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January 2009

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125 Sweetwater Trail, Sweetwater Ranch
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307 Tonkawa Trail, Arrowhead
East facing & sitting at the mouth of a large cove! 4/3.5/2 home with 3 living areas, 1.2 acres of space & single slip boat house. Gated subdivision.
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8513 Wilkie Way, Plettenberg Bay
Beautiful 4/3.5/2 on 1.7 waterfront acres. Sits on a large cove & offers big views, secluded location! **\$445,000**



15300 Sapphire Lane, Azure Bay
Waterfront 3/2.2/1 with 2 living areas. Rustic design, lots of space, ret. wall & boathouse. **\$398,900**



14003 Whatley Drive
Awesome 3 bed, 2 bath, 2 car garage home, appx 1760 sq ft, retaining wall & boathouse. Unbelievable price!
\$285,000



3003 Rock Rd, Hidden Oaks
Awesome 3/2/2 waterfront home on a protected cove. Wood deck, heavily treed & more!
\$275,000



Lot 24 Tourmoline, Azure Bay
Stunning views from this 0.58 acre home site! Site built homes only, and this property has the retaining wall and boathouse in place! **\$159,000**



The Woods at Richland Chambers
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Chambers Landing
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725 El Barco - Fabulous 4/3 water front home with 2 master suites! 10% discount off purchase price until house is completed!
Call John - 903-641-3359.



418 Clubhouse Dr - Spectacular 4/3.5 stone two-story home in The Shores. New construction with beautiful landscaping!
Call John - 903-641-3359.

CHAMBERS LANDING

Lot 7 - awesome view from this .89 acre lot in one of the newest subdivisions on RC Lake!

GRANDVIEW ESTATES

Lot 33 - water front lot in this prestigious gated subdivision. Features retaining wall, nice trees and open water view!

THE SHORES

Lots 242 & 246 - fabulous waterfront lots with wonderful trees & water frontage.

SWEETWATER RANCH II

Lot 31 - beautiful 1.5 acre cove lot with great trees & elbow room! Wonderful home site with view straight down cove to lake!



6857 SWCR 0021 - Great investment property! 3 mf homes on 10.75 acres, 2 as occupied rentals! Main home is 2008 like new. Call John at 903-641-3359.



1523 Columbia - 2/1 remodeled in 2006 w/new wiring, plumbing & roof. Move in Ready!
Call Devin at 903-875-4878.



1812 Sycamore Ave - Great income producing rental! Cute 2/1 home w/ wood floors, breakfast nook & full sized laundry room!
Call Julie at 903-654-3970.



1800 Sycamore Ave - Fabulous 3/2 home on corner lot! 2 living areas & 2 dining areas! Tons of living space w/ nice sized backyard! Call Julie at 903-654-3970.



5613 FM 744 - 3/2 home on 2.5 fenced acres near town! Open concept, ceramic tile, new appliances & in-ground pool. Call Karen at 903-641-9998.



1264 E Main - Well kept building set up as vet clinic in Gun Barrel City, 2 concrete drives, parking, and 24x30 storage building.
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800 W 7th Ave - Perfect location for your business on busy 7th Ave. 2,400 sq ft metal building with 4 offices and overhead door.
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105 S Beaton - Once in a lifetime restaurant dream business in historic downtown Corsicana! Fully functional & operating!
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2207 13th - great investment property! 3/2 with recent carpet. Motivated seller!
Call Pedro at 903-388-7660.



000 SE CR 3105 - Over 6 acres in MISD! Fenced with pond, pretty trees and great building site! Call Julie at 903-654-3970.



3120 Interurban Blvd - Too cute completely remodeled 2/1 on 3 large lots w/ fenced backyard and 5 out buildings!
Call Julie at 903-654-3970.



732 W 10th Ave - Cute, cute 3/1 bungalow on almost 1 acre! Separate office/workshop with electricity. One owner!
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504 N Milam Ave - Precious 3/1.5 cottage w/large laundry, 2 living areas & formal dining. Workshop and storage on fenced lot. Call Julie at 903-654-3970.



910 S 18th - great older 3/2 home with easy access to school & business. Spacious rooms, storage & deck.
Call Pedro at 903-388-7660.



400 Forest Lane - 3/2 brick home on corner lot with new carpet, fresh paint, brick fire place, and more! Jacuzzi and pool in backyard!
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928 SE CR 2240 - 4/2 in great location on over 6 acres. Storm cellar, fruit trees, workshop/shed, 40 ft. round pen and more!
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2129 NW CR 2060 - 4/2 brick home on 9.9 acres. Comfortable country living close to town. Fenced for livestock.
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102 FM 2859 - 3/2/1 on 2.5 acres in MISD! Completely remodeled while in baths, new carpet & stainless steel appliances.
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Contents

January 2009, Volume 6, Issue 1

6



Have No Fear, Tax Help is Here

12



A Historical Dwelling

At Home With John and Belinda Taylor

20

ArtsNOW
Start by Drawing
a Chicken

26

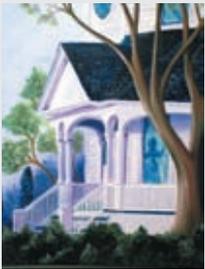
SportsNOW
Coaching for Life,
Learning and
Leisure

32

BusinessNOW
Across the Border
Brought to You

34

EducationNOW
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With Specific Gifts



*On the Cover:
One of Tracy Abel's beautiful
works of art.*

Photo by Terri Ozymy.

38 Around TownNOW

46 FinanceNOW

40 Who's CookingNOW

48 HealthNOW

42 Dining Guide

50 OutdoorsNOW

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Corsicana
The Community Magazine
Serving Corsicana and
the Surrounding Area
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MAGAZINE

Editor's Note

Hello Corsicana and Navarro County!

You only *thought* things would slow down after the holidays! There are a lot of activities going on around the community, and many great organizations are needing your assistance.

VOICE is hosting their annual men's luncheon at the Cook Center on January 25. The Corsicana Education Foundation is hosting a spaghetti supper to kickoff their annual fundraising drive on January 26 at the Corsicana High School Commons.

Remember that tax season is not too far away, so VITA is available (see our main feature) on January 17. Training will begin on that day.

Do not forget to check out our calendar for activities going on around town and details on all events. If you have a great idea for a story or feature and want to see it in print, please feel free to contact me.

Wishing you love and kindness always,

Samantha Daviss

CorsicanaNOW Editor

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Cathy Scott, George Burrell and Stuart Schoppert are ready to assist Navarro County residents file their taxes.

Have No Fear, Tax Help is Here

— By Joan Kilbourne



January has arrived. Income tax forms are in the mail and on display at the library. Fortunately, the residents of Navarro County have a friendly place to go for help in filing a tax return. Site Coordinator George Burrell said, “This is the second year that the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program will offer free income tax preparation help.” VITA is an Internal Revenue Service supported organization designed to assure that families who are eligible for the Earned Income Credit and whose income is below \$42,000 are able to file. The service is also designed for seniors to get whatever help they need to file a tax return. Trained and certified volunteers are available to prepare the forms and send them electronically to the IRS.

Four years ago, Mayor Buster Brown invited Stuart Schoppert, manager of Workforce Solutions, and others to a meeting with an IRS representative who reported that too many people who were eligible for an Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) were failing to claim payments they were entitled to receive. The IRS wanted to see a VITA site open in Corsicana. The site would provide an important service to area residents and it would also benefit the city and county. For each dollar a resident receives as an EITC payment, the city and county benefit in dollars spent locally.

Stuart was aware of the problem because he spent time advising clients seeking employment through the Workforce program. "Workforce is like Match.com," Stuart smiled, "only we make connections between job seekers and employers." With his background in income tax preparation, Stuart helped many job seekers learn about their rights to benefits. "Many of our clients are eligible for EITC payments, but they don't know how to

"This is the second year that the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program will offer free income tax preparation help."

apply for them," he added, giving an example of a client, a single mother, who learned that she was eligible to receive her EITC payment in her monthly paychecks instead of waiting for a rebate at the end of the year.

Pat Spiller, who was director of the library at that time, shared her concern about the closing of the AARP free tax preparation program for the elderly. "People came to the library and were very upset that they had no help to file their tax returns," she explained. Pat offered space at the library and computers to support a new service. Stuart set out to secure funding and volunteers to prepare the tax forms. He was able to collect start-up funding through the fund managers at Community National Bank and from the United Way organization. "That first year, four people worked one day a week at the library," Stuart said. "They prepared 45 or 50 tax returns. We knew it was not enough, but we planned to get out more publicity for the next tax season."

Cathy Scott, an accounting instructor at Navarro College, worked from the beginning of the program to provide a place to train VITA volunteers for the certification testing. She encouraged



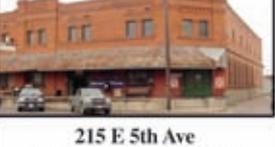
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<p>POOL</p>  <p>2205 Dartmouth This attractive home has many updates & qualities that give great satisfaction to the eye! Near cities & floorplan—you'll love the master bedrooms with considerable amount of built-ins in the master bath. Private back yard with game pool, large wood deck, and cool outdoor kitchen area! Come see!</p>	 <p>746 SE County Road Wonderful lake view log home with open kitchen/den/dining concept & WBFP.</p>	<p>New Listing</p>  <p>2308 Madison Without question a pleasing 3/2 with its new remodeling! Great qualities - hardwood & tile floors, sharp kitchen - new appliances - attractive colors - woodburning fireplace! View on LindsayGKing.Com</p>
 <p>1701 Woodlawn Beautiful 2,100 sq. ft. 3/2 with bonus room and bath! Located in a charming area of Corsicana.</p>	<p>FOR LEASE</p>  <p>Beaton Street Lofts What fabulous new lofts in downtown Corsicana! Luxury and elegance, to say the least.</p>	 <p>1600 N Beaton St 1.5 acs., 2 bedrooms, 2 bath residence on N. Beaton Street next door to Northland Cable & K&ND Radio station. Home can be upgraded for use as rental property, residence, or office. Best property one could find for commercial, taking advantage of acreage and high traffic exposure. Home can easily be converted into office with plenty of room for parking, additional buildings, etc.</p>
 <p>701 W 7th Ave Beautifully restored two-story house that is now photography business. Much can be done into the remodeling with wood and tile flooring, and cement wall treatment and colors. Nice kitchen with modern granite, beautiful formal dining room and entryway. 3 bedrooms has four large bedrooms and two baths. Outdoors you will find great landscaping and walkways, and a separate 1-1 apartment with "rental" income! This is great property for professional!</p>	 <p>118 W 5th Ave Historic brick building in very good condition. Has two storefronts and is located on one of the leading historic brick street entrances to Corsicana. Property has front street parking and rear private parking spaces. Separate front entrance leads to upstairs area which could be remodeled into offices or loft apartments.</p>	 <p>810 7th St Metal shop with high ceilings and skylights. Two large doors to accommodate taller equipment. Building has 20 x 30 office with large storage area. Outside is 16 x 34 open bay area. Also includes two other parcels for a total of .77 acres, which border on 12th Ave, 13th Ave, and 8th St. Four points of entry-exit.</p>
 <p>7.49 Ac — W Hwy 31 Great land for commercial or retail use.</p>	 <p>37 Ac — West of Corsicana Great tract for possible commercial or multi-family use.</p>	 <p>215 E 5th Ave Historic warehouse-office downtown Corsicana. Beautiful brick architecture, ornate doors, interior woodwork. Excellent building for restaurant, furniture, antiques, etc. Large loading dock facing historic brick street.</p>



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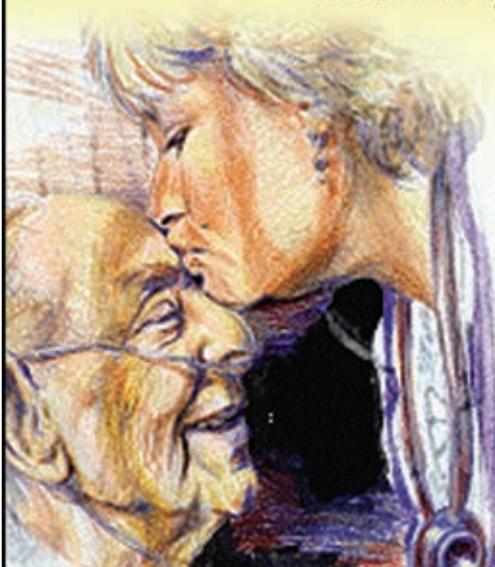
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the college to offer credit to her students who volunteered. All of the tax preparers must be re-certified each year to ensure that they have current knowledge of the changes in the tax laws. Trainees use the college computers to take the certification test that is offered in three levels — beginner, intermediate and advanced. This year, the training is scheduled for January 17.

Stuart knew more people would



know about the program the next year and that he would need to locate more volunteers, as well as a more spacious location. The YMCA offered office space and, in 2007, Corsicana boasted an official VITA site. The IRS provided computers, software and an IRS agent to supervise the program and assure that the volunteers were well prepared and certified.

As one of the first four volunteers, George offered to act as coordinator of the VITA site. George worked for 25 years as a computer analyst in Houston. When he moved to Corsicana 14 years ago, he taught math classes at Alpha Center and the Lee Academy. "I retired a second time and now I just volunteer at the Boys and Girls Club and the Northside Baptist Care Center. Oh, yes," he remembered, "and I serve on the boards of the United Way, the Chamber of Commerce, the NAACP organization and the Martin Luther King Center."

It's Going to Be a Great Year

WE MAKE TAXES LESS TAXING!!



Evonne Blackwell
Certified Public Accountant



Vicky Croom
Tax Manager



Ryan Douglas
Tax Preparer

New hours for fast electronic filing and refund checks beginning January 15, 2009:

Monday - Friday	12:00 Noon to 5:30
Saturday	9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

The first day the Internal Revenue Service will accept electronically filed tax returns is January 16, 2009.

2009 Deadlines to Remember:

The deadline to have your W-2s and 1099s to recipients is February 2, 2009.

W-2s must be mailed to the Social Security Administration by March 2, 2009.

1099s must be mailed to the Internal Revenue Service by March 2, 2009.

Your last estimated tax payment for 2008, for those of you who pay quarterly, is January 15, 2009

Information Checklist:

A lot of our clients ask, "What do I need to bring for my tax preparation?" We have available in our office an Information Checklist that can be very helpful in answering this question. Just call and ask for a copy or stop by to get one.

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Obviously, George is one of today's new working retirees. He is proud of the accomplishments of the tax service. "Last year, we met a new group of people who do not usually file tax returns because it was necessary that even non-taxpayers file a form to receive the stimulus check that Congress had authorized," he stated. "We did a total of 317 tax returns that year."

As the VITA site coordinator, George's job is to locate and supervise the 12 to 15 volunteers he needs to staff the office. "I already have 10 volunteers who worked last year signed up to be on hand for this 2008 tax year," he said. "They really enjoyed meeting people." He is looking for additional volunteers who will act as greeters and tax preparers. The greeters meet people as they arrive at the VITA office in the YMCA. "Greeters provide information about the paperwork that will be required so that clients will have everything they need when they meet with a tax preparer. There are three tax preparers on duty each day so that there is seldom a long waiting time."

Each client gets a printed copy of his or her return and the return is sent electronically to the IRS. This ensures a quick and secure transfer of information and a quick return. When the VITA program closes on April 15, the data from the computers is erased and the computers are sent back to the IRS office. This insures that records are kept confidential.

Mayor Brown and other community leaders continue to support the VITA site. Free tax preparation service is available for individuals and families with incomes under \$42,000 who are eligible for EIC payment and for seniors. Stuart pointed out, "Last year, we helped people get \$36,500 in EITC payments and \$64,235 in returns. We also filed approximately \$115,200 in stimulus checks. That means something like \$200,000 or more added to the economy in Navarro County. It's a good program. I hope even more people learn about VITA and come in this year." **NOW**

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At Home With
John and Belinda Taylor



A Historical Dwelling

— By *Samantha Daviss*

Driving up to the home of John and Belinda Taylor, it looks similar to all the other homes on the street — well-kept and pristinely manicured. It was obviously built in the 1950s, with recognizable brickwork and architectural designs common in homes from that era. However, the house boasts one feature that none of the others on the street offer, a replica of the original gas-burning lantern in the front yard. “It looks just like the original. In fact, parts of it are from the original,

but when a tree fell on it during a storm John's father had to replace some parts of it," Belinda explained.

In the 1950s, this particular part of Corsicana was known as the Gas Light District, and every single home on the street had these beautiful iron lanterns in the front yards, casting a soft glow from one end of the street to the other. It almost looked as if someone had poked holes in the night. After time,

In the 1950s, this particular part of Corsicana was known as the Gas Light District, and every single home on the street had these beautiful iron lanterns in the front yards, casting a soft glow from one end of the street to the other.

most of the homeowners took their lanterns down for expense or maintenance purposes. However, John's father, lovingly known as Big John or Pa, insisted that his lantern stay. As a silent promise to Big John, who passed away two years ago, John has kept the lantern burning.

Big John and his wife, Margaret Jackson Taylor, built the house in 1957 to suit their needs and their family lifestyle. Following the births of their two children, Amy and John (born in 1962 and 1964 respectively), Margaret realized that the house needed to be enlarged. "In 1966, it was remodeled to its current size of just over 2,400 square feet with the addition of the back bedroom for John as a young boy," Belinda pointed out.

During the remodeling of the home, the Taylors moved in with Margaret's mother. An unfortunate turn of events occurred during a party that Christmas season, when Margaret passed away unexpectedly, leaving Big John and the children to move back into the

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home without her. "They never felt without their mother though. Her touch could be seen throughout the house," Belinda said, recalling stories her husband told.

Over the next four decades, Big John, his two children and his new wife, Jane Dunn Taylor, whom he wed in 1981 when John was 17 years old, built many happy memories there. In

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fact, their most memorable holiday was always Christmas Eve dinner. "Everyone always went to church and then came over here for Christmas Eve dinner," Belinda explained.

After moving in, Jane made a few modifications to the house — just minor remodeling touches. Having been friends with Margaret, she was sure to leave Margaret's touches of



love and decor around the home. “It was as if Jane enhanced or added on to Margaret’s style rather than changing it completely,” Belinda said.

Then in 2006, Big John passed away. His one wish was for his son, daughter-in-law, Belinda, and their son, Jackson, to move into the home and keep the Taylor family memories alive.

The couple acquired the home in



2006, and began a bit of remodeling. They did not officially move into the home until November 2007. After they moved into the house, Jackson received nightly visits from a friend. “When Big John was alive, we would come over every Monday afternoon so Jackson could see him,” Belinda explained, “and soon after we moved in, Jackson couldn’t sleep through the

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night, because he said there was a man in his room.” After a few reoccurring visits, Jackson finally slept through the night. He told his parents, “It was Pa; he was just coming to check on us, and now he knows we are all OK.” Soon after that, Jackson was comfortable in his room, feeling safe knowing his Pa was looking over him.

During their remodeling, Belinda followed Jane’s lead by making some changes decoratively and structurally, but still respecting the choices Margaret and Jane made. “It is like the three women built on each other’s ideas rather than completely redoing everything the one before us had done,” Belinda explained. “We moved in almost one year after Big John’s death.”

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The one object or central focus of the house that was never touched or changed by the three Taylor wives was the fireplace. Big John used to come home from a hard day's work, sit in his leather chair and have a cocktail, and his son wanted that memory to live on through the generations.

Not only does the house itself hold a lot of memories between the brick and mortar, but the furniture holds many as well. Almost every piece of furniture in the house was passed down to them from one family member or another. The only pieces they have purchased together in their 10 years of marriage are the dining room table, a couch and television sets.

The armoire, where Belinda houses



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her fine dining wear, used to be John's great-uncle's apothecary desk. "Great-uncle Dr. Kelton used to write his prescriptions on the fold down felt desk, and keep all of his medicines in the cabinet," Belinda said, pointing to the beautiful piece that now stands in her dining room.

Another special piece is the guest bed in the front room; it was John's

grandmother's bed. It is a full-sized bed, but shorter than the beds of today. "We actually had to call Corsicana Bedding Company to make a special mattress to fit this bed," Belinda said with a grin. "Another item in this room that holds special meaning is the clock that Big John gave us when we got married. When it is time for Jackson to get married, we will give it

to him for a wedding gift, making it a fifth-generation heirloom."

John and Belinda both lost their mothers at a very young age. "That is one of the things that brought us together — that common bond we had with the loss of our moms," she said. So to honor their mothers, the couple has placed various items all over their home, especially in their bathroom, to remind them of their moms. On the counter is John's mother's perfume set, and the open-front cabinet holds Belinda's mother's perfume set, plus other various silver trinkets. "We just like to keep these things out to see every day, to remind us of our moms," Belinda shared.

Aside from all the beautiful antiques and collections throughout the house, the Taylors have definitely been able to make their mark on this home of family traditions. It is the type of home you feel you can walk into, kick your shoes off by the front door and stay awhile. **NOW**

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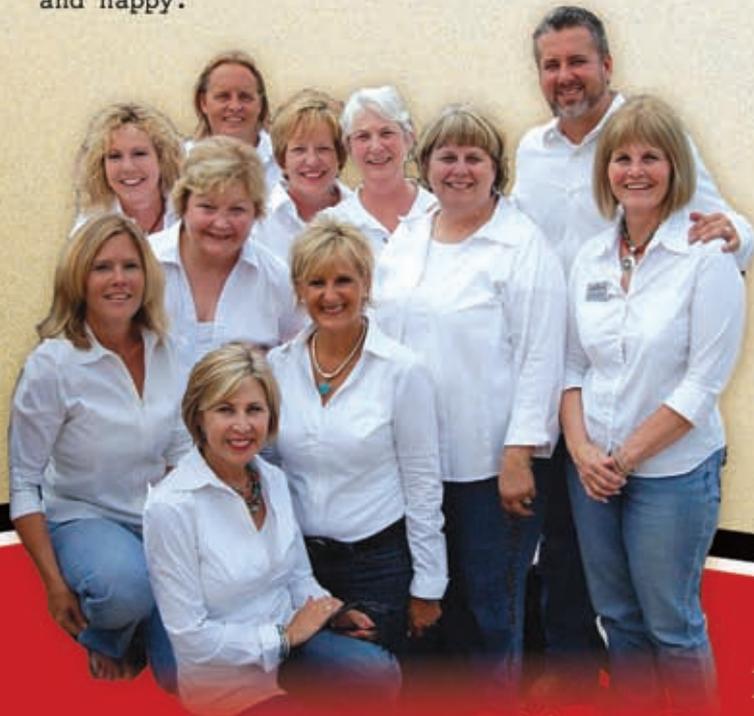
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Start by Drawing a Chicken

— By Joan Kilbourne

A lifelong passion for creating art can begin with something as simple as a grandmother showing her granddaughter how to draw a chicken. Tracey Abel has been an art teacher at Corsicana High School (CHS) for 15 years, but she learned as a child. “If you draw two circles and add feet and a beak you can make a chicken,” she laughed. Tracy is now a recognized artist who exhibited and sold her work earlier this year at The Warehouse. She has also shown her paintings, photos and ceramics at galleries in Dallas and Addison. Some of her work is even displayed locally in Dr. Petty’s office. Tracey demonstrated her creative abilities at an early age. She recalled, “My sister and I thought coloring books were boring so we drew our own books and colored them. We used cardboard boxes to make our own Barbie houses. We used magazine pictures to decorate the inside and we built and painted Styrofoam™ furniture.” Tracey enjoyed sewing and decorating as well. “I often wonder why the desire to create art is so compelling,” she mused. “There’s a built-in awareness of design and color, even in clothing. It’s really a part of me.”

Tracey recognized that her mother made sacrifices to be sure her two daughters had lessons in the creative arts. “I went to a different school for every grade because we moved around,” Tracey reminisced, “but my mother always made sure each school offered classes in music and art. I played violin when I was 7, and I took tap dance lessons.”

Tracey’s passion for teaching also made an early appearance. She smiled as she remembered how, when she was 6 or 7

years old, a teacher wrote on her report card, "Needs to stay in seat and do own work." "I guess I was showing other kids how to do things," Tracey explained. "I knew I wanted to be a teacher when I was very young. My



“For me, teaching is not a job; it is just what I do.”

cousin was a teacher and my model. For me, teaching is not a job; it is just what I do.”

After graduating from Stephen F. Austin State University with a degree in advertising design, Tracey worked for a time in commercial art. However, she soon turned to teaching. After five years at Drane Middle School, she took the position she currently enjoys at CHS. During the recent remodeling of the school, Tracey was able to design the layout and the look of the art rooms. Her work and the work of her students fills the space with signs of creative energy. She directed attention to the artwork on the walls and tables. “I don’t have discipline problems in



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my art classes," she stated. "The students like to be here. They can relax after the rigor of other academic classes. They can move about the room. They see their work displayed and feel successful."

Tracey meets with some of her students in the art club twice a month. The Creative Minds Society visits art galleries in Ennis and Waxahachie to



enjoy and learn from the work of other artists. "I am excited to see that a new gallery is opening in Corsicana," she enthused, "and I encourage students to see it." Tracey wants the students "to see the world in a different way, to appreciate art and people and the environment. They need to notice things and be willing to take the time and make the effort that creating requires." She also talks to her students

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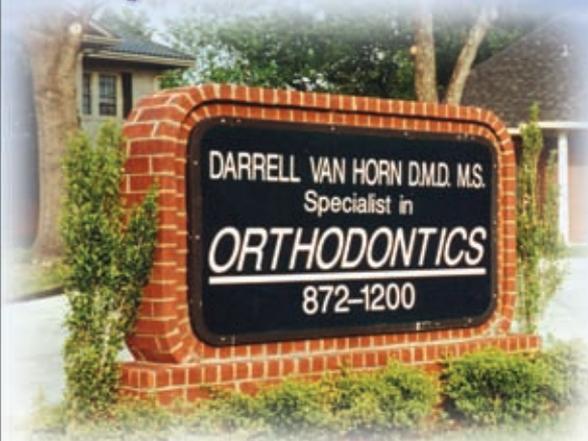
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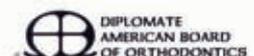
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about careers for artists. "There is so much going on now in digital art, computer graphics, animation and Web design," she added.

She also teaches an art appreciation class on Saturdays at Navarro College in addition to her duties at the high school. Teachers tend to be ongoing learners themselves and two years ago Tracey entered a master's degree program at Dallas Baptist University. "Going back to school is exhilarating," she said. "I brought what I was doing in my master class to my students to show them something new." In the



future, she plans to pursue a Ph.D. in art history with a specialization in pre-Columbian art. Tracey believes that as the population of Americans who come from Spanish-speaking countries grows, there will be a new appreciation for Mayan, Incan and Peruvian art. "I would like to teach in that area at a university," she said.

Busy now with teaching, spending time with her two sons and helping her husband in his business, Tracey looks forward to a time when she can focus more on her art. Until she moved away, Elise Johnson was a fellow teacher and the friend Tracey calls her cheerleader. "Elise encouraged me to show more in galleries," she said. "I want to design a Web site to show my work, and I think about opening a gallery with a workshop for people to create their own ceramic projects. I'm so lucky to be doing work I love." **NOW**



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Coaching for Life, Learning and Leisure

— By Joan Kilbourne

Like many accomplished golfers, Mark Moore began to play golf at an early age. He was 8 years old when his father, a school principal in Amarillo, took him to a golf course. Mark developed as an athlete, playing in many sports until his sophomore year in high school, when he began to focus on improving his golf skills. Two short years later, his golf game had improved to the point where he was awarded a scholarship to the University of North Texas. “Golf is the most American sport,” Mark said. “You do battle with the course and with yourself. You alone are the one who did well or not.”

He played in high school tournaments that, Mark believes, “teach you how to play under pressure. The competition makes you play better.” He had to smile when he added, “Maybe that’s because you know your score will be on the board for people to see.”

One highlight of those early days was the tournament in which he was paired with Nancy Lopez, who later became a successful golfer in the Ladies Professional Golf Association. “She beat me,” Mark remembered. “I hit the ball further every time, but she beat me every putt.” In another partnership tournament he played in 1973, Mark won the Texas State

Junior Championship.

Did he ever dream of playing professional golf? "If you play well, you dream of being a professional golfer. You watch pro players do things you know you can do," he explained. "The difference is consistency. If you're not on the pro tours by your early 20s, you know you will probably not compete with those who are. You know they have something more."

Mark was a teacher and coach for 18 years in Lancaster and became a school

"You do battle with the course and with yourself. You alone are the one who did well or not."

administrator for another three years. When he was offered an opportunity to come to Corsicana High School (CHS) to teach and coach the golf teams, Mark was eager to relocate. "The kids in Corsicana are fantastic," he said. He soon discovered that "there are good values in this town." During his first year working at CHS, Mark's father passed away and he appreciated how Principal Keith Moore "gave me the time I needed, and how everyone at the high school was just wonderful to me."

There are nine girls and 15 boys on the CHS golf teams. They play seven tournaments a year and another district tournament. Student golfers play from Tuesday through Friday on the country club course. They do conditioning exercises at the YMCA on Monday when the country club is closed. "It's a great thing what the country club does to encourage young golfers," Mark said. "We try to pay back when the team goes out in the rough to hit balls back onto the course. It isn't much, but it shows how we appreciate the



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community working with our students.”

Mark is optimistic about the performance of the teams. “We are on the road to improvement,” he said. He pointed out that the team is mostly freshman and sophomore students, some of whom have never held a club. “We are building a team right now,” he added.



Along with his coaching assignment, Mark teaches history and social studies. “I really like the diversity in Corsicana High School, especially in my department,” he noted. “The staff has intellectual vigor. They have differing points of view, but they are accepting of one another. They show respect for one another’s opinions.” In this respect, the faculty models what they try to teach students about listening to different points of view and asking questions that challenge what they hear. “I ask students why they think what they think. Where did they get their information? I encourage them to visit the Internet; get different points of view and report their conclusions,” he said.

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Mark learned a great deal about teaching from a college professor, Bullitt Lowry. "I used to think up questions to challenge him. I had to do research and think through things so I could ask hard questions. Later, I realized I was doing what he wanted; I was learning to question and think," Mark observed. "Social studies lends itself to learning how people react to



situations. It is the small things people do that turn history around.

"For some young people, history is limited to what [they] did on Friday night. I need to probe to find a way to relate what they know to what they need to learn." Mark tells students, "I can't make you learn. You will learn when you want to know something."

Mark continues to play golf, "but not so well as before." What does such a busy man do with leisure time? "I have a place on Lake Fork where I fish for bass. I read a lot and, sometimes, I write short stories, poetry and commentaries, but I have never published anything." Mark plans to continue teaching. "It's wonderful," he smiled, "when years later, you hear a student repeat something you said that he or she remembers. Then you know that you made a difference." **NOW**

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Across the Border *Brought to You*

— By Samantha Daviss

Located on 7th Avenue, the main thoroughfare of Corsicana, La Pradera allows you to leave all your worries and troubles behind as you walk through the front doors into the warm and inviting ambiance that surrounds you. The entire restaurant is accommodating to all of its patrons. The front room offers comfortable family dining, with a bar area in the back and pool room just off of that for some friendly billiards. La Pradera is also happy to cater to larger groups in their banquet room just off the main dining area.

After purchasing the building, the Sanchez brothers completely renovated the space. They updated the facade of the structure, giving it a warm and inviting facelift and adding a touch of Hispanic culture. On the inside, they

added a cozy fireplace in the center of the dining area, adding to the sense of homeyness. They created a culturally distinctive atmosphere inside the building by adding tile roofing to the interior of the building, giving it that Spanish flare. Additionally, they created



a comfortable and spacious waiting area for their overflow of patrons on those extraordinarily busy days.

La Pradera restaurants are a chain

started by Ancieto Sanchez and his two brothers after Ancieto arrived in Texas in 1983. They always knew they wanted to own and operate their own business, so that is how the wonderful restaurants were born. The brothers opened the Corsicana location in May of 2007, and are currently employing over 20 personnel.

Ancieto typically stays with a restaurant for about a year-and-a-half after opening its doors, and then one of his other brothers comes in to take over. Since January 2008, Ana Cazares has been the Corsicana manager. "I started out as a waitress, then was promoted to this position," Ana said. "I love working here. We all get along so well; it is like a family."

Ancieto explained, "If there is not a

kitchen, there is not a restaurant," so the entire restaurant staff respects one another and works quite well together. "We always put the customer first, and we want them to continue to come back and visit us and have a good experience while they are here," Ana added.

Going over the menu that offers everything from a taco salad to the best selling dish, Pechuga de Pollo, which includes seasoned and grilled chicken breasts topped with grilled onions and is served with rice, beans and guacamole, Ancieto said, "It is Tex-Mex food. All of it is good!"



On the inside, they added a cozy fireplace in the center of the dining area, adding to the sense of homeyness.

La Pradera is a great place to meet friends and family after a hard day on the job or just for a nice dinner out. They are open Sunday through Thursday 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., and Friday and Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

If you are in the mood for a flavorful meal, then stop by La Pradera Restaurant at 1401 W. 7th Avenue near downtown Corsicana, or any one of their four other restaurants in Kaufman, Wills Point, Terrell and Seagoville. **NOW**

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A Special Teacher With Specific Gifts

— By *Samantha Daviss*

“Teaching has always been fun for me. It’s not just a job. It’s what I love!” stated Risa Marx, who currently holds the position of reading specialist at Fannin Elementary School. Risa is a special teacher who has made her mark on the lives of many children. “It is funny, now I am teaching some of the children of kids I taught at the very beginning of my career,” she mused.

Risa earned her bachelor’s degree in home economics from Sam Houston State University, after which she landed her first teaching position with Corsicana High School as the industrial sewing teacher. When the position was reduced to a half-day job, Risa decided to pursue her master’s degree in elementary education at East Texas State University.

During her time at Corsicana High School, Risa and her sewing students were real “team players” during a crisis just before the beginning of the football season. “I remember the football coach called me and said all the football jerseys were too small for each player,” Risa said smiling. “So, I came up with a way to fix them. My students and I worked diligently [expanding] the jerseys by adding gussets to each one.”

In August 1984, Mr. Marc C. Culwell moved her to Fannin Elementary with no interview involved. She started teaching first grade, which became her permanent position for over 22 years. “One of my favorite aspects of first grade was the Thanksgiving play we performed every year for 21 years,” Risa recalled. “We always put on a show for the parents the day the kids got out of school for the holidays.”

Risa’s eyes reflect the passion she has for her students — past present and future. The love she has for them just

**“Teaching has always been fun for me.
It’s not just a job. It’s what I love!”**

shines through. “I want to help my students in any way I can, even if it is just a small pat on the back,” she said. Other rewards Risa offered her first-graders were tangible in nature. “I like to give my students M&Ms for all their hard

Education NOW

work during reading time.”

“When I started teaching, I knew that was what I wanted and was meant to do,” Risa recalled. Her teaching did not stop in the classroom; she is a devoted mother of two boys. “My greatest joy was teaching my own boys to read. I have big books of Dick and Jane [stories]. We used to sit on the floor and read together.” Teaching has always been a part of her life, or “in her blood,” so to speak. “Two of my sisters taught at the first grade level, as well, and my other sister taught nursing at Navarro College.”



Her professional career was on par with her personal life. Risa was born and reared in Corsicana, Texas, and married her high school sweetheart, whom she met in algebra during her junior year of high school. “I guess things are working out,” she said with a smile, referring to her 30-year marriage to her husband. Risa definitely feels that Fannin is a part of her family as well. “Teaching takes a team effort; you can’t stand alone and teach,” she stated.

“I always expected the best from my students, and I tried to give them my best every day,” Risa said. “I tried to make them believe that they were the

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best. They always seemed to rise to my expectations.”

One of Risa’s major goals as a teacher was to teach her students self-respect, and to never let them think they could not do the task or that they could not learn to read. “I also taught my students that it is OK



“Teaching takes a team effort; YOU can’t stand alone and teach.”

to laugh at yourself,” Risa stated. “Everyone makes mistakes.”

Three years ago, Risa left the classroom to become a reading specialist. “I hated leaving the classroom,” she admitted. “But I love what I do, and I get to work with all the teachers and really help them out.” Before leaving the classroom, Risa received her MRT (Master Reading Teaching certificate). Her primary objective as a reading specialist is to improve the students’ abilities as readers — to help them with comprehension and words, and to instill confidence in each and every one of them.

Risa Marx is a woman of many talents and her primary one is being a devoted and concerned teacher to her students and colleagues. “I feel that God put me in the right place at the right time; He knew exactly what He was doing when He made me a teacher,” Risa said. **NOW**

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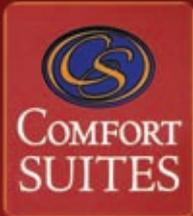
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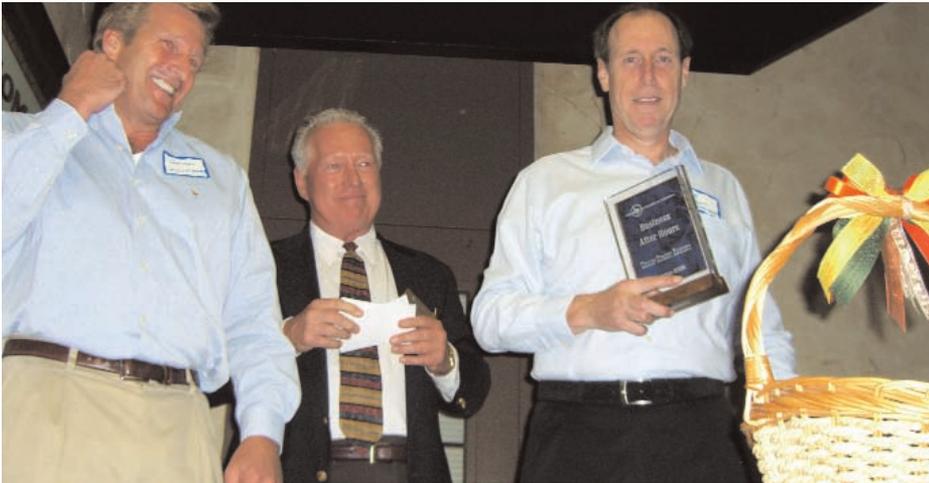
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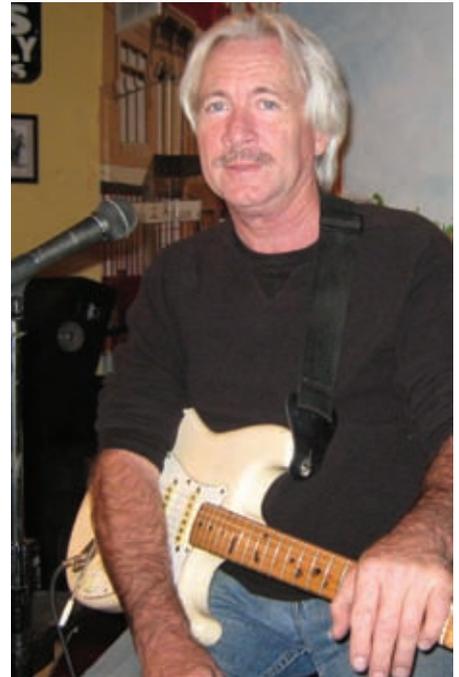
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Hayden Crawford, Paul Hooper and Bob McNutt, top left, posed for a photo. David Hodge, top right, served as the fast talking auctioneer at a recent event. Paul Hooper, second row left, introduced the candidates for the November election who were present. Carl and Susan Bruce, third row left, enjoyed the German delicacies served at Oktoberfest. The smallest Tony Romo fan, second row center, grinned for the camera. Scott Hollomon, VP Finance for Collin Street Bakery; Brenda, wife of Don Boyd, contractor for the renovations; and Bob McNutt, owner of the bakery, second row right, took a well-needed break during the After Hours gathering. A putting contest, third row right, was enjoyed by many during the 5th Annual Corsicana Education Foundation Golf Tournament. Denzel Lee, bottom left, ministered at First Baptist Church. H.M. Davenport and Maxine Moore, bottom right, admired one of the items that was auctioned during a recent fundraising event.





Several were found socializing, top left, at The Palace fundraiser held at one of the historic homes on Mills Place. Carroll Elementary School teachers, top center, enjoyed a gathering held in their honor. David Young, a Corsicana musician, top right, entertained at Black Jack McCannless Steak House. Navarro Regional Hospital held its executive car wash with Xavier Villareal and David Hobbs, second row left, and Shelley Howard, third row left, showing real teamwork. Hayden Crawford, second row center, is the marketing director for Collin Street Bakery. The Palace Theater's annual fundraiser, second row right, featured the executive chef from The Mansion on Turtle Creek in Dallas. An after hours gathering, bottom left, was recently held at Collin Street Bakery. An awards ceremony was held for the many tag football players and their cheerleaders, bottom right, who participated in the recent Upwards program.



Look Who's Cooking

—By Faith Browning

IN THE KITCHEN WITH DARYL EVANS

SPINACH STUFFED CHICKEN

2 lbs. chicken breast (4 breasts), boneless, skinless
4 slices Canadian bacon
4 slices Swiss cheese
1 cup frozen spinach, thawed
salt and white pepper to taste

BREADING:

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 1/2 cups buttermilk
1 1/2 cups Panko bread crumbs
2 cups vegetable oil

SAUCE:

2 Tbsp. butter
1 cup shallots, minced
2 cups cream of mushroom soup
1/4 cup dry white wine
2 tsp. ground thyme
1 Tbsp. parsley, chopped

Preheat oven to 350 F. Place one 8-oz. chicken breast on a cutting board; cover with plastic wrap. Take a meat mallet and pound out breast to a 1/2-inch thickness. This will make it easier to roll. Continue with other pieces of chicken. Place one slice Canadian bacon on chicken breast and one slice of cheese on the bacon. Take 1/4 cup spinach and place on top of the cheese. Repeat with remaining pieces of chicken. Gather one end of chicken breast and proceed to tightly roll towards the other end. Make sure the chicken is tightly packed so it will not come apart during cooking. Repeat with others. Season with salt and pepper. To prepare the chicken for frying, roll the stuffed chicken in flour one at a time, coating it on all sides. Next, completely dip the

chicken in buttermilk, and then roll it in the bread crumbs, making sure it is completely coated. Repeat with others. Place chicken in freezer for 5-7 minutes, this will help the chicken stay together while cooking. While chicken is in freezer, heat a large skillet; when hot add oil. On medium heat, cook chicken for 2-3 minutes on each side until golden brown. Place chicken on a greased cookie sheet; bake for 10-12 minutes. While chicken is in the oven, take another medium skillet, place on medium heat, add butter and shallots; cook for one minute. Add mushroom soup; bring to a simmer. Add wine and cook another two minutes; add ground thyme. Take chicken out of oven; let cool for one minute. Chicken can be cut into slices or on a wide angle. Ladle sauce over chicken; garnish with parsley.

LAMB BURGERS

Serves four

1 1/2 lbs. ground lamb
1/2 lb. ground beef
4 oz. onions, diced small
4 oz. green bell pepper, diced small
2 oz. garlic, minced
salt and ground pepper to taste
4 tsp. sage
8 oz. feta cheese
4 hamburger buns
1 Tbsp. butter, melted
4 slices tomato
4 leaves green leaf lettuce

Preheat grill to 350 F. Place first five ingredients in a large mixing bowl; combine well. Season with salt,

One does not have to look further than the Corsicana Country Club to find fine cuisine prepared by executive chef, Daryl Evans. Most of his cooking skills were acquired from attending The International Culinary Institute located in Dallas. "I base my recipes off older French cuisine. I like to take the older flavors and make them more familiar," he stated. "I take the classic meals and put a new spin on them, because the classics never die."

Daryl, his wife, Kimberly, and their son, Anthony, are anxiously awaiting the arrival of a new baby in February. Daryl also prides himself on being an avid football and basketball fan. "I am originally from Philadelphia, so I do catch a lot of flack," he claimed, "because the Eagles are *my* team!" **NOW**

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pepper and 2 tsp. sage. Form 4 8-oz. patties; place on plate, cover and place in refrigerator for 10 minutes to set burgers. Before grilling, brush lightly with oil, this will prevent the burgers from sticking. Place patties on grill; let cook 3-5 minutes on each side. Carefully place feta cheese on burgers (this can get messy, since feta is sold crumbled). Cook another 1-2 minutes until cheese is melted; remove burgers to a platter. Lightly brush burger buns with butter; place on grill until toasted. Garnish burgers with tomato and lettuce.

CAJUN SHRIMP ALFREDO

2 lbs. medium raw shrimp, tails removed
4 Tbsp. olive oil
1/4 cup Cajun seasoning
salt and white pepper to taste
1 1/2 lbs. spaghetti (or favorite pasta)
2 Tbsp. cooking oil
1 1/2 Tbsp. butter
1/2 cup garlic, minced
2 1/2 cups heavy whipping cream
1 cup Parmesan cheese, shredded
1/4 cup parsley, chopped

Preheat grill to 350 F. In a large bowl place shrimp, olive oil, Cajun seasoning, salt and pepper; mix well, shrimp should have a slightly reddish tint. Cover bowl with plastic wrap; place in refrigerator. Shrimp will be cooked last so it will not dry out. In a large pot, boil pasta and oil for 5-7 minutes until pasta is cooked. While pasta is cooking, place butter and garlic in a medium pot; cook on medium heat for one minute. Be careful not to burn the garlic. Add

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Who's Cooking **NOW**

whipping cream to the garlic; simmer 2-3 minutes. Add Parmesan cheese, stirring while adding so cheese does not sink to the bottom and burn. Periodically taste sauce and season with salt and white pepper. Sauce is complete when it coats the back of a spoon. Brush grill with oil so the shrimp will not stick. Place shrimp on grill; cook for 1-2 minutes on each side. Be careful to not overgrill shrimp or they will be too dry. Place pasta on plate; top with grilled shrimp. Ladle creamy Alfredo sauce over shrimp and pasta; garnish with parsley.

MUSHROOM AND THYME RISOTTO

MUSHROOM BROTH:

2 qt. chicken stock (broth is too cloudy)
1/2 lb. assorted mushrooms (white, portabella, morels)
kosher salt and white pepper to taste

RISOTTO:

5 Tbsp. unsalted butter
1 lb. fresh mushrooms
kosher salt and white pepper to taste
1 Tbsp. olive oil
2 shallots, minced
2 garlic cloves, minced
1 lb. Arborio rice
1 tsp. fresh thyme, chopped
1/2 cup dry white wine
1/2 cup Parmesan cheese, grated

In a large stock pot, prepare broth by bringing stock and mushrooms to a rolling boil; reduce heat to simmer covered for 30 minutes. Taste to see if it needs to simmer longer. Strain broth through a wire strainer with a piece of cheese cloth over the top to discard all solids. Season broth with salt and white pepper; set aside warm. In a large skillet, heat 1 Tbsp. butter over medium heat; add mushrooms. Season with salt and pepper; stir often so mushrooms will not stick to pan. Set mushrooms aside when they are soft. In a large pot, heat 2 Tbsp. butter and olive oil; heat until butter melts. Add shallots; cook until soft. Add garlic; sauté for 2 more minutes. Add rice to the mix; stir-fry 7-10 minutes, preferably with a wooden spoon. You want it to turn milky white, and it can lightly stick to the bottom of the skillet. Add chopped thyme; stir-fry some more. While stirring, add white wine; continue mixing another 2 minutes until all wine has been absorbed into rice. Ladle 1 cup of warm mushroom broth into rice; cook for 2 more minutes, stirring until broth has been evaporated. Repeat process with 2 more cups until each cup of stock has been absorbed. Rice should be firm yet cooked through in 18-20 minutes. To finish dish, stir in sautéed mushrooms and grated Parmesan. If you want it cheesier, that's fine. Complete with remaining 2 Tbsp. butter and season with salt and white pepper.

SWEET POTATO CRÈME BRULÉE

Serves four

1 cup milk
1 cup heavy cream
5 Tbsp. sugar
1/2 cinnamon stick
1/4 tsp. allspice
1 dash ground cloves
1 dash ground nutmeg
4 large egg yolks
3 oz. finely mashed sweet potatoes

Preheat oven 350 F. In a medium saucepan, add first seven ingredients; cook over medium heat until they simmer. Be sure not to boil. Remove pot from stove; cool for 2 minutes. Transfer to a bowl; cover with plastic wrap. Place in refrigerator for 30 minutes. This will strengthen the flavor. Take bowl out of refrigerator; remove cinnamon stick. With a wire whisk, mix in egg yolks until smooth; add in sweet potatoes until smooth. Pour mix into 4 4-oz. ramekins; place them in a shallow baking pan. Pour hot water into baking pan so it comes up halfway to the sides of the ramekins. Place in oven for 25-30 minutes. Check at 25 minutes to see if the custard is set around the sides, but still a little loose in the middle. Take pan out of oven; allow cooling before removing ramekins from pan. Wrap each cup in plastic; refrigerate for at least 8 hours before serving.



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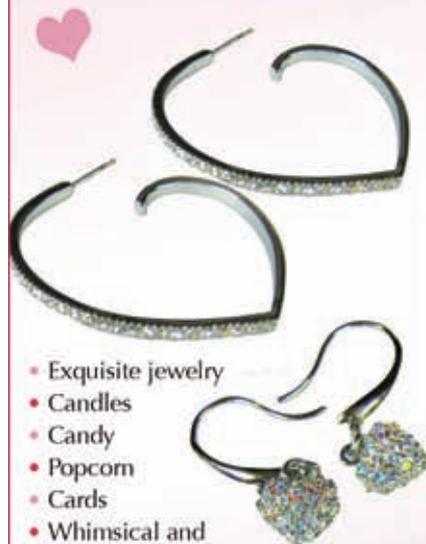
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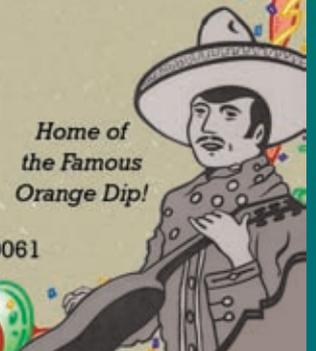
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Symptoms may include:

- red, irritated eyes
- pus or mucus-like discharge
- matted or crusted eyelids


EYERELY
PINK EYE CLINICAL RESEARCH TRIAL

Focus on the Positive

— By Gary Hayden

“Pessimists see problems in every opportunity. Optimists see opportunities in every problem.” — Winston Churchill

These days, there is certainly no shortage of economic difficulties to go around. Many are worried about what to expect next. No one can accurately predict how long a bear market will last or when the economy will stabilize. Yet it is how we react during these turbulent times that largely determines whether we reach our long-term financial goals. As one speaker recently commented, “There has always been good news and bad news out there. Only two things vary at any given point in time: first, the balance between good and bad news; and second, what people focus on.” So, let’s focus on the positive.

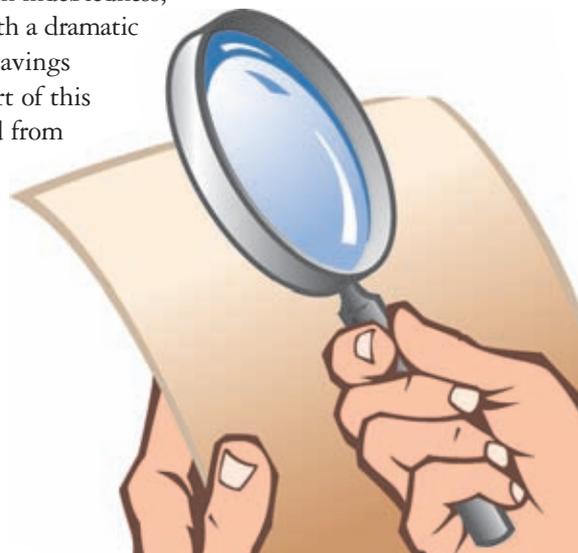
Depending on who you talk to, stock valuations are generally seen to be at either normal historical levels or at extremely attractive levels. Either way, for the long-term investor, this would translate into very positive returns.

The dramatic drop in oil prices has put many more dollars in the pockets of businesses and individual consumers. At one time, banks stood for prudence, risk management, oversight and transparency. It is clear that many banks got away from these values. It is also clear that we are seeing a return to such traditional virtues, which will ultimately leave the banking system stronger.

It is obvious that we live in a global economic environment.

No country can exist totally alone and isolated. It has been very encouraging to observe the coordinated and cooperative response we have seen from central banks and the economic leadership in place today.

There is no question that the retailing industry is facing a shakeout over the next six to 12 months, but beneath the bleak news for retailers and the manufacturers of the goods they sell, is a more positive story. Over the past 20 years, many Western countries have seen a huge increase in indebtedness, along with a dramatic drop in savings rates. Part of this stemmed from





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today's "I want it all, and I want it now" mindset, and part from the view that appreciation in houses and stocks would offset the failure to save. While a painful adjustment for some in the short-term, over time, this will be a significant positive, with personal finances moving to a more stable and sustainable footing.

I choose to focus on the positive. Think long-term. Stay invested. Be diversified. **NOW**

Gary Hayden is a Registered Representative of, and offers Security, Investment Advisory and Financial Planning services through, MML Investors Services, Inc. Supervisory Office: 777 Main Street, Suite 2260, Fort Worth, Texas 76102 • (817) 332-4451. Hayden Financial Partners is not an affiliate or subsidiary of MML Investor Services, Inc.

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Overcoming Seasonal Affective Disorder

— By Deepak Patel, M.D.

Each year, nearly a million people spend the holiday season trapped in a form of depression called winter-onset seasonal affective disorder (SAD). SAD affects people in cyclical patterns, most often beginning in October or November, with depression lasting through early May. During this period, those afflicted with SAD may experience mild, moderate and sometimes severe levels of depression.

Professionals warn that SAD is, in fact, a form of depression that can severely impair daily life. People who are experiencing symptoms should not disregard their emotions as simply a case of the winter blues.

Symptoms of seasonal affective disorder are:

- Depression
- Hopelessness
- Anxiety
- Loss of energy
- Social withdrawal
- Oversleeping
- Loss of interest in activities you once enjoyed
- Appetite changes, specifically craving carbohydrate-rich foods
- Weight gain
- Difficulty concentrating or processing information

The cause of SAD is believed to be linked to a combination of family genetic conditions, such as prevalence of depression

in immediate family members and restricted sunlight exposure. In fact, evidence suggests that people living in the northern hemisphere are more likely to be stricken with SAD because of their significantly longer winter, which provides much less sunlight. Moreover, SAD symptoms may also reappear in those affected when the weather is overcast and sunlight is restricted or when indoor lighting is decreased.

Research suggests that long winter nights may lead to SAD by affecting:

- The body's internal clock that controls sleep, known as the circadian rhythm
- The body's production of a hormone, called melatonin, that controls sleep
- The body's mood-affecting neurotransmitter, called serotonin

All of these changes to the body can result from reduced sunlight exposure and can lead to depression if left untreated.

SAD is more commonly found in women; however, men are also susceptible to this wintertime depression. SAD is more prevalent in those age 20 and older.

Currently, light therapy is used in an effort to combat SAD. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) recommends use of light bulbs between 3,000 and 6,500 degrees Kelvin can be effective, when the light stand is

An advertisement for Berry Chrysler Dodge Jeep Sprinter. The background features a large strawberry with a white SUV parked on it. Festive New Year's decorations, including confetti and streamers, are scattered around. The text includes the Berry logo, contact information for Joe Palos, and a testimonial. A 'Financing available!' banner is on the left, and a 'Se Habla Español!' banner is on the right.

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placed at eye level or higher.

“Such arrangements illuminate the lower half of the retina, which is rich on photoreceptors that are thought to mediate the antidepressant response,” according to NAMI.

If you feel a bit more down-in-the-dumps than usual around the holiday season and are experiencing the signs of SAD, consult your physician. Symptoms should not be overlooked because, if left untreated, SAD may result in a very serious form of depression that can severely impact your life. **NOW**

*Dr. Deepak Patel, M.D.
Navarro Regional Hospital*

Sources:

www.nami.org

www.familydoctor.org

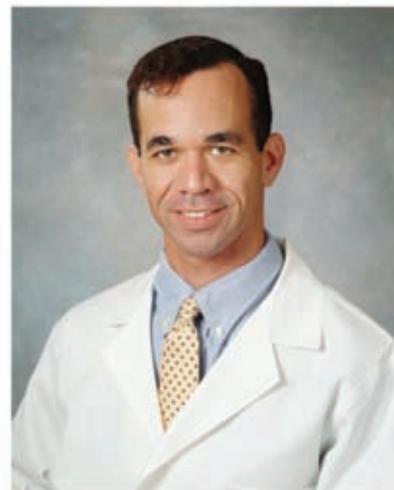


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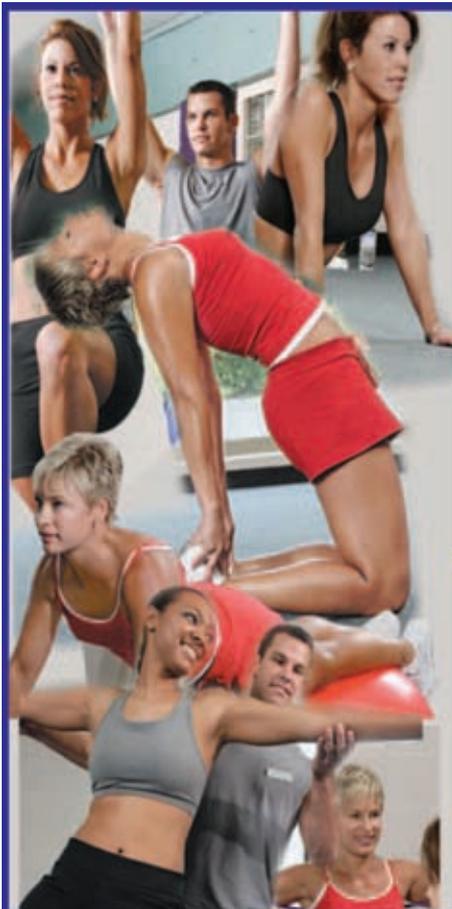
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January 2009

Community Calendar

All month

"Cosmic Voyage" & "Star Signs" at the Cook Center Planetarium, Monday - Friday at 11:00 a.m., Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. All seats \$3.00 per person.

Third Thursday

Corsicana Education Foundation CEF Board Meeting.

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

Fourth Thursday

Corsicana Education Foundation Campus Celebration.

December 11 - January 10

Star Harbor Watercolor Society Art Exhibit, Warehouse Gallery.

January 10

Navarro College Marriage Management class, 8:45 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., main campus at 3200 7th Ave. (903) 874-0077.

January 12

Navarro College SBDC How to Start a Small Business workshop: 10:00 a.m. - noon, Corsicana/Navarro County Chamber of Commerce conference room, 120 N. 12th St. To register, contact Ophelia Mendoza at (903)

875-7667 or ophelia.mendoza@navarrocollege.edu.

January 13

Navarro College SBDC How to Start a Small Business workshop, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the Fairfield Conference Center, 839 E. Commerce St. To register, contact Ophelia Mendoza at (903) 875-7667 or ophelia.mendoza@navarrocollege.edu.

January 17

VITA Volunteer Tax Assistance Program at the YMCA.

January 20

Palace Theatre Annual Membership meeting, 7:00 p.m.

January 21

Corsicana/Navarro County Leadership Healthcare Day.

January 24

Bristol Opry: 7:00 p.m., Old Bristol School, 100 Church St., Bristol. Featuring the Bristol Opry Band and several local singers. For more information, contact Jim Gatlin at (972) 846-2211.

January 25

VOICE Luncheon, noon, Cook Center. (903) 872-0180.

January 26

2009 Annual Corsicana Education Foundation Drive. Spaghetti dinner: 7:00 p.m., Corsicana High School

Commons. Tickets are for sale in advance. Call (903) 654-2838 to purchase your dinner.

January 27

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

February 7

3rd Annual Ennis Czech Music Festival: 2:00 - 11:30 p.m., Sokol Activity Center, 2622 E. Hwy. 34, Ennis. Listen and dance to five bands. Czech & Then Some: 2:00 p.m. Ennis Czech Boys: 4:00 p.m. Jak Se Do: 6:00 p.m. Czech Harvesters: 8:00 p.m. Jodie Mikula Orchestra: 10:00 p.m. Admission: \$5 a person. Ages 14 and under are free. Door prizes. Kitchen will be open. Dress casual or kroj. www.ennisczechmusicfestival.com.

February 15

Palace Theatre's first season show of 2009, *Bye Bye Birdie*, 3:00 p.m.

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

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