years); a colonoscopy (every 10 years); a double contrast barium enema (every five years); or a CT colonography or virtual colonoscopy (every five years). Polyps found during these tests can be removed on the spot, simply and painlessly.

Testing options that look for evidence of actual cancer, include three types of stool tests — an annual fecal occult blood test, the annual fecal immunochemical test (FIT) and a periodic stool DNA test.

2. Develop awareness.

Know the risk factors associated

with colon problems:

- Advancing age, i.e., over age 50.
- A high-fat diet.
- A family (i.e., sibling or parent) or personal history of colorectal cancer.
- A history of polyps or growths inside the colon and rectum.
- Certain conditions that elevate your risk, such as Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis.
- Diabetes. People with diabetes have a 30 percent increased risk of colon cancer.
- Ethnic background. African-Americans have the higher number of colorectal cancer cases in the United States. Screening is recommended starting at age 45 for them.
- Smoking cigarettes.
- Alcohol consumption more than 30 grams a day.
- Obesity — 1.5 fold increased risk of developing colon cancer. **NOW**

Dr. Shahzad Syed
Navarro Regional Hospital

Editor's Note:

Look for next month's article which includes the last three steps that can protect your health.

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Blooms G A L O R E

— By Nancy Fenton

Fall will soon be here again and it will be time to separate your irises if you did not get around to it last year. Irises and Shasta daisies are two of my favorite bloomers, and they love to be cut up and given more room. They bloom much better if they have some space to “stretch their roots.” Irises are perfect to dig and replant or share in the fall, and Shasta daisies are good to work with in the spring. If you are really organized, you may have labeled the colors of each of your irises last spring when they were blooming — sorry, not me!

One of the keys to having great blooms year after year is

having the rhizome (the brown thing that the roots grow from) on top of the ground. If you plant too deep and cover it up, the plant will not bloom as well. My iris idol, David Smith of Waxahachie, tells me he checks his irises four times a year to make sure no leaves or anything else is on his rhizomes. If his blooms are any example, his technique must work, and I am going out right now to pull all those leaves away! It goes without saying there should be no mulch

anywhere around irises. The mulch will hold the moisture, causing the rhizome to rot — something we sure do not want to happen.

Irises can grow literally in spite of some of us, but they do benefit from a little balanced fertilizer in the fall and early in the spring. I use Halloween and Valentine's Day as my guideposts for iris fertilizing. Irises are great plants to pass along to others; let's all have one or two in our yards! **NOW**



Nancy Fenton is a Master Gardener.

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September 2009

Community Calendar

Third Thursday

Corsicana Education Foundation board of directors meeting, CISD administration building: Executive: 4:00 p.m. General board: 4:30 p.m.

September 2-25

Junied Arts Show 2009, Co-sponsored by Navarro Council of the Arts and the Corsicana Art League. Warehouse Living Arts Theatre and Gallery.

September 8, 10, 15 and 17

VOICE will offer the Texas youth Tobacco Awareness Program, a state-approved program for minors. Four two-hour sessions will be from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Participants must pre-register. Cost is \$100. For information, contact John Goodnight at (903) 872-0180.

September 8

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1009 will meet at 7:00 p.m. at Sirloin Stockade, 2508 W. Seventh Ave. in Corsicana. Membership is open to U.S. armed forces veterans who served on active duty in Vietnam. Members and guests are invited to come early and eat and visit prior to the meeting.

September 10

How to Start a Small Business. Free workshop, with

Robin Lasher, Director Navarro College Small Business Development Center. Meeting at Corsicana Chamber of Commerce 2:00-4:00 p.m. Call (903) 875-7667 to register.

September 24

How to Write a Winning Business Plan. Workshop with Robin Lasher. \$20 fee. Meet at Corsicana Chamber of Commerce 2:00-4:00 p.m. Call to register (903) 875-7667.

September 4-October 31

The Cook Center Planetarium presents "Cosmic Voyage" a large format movie journey across the universe. Friday at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Saturday at 2:00 p.m.

"More Than Meets the Eye" is about prominent constellations and easy to find deep sky objects. Friday 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Saturday at 2:00 p.m. Please call the Cook Center at (903) 874-1211 to verify schedule.

September 10-19

Wedding Belles, a comedy presented by the Warehouse Living Arts Center. Call (903) 872-5421 or

visit www.warehouselivingartscenter.com for details.

September 19

Corsicana High School Class of 1964 will hold its 45th reunion at the Corsicana Country Club. Call for information at (903) 872-6644.

September 26

The Palace Theatre presents The Lettermen, "Creating memories over 49 years." Ticket sales begin August 27. The box office number is (903) 874-7792. Tickets are \$30 and \$45.

September 26

10th Annual Hooked on Fishing Tournament at ICCF Park. Registration: 6:00 a.m. Tournament at 7:00 a.m. For ages 16 years and under. Free refreshments, T-shirts and prizes. Poles and bait are provided, or you may bring your own. Tournament Coordinator: pro-Angler Sam McCollum.

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