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reflects on the Warehouse
Living Arts Center's
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On The Cover



A seat is waiting for
you at the Warehouse
Living Arts Center.

Photo by Amy Ramirez.

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Editor's Note

Dear Navarro County,

Are you ready to play football, volleyball, team tennis, run cross country, yell with the cheerleaders and march with the band? Whether you are a Blooming Grove Lion, Corsicana Tiger, Dawson Bulldog, Frost Polar Bear, Kerens Bobcat, Mildred Eagle or Rice Bulldog, I hope to see you at the games and meets. And don't forget to cheer for our Navarro College Bulldogs as they pursue another national championship.

P. S. Check out What's Happening NOW on our Web site, www.nowmagazines.com. Click on Corsicana to get up-to-date news on what's taking place in town.

Have a great September!



Virginia

Virginia Riddle
CorsicanaNOW Editor
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(903) 875-0187

Oil & Gas in Our Region



Chautauqua Assembly-September 24, 2011

10:30 PM Opening Ceremony
1:00 PM Ken Margen, Ph.D. Director of Energy Institute of TCU
Geology of the County and Surrounding Area
1:50 PM WFO Jazz Band
2:15 PM Tommy Wittgen, Ph.D. Navarro College
A Short History of Oil and Gas in Our Region
2:15 PM Oil Fielded Stiggen
3:45 PM Nawel Damouss, Dean of Academic Affairs TCU
Geology of our Region
4:30 PM Woodstock Community Theater
Musical in the Magnificence
by T.S. Augustine
5:15 PM Panel Discussion on the pros and cons of the oil industry
6:10 PM Dinner Break
6:45 PM TACO Jazz Band Performance

Chautauqua Auditorium - Getzendaner Park, Woodstock, Texas

All Day Tickets \$20 Adults - \$10 Students
Purchase tickets at:
www.ChautauquaCulture.org
Dinner's Available: Corsicana (201) North College, Woodstock, TX
Rio County Museum (201) S. College Street, Woodstock, TX
For additional information contact: Jerry Chapman, 972-823-1261

Proceeds from this event will be used to fund new outdoor lighting which will enhance events held at the Chautauqua Auditorium.



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
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Acting Out

With a cast and crew of 20, the Warehouse Living Arts Center began in 1971, housed at Navarro College's Arena Theatre. The award-winning community playhouse, now a fixture of downtown Corsicana, is celebrating its 40th anniversary, a history rich in local culture and an influence that has extended to Broadway, Vegas, TV and the English stage. "There have been many wonderful plays and musicals the Warehouse has put on over the years," Sandra "Sandy" McClure Mahood said, who joined the company 15 years ago and has been executive artistic director since 1999. "We've been lucky to have had such a long success and are indebted to the community for making us such."

— By Randy Bigham

From intimate productions of *The Matchmaker* and *Always, Patsy Cline* to large-scale musicals like *South Pacific* and *Oklahoma*, the Warehouse has packed in crowds of all ages and tastes. Alongside local talent, shows have starred famous actors and singers, toured regionally, won awards in state competitions and been featured in national festivals. Meantime, an offshoot troupe of the Warehouse, the Corsicana Children's Company, has appeared statewide as well as internationally — including a tour of Great Britain with *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. The Warehouse, in



From left: Brad Cook (board member), Sandra McClure Mahood (executive director), Brad Haynie (board member) and Sharon Goodman (board member).



addition to making its mark on the social and artistic landscape of Corsicana, is a physical ornament to the city, with its bright entrance awnings, recently dedicated Walk of Fame and brand new digital marquee.

Another feather in the theater's cap is its reputation as a training ground for young performers who have become well known. Among big names who got their start on the Warehouse stage are Terry Fator, winner of TV's *America's Got Talent* in 2007; Glenn Cooley, member of the Tony Award-Winning Manhattan Theatre Club; Baltimore Russell, who has starred in *Sex and the City* and *Saturday Night Live*; and Julie Mitchell, a drama coach in Hollywood who also works in independent films, one of which premiered at last year's Sundance Film Festival. These artists have not forgotten their Navarro County roots and each

expresses gratitude to the Warehouse Living Arts Center for giving them their start in the

field they love. "The confidence I built through my time at the Warehouse has carried me into career realms I could never have dreamed of," Terry said. "I'm certain that without the Warehouse I may never have achieved these goals."

Glenn admitted, "The exposure I received from the Warehouse led to my pursuit of theater as a career."

For Baltimore, better known to locals as Jay Pallanich, his own "first and enduring love" of the stage began at age 7 when he acted in the Warehouse production of *The House at Pooh Corner*. "I can't give enough praise to the teachers and directors who shaped my formative years," he said. "They helped give me

the tools I needed to be the best actor I could be."

Julie is still involved with the Warehouse, conducting its annual theater camps. "Because my teachers at the Warehouse helped me figure out who I am," she said, "I'm dedicated to doing the same for the children I teach in L.A. and in Corsicana."

It was fulfilling for Sandy to work with these and the many other actors she has helped train, and she said, "Their continued support of the Warehouse is touching." Her time with the company has been an exciting one, filled with rewarding opportunities on many levels. It's hard to pick favorites, but a few





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plays stand out as special experiences for Sandy. "One of the absolute best in my opinion was *Anne of Green Gables*, which we produced in 2000," she recalled. "It was great all the way around, from the story to the sets to the cast." A young actress in the vehicle, the director proudly pointed out, was Andrea Williams Coker, who won a scholarship program for her abilities. "Andrea has gone on to great things, although acting hasn't been her calling," Sandy laughed. "She now lives in London where she works as an assistant to a member of Parliament!" Another standout production during Sandy's tenure with the Warehouse was *I do, I do*. "That one is especially memorable, and



it has been a returning favorite with our audiences. I played in it with Gary Douglas in 1998, and in 2009, I directed Janet Martin and Todd Jones in it. It's a fabulous show that everyone can identify with, from the wedding day to 50 years on."

The Warehouse has a knack for staging plays with broad appeal. "That's what the Warehouse does best," Sandy explained. "We try to figure out what's going to attract the community. We spend a lot

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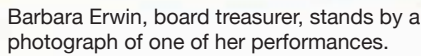
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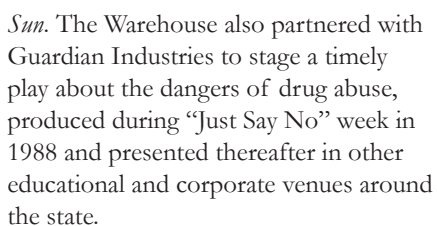
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of time going over plays, reading and discussing them. We try every season to make it the best ever.” The public likes comedies, and the Warehouse has produced its fair share. “We have done several Pat Cook plays, for instance,” Sandy specified, “and they have always gone over well, particularly *You Can’t Get There From Here*.” Patrons also love musicals, and in this genre such classics as *The Sound of Music*, *The Music Man*, *Annie* and *Gypsy* have been box-office hits for the Warehouse. But the theater doesn’t shy away from soul-stirring dramas, and some of them have been smashes: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Diary of Anne Frank* and *A Raisin in the*



Sandy stresses that the popularity of Warehouse productions is due as much to the team behind the scenes as to the plays and actors. “Of these there are

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many benefactors and supporters who are no longer with us or who are no longer active," she said. "But they did a great deal for the theater over the years. People like Norma Russell, a great local



playwright; Nancy Roberts; Otis Kindel; J.B. Kirkpatrick; and Edwina White, a hilarious actress who all will remember." The volunteers who build sets, manage the lighting, sew costumes and help pass out programs are also to be congratulated for their part in making the last 40 years both fruitful and meaningful. Many people have made lifelong friendships through working at the Warehouse, on stage and off; some even have met future spouses while volunteering.

Sharon Goodman, president of the Warehouse's board of directors, agrees the company has endured with such distinction because of the warmth and welcoming atmosphere of the world of community theater. "It opens the door to new experiences, new possibilities and, for us, new dreams for another 40 years!" **NOW**

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— By Virginia Riddle

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to an adventurous, fun side of Warner. In Chinese culture, the color red represents happiness and good fortune. "I love red," Warner said. "I'm a people person. I think I can get along with the devil," she added with a devilish twinkle in her eyes.

Warner's ability to "get along" has served her well in her adopted city of Corsicana. Her home, with a dining table always set for entertaining, is known to many area residents as the place to go for a party or gathering of any sort. "I've been on the board of nearly every organization in Corsicana," she stated. These days she is the proclaimed "Queen of the Corsicana Purple Passion Ladies,"



a Red Hat Society of ladies who are always ready for fun and fellowship. She loves attending productions at the Palace Theatre and Warehouse Living Arts Center and has enjoyed traveling to the Caribbean, Hawaii and Panama Canal.

Warner grew up in Yoakum, Texas, as the oldest sibling and only daughter, with three younger brothers. She was never a tomboy, though. "I don't know if I'm too 'girlie' or what, but I don't own a pair of pants," Warner said. Her home is sprinkled with antiques that have been passed down through her family, and because of this, they hold special memories. Pointing to a rocking chair she remembered, "We always seemed to have two babies around at the same time, so that chair saw a lot of rockin'. That was the rocking chair that rocked me. I can remember my dad's stories and the rockin'. Sometimes my dad would be so tired, he'd add to and change his stories," Warner said.

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University enabled Warner to begin her journey as an educator, a profession that she shared with her future husband, Carly Lee Redus, an agriculture teacher. Even though he was 15 years her senior, a cousin introduced them to each other, thinking they would make a perfect couple. Warner and Carly agreed and were married until Carly's passing in 1982.

Segregated schools existed in Warner and Carly's early career days, and there was a scarcity of agriculture classes offered in black schools. She remembered that Carly attended a meeting the summer after their first year of marriage.

There he heard a rumor that Corsicana black schools were going to start offering agriculture classes. The couple came to Corsicana for his interview, and "they [the district] hired him on the spot." They had to move the next week since Carly started work July 1. Warner and Carly made the move to an apartment

in Corsicana "in a '53 Chevy, with an oscillating fan, a radio, two boxes that held our linens and a suitcase apiece," Warner remembered.

Warner's current home was designed and built by the couple in 1966. "We had big ideas and big plans, but we didn't realize how much they were going to cost," Warner reminisced. Having to scale back the original plans, the couple built an addition to the home in 1972 so that Warner could have her music and craft rooms. A more recent addition is the screened-in gazebo, which graces a



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double-sized lot surrounded by a white picket fence with an American flag standing guard at the door.

Antique cabinets in the living room,



dining room and den hold Warner's many teacups and tea pitchers. "I love tea, and I use these," she remarked. A silver tea service sits next to a beautifully carved cabinet, which she inherited from an "auntie." Another black lacquer cabinet, heavily inlaid with mother-of-pearl designs, holds much of her collection. The den also hosts a working fountain, which provides the sound of flowing water, so inherent to Asian life.

Two guest bedrooms hold more treasures, many of which were made by Warner, who loves to sew and crochet. Three-dimensional pictures crafted from materials from nature were gifts from Carly to Warner on their first anniversary. A purple hat worn on her birthday each year and a red hat grace a chest-of-drawers. Every birthday, she gets calls from Dr. Lowell Campbell, who is now retired and a male volunteer at Navarro Regional Hospital. The calls make Warner feel special. The doctors delivered Warner and Carly's daughter, Karla Sue Jefferson, now grown and married to Fred and living in Lewisville, Texas. "Dr. Dave always asks, 'Are you the lady having a party today?'" Warner said.

Karla's bedroom shows a love of animals and music. Ceramic animals rest on the floor and chests, and a piano keyboard design decorates plates hung on one wall. The centerpiece of her bed is a pillow made by Warner for Karla's wedding day. It is inscribed in embroidery with the words "In Memory

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of My Father Carly L. Redus.” “An usher followed me and put it on the seat beside me where her father would have been,” Warner recalled.

From a kitchen, which has decorative drawer pulls made from forks, spoons and knives, guests can flow into Warner’s music room and be seated on couches, one of which is a red fainting couch. Here Warner has taught music and prepared for musical performances at her church on the grand piano and organ. Karla’s wedding portrait hangs over the organ.

Warner’s bedroom is fit for the queen of this home, with a royal red velvet headboard commanding center stage.

The large room is where she completes crafting and sewing projects for her business — Warner’s Treasures. She makes fabric storybooks, Christmas items and corsages. Warner also sews patches onto motorcyclists’ leather vests for her friend, Lolly Sparks.

An enclosed sun porch, front and rear patios and garage play host to Warner’s many plants. “I’m a flower child, too,”

she laughed. She helped Carly when they were founders and owners of Corsicana Geranium Gardens. “I had never seen all the different colors of

geraniums. My mother always had red geraniums on the porch. Folks in Dallas just loved the salmon color,” Warner stated.

Warner has developed many lifelong friendships in Corsicana. Her face lit up as she said, “I still have a lot of contacts with educators.” One of those educators, Lizzy O’Neal, said of Warner, “She has been a mentor to so many of us.” But it’s not just the color red and friendships that bring Warner happiness — it’s her philosophy. Smiling she said, “I reach for each day.” **NOW**



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— By Wendy Frazer

In an inconspicuous corner of Navarro College on the main campus in Corsicana, something is different. Large metal monsters line up outside the agriculture building. Anywhere else on campus, you see students proudly wearing bulldog shirts and the school colors of red and black. In just one spot, however, the school colors become green and yellow and a different animal becomes mascot: a Deere. Is this the beginning of a coup? Does this corner of the campus mean to change the school spirit of Navarro College? Quite the opposite.



Kip Whorton with a student.

The John Deere Company and Navarro College began a working relationship in 1995. The instructor and program coordinator, John Dawley, described how the John Deere TECH Partnership Program was born. "With this school being on the edge of farming country and their (John Deere) training center located in Dallas, it was just a good fit," John said. Additionally, there is a need to fill the high demand for qualified technicians in the field of agricultural mechanization.

Since the inception of the technical



program at Navarro College, hundreds of students have been placed with dealerships locally and across the United States. The main function of the skilled technician's hard work, study and certification is to keep all John Deere equipment running smoothly — especially for the farming community, which needs its equipment to run efficiently through the important harvesting season each fall. There are only 22 colleges in North America that offer this program. Of the total number of colleges in North America, 17 are

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located in the United States. Navarro College has the special honor of being the only school in Texas with this unique partnership program with the John Deere Company.

John Deere, the man, was a blacksmith by trade and an inventor. He lived in the small town of Grand Detour, Illinois, which is located about 100 miles west of Chicago. In 1837, he had the idea to develop a new kind of plow from a piece of scrap steel. His idea was to help the “pioneer farmers cut clean furrows through sticky Midwest prairie soil.” Within five years of that first successful invention, John Deere would be manufacturing plows full time, his orders doubling year after year. Through the ups and downs of agriculture in the United States and the world over the past 174 years, the company has stood strong because of the core values that John Deere envisioned for the company — integrity, quality, commitment and innovation. These qualities stand true for the company’s CEOs down to the technicians.

Traveling 975 miles south of the historic beginnings of this company, the instructors in charge of the new candidate’s training and certification



John Dawley with students.

are Kip Whorton and John Dawley. However, they are both employed by Navarro College, not John Deere. “We teach them how to repair the (John Deere) equipment, but we are employees of the college,” John stated. Also, according to John, all students are certified in what John Deere calls its “core,” which are electronics, hydraulics and Service ADVISOR. “Service ADVISOR is a diagnostic tool used by technicians to help diagnose and repair John Deere equipment,” John

explained. "We also certify students in air conditioning and fork lift safety." The training program is designed to fill the need of the dealership and the area of the country in which candidates will be placed.



So, what does it take to be a potential candidate for this vocation? "A potential student might have participated in an agriculture program in their high school career or in an auto mechanics program," John said. However, it is not mandatory that a candidate have previous experience in agricultural studies or mechanics to be accepted to the program. "They (the candidates) need to show some sort of interest in mechanics and diesel engines and in farm equipment," John added.

Because candidates are sponsored by a specific dealership, they also have the opportunity to intern between semesters and during the summer between their freshman and sophomore year. This on-the-job training gives students an idea of what their lives will be like after graduating from Navarro College. Once they have completed the two-year program, candidates will usually have a job waiting for them, as they are armed to enter the workforce with an applied arts and sciences degree in agriculture mechanization.



"Since there is such a tremendous need for technicians right now," John revealed, "it is not unheard of for an incorporated dealership (one company owning more than one dealership) to have more than one student sponsored in the program at a time."

This opportunity is not only for men. "Mostly, men have completed the program," John shared, "but we have had some women pass through the program as well. We've had around five women total from Navarro College since

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the beginning of the program.” Most women completing training don’t end up as technicians, but wind up in parts or sales. When (all the students) graduate, they will be able to work on the green equipment,” John said.

The TECH Program trains about 20 new students each year but has room for up to 25 people. In John’s role as program coordinator, he stresses that any



person who is interested in diesel engines, hydraulics, farm equipment or all of the above should know that this field is wide open. Starting salaries, after graduation, range from \$30,000 to \$50,000 a year.

According to the John Deere TECH Program student handbook provided by Navarro College, the entrance minimum requirements are to have a high school diploma or equivalent, take the ACCUPLACER test and the Mechanical Reasoning test, with scores on file in appropriate offices, obtain and maintain sponsorship with a qualified John Deere Dealership and be accepted and enroll in Navarro College and the John Deere TECH Program.

A career opportunity of this nature for such an uncertain job market should be appealing to newly graduated high school students. Not many corporations can provide this level of training and dedication to its employees, not to mention job security and growth. This program proves how forward thinking the John Deere Company is and how it has been able to continue to grow for nearly two centuries. John smiled warmly as he sat in his office surrounded by John Deere memorabilia and said, “It’s a pretty neat program.” **NOW**

Editor’s Note: For more information about enrollment in the John Deere TECH Program at Navarro College, contact John Dawley at (903) 875-7621 or find their online brochure at www.jobndeerepowerup.com.

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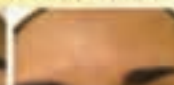
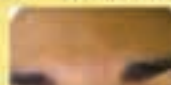
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A photograph of four women standing together in a dining room. From left to right: a woman in a light blue dress, a woman in a red patterned top, a woman in a tan blazer, and a woman in a patterned jacket. They are all smiling. In the background, there is a dining table with a candelabra and several framed pictures on the wall.

Forming Lasting Friendships

— By Donna Lynn


Jenny Bratton, vice president; Ellen Block, president; Jeannine Grundmeier, corresponding secretary; Peggy Clay, treasurer; not pictured: Gloria Hobbs, recording secretary.

Don't let the name fool you ... the Corsicana Newcomer's Club isn't just for new folks. It offers something for everyone. In addition to providing a warm welcome to new Navarro County residents, the group is active in local charity fundraising, day-trip travels, community programs and much more. "The Corsicana Newcomer's Club was formed in 1987 as a means of getting acquainted with one another," President Ellen Block stated. "Today, it consists of ladies from all over Navarro County with very diverse backgrounds. Some members

have lived all over the world, and some have lived in Corsicana all their lives. We have retirees and working women in a range of ages with expertise in a variety of interests. Our common bond is that we enjoy getting together, and we look out for one another."

Although a large percentage of the membership lives in the Richland-Chambers Lake area, several members hail from the western side of the county.

Monthly club meetings are held at the Kinsloe House, and programs are as diverse as the membership demographics. Meetings have featured small pet adoption opportunities from the Humane Society of Navarro County, music performances from area musicians and schools, women's health topics and even

A photograph of Mary Louise Healy, an older woman with short white hair, sitting at a table. She is wearing a blue polka-dot jacket over a dark blue top. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. A name tag is pinned to her jacket. In the background, there is a patterned sofa and a mirror on the wall.

Mary Louise Healy
("Know Your Newcomer" for May)
and Jane Hogue



a look at the economic future of the area, provided by Lee McCleary, economic development director of Corsicana and Navarro County. "We also feature a spotlight on one of the members each month," Ellen said. "It's called 'Know Your Newcomer.' We read a biography and guesses are made as to the name of the spotlighted club member. It's a great way to forge new relationships based on common interests or hobbies, which members may not have known about before."

The club is growing rapidly, and is now one of the largest chapters under



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the umbrella of the Kinsloe House. Two years ago, the membership count was 55. Last spring, the group's membership topped 80, and continues to increase. "Unless members move away, we rarely lose a member," Ellen explained. Subgroups break off based on special interests. Three of those subgroups, in particular, have strong turnouts on a regular basis. The Lunch Bunch gathers at a different local restaurant each month. The Road Runners plan day trips to explore different towns around Central Texas, and have enjoyed traveling together to destinations such as Edom, Hillsboro and Forney. A new Supper Club may eventually break into two subgroups — one for those who enjoy meeting in members' homes and a second for those who enjoy dining out.

The club continues to thrive. "Members choose their level of involvement," Publicity Chair Jane Sanders said. "They can do a lot with it, or not so much. Some ladies work and only attend the Lunch Bunch during their lunch hour. Some members are retired and able to commit more time." Officers are elected to keep the club running and are elected for one-year terms, but if re-elected, they may serve additional one-year terms. Several of this year's officers are serving second terms.

Jane joined the club when she first moved to Corsicana 20 years ago. She has been a club member for a combined total of about 10 years, with a break in the middle to focus on her children. "Anyone can join, it doesn't have to be a newcomer to the community," Jane explained. "You could have lived here forever and be a club member." Her fondest memories during her 10 years of membership include lots of laughter,

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talking and memorable trips with the Road Runner group.

Lunch Bunch coordinator Alice Kautz has been a member since relocating to Navarro County in 2002. "I only knew one person when I moved here, and that was my niece," she shared. "I decided if I wanted to meet new people I should get involved. I heard about the club, joined and have really enjoyed it over the years. The Lunch Bunch gathers once a month to talk, have fun and share a meal. Then we head back to work or our homes, uplifted by our time together."



The Club has various social functions. In June the annual summer social event was held, where husbands and friends were invited to join in the fun. This year the site chosen was the Corsicana Country Club. A Sunshine Committee, sends cards and keeps the club updated on member needs. A monthly newsletter updates members on club events, new member information, a community calendar and more. But these vivacious ladies are not just about social gatherings,

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learning more about one another and establishing long-lasting friendships. They're also concerned about the future of the community and regularly raise money for charity. "We want to be involved," Ellen admitted, "and find out where we can best apply our knowledge, skills and talents, so we keep that in mind for our programs and charity efforts."

In February 2011, \$700 checks were presented to each of three charities — the House of Refuge, the Navarro County Food Pantry Ministry and the Humane Society of Navarro County. Members work diligently to raise funds, in addition to collecting items needed by the charities, and vote each year on which charities will benefit.

The nonprofit club holds general meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month, with a few exceptions. The club takes July off, holds its annual fundraiser in October, and in November and December the meetings are typically moved to the third Friday to accommodate the holidays. In addition to the regular monthly meetings, the Lunch Bunch meets on the second Thursday of every month, and the Road Runners travel on the third Thursday. "We are all really busy," Ellen added, "but membership is the one guarantee that we will get a chance to spend quality time with one another on a regular basis."

The Corsicana Newcomer's Club is all about laughing, talking, learning about one another, seeking out opportunities to serve in the community and finding common ground. When you roll all that into one guiding principle, the main focus becomes one of establishing friendships that will last a lifetime. And judging from the continual increase in membership, it's a group worth looking into. "We're a close-knit sisterhood of women," Ellen said, "that believes in warm welcomes." **NOW**

To learn more about the Corsicana Newcomer's Club, contact Ellen Block at (903) 396-2815, Alice Kautz with the Lunch Bunch at (903) 874-0844, Belinda Barstow with the Supper Club at (903) 874-4905 or Peggy Dixon with the Road Runners at (903) 874-8316.

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PRACTICING LAW WITH PASSION

Michael Crawford is committed to helping people, especially children, through their legal problems. — By Virginia Riddle

When Michael Crawford opened his law office on May 5, 2010, in a remodeled co-op gin in Kerens, he fulfilled his lifelong dream of becoming an attorney. He also formed a bridge over which his family's farming heritage and business background experience helps him bring forth his best efforts on behalf of clients seeking his legal expertise. He recently took another step forward by opening a second office just one block from the Navarro County Courthouse. "Being a lawyer is a passion; it's something I always wanted to do since I was a kid," Michael stated.

After graduating from Kerens High School, Michael farmed near Kerens while attending, and subsequently graduating from, Navarro College. He continued his education at Texas A&M University-Commerce where he began studies in the MBA

program. However, it was at Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law where Michael found his true calling. He graduated in 2009 after winning in moot court and being selected as the best advocate.

His dedication to education is evident since he furthered his own education while supporting a family and remaining active in his community. In 1995, Michael started a pest control business and C & C Mowing Contractors. Both businesses continue today. He served on the Kerens ISD school board from 1999-2002, served as vice president of the Kerens Chamber of Commerce, ran the Kerens Little Dribblers program and is a member of the Kerens Lions Club. "I've got a lot of real-life experience with people," Michael said.

Michael's legal practice focuses on business, consumer,

Business **NOW**

criminal and family areas of the law. He is a member of the American Bar Association, the State Bar of Texas, the Navarro County Bar Association and the Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. He was selected, based on recommendations from judges and fellow attorneys, to attend the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association College held in February 2011 at Sam Houston State University. "This was an intensive, 40-hour education of how to conduct a criminal trial from voir dire to closing arguments and was taught by the best criminal trial lawyers in the state," he said.

Service to clients and thorough preparation are important to Michael. "I want to portray that this lawyer is prepared when I go into a courtroom. When I take a case, I live it. Clients have my cell phone number and can call at any time," he said, and he does not bill for calls. He also is committed to 100 hours of pro bono (without charge) service per year. "I'll take cases sometimes when

"Being a lawyer is a passion; it's something I always wanted to do since I was a kid."

people can't pay me," Michael said. He employs three people — a receptionist, office manager and legal assistant — who work to assure that clients' interests are met promptly.

Family law, including Child Protective Services cases, is very challenging emotionally for the staff. "I want to make sure that children are in a good place. I'm committed to helping children and people who can't protect themselves," Michael stated.

Michael relates to his clients and his community. "I come from Navarro County farmers and ranchers who have worked with their hands and backs since the 1890s-1900s, same as that guy who goes out today to work in the field from daylight to dark," Michael said. He is eager to grow his clientele. "We look forward to serving the people of the Navarro County area," he stated firmly. "We are here to stay." **NOW**

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Steve Petty, GM at Carl White's Chevrolet donates a \$500 check to the YMCA youth soccer program.



Eva Torres enjoys watching her sons, Caleb and Jesua Torres, have fun on Craft Day at the Corsicana Public Library.



Cody Custer, a nine-time PBR world qualifier, helps a young rider at the Lone Star Cowboy Church's steer riding clinic.



Rex Givens, David Givens and Mark Mahoney brave the heat to raise funds for teachers' school supplies in the Back the Blue Bike Ride sponsored by the Corsicana Police Officers Wives Auxiliary.



Debbie Coppock, George Ann Lambert and Linda Tramel enjoy fellowship and food while attending a Navarro Regional Hospital's Heathy Woman seminar.



Terry Seth, Tom Stewart and Derrick Anderson take a break from the YMCA golf tournament to smile for the camera.

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Three flu strains are included in each year's single-vaccination formula to offer maximum immunity to circulating flu viruses. The 2011–2012 seasonal influenza vaccine protects against:

- an A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like virus
- an A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)-like virus
- a B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus

Remember, even if the flu viruses included in an upcoming season are the same as those included the prior year, it's important to get vaccinated every year because a person's immunity to flu viruses declines over time. Also, the virus can undergo minor mutations from one year to the next. The annual vaccination is necessary to provide maximum immunity to the current strain of virus.

Who should get vaccinated?

The flu vaccine is recommended for all healthy people over 6 months of age. Individuals at the highest risk for flu complications include seniors over age 65; young children; pregnant women; and people with chronic conditions, such as: asthma, diabetes or heart disease. Some people should not be vaccinated without first talking to their doctor. If you have a severe allergy to eggs, have had a severe reaction to a past flu vaccination or are currently sick with a fever, discuss the benefits and risks of the flu vaccine with your doctor.

You may have heard friends or family debate the effectiveness of a flu shot in preventing the flu or minimizing

its symptoms. And, there's still the popular misconception that the flu shot may actually cause the flu. The most important thing to remember is that after receiving a flu shot, it will take approximately two weeks to develop immunity. So if someone was exposed to the flu before vaccination, or is exposed to a flu-like illness, he or she may still get sick — hence the myth that the flu shot can “cause the flu.” Some people may still get the flu after receiving a flu shot, but if this happens, it is usually a milder case with fewer complications.

Health experts recommend that people schedule their annual flu vaccination beginning in September, or as soon as vaccine is available. However, it's never too late to reap the benefits of a flu shot, even if it's not administered until later in the flu season. Generally, the flu season “peaks” around January of each year, and lasts until late spring. **NOW**

Is it the flu?

Flu symptoms usually appear suddenly and can include:

- Fever over 102 F
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- Fatigue
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Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, www.cdc.gov.

American Academy of Family Practitioners, www.familydoctor.org.

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A Formula for Retirement Disaster: Women Live Longer Than Men and Earn Less¹

This combination can be a recipe for poverty, according to Olivia Mitchell, a professor at The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. In fact, says Mitchell, most Americans — not just women — *don't plan for retirement.*

A study released by the Society of Actuaries (SOA) in December 2010, "The Impact of Retirement Risk on Women," identifies *specific concerns for women and retirement:*

- Half of women at age 65 will live another 20 years or more.
- 92 percent of respondents who are retired, *fail to plan adequately* for that 20-year span.
- 89 percent of those who are in preretirement, *fail to plan adequately* for that 20-year span.

Gender-based risks

According to the SOA, the risks to women in retirement are considerably different from those faced by men. Understanding the risks that women face may be the first step toward making appropriate plans to mitigate them:

- **Outliving their assets:** Many women underestimate their longevity and fail to plan for it.
- **Widowhood:** Because of their ages relative to their husbands, it is not uncommon for women to experience periods of widowhood in excess of 15 years. In fact, 85 percent of women over age 85 are widows, compared to 45 percent of men. Without effective preparation, loss of spousal support may result in a significant lifestyle change.¹
- **Cost of healthcare and treatment:** The skyrocketing costs associated with extended care can be financially devastating. For instance, the cost of lifetime long-term care averages \$29,000 for men but \$82,000 for women, calculated in year 2000 dollars. This is compounded by the fact that women generally earn less and are less likely to have access to employer-provided benefits.¹

- **Economic factors:** Four out of 10 women over age 65 and living alone rely 100 percent on Social Security for their income.¹

Prepare, prepare, prepare

What can women — and men as well — do to better prepare for retirement? Here are a few suggestions you may want to consider:

- **Participate in family financial decisions.** Don't let someone else direct/control all family decisions. Are you a stay-at-home spouse? Does another member of the household handle all of the finances? Whatever your situation, stay informed about your finances, and try to be involved in financial decisions.
- **Educate yourself about money, saving and investing.** Raise your financial literacy level. Learn how money works and how different investments work so you feel more comfortable with money and making decisions that involve money.
- **Fund a retirement account.** It's important to have a retirement account in your name. If you have a job, try to save some of your pay in a retirement account; if you don't have a job, talk with your spouse about a spousal IRA.
- **Get help.** If you're nervous about financial decisions, look for support from peers and professionals and seek legitimate and helpful sources of information.

Take away: Let this article be a "call to action" for both women and men to better prepare for retirement. Call your financial advisor. They can provide additional information and work with you so that you may move toward a more secure financial future. **NOW**

Source:

1. <http://www.soa.org/files/pdf/research-key-finding-impact-retire-women.pdf>. Farmers Insurance and Financial Services Agents do not provide legal or tax advice. Please refer to your legal and tax advisors for legal and tax advice. This is neither an offer nor solicitation to purchase any securities or investment. Products and services may not be available in all states. Purchasers of investment products should consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses carefully before investing. Contact your Farmers Insurance and Financial Services Agent for a prospectus or offering statement that contains this and other information. Please read it carefully before purchasing or investing. Investment returns will fluctuate so that an owner's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. There can be no assurance that investment objectives of any particular investment will be met. Consult your legal or tax advisor as necessary.

B. Kyle Ward is a Farmers Insurance agent based in Corsicana.

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September 9

Senior Circle Pot Luck Luncheon: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Navarro Regional Hospital. Bring a salad, vegetable, casserole or dessert for lunch with bingo to follow. Call (903) 872-5411.

September 9-11

Artists-in-Residence Program: The Pearce Museum. Jay Hester will teach oil painting all day Friday and Saturday morning. Roger Archibald will teach pencil drawing most of the day Saturday and Sunday afternoon. For more information or to register, call (903) 875-7437.

September 10

The Cast of Beatlemania: 7:30 p.m., The Palace Theatre. For more information, call (903) 874-7792.

Wortham Blues Festival: Gates open at 5:00 p.m., Downtown Wortham. Live music begins at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for ages 13-adults, \$5 for ages 6-12 and ages 5 and under are free. E-mail info@worthambluesfest.org.

September 11

Guest speaker, 9/11 survivor, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Brian Birdwell: 11:00 a.m., First Baptist Church of Corsicana, 510 W. Collin Street. Call (903) 872-7473.

September 16

Watch out Waco! The bus will leave the Pearce Museum for Waco. The tour includes the Dr Pepper Museum and The Texas Ranger Museum. \$25 for museum volunteers and \$30 for the "not-yets." Price does not include lunch. Call Christi Driskell at (903) 875-7420 to reserve a seat!

September 17

Navarro College National Football Champions meet Tyler Jr. College: 7:00 p.m., CISD Football Stadium. For more information, call 1-800-NAVARRO.

September 22-25

AAA-Texas NHRA Fall Nationals: Texas Motorplex, Ennis. For more information, call 972-878-2641.

September 24

Hooked on Fishing Tournament Kid Fish: 7:00 a.m. registration, I.O.O.F. Park. Participants must be age 16 and under. For more information, call (903) 654-4874.

September 28

Habitat for Humanity Orientation: 6:00 p.m., St. John's Church Parish Hall, 101 N. 14th Street. For more information, call (903) 872-4690.

September 30-October 1

Always...Patsy Cline: 7:30 p.m., The Palace Theatre. For more information, call (903) 874-4731.

October 1

The CFAHF '40s Hanger Dance & Dinner: 6:00 p.m. hanger doors open, 6:45 p.m. dinner buffet opens, Corsicana Municipal Airport, Hanger #6. Music is by The Corsicana Swing Orchestra and The New Andrews Sisters. Advanced tickets \$35/couple, \$20/person. Half price tickets with completion certificate for swing dance lessons from Shall We Dance Studio. For more information, call Sarah Farley at (903) 654-4847.

October 10

American Business Women's Association (ABWA) Business Women's EXPO: 6:00-8:00 p.m., The Remington Event Complex. Contact Dana Collins with Sign Pro's at (903) 874-7800 or (903) 851-2965.

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your event details to virginia.riddle@nowmagazines.com.

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In The Kitchen With Eleanor Statham

— By Virginia Riddle

Good old country cooking is how Eleanor describes her recipes and meals. “I enjoy cooking for my family and friends,” she said. When she isn’t busy serving as “right-hand man” in her husband, Bill’s, real estate firm, Eleanor is busy at their ranch home preparing the food that their two sons, one daughter and nine grandchildren love. Eleanor creates these family favorites for reunions, weekend get-togethers and during the holiday season when she bakes rum cakes for friends. Eleanor and Bill take these family specialties when visiting grandkids. “The SUV is loaded down,” Bill revealed. And what is this family’s favorite treat to eat? Banana pudding, what else? “The kids fight for that,” Bill said. **NOW**

Banana Pudding

Custard:

1 1/4 cups sugar
1/4 tsp. salt
1/4 cup cornstarch
4 cups milk
6 egg yolks, beaten
4 Tbsp. butter
Vanilla extract, to taste

Layers:

4-5 bananas
Lemon juice
1 box vanilla wafers

Topping:

6 egg whites
1 tsp. cream of tartar
1 tsp. vanilla extract
6-8 tsp. sugar

1. Make custard in a saucepan, over low

heat, by combining sugar, salt and cornstarch.

- 2.** Gradually add milk while stirring.
- 3.** Cook and stir until mixture thickens.
- 4.** Stir small amount of warmed, cooked mixture into egg yolks, and then add egg yolks to mixture.
- 5.** Remove from heat and add butter and vanilla extract.
- 6.** Let mixture cool.
- 7.** Make layers by slicing bananas and adding them to a bowl.
- 8.** Sprinkle lemon juice on bananas and toss (this keeps the bananas from turning brown).
- 9.** Layer vanilla wafers and bananas into 2 layers in an oven-safe dish.
- 10.** Pour custard over vanilla wafers and bananas.
- 11.** Make topping by beating egg whites, cream of tartar and vanilla extract until peaks form, while gradually adding sugar.
- 12.** Place on top of custard and layers.
- 13.** Bake at 350 F, until peaks begin to turn golden brown.

Rum Cake

Cake:

1 yellow cake mix
1 instant vanilla pudding mix
4 eggs
1/2 cup rum
1/2 cup water
1/2 cup vegetable oil

Glaze:

1 stick butter
1 cup sugar
1/2 cup water
1/4 to 1/2 cup rum

- 1.** In a large bowl, blend and beat all ingredients, until smooth.
- 2.** Pour batter into a greased Bundt pan.
- 3.** Bake at 325 F, until a toothpick inserted into the center of the cake comes out clean, usually 50-60 minutes.
- 4.** Make glaze in a small saucepan, by melting butter, sugar and water together and bringing them to a boil.
- 5.** Reduce heat and continue boiling an additional 2-5 minutes.
- 6.** Remove from heat and add rum immediately.
- 7.** Keep glaze warm until cake has cooled and been placed on a platter.
- 8.** Punch holes in cake with a toothpick.
- 9.** Slowly drizzle glaze over cake letting it flow onto the plate around it.

Homemade Mac & Cheese

1 12-oz. pkg. macaroni
1/2 stick butter
3-4 cups milk
4-5 Tbsp. flour
1 tsp. salt
Dash of pepper
3-4 cups cheddar or Velveeta cheese
Nonstick cooking spray

- 1.** In a large saucepan, cook macaroni in boiling water until tender; drain.
- 2.** In a separate saucepan, melt butter and blend in milk, flour, salt and pepper.
- 3.** Stir until mixture thickens.
- 4.** Add cheese and stir until melted.
- 5.** Pour macaroni into a 9 x 18-inch casserole dish that has been sprayed with nonstick cooking spray.
- 6.** Pour cheese sauce over macaroni and bake at 350 F for 30-45 minutes.