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Corsicana NOW

M A G A Z I N E

October 2008

From
"Ho, Ho, Ho"
to "Howdy"

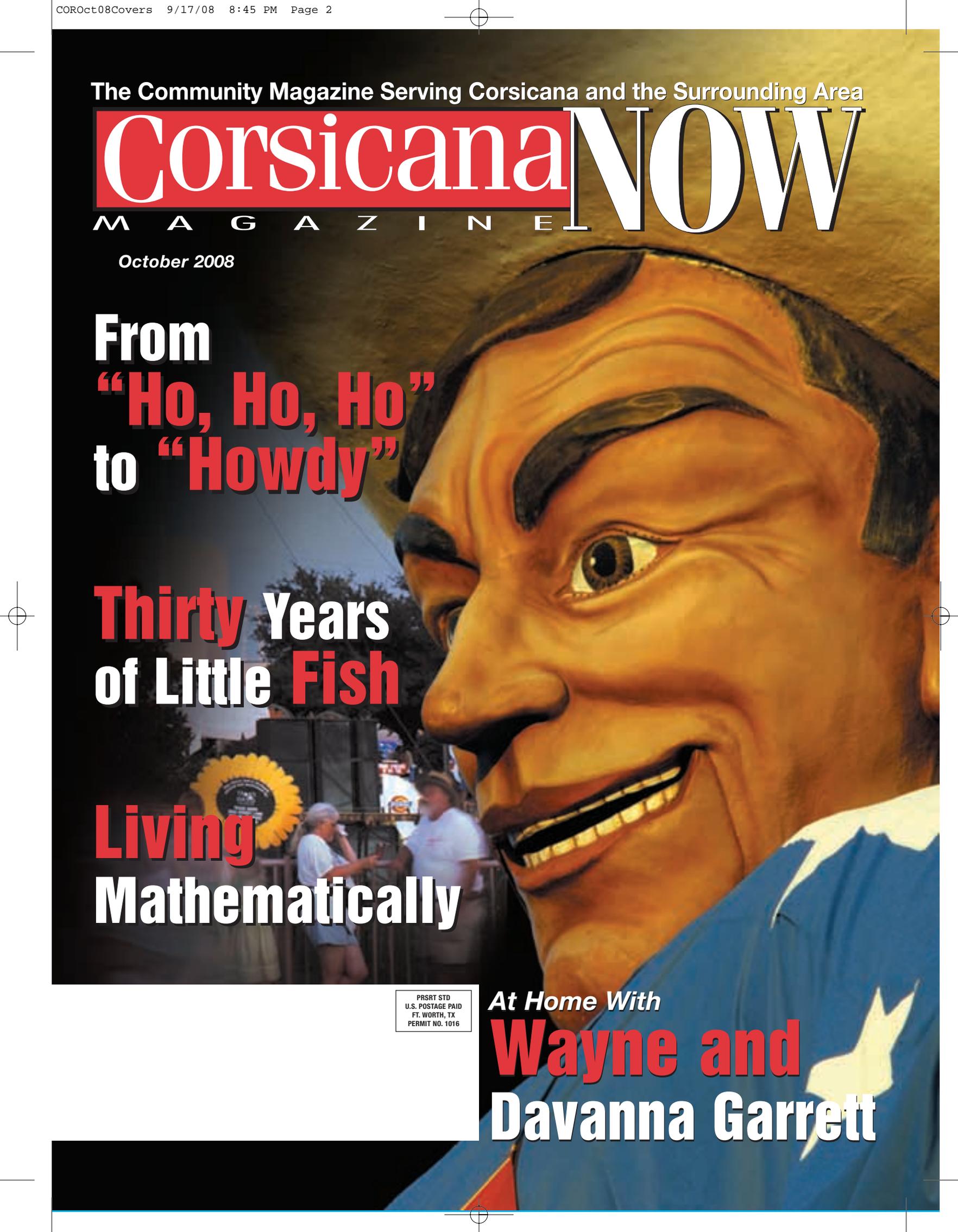
Thirty Years
of Little Fish

Living
Mathematically

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At Home With

Wayne and
Davanna Garrett



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Healthy Woman is a new, free resource from Navarro Regional Hospital designed to provide women with information to maintain a healthy body, mind and spirit for themselves and their loved ones. Join our kickoff event and be part of the fun from the start.

Thursday, November 13 • The Cook Center

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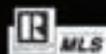


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Having IRS Troubles? Do you owe money to the IRS? Do you have returns you have not filed? Remember, if you put off something you should have done, it can start to threaten you with fear. The IRS expects voluntary compliance, so if you keep a positive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

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

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

Offer In Compromise? The Internal Revenue Service issued a consumer alert advising taxpayers to beware of promoters' claims that tax debts can be settled for "pennies on the dollar" through the Offer in Compromise Program. It's a great program and serves an important purpose for a select group of people, but there are some promoters charging excessive fees to taxpayers who have no chance of meeting the program's requirements. Choose only professional tax help for your IRS issues.

Now on Sale: New Small Business Owner Start Up Kit — \$99

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Hurricane Ike Relief? IRS is expected to offer relief for taxpayers and tax preparers effected by Hurricane IKE.



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Oct. 16, 2008 - Jan. 15, 2009: Mon -Thurs 8:30 - 5:00, Friday by appointment only.

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Big Tex traces his roots to the
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*Photos used courtesy of the State
Fair of Texas. Cover design by Chris
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Corsicana **NOW**

Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

The weather is finally cooling off, and we are officially into the third season of Texas: football and hunting season, otherwise known as fall. Friday night lights are all aglow, and the hunters are happy once again.

This month, we want to invite you into one of the most incredible homes, designed by the owner himself, to see his heart and soul — evident in every nook and cranny and in the placement of every picture.

With school in full swing, we are highlighting one of the most inspiring teachers, both inside and outside the classroom, Mrs. Joanne Newton.

With the State Fair of Texas also in full swing, read how Santa went Cowboy.

Wishing you love and kindness always, and remember, if you have a great idea for a story, please feel free to contact me.

Samantha (Stroube) Daviss
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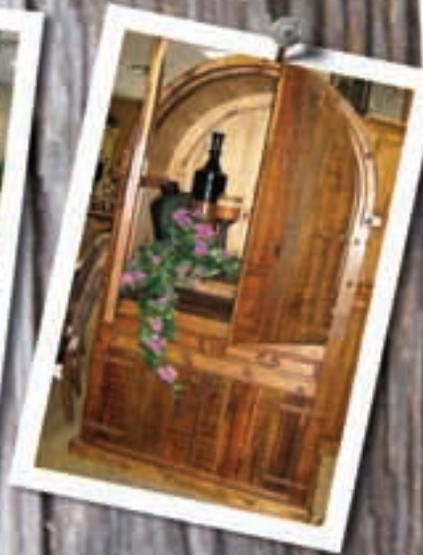
"Boo"

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Thirty Years of Little Fish

— By *Samantha (Stroube) Daviss*



Looking out in the backyard, seeing the peaceful ripples of what looks like just another family swimming pool used daily by children and grandchildren in the summertime, you might be amazed to realize this pool has played a part in teaching hundreds of Corsicana and Navarro County children how to swim for over 20 years.

Lewis Orr, fondly referred to as “Coach,” and his wife, Carol, have been teaching children how to swim since 1978. They started their lives together in Dallas, Texas, where she was a ninth grade English teacher, and he was a basketball coach and history teacher. In 1975, Navarro College in

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2313 Renee St. - Nice 4/2 with mature trees in established neighborhood. Great master Suite. Call John or Julie Teel: 903-641-3359 or 903-654-3970.



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Corsicana offered Lewis a position he could not refuse, one that he would instead hold for the next 32 years — that of head basketball coach.

“After moving to Corsicana, I stopped working to be at home with my two girls, Tiffany and Tracey,” Carol explained. “I wanted to be at home with them, so I did until they both left for college.” An unexpected gift blessed their home when their



son, Daniel, was born, 13 years after their youngest daughter, Tracey.

Once Daniel entered school, Carol went back to work as a counselor for Blooming Grove for three years, Drane Middle School in Corsicana for six years, and Bowie Elementary for nine years. “We had two college tuitions to take care of, so I had to go back to work,” she shared.

Their work and dedication to the students of Corsicana did not end in May of each school year; they continued their love and devotion throughout the summer months by teaching water safety and how to swim properly. “Lewis had taught at a friend’s pool in Dallas for 12 years,” Carol commented, trying to recall just how they got into the swim lesson business. “Then after we moved here, one of his assistant coaches needed some extra summertime money, so Lewis started things back

up here in Corsicana by showing him what to do.”

At first, the Orrs used and rented other peoples' pools when they began the Orr Swimming Center. The following summer they moved into their current home and Lewis put in the pool to accommodate the swim center's needs. They specifically designed it with lessons in mind. There are two swim bay areas, and the majority of the pool is shallow, with a diving well for diving lessons.

“The only addition that we made that I was uncertain of at the time was the spa,” Carol admitted. “We originally put it in because, at the time, my father was living with us and it really helped with his aches and pains; and now, with the swim center, we just love it because we have yet to send a child home chilled.”

“Everything in our lives has all been a blessing. A lot of it has happened by accident, like the pool and the spa, and the

swim center getting started, but with everything we have been truly blessed,” Carol said proudly.

“It has given the kids their summer spending money, and helped put our three children through college, and has really brought our family closer.”

Tiffany and Tracey loved helping out in the summer. “We always used the girls as our little demonstrators,” Carol recalled. “In fact, the summer our son, Daniel, was born, I wasn't



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able to get in the water, but I did sit on the side and dangle my feet in the water for added security.” Carol explained that as people called in that summer, she informed them that she couldn’t teach the kids because of Daniel, but Tiffany and Tracey would be handling all of the classes. The girls at that time were 15 and 13, respectively. All of their returning and new customers had enough faith and trust in them that no one was turned away nor did anyone deny their child the opportunity to learn swimming at the Orr Swim Center that summer.

“In fact, the following summer was the first summer that I offered my water babies class and, of course, I used Daniel for all of my demonstrations,” Carol said, grinning. The class was a huge success, giving new mothers an opportunity to bond with their babies on a completely different level.

“It has always been a family business.” Carol explained. “It has given the kids their summer spending money, and helped put our three children through college, and has really brought our family closer.” Carol recalled all the good times they had sitting around the dinner table in the summers, discussing which child was really getting the concept and which child might need a little more encouragement.

Carol also spoke of the various roles they each played during the swim lessons. “Tiffany, Daniel and Lewis are people of few words,” she explained, “but for some reason they [especially Coach] got the best results. He always managed to get results out of them faster.”

Carol admitted to playing the more mothering role. “I was the ‘Mamma figure’ in their lives; I understood their fears and insecurities,” Carol said grinning. “It’s okay. The kids all love me — they don’t love Coach.”

Regardless of their tactics or persuasive ways, the Orrs have managed to produce some of the best swimmers. They have been able to coax some children who were fearful of the water to get in and actually learn their strokes; and some children, who had no fear, but also had

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Sarah, Clay, Tammy, and Shelby Beard



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- ★ Practice in Texas Supreme Court, State Courts of Appeals, U.S. Court of Appeals - Fifth Circuit, U.S. Court of Claims, Federal District Court - Northern and Western Districts
- ★ Past President: Navarro County Bar Association
- ★ City Attorney for Corsicana, Blooming Grove, Frost, Angus and Dawson

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Thank you,

Clay Beard

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no swimming skills, learned water safety. In fact, some of their more rewarding times were watching their special-needs students learn to swim. "It was probably the most rewarding aspect of our job to watch them grasp the concept," Carol stated, as she recalled leading blind students around the pool and instructing the proper tactics to deaf children. The Orrs decided that the summer of 2008 would be the final summer

"Everything in our lives has all been a blessing. A lot of it has happened by accident, like the pool and the spa, and the swim center getting started, but with everything we have been truly blessed."

for the Orr Swim Center, although that decision is not concrete. Their lives have changed and they are in a new chapter of living, so they think after two generations of teaching swim lessons, they are now ready to pass on the torch. Not only have the Orrs reared three wonderful children and are now an integral part of their six grandchildren's lives, who also assist at the swim center, they have impacted hundreds of lives in Corsicana by giving them the gift of swimming. They have given the ultimate gift to many families: the gift of time and patience. **BY**

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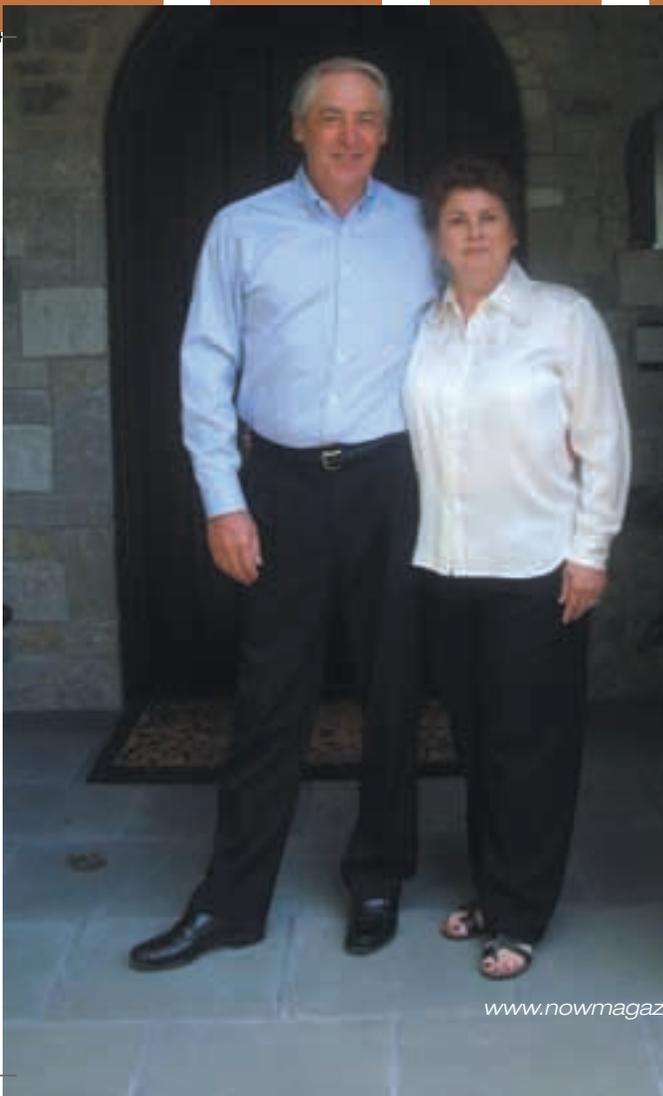
Waterfront Hideaway

At Home With

Wayne and Davanna Garrett

— By Samantha (Stroube) Daviss

The exterior of the Garrett home is, in a word, enchanting. You feel as if you are walking up to a modern-day castle, fit for a queen. Upon entering the foyer, however, it becomes apparent this house was actually built for a princess. "I designed and built this house for my 'princess,'" Wayne admitted, smiling adoringly at his wife, Davanna. Gleaming with pride and anticipation, Wayne and Davanna Garrett graciously opened their home, offering insight into every piece of artwork and every collectible displayed throughout the house.





Wayne spent almost two years designing the home in anticipation of his retirement. They had lived all around the world, partly due to Wayne's career, so he promised Davanna they could move back to Texas to be near her family and live out their life in peace and solitude.

"We had several requirements of where we would live," Wayne stated. "We must be near most of our five children and spouses; in a warm climate; very near water surrounded by trees; no more than two hours to a major international airport; close to a college or university; accessible to good medical attention; and (Wayne's personal request), they must be close to a Harley Davidson store." Sounds like a pretty tall order, right? Well, amazingly enough, they located their ideal lot on the banks of Richland Chambers Lake.



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In 2002, three years prior to Wayne's retirement, they were out driving around and found land where the sign had just gone up. The lot had not even been listed on the MLS listing system yet, so when their Realtor contacted the listing agent on their behalf, he said there was no lot for sale at that sight. After jumping through numerous hoops and straightening things out, the Garretts purchased the ideal lot for their perfect home, which they began to build after Wayne retired in 2005.

This majestic waterfront villa looks as if Wayne brought it over from a hidden meadow in England and transformed the interior into a scaled-down Italian museum, with all of the fine craftsmanship and collectibles primarily brought over from Italy. The first stop on the tour of their magnificent 6,000-square-foot house was the downstairs portion of the turret, visible from the front drive of the home. "Most people think it is a study or a staircase," Wayne said with a devious grin. In fact, it is the most eloquently designed and stocked wine cellar, complete with various saints, who of course "protect" their wines.

Passing back through the dining room, Wayne pointed out the painting hanging over the buffet he had purchased for his lovely wife. "It reminded me of Davanna's family, her sisters and brothers all sitting around talking to one another," Wayne said, explaining the picture is one person short of the number of people in Davanna's actual family. "The missing

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sibling represents her one brother who is always traveling about.”

Every corner of the home is finished with thoughtful detail of Wayne’s imagination and desire. Every light fixture is placed just so to highlight various pieces of art; even the doors leading into the front library/study have a story behind them. “My son found these for me; they were left over from a surplus project being done at Yale University,” Wayne said. “He finished them out with the hardware



and all of the detailing,” Davanna added proudly.

The library area is home to a collection of armory, proudly displayed on the far wall. “I am a huge collector of medieval armory and accessories,” Wayne admitted. What began as a side hobby was transformed into a new career for him in his retirement years, as an International Medieval Arms and Armor dealer. Another impressive

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aspect of his medieval collection stands six feet tall in their front living room; in fact, there are two pieces to this collection. The first is a full suit of armor Wayne purchased during some career time in Belgium. "I always wanted a suit of armor. I don't know why — I just did, and I think it is fantastic," Wayne shared. The other piece is a three-quarter suit, the more detailed of the two. "Wayne made this suit completely by himself," Davanna said. "It's true; I did — with the help of a metal specialist and two other men who helped with the configuration and detailing," Wayne explained. "It





was a lot of work, but so fun to do.” Wayne insisted on bragging on his wife, as he encouraged her to show off her beautiful doll collection displayed just opposite of the suits of armor. “I am not a seamstress. I just started making them one day and fell in love with it,” Davanna admitted, showing off her gorgeous collection of at least 20 handmade porcelain dolls.

The next stop was the kitchen, where, as in the rest of the house, everything seemed to have a home. “Nothing matches in our home; we have collected everything from places all around the world,” Wayne said




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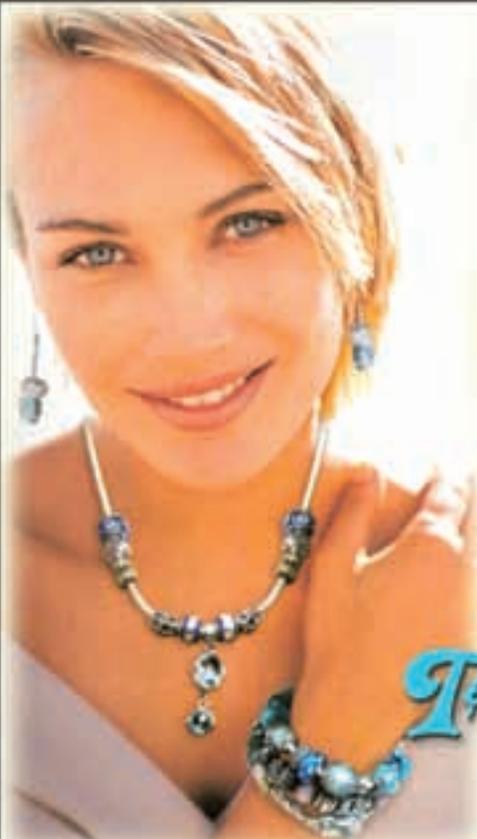


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proudly. "But when I was designing the home, I knew exactly in my mind where everything was going to go, before we even moved in." The kitchen revolves symmetrically around a gorgeous stained glass hanging above the center island; it covers the light casing which feeds light into the kitchen. Another detail that cannot go unnoticed is the personalized framed

tiling above the pantry door, reading Cucina di Davanna, meaning the kitchen of Davanna in Italian.

Down the main hall of the house are wooden doors leading into various rooms. One door in particular is a sliding pocket door that conceals the stairs leading up to their three guest rooms and rumpus room for their grandchildren. "It took a lot of

convincing, because Davanna wanted a grand staircase, but I explained the logistics behind it and the economic upside as well," Wayne said. "Since our bedroom is downstairs and we basically live downstairs, I thought it best to seal off the stairs to lower the cooling costs of the house."

Upstairs, the fairytale continued. "Each of our guest rooms has its own bathroom; we wanted everyone to feel comfortable when they came to stay with us," Davanna explained. Comfort is exactly what you feel as you walk into the Garrett's beautiful home. You get a little taste of Europe, a little elegance and a world all its own inside this wonderland. **NOW**

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From

"Ho,
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to "Howdy"

— By Sandra McIntosh

The story began back in the late 1940s. For years, merchants in downtown Kerens had watched residents travel to nearby Corsicana, and even as far as Dallas and Fort Worth, to do all their holiday shopping. Howell Brister was the manager of the Chamber of Commerce during this time. After giving the situation much thought, Howell came up with an idea he hoped would keep citizens close to home, as well as offer something to entice new shoppers to the downtown area. "He had a great idea," said longtime resident Nora Lee May. "He just needed \$500 to get it started."

The first place he solicited a monetary donation was the



First National Bank. Earl Seale, the bank president, initially said, "No," to the proposition. Before long, he had a change of heart. "The idea quickly became a town-wide effort," Nora Lee said. "I think that's the reason it was a success. The entire town was interested in it." Howell's idea was to build the largest Santa Claus on record. "He wanted Santa to stand downtown during the holidays," Nora Lee explained, "so he could greet everyone who visited Kerens."

Santa was fashioned after two men who used to make their homes in Kerens: O.F. Spurlock and Hardy Mayo. Nora Lee remembers both men being statuesque. "They were both very big men," she said. "They multiplied the men's body sizes by seven to come up with Santa's height and overall size." It seemed as if work got underway immediately. The 49-foot frame was constructed of iron pipe drill casing by several men who had access to a welding shop. The frame was then covered in chicken wire by the older agriculture students. "They would stretch and then fasten the wire with the same kind of [rings] used in a

Navarro County **NOW**

pig's nose," Nora Lee added. "O.F.'s son, Ottis Spurlock, helped in this process." Finally, the frame was covered in papier-mâché.

Nora Lee did more than remember this great time in Kerens' history. She played a hands-on part in the construction process, too. "At the time, I was an employee at the bank," she said, further explaining Howell was what many considered a "smooth talker." "He [Howell Brister] was one of those fellows who could talk you into doing whatever he needed." Nora Lee, along with several other women

"He wanted Santa to stand downtown during the holidays, so he could greet everyone who visited Kerens."

from the bank, worked on Santa's beard. "We unraveled rope," she laughed. "Howell would show up at the bank with rope in seven-foot lengths. Every evening he handed out more rope that needed unraveling."

Workers at the local sewing factory agreed to work after hours to construct Santa's wardrobe. "They used 168 yards of oil cloth," Nora Lee remembered. "Once the clothes were made, they were painted." Nora Lee also recalls the price of the frame. "The men used \$68 worth of pipe," she stated, knowing how inexpensive that sounds today, but still fully understanding the magnitude of such an expenditure in the late '40s. "Just about everything was donated," Nora Lee said. "Back then, people were much more willing to give their time and effort to see an idea come to life."

What was known as the "World's Largest Santa" was built in a lying down position. "Getting him to stand up was probably the hardest aspect of

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the eight-month-long process," Nora Lee said. "It took several crane trucks and many men to get him standing." Santa Claus took his rightful place in downtown Kerens just in time for the 1949 holiday season. "Several thousand visitors came that first year," Nora Lee said. "There's no telling how many more saw him from the passenger train that came through town on a daily basis. The train would slow down as it passed through so everyone could see our Santa."

In 1950, a huge storm blew into town. The damage to Santa was great. "It messed him up — his clothes, his face and all," Nora Lee said, further explaining the town never really had a proper place to store Santa during the off season. "The art department at Baylor University in Waco worked hard to repair him." That second year, the community opted to add a chimney. "The guide wires that held the chimney up also helped secure Santa," she stated. "Santa coming out of the chimney once again helped the businesses in downtown flourish. That was the plan; to draw people to Kerens."

By the following year, Santa's novelty had worn off. People no longer traveled to see him and the community's support had also taken a backseat. Howell decided it was time to cut his losses. "He went all over trying to sell Santa," Nora Lee said with a bit of sadness in her voice. "He didn't have any luck until he met R. L. Thornton, who offered to pay \$750 for the frame." Just as Howell's idea of a huge Santa paid off big dividends for Kerens, the purchase of the frame was history-in-the-making for the State Fair of Texas. R. L. hired Jack Bridges to create a giant cowboy, a mascot of sorts for the fair. "A year later, in the fall of 1952," Nora Lee remembered, "Big Tex made his debut at the state fair."

The Kerens Santa Claus went into retirement, later returning as Big Tex who quickly became a household

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name, especially in the Lone Star State. His boots are still a size 70 and his cowboy hat is a whopping 75 gallons. His first pair of denim jeans and plaid shirt were donated by the H. D. Lee Company of Shawnee Mission, Kansas. Over the years, Tex has gone through many changes, not only in his attire,



"Back then, people were much more willing to give their time and effort to see an idea come to life."

but also in the fact that he now boasts of skin constructed of fiberglass. Santa may have stood 49 feet tall in the winter skies over Kerens, but Big Tex currently stands 52 feet above the fairgrounds, still regal after all these years.

"In 1981, he came back home as Big Tex," Nora Lee said. "He was erected again in his original spot in downtown Kerens during our Centennial Celebration." Nora Lee shook her head as she remembered all that went into that special visit. "We only had him home for a few days," she sighed. "We hired a special night watchman to protect him since he had become such a celebrity. He came home more famous than when he left."

Nora Lee's pride in Kerens is readily apparent in the photo albums and newspaper clippings she has saved commemorating a very special time in the history of the city she calls home. Without the imagination and dedication of so many people in Kerens, the idea of Big Tex may never have come to pass. Going from "Ho, Ho, Ho!" to "Howdy, folks!" has proven to be Texas history at its best. **NOW**

Editor's Note: Photo of Big Tex used courtesy of the State Fair of Texas.

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Dancing Queen

— By Samantha (Stroube) Daviss

She did not know her life would lead her to ballet, tap, point and ballroom, but Marsha Douglass packs a powerful performance in a small package. Originally from the New Jersey area, she trained in ballet and point as a younger child. During her sixth- to eighth-grade years she studied ballroom dance. “My dad was a really good dancer,” Marsha stated, after humbly

admitting she did not consider dance a natural ability for her in the beginning.

In a way, Marsha’s life has been one long dance; she met her future husband, Dr. Alexander Douglass, in the eighth grade. “I just love stories like that — when there is a happy ending,” she said with a grin. Not knowing her life would someday include dance and instruction in a small town in North Texas, Marsha

earned her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing, specializing in labor and delivery, from Skidmoor College in Saratoga Springs, New York.

After making their life in Corsicana, Marsha and Alex had three children: two boys, A.J. and Andrew, and a girl, Laura. “After I had Laura, I saw a show at the library here in Corsicana, and that is where I met Darrell Johnson,



ARTS NOW

the former choreographer for the Warehouse Living Arts Center," Marsha explained. Darrell asked her to try out for a part in an upcoming play, *Gypsy*. "I remember I was the front end of a cow during that performance, and I also helped choreograph a ballroom sequence, as well," she recalled.

In addition to choreography, Marsha offered her talents as the resident costumer for all of the productions at the Warehouse. "I did one or the other," Marsha stated. "I couldn't do both."

Soon, Darrell passed the title of choreographer on to Marsha. The first play she choreographed entirely on her own was the 1981-1982 season's performance of *The Sound of Music*. "Choreography is fun. You really just have to listen to the music, and it will tell you what to do," she explained.

"I just love stories like that — when there is a happy ending."

Her most challenging projects were the musicals *Anything Goes* and *42nd Street*. "I gave free tap lessons to anyone in the community that wanted to try out, and out of all the people who I taught, only one person tried out for a part," Marsha said with a grin. "So once we did build our cast, I had only six weeks to teach 25 new cast members how to tap dance."

After creating a wonderful life and a second family at the Warehouse Living Arts Center, Marsha turned in her choreographer's hat in 2007 with 36 musicals under her belt. She rounded her career out with the hit *Home to Roost*.

During her years as the choreographer for the Warehouse, Marsha and a colleague, Cran Dodds, formed a

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Lagomarsino graduated from the University of Texas at Austin, then went to work in Washington, D.C. for a federal prosecutor investigating a presidential cabinet member. He returned south to earn his law degree from Oklahoma City University School of Law, and began his legal career as an assistant district attorney with the Navarro County District Attorney's office in May 1999.

"While employed as an assistant district attorney, I gained vast practical knowledge of criminal law by prosecuting cases both at trial and on appeal," Lagomarsino said. "I also represented Child Protective Services in cases involving the safety and protection of children."

Lagomarsino was appointed to the position of municipal judge by Mayor C.L. "Buster" Brown III in December 2006, which necessitated his exit from the district attorney's office. He also runs a private law practice with an emphasis on estate planning and elder law. He is an adjunct instructor at Navarro College in the paralegal program. He and his family are active members of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, and James is a member of the Corsicana Lions Club. He is also an avid runner, and has participated in five marathons. Lagomarsino has been involved in the community since returning to Corsicana, serving on boards such as:

- * Viable Options in Community Endeavors (VOICE)
- * Warehouse Living Arts Center
- * Navarro County Historical Society
- * Child Welfare
- * Navarro County Child Advocacy Center

As municipal judge, Lagomarsino presides over Class C misdemeanors, and accepts pleas in court and at the Navarro County jail on a daily basis. He presides over both bench and jury trials. "A district judge is entrusted with deciding important issues regarding a person's life, liberty and family," he said. "In addition to experience, integrity is a crucial quality for a district judge. I am honest, hardworking and fair. I will follow the law as written, conduct myself in a manner where my neutrality is never questioned, make my rulings based on the law, and always remain professional."



Both James and his wife, Shannon, were born and raised in Navarro County. They are raising two sons, Logan Norch, age 13, and Aidan Lagomarsino, age 2 1/2, in the county where they grew up. Shannon works as a flight attendant for Delta Air Lines, a career she's had for 18 years. James' dad, Bill Lagomarsino, practiced ophthalmology in Navarro County for 30 years, and his mother, Linda Veldman, is also a longtime resident of Corsicana. Family is important, and the Lagomarsinos enjoy spending free time with all their extended family who reside in Navarro County.

Regarding the backlog of criminal cases, Lagomarsino maintains that an aggressive strategy must be implemented to expedite the cases through the docket. "Long hours of hard work will be required from the future district judge, prosecution, and defense counsel in order to create an efficient system for moving the docket without compromising justice," he said. "I am ready to put in the necessary hours and hard work to see that all cases are brought before the court in a fair and timely manner, and each case is treated individually, on its own merits."

"Please support me as I seek the position of district judge," Lagomarsino said. "I ask for your vote on November 4 in the General Election."

James

LAGOMARSINO

*** for ***

DISTRICT JUDGE

★ Former Navarro County Assistant District Attorney (1999-2006)

- Prosecuted Misdemeanor & Felony Cases
- Handled cases for Child Protective Services
- Drafted Appellate Briefs to Waco Court of Appeals and Court of Criminal Appeals

★ Municipal Judge for the City of Corsicana

- Preside over bench and jury trials
- Magistrate juveniles
- Issue protective orders in family violence cases

★ Private Law Practice

- Emphasis on estate planning and elder law

★ Community Leader

- V.O.I.C.E.
- Warehouse Living Arts Center
- Navarro County Historical Society
- Child Welfare Board
- Navarro County Child Advocacy Center
- Lions Club
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production company called Bravvo! Productions, holding huge auditions for college graduates in order to create the ideal cast for their productions. Bravvo! Productions operated from 1990 to 1999, giving the grads the opportunity to work in the performing arts sector while building their résumés. For nearly 10 years, they performed murder/mystery and musical review productions on an East to West Coast tour.



“I remember I was the front end of a COW during that performance, and I also helped choreograph a ballroom sequence, as well.”

Soon after Bravvo! Productions closed down, Marsha decided to stretch herself in yet another direction of the dance arena. Not only does she swing dance, which she learned at Arthur Murray’s Dance Studio in Dallas, she now includes tango, salsa, rumba, cha-cha, the Argentine Tango and the waltz, just to name a few from

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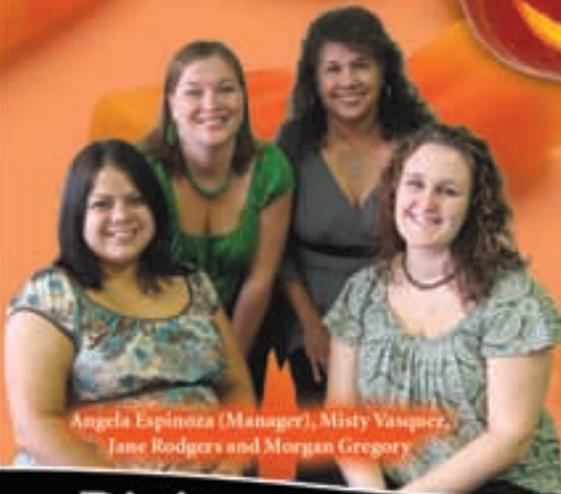


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her 10-dance repertoire. She also performs competitively.

From teaching sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders ballroom dancing, to now instructing brides and grooms and their families for their “first dance,” Marsha’s life has definitely seen some changes. Though perhaps not in the way she anticipated, this



“They honored me by allowing me to be the first person to dance on the stage. It was a pure delight.”

labor and delivey nurse has given her love and talents back to our community, gracing us with her beauty and presence both on the stage and behind the curtains. In fact, her talents and expertise are so sought after that when the Palace Theatre in Corsicana was undergoing renovation, the Palace board consulted with Marsha on the design and configuration of the stage flooring. “They honored me by allowing me to be the first person to dance on the stage. It was a pure delight,” Marsha said, gleaming with pride.

They say, “Don’t go through life with blinders on.” You never know what hidden path there is for you to take. There are always twists and turns hiding for all of us at every corner. **ARTS NOW**

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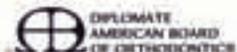
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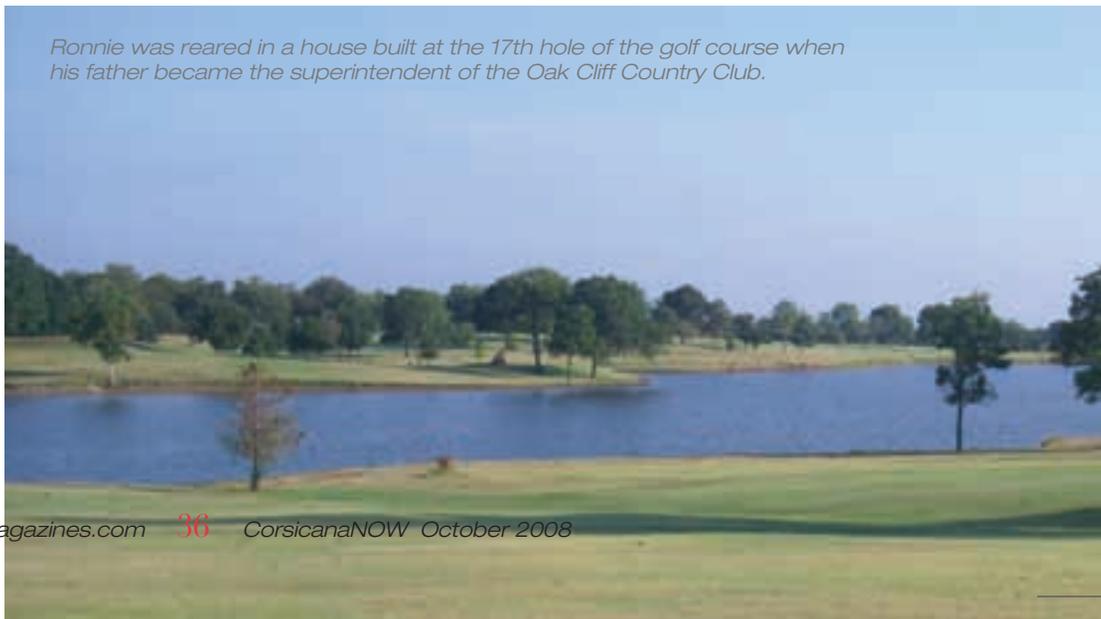
— By Joan Kilbourne

Ronnie Smith is both at home and at work on a golf course. He looks around the clubhouse and out the window at the fairway with a knowing glint in his eyes. "I've been doing this all my life," he said. Ronnie was reared in a house built at the 17th hole of the golf course when his father became the superintendent of the Oak Cliff Country Club. "The front yard was a putting green and the whole course was my playground," Ronnie remembered.

His father taught him to play golf, "as soon as I could stand up and hold a club." He cannot remember how old he was when he took his first swing at a golf ball, "but I don't remember not playing golf," he added.

While he was growing up, Ronnie and his father played together in local competitions with teams from other clubs. Unlike Tiger Woods, who was groomed for tournament play as a child, Ronnie followed his father's path.

Ronnie was reared in a house built at the 17th hole of the golf course when his father became the superintendent of the Oak Cliff Country Club.



**Sports
NOW**



“The front yard was a putting green and the whole course was my playground.”

When he was 13, he had a job working at the country club. As a young man, he played golf every day. His two brothers and three sisters also learned to play early. They fished for golf balls in the water hazards. Ronnie smiled as he reported he “never bought a golf ball in my life.” Living in a house in the middle of a golf course meant golf balls sailed through the windows from time to time. Ronnie remembers a family dinner one night when a ball smashed through the window and landed with a shower of glass on the table. His mother had to fix another



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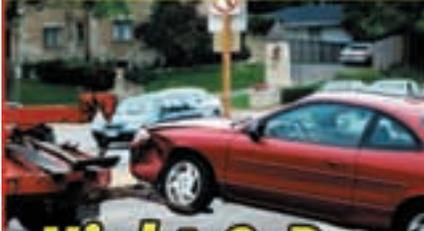
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Sports NOW

meal without broken glass. "She got used to it, I guess," Ronnie said. "They lived there for 30 years."

Hunting and fishing were also part of Ronnie's outdoor life. "Dallas was not so built up when I was growing up on the golf course. On Mondays, when the club was closed, we could shoot doves. Today, there are houses all around the course. I guess you could get arrested for shooting doves there now," he laughed. Houses are also being built all around the Corsicana Country Club, so when he has time, Ronnie hunts at San Saba and fishes in Richland Chambers Lake.



When his parents moved to Corsicana, they bought a farm south of Richland on Curry Road. At their urging, Ronnie bought 40 acres next to his parents' farm and began to work at the Corsicana Country Club. He shortened some golf clubs and taught his two daughters to play. Tiffanie played on the Wortham High School golf team. "She plays less often now that she is working and attending Texas A & M," he shared. Bobbie Jo attended Stephen F. Austin State University and is now an elementary school teacher in Nacogdoches. "I'm a grandfather now," Ronnie beamed. "Her baby, Cory, is 7 months old."

Ronnie's passion for golf is evident.

Sports
NOW

“The game is addictive. When you first start out, you can’t get enough. You want to keep lowering your score, so you can brag about it.” He believes anyone can learn to play at any age, but starting as a child gives players an advantage. There is some innate ability that top tournament players have, but “if you practice a lot, you can keep improving your game. It’s like learning to walk,” he said. For Ronnie, learning to walk and playing golf probably happened at the same time.

Some golfers work with a golf pro, who will watch them and tell them how to move better. Playing in a group also helps golfers improve their game. “It gives them a goal to beat someone else’s score. It can be frustrating to compete with yourself or with your group,” he explained. “Back in Dallas, I saw golfers break a club over their knee once in a while. I don’t see that happen much any more.” It could be that titanium club shafts discourage that kind of reaction.

Ronnie has been tending the golf course and maintaining the machinery at the country club for 26 years. He worked 10- to 12-hour days this summer when the greens were upgraded with new turf grass. “I only get to play golf once a week now.” A dog named Golf Ball, who resembles a red fox, follows him around the course. “He even climbs trees like a fox,” Ronnie stated, “when he chases after the birds.”

Asked whether he would take a job at a Master’s level course in another state or at a famous course in Scotland, Ronnie shook his head. “I like it here. I like the people I work with at this club, and I like my farm,” he said, with great pride. “I drive exactly 30 miles between the two places. I guess my life is a little boring.” When a man is happy where he lives, and works at what he has always wanted to do, he is not bored. He is content, and that makes him a fortunate man indeed. **NOW**

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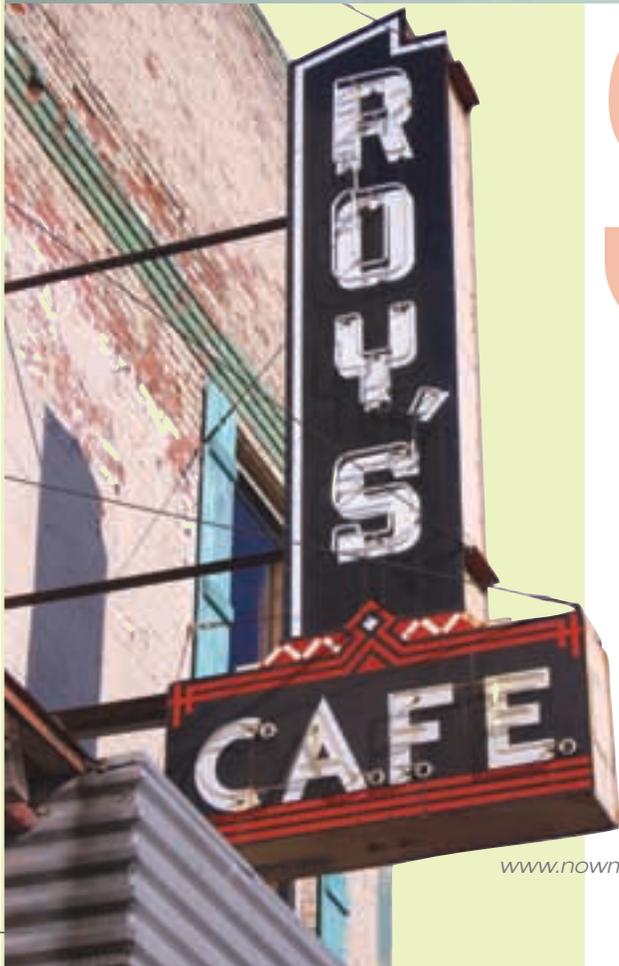
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Since its beginning in 1928 as the City Café, this local diner has definitely made a name for itself. Roy's Café, located in the heart of downtown Corsicana, is the oldest, continuously running food establishment in Navarro County.

Roy's Café first opened its doors as the City Café under the ownership of Buck Davis, who then turned ownership over to his daughter, Sue. In 1941, she sold the café to Roy Justice, who insisted the name, Roy's Café, be changed after he sold it in 1944. However, the name stuck, and has continued to remain the same, with a few slight alterations. Today, it operates under the name of Ricky Roy's Café, Inc., chosen once the new owners purchased it in 2000, but it is still known to its faithful patrons as simply Roy's Café.

The café is currently three doors south of its original location, but has proudly stood the test of time in its

current location since 1932. Evonne Blackwell, one of the current co-owners, is proud to say its heritage and traditions will continue to remain the same, with just a few additions.

The café is currently managed by Richelle Blackwell Perry, daughter of the owners, and Michele McGuyer. Until they sold the café in 2000, Michele and her husband, Vernon, had owned and operated Roy's Café since 1979.

It is quite obvious Richelle and Michele take great pride in their work and their colleagues. "It is like a big family down here," Michele said. "No one is more important than anyone else. The kitchen crew is just as important as the waitresses out front. Nothing can happen if we aren't all working together."

Evonne eagerly explained the new changes that recently occurred. All of the employees are now dressed in matching T-shirts with the Roy's Café

Business NOW

slogan: "Breakfast served all day." Even though the staff's look has changed, the premise on which Roy's Café was built definitely has not. They still serve breakfast and lunch, from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. "They seem to come to work with better attitudes, smiling faces, offering good service and great food, which have all been a secret to Roy's Café's success," Evonne explained.

"They seem to come to work with better attitudes, smiling faces, offering good service and great food, which have all been a secret to Roy's Café's success"

Some of the regular patrons' standing favorites include their famous chicken fried steak, bacon and eggs and many more. New favorites include cappuccinos, a mushroom burger, and the ever popular family recipe fried chicken.

Under the vision of Evonne, Ricky Roy's Café, Inc. has recently arranged to purchase the building next door, in order to expand their successful venture into an evening "hot spot" destination as well. Opening soon will be Roy's Back Porch Grill and Tavern, with hours of 4:00 p.m. to midnight and possibly all day on Sunday. The Back Porch will be a place to gather with friends and family for great food and conversation, "where you don't have to be a drinker to enjoy the tavern or sports bar atmosphere if you don't desire," Evonne explained.

Co-managers Richele and Michelle are very excited about the new addition. They hope it will bring more patrons back to downtown Corsicana, making it the desired destination it once was.

So, if you are looking for great food, a warm smile and good Southern cooking, stop by Roy's Café, located at 306 North Beaton Street, or call (903) 874-6791 if you want some fantastic food, but just do not have the time to wait. **NOW**

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Living Mathematically

— By Joan Kilbourne

Joanne Newton loves to teach. She has been teaching math for 30 years. “I always tell my class how much I love teaching them. I tell them how much I want them to learn,” she said, “and that learning math can be fun.” Students who have failed math in the past do not always believe the fun part. “They feel a lot of anxiety, and they need to see the possibility that they can succeed,” she continued.

Joanne earned her bachelor’s degree at Texas Tech and her master’s degree in education at North Texas University. Early in her career, she taught in a high school of privileged students and in another with under-prepared students. She believes the experience of teaching at both ends of the social spectrum prepared her to teach young people with a variety of needs. As a first-year teacher, she experienced a school evacuation while police conducted a weapons search. She has seen her students get arrested and has taught students who were on probation. “It isn’t like school was when I was in high school,” she added. She tells these stories in the calm manner of someone who handles such events with confidence now.

Coming to Corsicana in 1990 with her husband, Rick, when he became a coach at Corsicana High School, Joanne taught ninth-grade math at Collins Middle School before she began teaching at the high school level. Eager to talk about Rick’s accomplishments, she explained he came to Corsicana

to coach football and then basketball. He became assistant principal, and is now test coordinator for the district.

Joanne’s face lights up with pride when she speaks of her son, Corey. “He graduated this year from CHS as class salutatorian,” she shared. “He is a person who sets goals. When he entered ninth grade, he

told me he would graduate as valedictorian or salutatorian, and he did.”

It takes some coaxing to learn about Joanne’s achievements. In the past, she served as head of the math department. Eight years ago, she trained as a Master Teacher of Technology and began teaching Microsoft Office to 60 other teachers. Joanne



“Learning requires trust and respect which goes both ways: the students’ respect for my authority and my respect for them.”

is now the coordinator for Advanced Placement (AP) Testing for the district. As AP coordinator, she audits AP programs in district schools, monitors the class syllabus and manages the approval process when a school wants to add new AP classes. At year’s end, she arranges for and monitors the Advanced Placement tests for students seeking college credit.



Education NOW

Like any enthusiastic teacher, Joanne believes her most important accomplishments are the successes of her students. Undaunted by students who have trouble with math, Joanne offers good strategies and great pep talks. She believes "every child has the ability to learn, but they have to want to. In some classes and with some students I emphasize hands-on math.



"I tell them how much I want them to learn, and that learning math can be fun."

I have weaker students who work in a group with others who can help them. Taking time to find a way to make learning possible for a student in trouble is not giving in to them, as some people say. Learning requires trust and respect which goes both ways: the students' respect for my authority and my respect for them," she explained.

"When students ask me why they have to learn algebra," she added, "I try to show the relevance of math in their future careers and in their daily lives. Some students will pursue advanced education in design, engineering or computer science. I assure them that calculus helps them. For example, you need to make predictions in population movement so you know where to build malls. When making dolls, you use math to know which of your choices in materials, design and selling will

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Joanne throws out a challenge to students who are accustomed to calculators, hand-held computers and cash registers that figure out the correct amount of change. “I tell them, ‘What if your calculators and computers go down? Will you be standing around with the helpless people, or will you be one of the workers who can get the job done using your basic math skills?’” she questioned.

Students need to work hard to meet

“They will miss the camaraderie they find in class.”

Joanne’s high expectations. She knows they are not always motivated to do so. “I tell them, ‘You’ll be glad when this class is over, but you will not be glad that the class is over.’ What I mean is that they will be relieved of the need to do the work,” she said, “but they will miss the camaraderie they find in class.”

When asked what her interests are outside her math classes, she mentioned she does private tutoring four days a week for students in the third grade and up. Pressed to name some non-math-related hobby, Joanne said she does some cross-stitch and plans to sew for her new grandchild, but added, “I just love teaching math.” **NOW**

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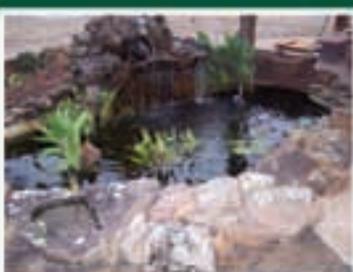


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Maxine Moore, top left, celebrated her birthday with a night on the town. Tommy Alverson, top center, provided the entertainment during the Pooch Paddle event. A ribbon cutting, top right, was held at Curves in Southland Center. Several people, second row right, enjoyed the Fajita Cook-off at the Fannie Mae Vernon Room. Paul Tunnehill, second row left, served as the master of ceremonies at the Fajita Cook-off. Doug Coursey and his mom, Dorinda, second row center left, spent an evening at Black Jack's. The Corsicana Country Club hosted a ribbon cutting, third row right, which included an after hours gathering. Hogan, one of Samantha Stroube's dogs, bottom left, took a dip in the pool during the Pooch Paddle, sponsored by the Corsicana Parks Department. Paul Hooper, bottom center, discovered that "exercise" at Curves is not a "sissy" workout. Several attendees, bottom right, smiled for the camera during the after hours event held at the Country Club.



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— By Faith Browning

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TACO SALAD

2 lbs. ground beef
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. black pepper
1 1/2 tsp. cayenne pepper
1/2 tsp. chili powder
1/2 tsp. garlic salt
1/2 tsp. lemon pepper
2 tsp. taco seasoning
Tostitos or tortilla chips
1 head lettuce, chopped
1/2 onion, chopped
2 tomatoes, chopped
2 cups cheddar cheese, grated
Brown beef; add dry seasonings. Simmer for 30 minutes drain. Place chips on a plate; add lettuce and then meat. Top with onions, tomatoes and cheese. Add sour cream, salsa and/or guacamole (optional).

CARNE GISADA

1 large round steak, cut into bite-size pieces
1 medium onion, chopped
4 Tbsp. oil
garlic to taste
2 to 3 jalapeños, chopped into small pieces
1 tsp. cumin
1/2 tsp. salt (optional)
1/2 tsp. pepper (optional)
2 14-oz. cans tomatoes

1 12-oz. can tomato sauce
Sauté steak and onions in oil until steak is light in color. Add garlic, jalapeños, cumin, salt and pepper to taste. Add tomatoes and tomato sauce; simmer 1 1/2 hours, stirring occasionally. Serve over rice with flour or corn tortillas. Add refried beans, and you have a whole meal.

MEXICAN RICE

2 cups long grain rice
1 1/2 tsp. oil
2 cubes chicken flavoring
1/2 tsp. cumin
1/2 tsp. garlic powder
1 6-oz. can tomato sauce
5 cups hot water
salt to taste
Brown rice in oil, until lightly browned. Add spices, tomato sauce and hot water; let come to a boil then reduce heat. Cover and simmer for about 30 minutes or until liquid has been absorbed.

GUACAMOLE SALAD (PICO DE GALLO)

2 large avocados, chopped
3 tomatoes, chopped
1/2 tsp. lemon juice
1/2 tsp. salt
1 large onion, chopped
1 bunch cilantro, chopped
2 fresh jalapeño peppers, chopped

Mix all ingredients together in a large bowl. Serve with tortilla chips or tacos.

MOM'S HOT SALSA

5 Serrano peppers, stems removed
3 tomatoes, coarsely chopped
1/2 tsp. salt
Put peppers in a hot skillet to grill. After 4 to 5 minutes, add tomatoes. Cover peppers and tomatoes with hot water; cook for about 8 minutes. Drain water; put in blender. Add salt; blend for about 3 seconds. Serve with tortilla chips.

MEXICAN WEDDING CAKE

CAKE:
2 cups sugar
2 cups flour
1 tsp. baking soda
1 18-oz. can crushed pineapples with juice
1/2 cup pecans, chopped
ICING:
1 large pkg. cream cheese
1/2 cup powdered sugar
1 tsp. vanilla
1/2 cup pecans, chopped
Combine all cake ingredients in a large bowl. Bake about 35 minutes at 350 F in a 9 x 13-inch pan. Prepare icing by mixing together cream cheese and powdered sugar; add vanilla and pecans. Spread on cake when it is cool.



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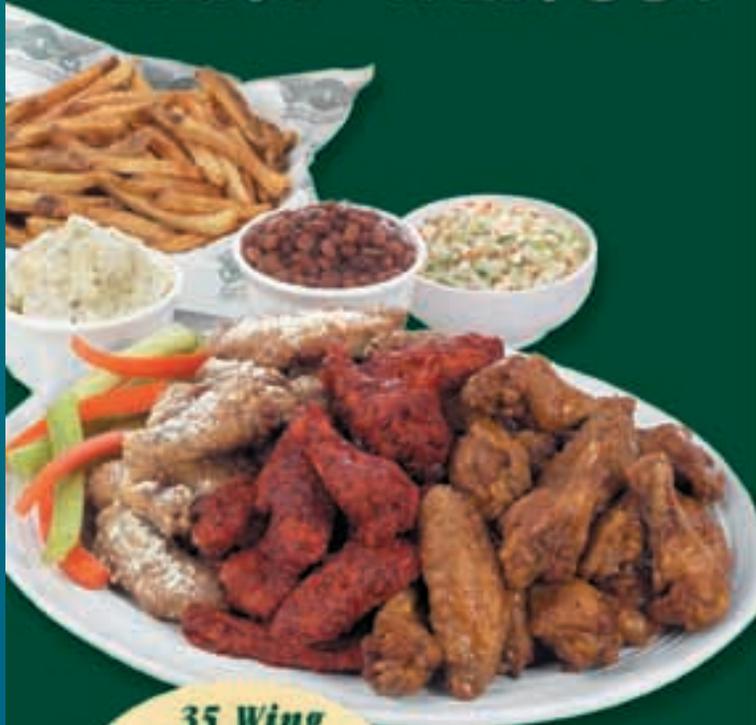


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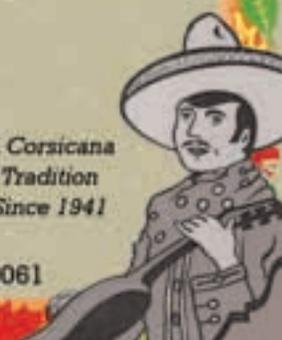


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— By Lynda Housley

Recent debates about Social Security and the increasing number of employers reducing or eliminating employee pensions have underscored the need for a sound retirement plan. Gone are the days when employees were guaranteed a percentage of their salaries once they leave a company. While Social Security may or may not change, it was never intended to be the sole source of retirement income.

Retirement planning is something everyone needs regardless of their existing situations. If the current financial debates tell us anything, it's this: The only funding you can count on is that which you do yourself.

Some of the options you have are individual retirement accounts (IRAs) or an employer-sponsored plan such as a 401(k). Contributions you make to a 401(k) can reduce your federal income tax burden and the contribution limits are higher than those of an IRA. Plans are available for any size

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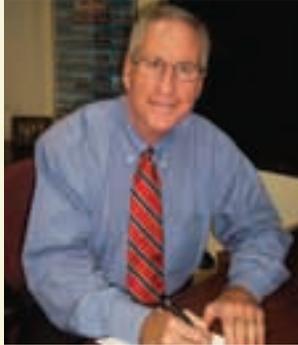
Contributions to Traditional IRAs may be income tax deductible. While Roth IRA contributions are not deductible, qualified distributions are received free from federal income taxes. An IRA is something you can set up with the help of a financial professional. There are a number of options available when choosing how you want to fund your IRA.

No one can be sure what the future holds in store. Making preparations for a number of possibilities can begin with careful planning. You can start by contacting a financial professional to discuss your goals and how to reach them. **NOW**

Lynda Housley is a State Farm agent based in Corsicana.

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Health
NOW

Understanding Head Lice

— By Joe Saucedo, D.O.

With the new school year starting, many kids are excited to get back to the classroom and play with friends. However, parents are not so enthusiastic about the possibility of their children being infected with head lice. Lice are tiny insects that live in the scalp and survive by sucking blood. While they can affect anyone, children are most at risk. In fact, one in every 10 children in a school setting is infected with head lice each year.

Head lice are contagious but do not spread disease. They spread in group settings such as schools, camps and playgrounds. Sharing anything that involves head-to-head contact, such as hats, brushes and bed linens is the most common way children are infected.

Head scratching and itching is the most common symptom of head lice. Your child may complain about irritation of the scalp. For some, a rash might appear, while others may notice small sores, red bumps or swelling of the lymph glands in the neck. In extreme cases, a bacterial infection can occur. If you suspect an infection, contact your child's physician for a prescription antibiotic.

Even though head lice are very small, they are still visible. Always check the scalp, neck and behind the ears. Lice eggs, known as nits, are found on the skin's surface closest to the

hair shafts. Eggs hatch after a week and lice survive up to three days. Check your child's scalp for eggs that resemble sesame seeds. Part the hair into small sections and use a fine-tooth comb to check for lice. Combing the head lice out is easiest when the hair is wet. If you're having trouble, use a bright light or a magnifying glass for better visibility.

To effectively treat lice, it is important that every affected person in a family, classroom or other group that shares close space, be treated at the same time. Medicated shampoos and creams are available with a prescription or over-the-counter. To avoid subsequent infections, repeat treatment in one week. Even if shampoo treatment works immediately, the itching and scratching may persist for a few days. Be sure to wash all clothing and bed linens with hot water and dry on the hot dryer cycle. Soak hair items such as barrettes, hair bands or brushes in

rubbing alcohol or shampoo for an hour.

It is important to check with your child's school to determine if other students have recently been infected with head lice.



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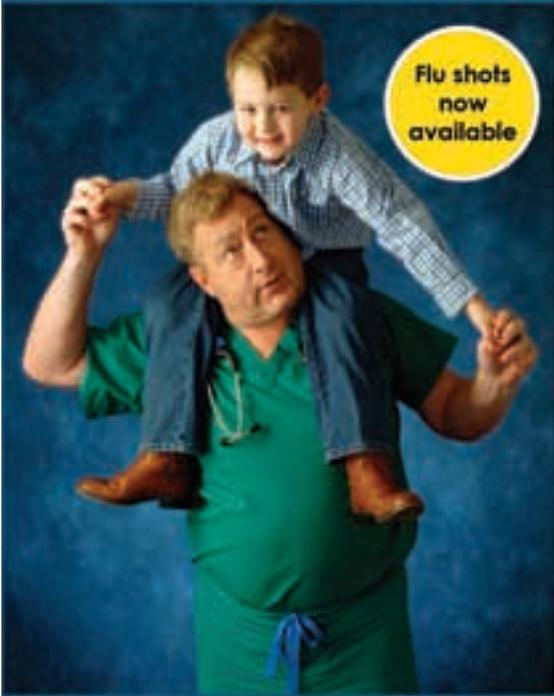
Health NOW

If your child has been infected, notify their school immediately so they can be aware if other infections occur. Children who are found to have head lice at school are generally sent home until the problem is corrected. In addition, a note will be sent home with the other children in the class or school, asking parents to watch their children closely and to immediately treat any problem that develops.

Remember, being infected with head lice does not mean your child has bad hygiene. Any child can be infected. To prevent head lice, teach children to avoid head-to-head contact and not to share items like brushes and hats. If your child is still infected two weeks after you have started treatment, notify your physician immediately for other treatment options. **NOW**

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October 2008 Community Calendar

October 3 - 4

Paint Historic Corsicana, sponsored by the Corsicana Art League. Check-in Friday, 8:00 a.m. at the Visitor's Center. Cost is \$15, which includes shirt. Paintings will be exhibited at The Art Spot at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday for reception, judging and sale. Paintings will then be on display at the Chamber of Commerce throughout October.

October 4

1940s Big Band Hangar Dance, a fundraiser for the USAAF Cadet Memorial, on the site of the Corsicana Army Air Field, Corsicana Municipal Airport. Tickets: \$20 in advance, \$25 at door. Dinner: 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Dancing: 6:30 - 10:30 p.m. Call in advance for information or tickets. (903) 654-4947.

October 6 - 10

30th Annual October Arts Festival: Passport to the World. Presented by the Navarro Council of the Arts for all Navarro County third- and fourth-graders.

October 6 - 28

30th Annual Quilt Show at the Warehouse Living

Arts Center Gallery. Monday - Friday 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Navarro Council of the Arts and the Corsicana Piecemaker's Quilt Guild.

October 9

Navarro College SBDC's "How to Start a Small Business" free workshop, 10:00 a.m. - noon, Corsicana/Navarro County Chamber of Commerce conference room, 120 N. 12th St. To register, call (903) 875-7667 or e-mail ophelia.mendoza@navarrocollege.edu.

October 16

Chamber of Commerce 2008 Membership Reception & Fundraiser
The 3rd Annual Chamber Member Reception, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m., Navarro College Cook Education Center. The theme is "Oktoberfest" and German delicacies and spirits will be the fare for the evening. This event is also a fundraiser for the Chamber featuring an extensive array of silent and live auction items with Auctioneer David Hodge. Cost: \$15 per person. To make reservations, contact the Chamber of Commerce at chamber@corsicana.org or (903) 874-4731.

October 18

Kerens Cotton Harvest Festival, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m., downtown Kerens. (903) 396-2665.

October 23

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

October 31

Downtown Trick-or-Treat, 3:00 - 5:30 p.m., co-sponsored by Corsicana Main Street Project and Corsicana Parks and Recreation. Costume pictures in Pocket Park with two 4x6 photos for \$12, bicycle giveaway, Halloween music by DJ Slick D, pet costume contest and pet pictures, face painting and a Haunted House at Art Spot. Call (903) 654-4851 or (903) 654-4874.

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

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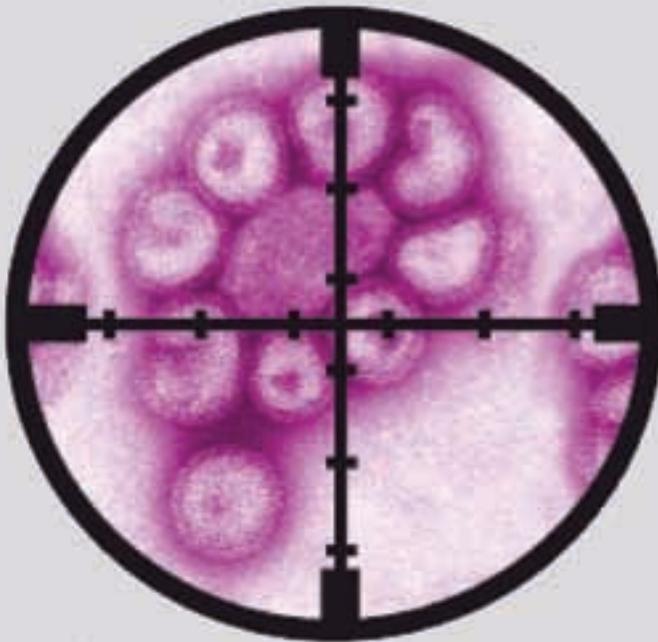
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