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Corsicana NOW

MAGAZINE

June 2010

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IS HOPE

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Careers
Are Born

A Coaching
Legend's
Legacy

At Home With
TOM AND
LYNN TAYLOR



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On The Cover

Shelly Huerta teaches traditional Mexican folkloric dances, complete with colorful costumes and hats, such as this one.

Photo by Terri Ozymy.

Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

In the past year, the media has given us many stories about the people whose greed and self-interest have damaged the economy and how it has affected the people living in cities and small towns all over the country. In a small way, this issue of *CorsicanaNOW* attempts to balance these gloomy pictures with stories about our neighbors who "give back." These are the teachers and healers and helpers who reach out to others in our community and find joy in doing it. That is the best part of their stories, I think. The part where they tell you how much they really enjoy what they do. These generous people show others how to dance or play ball or create a beautiful home. They teach their neighbors and friends how to start a career or start a new life and they love doing it. Now that kind of news can brighten my day!

Joan Kilbourne
CorsicanaNOW Editor



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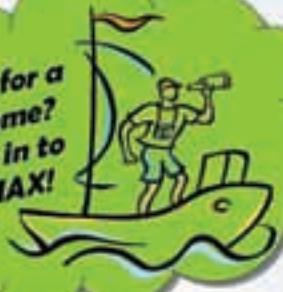
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Where There Is *Hope*

— By Virginia Riddle

Celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, the House of Refuge in Corsicana has been a shelter from danger or distress for countless battered women, single mothers, children and married couples.

Joann and Grady Pierson, managers of the House of Refuge, were hand-picked for the job by the founders, Wes and Liz Haefs, who moved their ministry to East Texas. “This is not a job for everyone, but we feel blessed to be here,” Joann stated.

The two couples met years ago, while Joann and Grady were working other

jobs. She had worked in Head Start at the state home and as a pharmacy technician, while Grady owned a business, Lakeland Glass, which he still operates. They were both active with their church's youth group. Joann and Grady found out about the managers' job opening at the House of Refuge in 2007 and started working part-time obtaining on-the-job experience with the Haefs. In July 2008, Joann became a full-time manager, and the couple made the commitment to minister to people who needed shelter, hope and a “hand up” — not a “hand out” by moving onsite into the adjoining managers' residence.

The managers' job is a 24/7 ministry.



While the residents' daily lives are very structured, the managers' lives contain constant surprises. Living onsite means that Joann and Grady's doorbell or telephone can ring any time day or night. Future residents usually come through word-of-mouth contacts, referrals from agencies, the hospital or the police, while sometimes people just show up on the doorstep. All prospective residents must show identification, and married couples

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must present a marriage certificate. "The kids are the number-one priority. Mothers need assistance," Joann said firmly.

Grady added, "We enjoy meeting new people and finding out who they are, and then we care for them like a family member."

The primary goals at the House of Refuge include getting residents back on their feet financially, building self-confidence and developing a better spiritual life with the Lord. A resident's



life is governed by rules, so part of Joann and Grady's job is to monitor each resident's weekly progress toward accomplishing the goals set by the rules. Some of the residents find rules and routine to be unfamiliar, so monitoring and encouragement are necessary. Rooms must be inspected daily for neatness and cleanliness. Residents must be out of the house from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. actively looking for a job.

Joann and Grady help residents pursue jobs by providing transportation to Manpower and the Texas Workforce Commission and by making sure they receive job counseling. "Once the resident has a job," Grady said, "we help that person establish a budget, which includes paying bills, tithing and establishing a savings account." The budget is strictly enforced and monitored by requiring residents to provide receipts.

While the House of Refuge and



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its parent company, Goal Ministries, do not accept any federal or state aid, the residents are encouraged to obtain whatever entitlements they may be eligible to receive so they can get back on their feet within the usual 90-day stay. Joann and Grady help out with paperwork and provide transportation to agencies, as well as church food pantries, so that residents can receive their food for the week. Each family or individual has a place in the community kitchen in which to keep their food and must cook their own meals and accomplish assigned daily cleaning chores throughout the community rooms of the house.

**"The kids are
the number-one
priority.
Mothers need
assistance."**

Joann and Grady also provide transportation to the church that each resident chooses to attend. Not only is church attendance required, but the resident must become actively involved in weekly church life. Joann stated, "People here have all gone through difficult times and generally work together and support each other daily."

Evenings at the House are not just free time for the residents or Joann and Grady. On Monday nights, everyone participates in Celebrate Recovery, a 12-step program. One night a week is devoted to house meetings, and each resident has a meeting with Joann and Grady to evaluate how goals are being met. On Saturdays, residents complete additional household chores, while Wednesday nights and Sundays are devoted to church attendance. After all requirements are met by each adult resident, he or she can check out until curfew at 10:00 p.m. on all nights except Friday, when one additional hour is added. Children must meet a curfew of 9:00 p.m. each night. Drinking alcohol or using drugs is not allowed on or off

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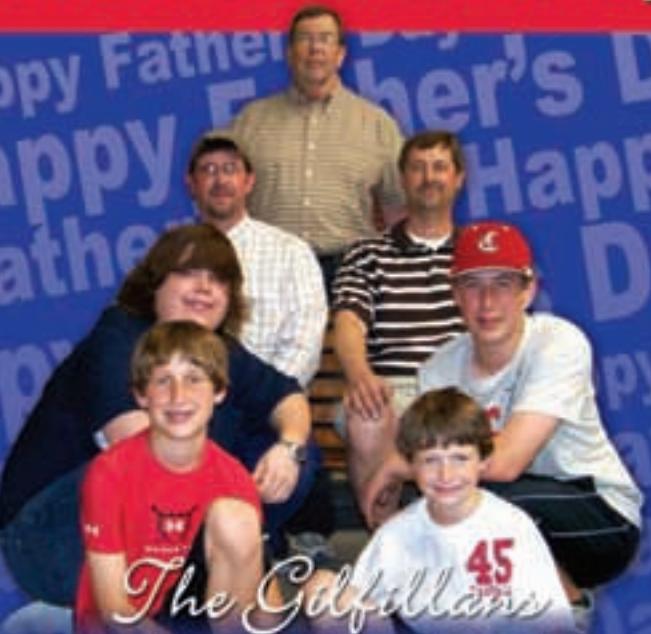
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premises at any time. "Anyone who is not able to follow the rules is asked to leave the shelter, and not all people are accepted as residents," Joann explained. Disabled persons with mental or physical challenges beyond Joann and Grady's ability to provide services and single men cannot be helped by the program.

Upon leaving the refuge, residents must leave a forwarding address, clean their rooms and change the sheets in order to get back their \$50 deposit. Although residents have stayed free-of-charge, many do give a donation of money or time. Joann and Grady make sure graduates of the program have a place to live, usually a Section 8 apartment, a job, transportation and savings. Church members, Boy Scout troops and other volunteers contribute time and money, but Joann and Grady, along with the board of directors, church and community leaders also organize fundraising events throughout the year.

Two residents looking forward to graduation are Karen and Jeff, former addicts who are married. "This place is a godsend," Karen said. "Without this place, we would be in a homeless shelter in Dallas. We are adults again. Jeff got a job, and we just bought a car, after five years of not having one. This is wonderful!" To complete their recovery, Karen also landed a full-time position, allowing them to move into a home of their own.

Joann and Grady are encouraged to take time away from their ministry by going somewhere once-a-month. During that time, two other volunteers take over this 24/7, stressful, but rewarding, duty. Enjoying time with their own family of five grown children and four smart, wonderful grandchildren, to whom they are known as Pops and Nana, is an off-duty priority.

To the Piersons, success is defined by residents achieving independence. "Every day is different and rewarding. Everyone who comes to our house is an opportunity for new growth. Seeing women having self-confidence, making it on their own, growing spiritually and taking care of their children is my joy," Joann stated. Joann and Grady's enthusiasm and optimism truly change the House of Refuge into a home overflowing with hope. **NOW**

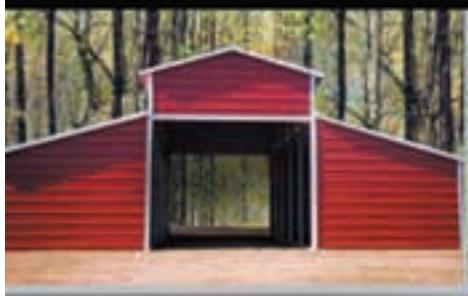


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Finding Home Again

— By Joan Kilbourne

"I guess it is true, if you grow up in Corsicana and move away, sooner or later you will move back here," said Lynn Taylor, who left Dallas to return to her hometown when her close-as-a-sister friend was diagnosed with cancer. She was Lynn's former roommate at the State Home, where they grew up, and Lynn made frequent trips from Dallas to Corsicana to sit with her.

At Home With Tom and Lynn Taylor



While waiting in an outer room as her friend received chemotherapy treatments, Lynn listened to other patients' family members who were hurting as much as the patients in the next room, and she took away something very valuable from those meetings. "They needed to talk to someone about their loved one who was so sick. I had to admire how they coped with the difficult situation," Lynn said. "The coffee there

was only warm and there was no food, no magazines. So I started bringing in lunchmeat and fruit, apples, chips, peanut butter and little rolls. In the morning I brought Danish and orange juice and water. It was a kind of cold room so I brought decorations, too. The nurses got to know me and let me bring food in to the eight to 10 patients there who were



hooked to intravenous drip equipment for four or five hours at a time — they needed to eat, too!"

"When I left Corsicana and moved to Dallas I started out with a store of my own where I sold some interior decorations. Later I worked for a design firm," Lynn said. She learned to listen to clients and to find the best-dollar cost for what they wanted. Lynn originally taught herself the interior design business by moving around the furniture in her room at the State Home in Corsicana. "My design sense probably came from a combination of movies and fantasies," she explained. "I lived at the State Home [when it was an orphanage] from the time I was 5 until I left at 21. I give a lot of credit to the city. People didn't need to give us labels. The city didn't make us feel less. We felt we were socially equal with other kids we met in school. Other children at the home were like sisters. We were not mistreated. There were many good workers there. We had lots of activities and athletics. We started going to public school at fourth grade and good teachers

An advertisement for T&Company's Lifestyle Collection. The top half features a woman holding a large, patterned tote bag. To her left is a display of various products including bags, scarves, travel mugs, notebooks, folders, fragrances, and jewelry. The text "INTRODUCING OUR Lifestyle COLLECTION" is written in a stylized font. Below the products, the T&Company logo is displayed with the address "300 N. Main • Corsicana" and phone number "903-872-7511".

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treated us as people ‘of worth.’ Jim Compton was an important mentor to me.”

When she finished high school she was sent to Stephen F. Austin State University. “They left me there with my boxes of shoes. I didn’t know you had to register. I did not know how to do it either, so I just stood in the shortest lines and I ended up with classes like golf and geology,” Lynn said laughing. After a year, I knew I was just not right there, so I came back to Navarro College. After I moved out of

the home, I worked there for a while.

“Another reason I returned to Corsicana was that Tom’s father, Perry, got sick,” Lynn said. “Perry Taylor was a radio announcer here in Corsicana. I admired Tom’s parents and loved how they took me into their family when we married. When Perry got sick, I knew it was time to come home.” Tom and I found this house that had been empty for a year-and-a-half. It is not a big house, but I grew up in big buildings, and now

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Family is important to Lynn. There is an extensive collection of photographs on the "family wall" in the master bedroom. "When my daughter, Tina, was born, I knew there was a good God to create such a miracle," Lynn said. "My son, Jake, is in finance. He has two sons, Gavin who is 9 and Gage who is 6. My daughter, Tina, is a diagnostician in Mansfield, and she has a son, Jake, who is 8, and a daughter, Kinsey, who is 4. We have a big Easter Egg hunt event every year," Lynn said. "I'm the kid at this event." Big straw bunnies in Easter clothes dominate the long



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dining room table, and an Easter basket welcomes the children at the front door.

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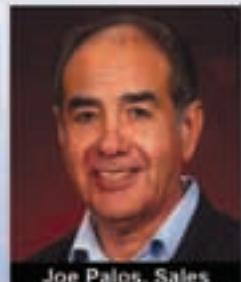
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is a vegetable garden next to the clubhouse.

"I am intimidated by my kitchen," Lynn admitted. "Not much intimidates me, but the kitchen does. My kids say I am a good cook. I just keep it simple." Clearly, Lynn is not intimidated by the rest of the house. From the first step through the front door a visitor will recognize the masterly hand of an experienced designer. There is something interesting and unusual to see on every wall and on every table top. Lynn is a practiced bargain



hunter. The look of custom drapery in the master bedroom was created by adding fabric and trim to the drapery brought from a former house. "The dining room table came from an estate sale in the neighborhood," Lynn pointed out. "And that lamp was a great deal I found in one of the antique stores on Beaton Street. I love redoing older houses. I'd do it again, moving out of this one to start over on another one." **NOW**

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People of all ages enjoy Derrick Days. From top left: Tyler Randle, Vallerie Tibbets, Alisha Camehl, Brooke Randle and Derinda Scott pose at the car show; a group of youngsters enjoy the festivities; visitors pose at the Shakers and Scrapers annual car show; the Navarro College marching band makes its way downtown.



Sarah Armstrong receives flowers for Administrative Professionals Day at Corsicana High School.



Izzie Raine White explores town in her new ride.



Hanna Howell (not pictured) and Melissa Young graduate from McLennan Community College. Melissa poses after the graduation ceremony with Nick and Shay Randle.



Betie and Gene Tyner go for a stroll in the park with grandson, Lane.



Renee, with The Humane Society of Navarro County, sells raffle tickets for a worthy cause.



One of Corsicana's future firefighters, Jermiah Sloan, checks out his fire truck.



Come Dance With Me

— By Joan Kilbourne

Aracely "Shelly" Huerta loves to dance. When she was very young, she would dance whenever she heard the music of the mariachi. "Even now I move my feet when I hear mariachi music," she said. "I was only 5 or 6 years old when I saw the adults dancing, and I knew that I wanted to learn to do that." She was too young to be enrolled as a student, but she approached the director of the *Instituto Potosino de Bellas Artes* in San Luis Potosí, Mexico, and asked him to let her enter dance classes to learn the folkloric dances. Charmed by this eager young dancer, the director admitted her and provided a scholarship to cover the tuition. Shelly remembers how her father would arrive on his bicycle at the end of each day to carry his little girl home again.

Shelly attended classes in dance and arts from the age of 7 until she was

12. She learned how to make a *piñata*, a bouquet of crêpe paper flowers, *papier-mâché* ornaments and masks. She also studied embroidery, sewing and

painting. Shelly attended *La Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí* to become an elementary school teacher and graduated in 1984. She often shared with other teachers what she had learned in her dance and her arts and crafts classes. Shortly after Shelly met and married Ismael Huerta, they moved to Corsicana to make a home for their three children, Ismael, 22, Vianey, 16, and Angela, who is 8.

Friends and family benefit from Shelly's many skills. She makes paper flower centerpieces for friends to decorate the table at a *quinceañera* celebration. Recently she made a homecoming ribbon and pom for her daughter, Vianey. Like her mother, Vianey is a dancer. She performs with the Calicos at Corsicana High School. Vianey once asked how to make a *piñata*. "It looks hard," she said. "It's easy," Shelly responded, and she showed her how to make paper cones for a star and how to use a balloon as a form under layers of *papier-mâché* for the container that would hold candy and gifts. A friend asked Shelly how to make a mask. "It's easy," Shelly said. And again she demonstrated the craft. Like teachers everywhere, Shelly loves to share what she knows with others.

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church offered Shelly an opportunity to choreograph dances for the young people to perform at the Spring International Festival and the Mexican festival in the fall. She also volunteered to teach



dance at Sam Houston School for their Hispanic Day celebration. A troupe of three girls and three men has performed regional dances at nursing homes, at the state home, at Navarro College and for the community during Derrick Days. To prepare for these events, the students meet three days a week for two months to rehearse the dances. Their repertoire includes 15 different dances representing the dance and costume styles of the Mexican states of Jalisco, Veracruz, Chiapas, Oaxaca and Michoacán. "I teach them new dances each year," Shelly said.



"They dress up in hats and ponchos and masks made to look like old people."



"The kids like the *Los Viejitos* dances. They dress up in hats and ponchos and masks made to look like old people. They dance as if they were old, too."

The costumes for the dances represent the different cultures of the states. Shelly said, "The clothes from Veracruz are elegant. The girls wear white blouses and skirts with ruffles and lace topped by a small black embroidered apron. The costume from the North is a short, colorful skirt and blouse. The boys wear black pants and a white shirt and a big bow at the neck." The most important

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items are the dancing shoes. They resemble tap shoes but they have nail heads on the toes of the sole and on the heels so that they make a tapping sound on the floor.

The *Instituto Potosino de Bellas Artes* in San Luis Potosí was an important influence on Shelly when she was growing up. The school Web site proclaims: "Dance has a preeminent place in universal culture. Its different



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expressions, such as ballet, contemporary, popular and folkloric dance, offer a wide panorama that embodies the unique view of each culture. You feel pride when you hear the trumpet, the marimba or the violin. This tradition preserves our origins; it keeps us in the presence of grandparents and family."

As a teacher, Shelly serves on a panel of advisors for the Corsicana Independent School District. Shelly said, "There are a lot of working parents in Corsicana with two jobs. Their kids need things to do after school and weekends. I would like to see a *Bellas Artes* school in Corsicana. We need programs here that offer opportunities for students to learn how to make things and do things that benefit themselves and the community."

"It has been good to be here," Shelly said. "People have been good to me. Maybe someday I'll go back to San Luis Potosí. I miss the family reunions there." In the meantime, Shelly's dancers will bring echoes of San Luis Potosí and her family traditions to Corsicana. **NOW**

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A Coaching Legend's Legacy

— By Virginia Riddle



Lights blazing over softball fields on sultry summer nights, bats cracking, balls whacking into mitts and excited fans yelling tell Corsicana area residents that girls softball is well into another season. Jimmy Prince will be proudly yelling from the stands, as a father and grandfather. Since 1979, Jimmy has been a key figure in what is now known as the Corsicana Girls Softball Association (CGSA) by filling the roles of commissioner, umpire and coach. Jamie Prince Fowler, who is now filling her father's coaching shoes, said of her father, "He was more than just a coach to many of the girls. He was a mentor to some — a father figure."

Father of four daughters, Jimmy was a fast-pitch player until that fateful day, in 1979, when he was called from the stands to draw names of girls for assignment to league teams. "That was the end of my fast-pitch career," he said laughingly. Recruited as



an assistant coach for his third daughter's, Melissa, T-ball team, he continued to coach his two youngest daughters' teams, as the girls moved from age brackets 6 to 16. His only regret was that softball did not exist in Corsicana for his older two girls. "Girls were an afterthought back then. Things are different now," he added.

Jimmy is quick to credit fellow coach, Don Woodcock, who also served as president of CGSA, for making girls softball what it is today. "Don was to girls softball what Stuart Beebe was to boys baseball. We were moving from field to field, and everywhere you went, there were different rules," Jimmy remembered. Under Don's leadership, girls softball found a permanent home at Nature Park in 1984. Jimmy served on a state committee to establish uniform rules.

These Corsicana coaches also established a winning tradition across the state of Texas. In 1982, Jimmy coached his team to win the T-ball state championship, and during his youngest daughter's, Jamie, years of playing, his team missed going to state only twice. "I was always building for the next year," he stated.

Jimmy quickly moved away from social and recreational players, always looking for that serious tournament player. "You have to reward hustle, as well as talent," he said. Building on that hustle and talent, he taught the girls to play the game and instilled discipline. "Dad always pushed his players to be their best," Jamie recalled.

When Corsicana High School (CHS) initiated girls softball into their athletic program, former CGSA players were ready to play

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ball. Jimmy fondly remembers several memorable players. Vanessa Garcia was a very intense player seeking total perfection and once pitched six games in a single day. Shelley Menefee always wanted to stay late and practice more. Jocelyn Roberts played hard ball with the boys, came to softball practice and then would go back home to play with the boys. Laura Horner, a pitcher, was a solid workhorse. Last, but not least, his daughter, Jamie, is remembered as demanding to play a game in a plastic mask after breaking her nose and cheekbone in a previous game during the same tournament. The team won on her run batted in (RBI). She became the offensive Most Valuable Athlete (MVA) in 4A and 5A softball for CHS.

Jimmy is still in contact with many of his players and their families. He has coached girls who became mothers of his



future team players. Other former players have scattered over the United States, but still send letters with photos of their kids in their league uniforms that Jimmy saves. As one former player, who is now one of those proud moms, said, "It is awesome to share this sport with her, and I have

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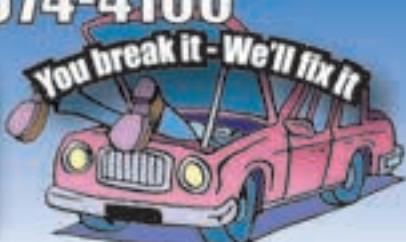


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you and a few other coaches to thank for building a foundation for me!"

When Barbara Prince met Jimmy, while they were students at Frost High School, she probably never expected to live a life of softball. Jimmy credits her to always being there for the family — even through her cancer treatments. "We would come back from chemotherapy in Dallas and go straight to the field to watch the grandkids play." A granddaughter, while attending CHS, won a scholarship with an essay titled, "My Grandmother is My Hero," based on

"Building on that hustle and talent, he taught the girls to play the game and instilled discipline."



Barbara's dedication to be at events for all eight grandchildren. Fortunately, they all live in the Corsicana area.

Selling cars at Prince Motors, selling seasonal fireworks and Christmas trees have kept Jimmy and his family busy since his retirement after 30 years of employment with the state of Texas doing road maintenance. Jimmy also has volunteered his time with the Festival of Lights committee.

As Jimmy continues watching Jamie coach her team and having seen generations of players playing softball, he knows well what it takes to be a coach. It takes a strong sense of self, caring and patience. The coach must build a drive to succeed, learn the game and teach it, along with instilling a work ethic and competitive spirit, and finally, the game must be fun. With that advice, it is little wonder that Jimmy is living the life of a coaching legend. **NOW**

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Dr. Harper, Oral Surgeon and Anesthesiologist — By Joan Kilbourne

Dr. Richard Harper smiles when he greets individuals who visit his office for reasons other than dental care, commenting that they are probably not nervous to be there since they do not need his professional services. By the time they leave his office, however, he has a way of making them confident that they would be comfortable in his cheerful presence if ever they do need his professional help. Dr. Harper spent 38 years as a professor who believed in creating "a positive environment" for his students — a belief that is reflected in his dental practice today.

Sixteen years ago, Dr. Harper left his home in Toronto, Canada, when he accepted an appointment as a professor in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Pharmacology at Baylor College of Dentistry, in Dallas. "I am trying to be

a Texan now," he said, and at least he dresses properly in his cowboy boots and scrubs. Ten years ago, Dr. Harper retired from Baylor and came to Corsicana. "My wife and I were impressed with the arts community here," he said. "Recently, I passed an elementary school and wondered about a van marked 'Ball in the Hall' that was parked in front of the building. Later, we attended a theater performance and realized that this talented troupe had been performing at schools. Showing students what professionals can do and expanding their vision of their future possibilities — that is what I call an optimistic learning environment!" The Harpers also found The Pearce Museum to be impressive. "I liked the soldiers' letters," Dr. Harper said. "I liked what they said and how they were written."

Business NOW

The doctor has observed another aspect of life in Texas. "People here are really proud of their universities, they become fanatic alumni," he said. "I like talking to patients, hearing their stories," he said.

Dr. Harper did his training in Toronto, Canada. He did his internship at the Hospital for Sick Children, working on children with cleft lip and palate problems. This work led to an interest in oral and maxillofacial surgery. He took further training in this specialty at the University of Toronto, where he was teaching in the medical unit, and completed a Ph.D. in oral biology at Baylor University. Dr. Harper moved forward on his chair, enthusiastically explaining the technical advances in facial surgery. "Even before I meet the patient, I do the surgery in advance," he said. "A

"I like talking to patients, hearing their stories"

3-D scan is taken of the patient's jaw or facial bones and a computer does a stereo lithographic construction to create a model of the bone structure. I do the surgery on the model and build accurate replacement parts so that when the patient comes into surgery, new bone is already cut to fit. Much of what we learn now comes from space exploration and the military," he said in reference to the technological advances the medical field is gaining through these two avenues. "I am a little jealous of the surgeons 30 years from now who will have even more sophisticated technology to work with."

Dr. Harper wrote for more than 100 publications and he still writes for some international journals. He gave talks to professional groups all over the world. When he reviewed grants for the National Institute of Health, "I was very demanding as a reviewer," he said, "because research that is published in professional journals becomes practice everywhere." Demanding about his own work, Dr. Harper said, "I would like to be able to draw pictures of who the person is, not just how he or she looks, because that's not all there is in facial reconstruction. I want to do this right." **NOW**

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How Media Careers Are Born

— By Joan Kilbourne

"It is a crazy time when the yearbook is finishing," Sarah said. And she should know. Sarah Harper Lents is the yearbook advisor at Corsicana High School (CHS). "The [first] yearbook began with 16 pages in color. This is the second year that it will have 232 pages all in full

color." Work on the yearbook starts on day one of the school year. The 14 students who make up the yearbook staff have a lot to do. They select the themes and assign which of the sections each student is going to work on for the year. They will take pictures, write and edit the copy, as well as do the layout. "The students learn how to meet deadlines," Sarah said. "They learn to work in groups and to take leadership roles." The staff is made up of a select group of junior and senior students. "By the end of their sophomore year, I have seen enough of their class work to know who will work well on the newspaper and yearbook staffs," Sarah said. She was justly proud as she pointed out, "Two of my graduates have been hired as paid photographers and writers at their colleges."

Yearbook advisor is only one of the

hats Sarah wears at CHS. She teaches journalism and photography and she is the advisor for the school newspaper, the *Jungle Beast Journal (JBJ)*. The newspaper staff of six students does the writing and photography for a monthly publication. "I have had a rise in enrollment in my journalism classes," Sarah said. "I had five to eight students, and now there are 18. Also, more boys now take the journalism class. They seem to like working on the news assignments. We start the class by discussing current events. They need to pay attention to what is going on in the world." The students choose a topic of the day and they go around the school collecting their own material to photograph or to write about. "When it is their own project," Sarah said, "they can take pride in how well they do it. It prepares them for the independent way they would work on the job.

"The students have wonderful teachers in their English classes, who prepare them well as writers. Then in journalism class, I show them how to do an interview, how to get good quotes and how to write to a newspaper formula for style," Sarah remarked. Three of the journalism students go to the March UIL tournament to compete in journalism events; writing for news, feature writing, headlines and editorials. Steve Ramsey, the debate coach, teaches the headline class and advises the UIL team. About eight students participate in the tournament's events. They can type or write by hand under time constraints, just as they would need to write to deadlines in a real journalist's job.

"The enrollment in the photography classes has also risen," Sarah said. "I had eight, and now there are 20 students in my class. Before this the students had to provide their own cameras and pay a lab fee. Now the district supplies cameras, and there is no processing lab fee. We moved recently into a new digital photography lab. Each of the 20 computers is loaded with all the five software programs we use. Students are in the lab all day, writing and editing. They learn that they must budget their time to finish a project on time. They like walking around the school, going into classes to take pictures. We challenge the

—Education**NOW**

students to create photos that represent the diverse population at school. Their camera acts like a hall pass, and the teachers cooperate with the students who approach them. It is a matter of trust,” Sarah added. “I trust the students to behave like professional photographers, and they respond by behaving in a way that is appropriate in a real life job.”

Sarah grew up in Corsicana. She attended Texas A&M and then worked on a journalism degree at the University of North Texas (UNT). For two years



she worked in advertising and marketing for a jewelry company in Dallas. The long hours and travel were fun until her first daughter, Madeline, came to change her life. Madeline is 4 now and Ellis is 2. “I decided to teach, so my time would fit better with the children, and I was lucky my first teaching job could be here at CHS. I love it. I get up in the morning excited to come to work. I keep being happy about my job when I see the students’ enthusiasm. I was on the yearbook staff in high school myself.”

The students benefit from Sarah’s work experience and from her teaching method. She encourages them to design their own projects and come to the lab to work them out. “It is different every day,” Sarah said. “I like working this way as well as the students do. It gives them a taste of the work world. A couple of students every year go on to study for a career that started in my classes.” **NOW**

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Who's Cooking **NOW**

In The Kitchen With Lydia Holy

— By Faith Browning

Lydia Holy is proud to say she is of Czech descent and still loves to bake the kolaches and strudels like her mother taught her. "Both of my parents came from the old country," she said. "That is the reason why I wanted to carry on the tradition of baking kolaches."

Lydia may be only 87 years young, but she enjoys staying busy canning fruits, vegetables and pickles, working

crosswords, donating her several hours a week in the office at her church and volunteering for the past six years at Navarro Regional Hospital as a Pink Lady. "I love to get out of the house and meet new people," she explained. "I enjoy serving others, and I want to do something good as long as I can while I am here." **NOW**



KOLACHES

2 pkgs. dry yeast
2 tsp. sugar
1/2 cup warm water
1 stick margarine or butter
2 cups milk

1/2 cup sugar
2 tsp. salt

2 eggs

7 cups flour

STREUSEL:

1/2 cup flour

2 cups sugar

3 Tbsp. butter

Dash of cinnamon

FILLING:

**Apple or cherry pie fillings, cooked
apricots, prunes or other fruit**

1. In a small bowl, combine yeast, sugar and warm water; let set until foamy.

- 2.** In a saucepan, melt butter; add milk, sugar and salt.
- 3.** Pour milk mixture into large bowl; add yeast mixture, 2 eggs and flour. Work dough until lumps disappear and dough does not stick to bowl.
- 4.** Cover bowl with lid or plastic; place in warm place to rise until it doubles in bulk, about 30-40 minutes.
- 5.** Punch dough down and knead a little. Spoon onto floured board and shape into balls.
- 6.** Place balls, not touching, onto buttered cookie sheet and brush with melted butter.
- 7.** When it has risen again make indentation with finger and put filling on top.
- 8.** Blend streusel mix; sprinkle over top of balls of dough. Bake at 350 F for 10 to 12 minutes. After baking,

brush again with butter. Makes 4 dozen.

PICKLED OKRA

Pint canning jars and lids

Fresh dill

Hot pepper

Garlic cloves

1 cup Heinz white vinegar

2 cups water

1 tsp. salt to each pint jar

1. Pack okra in jars to which you have added dill, pepper and garlic as desired.

2. Heat vinegar and water to boiling; pour over okra in jars.

3. Add the salt to each pint. Seal and let rest for 7 to 10 days before serving.

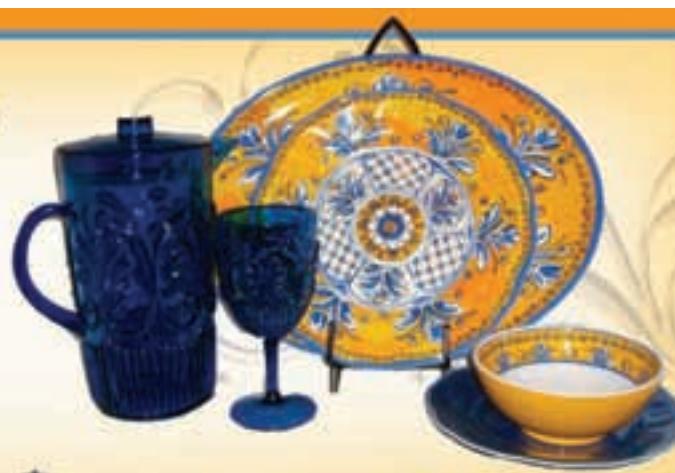
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**3/4 cup milk
1/4 cup vegetable oil
1 cup all-purpose flour
2 Tbsp. corn meal
2 tsp. baking powder
2 tsp. sugar
1/4 tsp. salt**

- 1.** Preheat waffle maker.
- 2.** Beat egg, milk and oil.
- 3.** Add flour sifted with corn meal, baking powder, sugar and salt.
- 4.** Blend and pour 1/2 cup of batter on waffle maker and bake until golden.

HOME CANNED PEAR OR PEACHES

Pears or peaches

1 cup sugar

3 cups water

Canning jars and lids

- 1.** Prepare fruit by peeling and cutting in half to remove seeds and stem. Remove pit from peaches and cut into fourths.
- 2.** Boil sugar and water until it is syrup; drop fruit into syrup. Cover and cook until fork tender.
- 3.** Have jars in warm oven. Drop lids into pan of boiling water.
- 4.** Fill jars with fruit and syrup to the top.
- 5.** If desired, add stick cinnamon to pears.
- 6.** Put lids and rings on and tighten. (Will last up to one year.)

FUDGE

4 cups sugar

2 sticks margarine

1 13-oz. can evaporated milk

1 7 1/2 oz. jar marshmallow crème

1 large pkg. chocolate chips

1 cup or more broken pecan pieces

- 1.** Cook mixture of sugar, margarine and milk until softball forms when dripped in cold water; remove from heat.

- 2.** Add marshmallow crème and then add chocolate chips and pecans. Stir until well-mixed and pour into 9 x 13-inch greased pan.

- 3.** Let cool overnight; cut into squares. Yields about 4 pounds.

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Perception Is Not Reality

— By Lynda Housley

When it comes to American families and financial planning, perception is not reality. Although they are overwhelmingly optimistic about their financial future, their financial planning habits paint quite a different picture, according to a recent study commissioned by State Farm Life Insurance Companies and conducted by KRC Research.

The study reports that although 82 percent of Americans are optimistic about their financial futures, American families in reality are not adequately

saving or protecting their finances. From saving habits and financial goals to life insurance coverage and retirement saving tools, American families have room to grow when it comes to protecting their financial futures. Americans cannot just “hope for the best”; they must take a critical look at where they are financially and lay out a clear roadmap that guides them to their hopes and dreams.

Key highlights from the study show the gap between perception and reality:

Saving habits

Perception: Most Americans (82 percent) are optimistic about their financial futures.

Reality: Nearly four in 10, more than 77 million Americans, say that they live paycheck to paycheck and are not able to put money into savings.

Life Insurance

Perception: More than seven in 10 Americans are confident that they have

enough life insurance.

Reality: Only 12 percent of Americans report having the industry recommended coverage of seven or more times the family's annual income.

Retirement Savings

Perception: The majority of Americans (58 percent) are not worried about outliving their retirement savings.

Reality: Many Americans are not utilizing a full range of retirement tools. Social Security is the most prominent source of retirement income over other retirement savings tools, with a fifth of Americans reporting that it is their only or main source of retirement income.

The sooner you start planning for your future, the better off you'll be. Small investments made early can make a big difference in your financial health later in life. Don't put off planning for your future. **NOW!**

Lynda Housley is a State Farm agent based in Corsicana.

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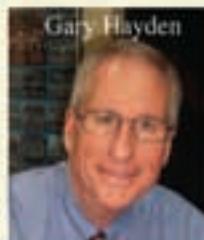
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Varicose and Spider Veins:

They could be more than just an unsightly nuisance.

Shorts' season is in full swing — and with it, the usual concerns of unveiling pale legs after a long winter. But for many people, the season also highlights unsightly varicose and spider veins. Depending on the severity of the condition, these veins can cause effects ranging from discoloration and splotchy patches on the legs or other areas of the body, to itching, swelling and pain — as well as the risk of certain circulatory problems.

About 50 to 55 percent of American women and 40 to 45 percent of American men suffer from some type of vein problem — and one out of every two people age 50 and older have varicose veins. Both varicose veins and spider veins share similar causes: age, heredity, pressure from excess weight and pregnancy, hormonal changes, a leg injury and even excess sun exposure or certain medications. Both types of vein problems are the result of venous insufficiency — or weak vein valves. The back-up and pooling of blood in a certain area of the body due to the weakened valves causes these veins to enlarge.

The milder form — spider veins — is so named because their appearance is similar to a spider's web. They are usually found in the legs, but can also appear on the face and other areas of the body. Spider veins are found closer to the skin's surface and are usually red or blue in color.

Varicose veins should cause greater concern — and not simply because they are more noticeable, but because they have more significant health risks. These dark colored, bulging and twisted veins are most common in the legs, particularly the backs of the calves or on the inside of the leg, as well as the feet. Symptoms of varicose veins include aching, fatigue, swelling, numbness, itching or throbbing, or a

sensation of heaviness in the legs and a rash or darkening of the skin surrounding the area.

Certain self-care techniques can help prevent varicose veins or relieve symptoms, but if veins are swollen, red, extremely tender or warm to the touch — or if they become so prominent that you are concerned for cosmetic reasons — it's a good idea to see a doctor. Depending on your veins, you may be referred to a dermatologist or a vein specialist. Your doctor may perform an X-ray or ultrasound to confirm the condition and to check for venous insufficiency or blood clots.

Treatments include sclerotherapy, laser surgery, surgical ligation and stripping, endoscopic vein surgery, and endovenous techniques such as radiofrequency and laser treatments. One of the newest incarnations of laser treatment is endovenous laser therapy. This procedure (also referred to as the VNUS procedure) treats larger varicose veins in the legs from the inside. A minimally invasive office procedure is performed without anesthesia. A laser fiber inserted in the vein causes the vein to collapse, shrink and eventually disappear. Best of all, the procedure is quick (less than 30 minutes), and has a rapid recovery and few side effects — only occasional slight bruising and no scarring. **NOW**

Remember that this information is not intended to replace the advice of your doctor, but rather to increase awareness and help equip patients with information and facilitate conversations with your physician that will benefit your health.

Sources:

National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute.

National Institutes of Health: www.nlm.nih.gov.

Mayo Clinic: www.mayoclinic.org.

National Women's Health Information Center, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: www.womenshealth.gov.

American Academy of Dermatology: www.aad.org.

Association www.eatright.org.

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Evonne Blackwell

CPA, Cr.FA

Certified Public Accountant

Wow, what a busy tax season! It's been a while since I've been able to catch you up on some of the changes in tax law that might affect you this year. I'm just going to list some in headline form. If you have interests in any of the topics, just drop by my office for more details or call, and we'll mail the information to you.



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GOT QUESTIONS? GET ANSWERS.

— By Nancy Fenton



More and more I am faced with interesting questions, most of which I cannot answer off the top of my head. You can do the same thing I do; research a bit.

There are several Web sites that are very helpful. Once into any of these sites, you can enter your question, plant name, etc. and sit back for more options than you probably have time to look at. The Master Gardeners' standard is <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu>. This site includes areas on disease identification, as well as a great search tool called the Plant Selector, located in the EarthKind section. This search tool takes your requirements for the color, size, water available, sun, etc. and comes up with a list of several that will do well in your ZIP code area.

For lovely pictures, brief descriptions and plant features and requirements visit www.Monrovia.com or www.davesgarden.com. A relatively unknown site is <http://Texasforestservice.com>, which helps identify native plants and trees. They have great pictures plus information from helpful arborists available by e-mail.

[Http://ecmga.com](http://ecmga.com) is a great place to look for relevant information about local plants, concerns and events. The Master Gardeners of Ellis County have a great monthly e-newsletter free for the asking on that same site. When all else fails, you can search the Internet for the plant name, type or location and ask for images — sometimes that works! There are many pages to go through so be prepared.

Do not let your questions go unanswered. If you are not in the computer mode or do not have access to one, call the Ellis County Master Gardeners at the AgriLife extension office, (972) 825-5175. We may not know all the answers, but we can do some searching or may know someone who can help. **NOW**

Nancy Fenton is a Master Gardener.



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Bowen at (972) 923-0080.

The David Chicken Live Show Spectacular, presented as part of the 2010 Family Series: 2:00 p.m., the Palace Theater. This is a heart-pounding, floor-stomping, jump-out-of-your-seat event that's fun and healthy for the whole family! This talented singer-songwriter leads the audience through a high-energy, interactive performance filled with creative movement, motivational messages, and general hilarity based on David's original music CDs and DVDs. Named "Best of Big D" by *D Magazine*, David invites members of the audience on stage to sing and play musical instruments! Contact corpalace@sbcglobal.net or phone (903) 874-7792.

Derrick Days Crawfish Boil. The Derrick Days Committee will be hosting a crawfish boil from 6:00-10:00 p.m. at The Remington, located at 122 W. 3rd Avenue. All-you-can-eat crawfish and live zydeco music by Jay-B & the Zydeco Posse. \$25 advance tickets and \$35 at the door. Free beverages! Tickets and information are available from the Corsicana Visitor Center at (903) 654-4850. Proceeds will be used toward the costs of next year's Derrick Days festival. Contact: Steve Dieterichs by e-mail: info@derrickdays.com or phone (903) 654-4850.



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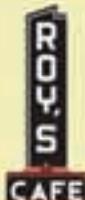
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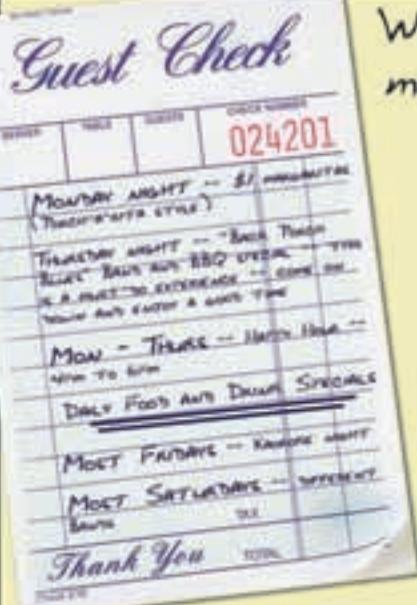
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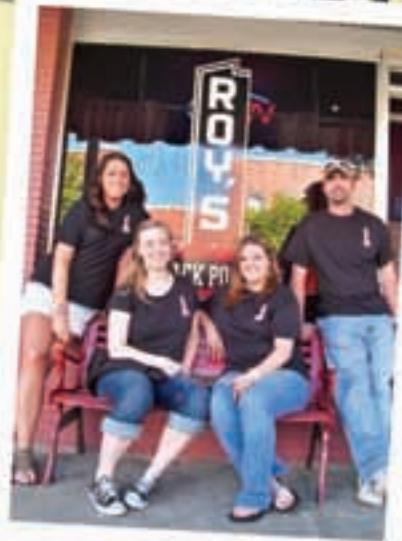
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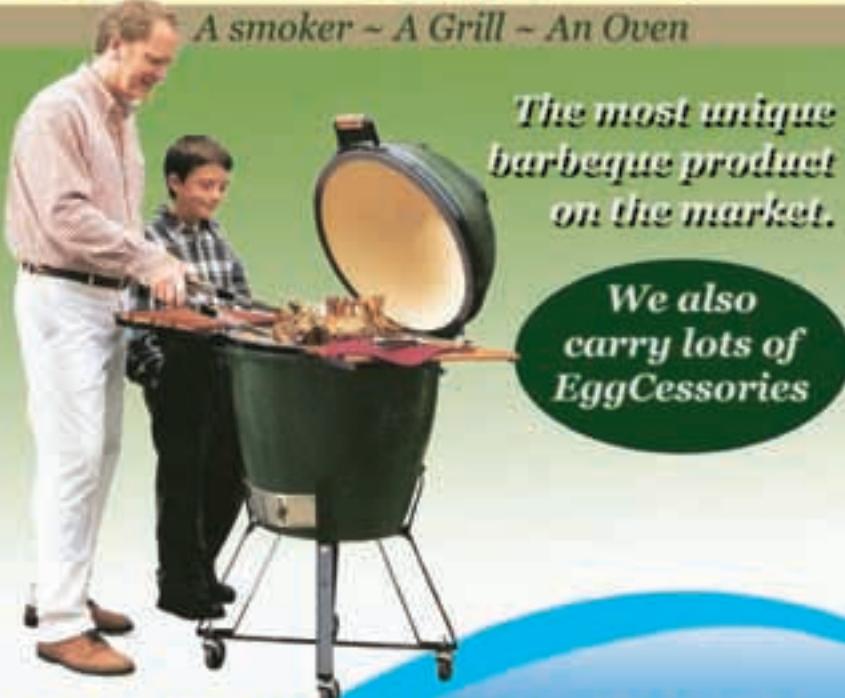


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June 6

Jackson Ex-Students Association Afro American Men will have a masquerade legends dance: 6:00 p.m. at the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, 1114 E. Sixth Ave. Advance reservation for a table of 10 is \$135. Advance tickets are \$15 per person or \$20 per couple. Tickets at the door will be \$20 per person and \$35 per couple. For more information, call (817) 937-5235. All proceeds will benefit the JESA Scholarship Fund.

June 12

Marriage Management, a free class at Navarro College, is sponsored by Twogether, a Texas State initiative. Participating couples get \$60 off their marriage license. To register, please call (903) 874-0077. For more information, see www.marriagemanagement.org.

June 22

Navarro College SBDC "Writing a Winning Business Plan" workshop: 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Corsicana/Navarro County Chamber of Commerce, 120 N. 12th Street. Cost of the workshop is \$20 and is for anyone wishing to start a business or already in business. Pre-registration is required, as seating is limited. To register, call the Navarro College SBDC at (903) 875-7667 or e-mail sbdc@navarroclege.edu.



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