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November 2007

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Photo by Rod Cordsen.

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Corsicana NOW

Editor's Note

Friends and Neighbors,

I hope you have the most blessed Thanksgiving season ever. As you gather with your loved ones, say a prayer for our military troops who continue to give us the opportunity to say, "Thanks," for the freedoms we enjoy.

Do you have a favorite teacher or coach? Are you just itching to share some special recipes? Do you like to try your hand at a unique art or sport, or would you be "tickled pink" to share your home decorating with us? Send me an e-mail. Please do not be bashful! Some of the coolest features are in these pages because someone shared their very own story with me. Do not wait for your friends or neighbors to recommend you. They may not know what fun you have been getting into, and will be just as surprised as the rest of Navarro County to hear your story. This is *your* magazine, Corsicana. Jump into its pages!

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Attractive Austin stone home on 381+ acres, horse barn, 9 ponds, creeks & fenced. Beautiful Setting. Great hunting and fishing.
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Beautiful 4-3 in established neighborhood. Lanscaped yard, formal living & dining, lots of built-ins, crown molding, cedar closet.
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Leaving Nothing but Footprints

— By Sandra McIntosh

African safari. These words, which conjure up an image of exotic lands with an edge of danger, have become a part of the reality of Chip and Becky Curington's lives. Looking back over his formative years, Chip remembers the fun and satisfaction he derived from dove hunting. He did not get his first experience behind the barrel of a deer rifle until the age of 21, when he started dating Becky, his wife of 39 years. "Her father, the late Roy Jones, took me on my first deer hunt," Chip said. "My love for hunting grew from that."

During this "growing period," Chip started making plans to take his first trip to Africa. He wanted to take his passion to the next level. "I just had a desire to see the area," he said. "Becky and I will continue to travel to Africa until we can't do it anymore."

When the plans for the couple's first trip went from dream to

reality, Becky was not at all interested in tagging along. "Why would I want to sit around in the heat all day," she said, "while sleeping in a tent out in the wilderness?" Once she was told she would be treated like a queen, she

"Becky and I will continue to travel to Africa until we can't do it anymore."



The Curingtons pose with a zebra in the African bush.

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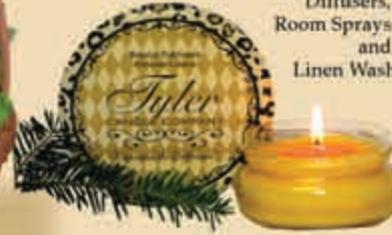
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Chip poses with a kudu he landed while on safari.



While on his latest hunt, Chip landed this springbok.



One of the Curingtons' many pieces of African memorabilia.

quickly changed her mind, becoming a seasoned African safari photographer. Her good eye and skills with a camera allow family, friends and her third-grade students at Bowie Elementary School in Corsicana the chance to see what the Curingtons have experienced.

After years of saving and months of planning, Chip and Becky took their first trip to Zimbabwe, Africa, in July 1998, during the winter season when temperatures never got much over 70 degrees throughout the day. They vividly remember the 10-day trip to the one million acre conservancy — the grass-thatched cabin, the wonderfully

delicious food, the bougainvillea and poinsettias growing wild and the gorgeous weather without a single day of rain.

Each morning before sunup, Chip, his assigned professional hunter and the rest of the safari team prepared to go out into the bush; Becky was also packing up what she would need on the days she decided to tag along. “She sees what she likes and shoots it,” Chip said smiling, referring to her perfect aim with a camera. Becky has not only captured superb photographs of the country with its boabab and fever trees, but she has also successfully

documented each of Chip’s kills.

Hunting plains game in Zimbabwe proved more difficult than Chip had imagined because the bush was so thick and the red soil was quite thorny. “The animals just blended in with their surroundings,” he said. “The zebras, baboons, kudus and jackals were all equally hard to see.” Once Chip spotted each of the animals aforementioned, he wasted no time preparing himself for the hunt ahead of him. “Hunting takes a lot of patience,” he explained. “Sometimes the hunt can take two to three hours. It all depends on the animal.”



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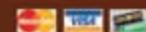
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The kudu trophy hanging above the fireplace mantle in the Curington home was one of 11 animals Chip landed in 1998, weighing in at well over 600 pounds. “These animals are referred to as gray ghosts because of the way in which they are able to hide themselves in the bush,” Becky said. “The one Chip brought home was so big he overshadowed five grown men.”



“Conserving something means not allowing any of it to go to waste.”

Chip considers himself to be an ethical hunter. “To preserve something means sitting it on a shelf only to look at it,” Chip explained further. “Conserving something means not allowing any of it to go to waste.” The meat from the animals killed by Chip, and other hunters like him, is almost always prepared and eaten at the evening meal. The remainder of the meat is parceled out among the villages, allowing the locals to add protein to their minimal diet. Through what is known as the Campfire Program, African villages receive 40 percent of the money trophy hunters must pay after a kill such as the kudu. “The animals in Africa have great value,” Chip said. “The people realize their value. The trophy hunts do have a limit, making certain there will be more animals for tomorrow.”

The couple’s second trip to Africa did not come until July 2006, when Chip and Becky went to Namibia, not far from the South Atlantic coast. The land in Namibia was very different from what they had experienced in Zimbabwe. “The land resembled the Kalahari Desert. It looked a lot like

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West Texas,” Chip said, with Becky nodding her head in agreement. “We had to sneak up on the game — use a much different strategy. The animals had nowhere to hide.” Becky added that the land was barren. “Everywhere we looked,” she said, “we saw troops or herds of wild animals.”

Chip experienced his most difficult hunt to date while on this second trip.



He spent the better part of one day trying to bag a heartabeast, a large, oversized antelope-like animal with thick, sharply pointed horns. “There must have been at least 100 in the herd,” Chip remembered. “The ground was dry, dusty and crusty.” All the eyes of the herd were focused on Chip, keeping him alert and on his toes. The goal in the hunt was to get within 200 yards of the heartabeast Chip had chosen as his trophy.

Getting the trophies home to Texas is another story in and of itself. In a nutshell, it takes approximately 18 months for the process of packing, dipping and shipping to be completed. Waiting on the trophies to arrive in Corsicana has been almost as much fun for Chip and Becky as planning the trips. “The anticipation,” Becky said, “is like looking forward to Christmas.”

As Chip and Becky begin to plan a third trip to Africa, they remember what was most important to the people who welcomed them. “Water is a prized commodity, and everything over there is so true,” Chip said, referring to the clean, untainted area known as Africa. “They are endeared with their country. As we come and go, we’ve learned to leave nothing but our footprints behind.” **NOV**



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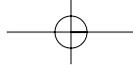
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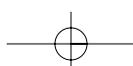
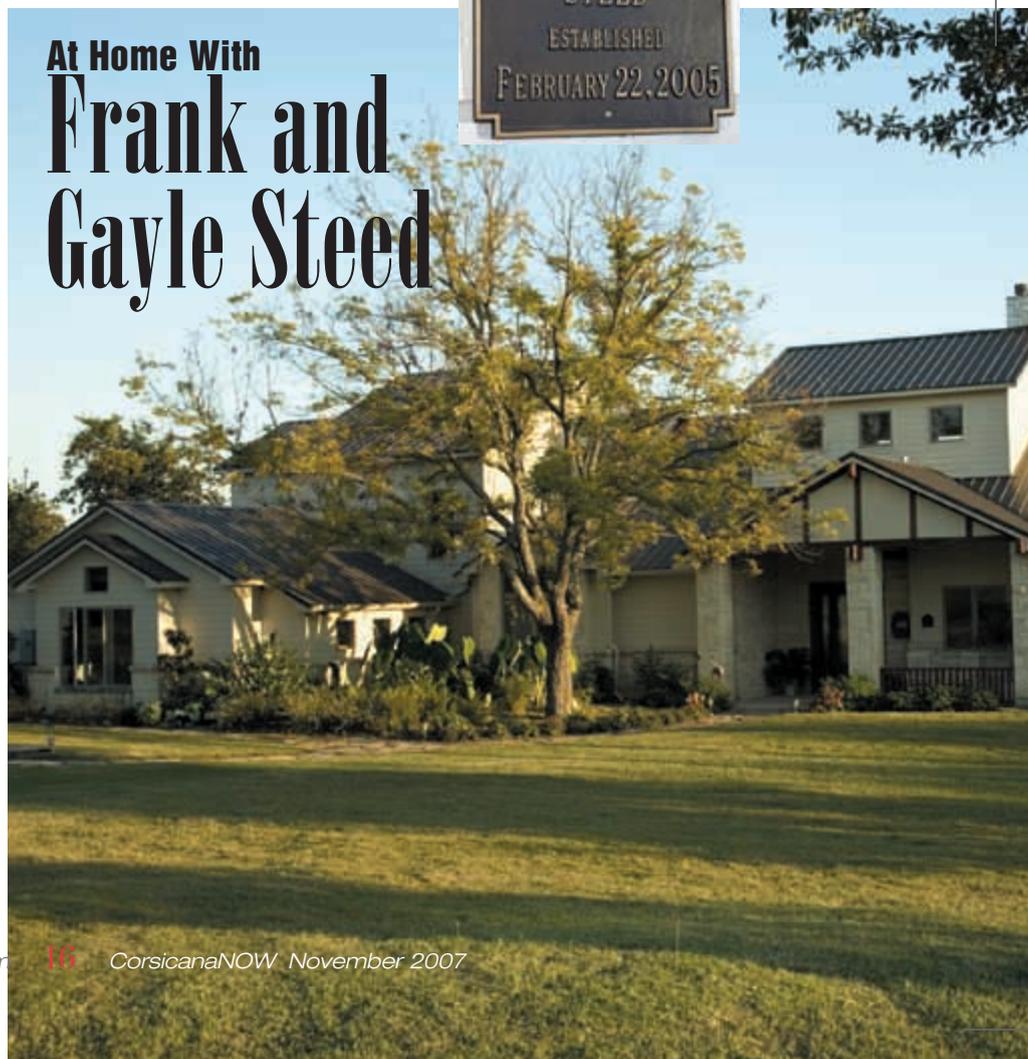


Frank and Gayle Steed live in a home that draws you in immediately. Yet, as soon as you enter the welcoming family room area, with its white couches and chairs and cozy Austin stone fireplace, your eye is drawn outside. Gayle has decorated her back patio so artfully, with its rattan seating area and attractive table arrangement, that you want to slip right out to settle on the cedar deck with a cool drink and admire the sunset. “We love the sunset,” Gayle said. “The view is wonderful. We like to watch the storms gather.”

Frank is quick to point out that the views from the property were much of the attraction of the site. “In spring it is just beautiful with all the colors. We will get the reddest cardinals I have ever seen anywhere, and bluebirds that are just amazing,” he said. The house, designed with a variety of angles, offers a different view of Richland Chambers Lake from every window or patio. “If we sit on the front porch, it is a whole different world; the view is like being on a farm.”

In spite of living in Dallas since 1973, Gayle was born in Port Arthur, Texas, and Frank was born in Mississippi. In junior high, Gayle moved to Arkansas. “We lived across the Mississippi River from each other, but we never met until we

At Home With Frank and Gayle Steed





both moved to Memphis," she mentioned. After Frank went to work at the number two TGI Friday's in Memphis as a doorman, he rapidly moved up the ladder into restaurant management and operations. "We have been married 35 years now. When Frank retired from the corporate life, we really, really wanted a casual, comfortable home."

Depending on what they are doing, and who they are entertaining, Frank and Gayle use different areas of their home. "We may settle on the sunporch, on the back porch, or go down to the boathouse," Frank explained. "Upstairs, the TV room is good for movies or



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football viewing.”

Gayle points out that the sunroom, decorated in burgundy and taupe with natural-colored, bead board paneling, serves a dual purpose. For adults, it is magazine-perfect with warm-toned rattan, beautiful plants and decorator touches. However, when there are visiting children, breakables are whisked away, and kid-friendly furnishings introduced. “When the grandkids come, we move the glass tables and we put a little tent in here, a TV in here, some soft carpet, and it magically changes.” Gayle displays her monkey collection on shelves in the sunroom, which leads right into the



cabana bath, decorated in a British Empire style. “I had a little, live organ-grinder monkey when I was growing up, so I am really attached to monkeys.”

“In the spring and fall, we can open the screens, and get the breeze,” Frank demonstrated. The room is a wonderful sitting area year-round, with a view of the water. “We’ve taken a lot of trips to a lot of great places, and this area, including the cabana bath, is where we display a lot of our things from Africa. Gayle took photographs of lions and monkeys, and those are on



the shelf with her monkey collection.”

“We each have an office,” Gayle said. “Mine is downstairs. I collect old typewriters and cameras and those are here. Frank’s office is upstairs. It is a salvation,” Gayle informed humorously. “He goes up there in the mornings to work; he comes down for lunch, and we have lunch which is really nice. Then, sometimes, I will join him in the evening for a movie upstairs.”

From Frank’s beginnings as a doorman



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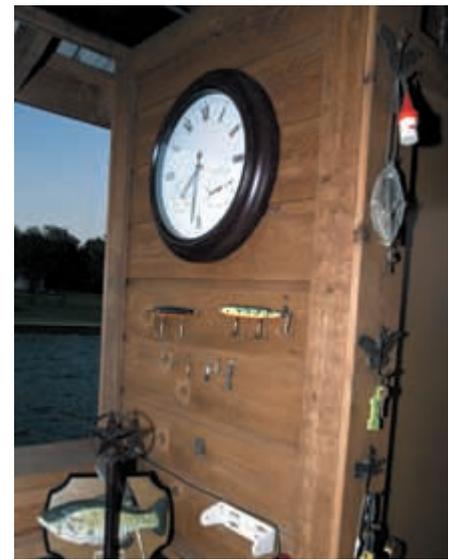


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with TGI Friday's, he rose to become executive vice president of operations and franchise development. He went on to head franchise development for Bennigan's, Bonanza, Ponderosa and Steak & Ale. He served as president of the Bonanza, Ponderosa and Tony Roma's restaurant chains. Now, he is president and CEO of his own business, The Steed Consultancy, which assists chain operators in developing franchise programs. "I do the books for Frank's company and also help him with the homeowner's association, of which he

is the treasurer," Gayle said.

Open to the dining and living areas is the Austin stone-faced bar which rings the lovely kitchen where Gayle displays a unique collection of family rolling pins and her cookbooks. The beautifully stained cabinetry and granite counters make a charming backdrop for her pig collection and Frank's hot sauce collection rack.

The bright master bedroom suite includes creamy bedding, a striking oil painting and spacious shelves for Gayle's swan collection. The master

bath boasts wide window seats, and has an adjoining exercise room for Frank, a former marathon runner, where photos from his runs hang. He has participated in marathons in Dallas, Honolulu, New York, Chicago, Minneapolis and San Francisco. "Now, I am on the board of the White Rock Marathon in Dallas, which is in December," Frank mentioned.

The downstairs is completed with a guest room for the grandbabies, Carley and Taylor. "They are 1 and 3, and they are special," Gayle bragged.



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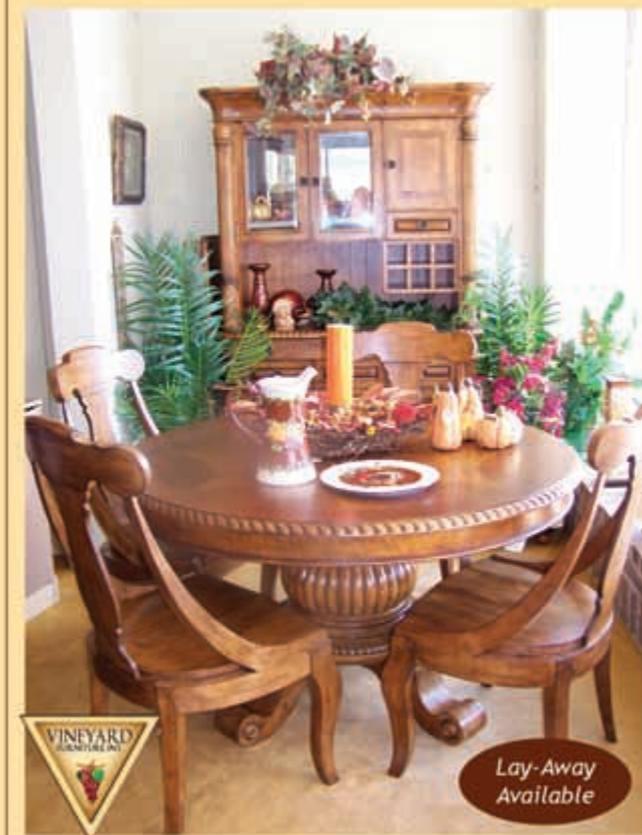
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"This area is just like being back in the Mississippi Delta where we grew up."

Special mementoes from Gayle's family decorate the guest bath. Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls perch on a shelf.

Upstairs, a picturesque guest bedroom sports Western decor, with a combination of family and found antiques and other unique finds. A brightly colored, cowboy-boot quilt on the iron bed sets the tone for the room. Next door, Frank's office and the TV room host his collections of restaurant memorabilia. The lake view and upstairs balcony make a great spot for bird-watching.

Frank serves on the board of directors of the Women's Foodservice Forum and the board of governors of the University of North Texas School of Hospitality. Local involvements add a color to Frank's life that he really enjoys. "There are great people in this area, and we have thoroughly enjoyed being down here," he said.

Gayle also has her hand in many pies. She recently joined the Kinsloe House and works with a book club called the Pioneer Club, the Kerens library and Kerens Garden Club. The garden club is sponsoring a Christmas home tour December 2 which will feature the Steeds' home and others in the Francisco Bay area. Gayle is busy making bird feeder ornaments to give to tour visitors. "Everyone here has been so warm and welcoming," she said. "We have done a lot of things and been a lot of places, but we are really down-to-earth people. It is just the best feeling in the world to move to a small town. This area is just like being back in the Mississippi Delta where we grew up, and we just feel at home here." **NOW**

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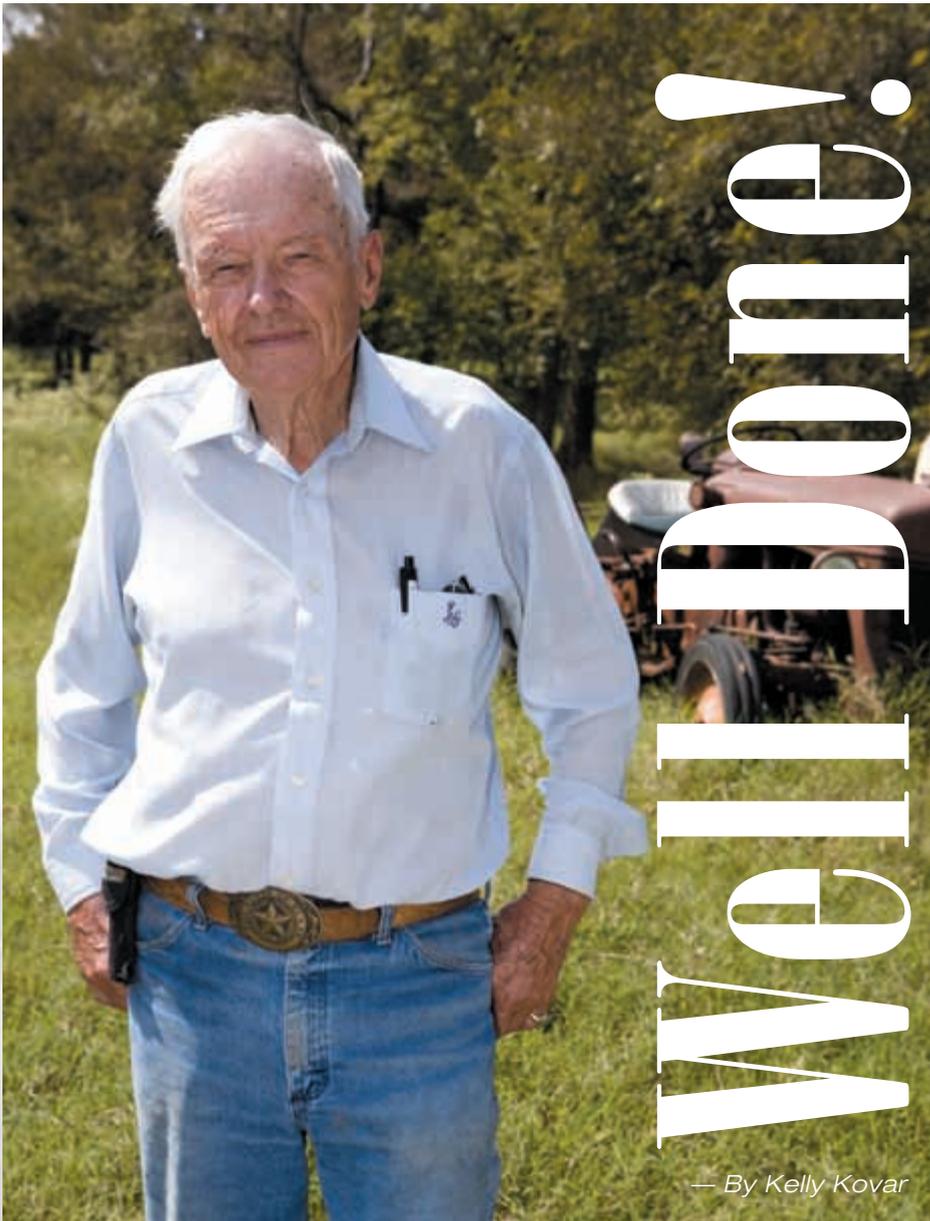
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— By Kelly Kovar

At the age of 85, Forrest Green, rancher and operator of the 550-acre Tree Brand Ranch, former postal inspector, four-term state representative and World War II fighter pilot, is still a vibrant and integral part of life in Corsicana. Until sundown, he can be found on the rolling acres of his ranch, where he breeds registered Herefords. He mends fences, tends cattle and grows his own feed. When he has time, Forrest also tends another herd — his collection of Model A cars. He has restored a complete fleet of drivable paeans to Henry Ford's genius. "This is the one I am working on now," Forrest pointed out. "It was one of the first pickups."

Hobbies aside, Forrest is a serious rancher, a goal he nurtured since his youth in Arlington. "I always wanted to be a rancher; in senior English, I

decided, since my name is Forrest Green, my brand would be two trees."

Although his sights were set on a rustic life, it was an informed decision. He had the opportunity to see the world as a youth. "I was a Boy Scout and, in 1937, I went to the World Jamboree before World War II," Forrest recounted. "Boy Scouts from all over the world came to Holland to a big camp site. I was lucky to go and see a lot of the European countries, including Italy, Switzerland and Germany, before they were decimated in World War II."



After two years of aeronautical engineering at North Texas Agricultural College (now the University of Texas at Arlington), World War II began and Forrest joined the U.S. Army Air Corps at age 20. He trained for combat with dive bombing, skip bombing, ground gunnery and aero gunnery, graduating from flying school in 1943. "The company commander called us in one at a time to tell us our assignment," Forrest said, remembering the day well. "Most of the class of about 40 was assigned to the European theater. Two of us, Don McCloud and I, were kept at that training base to be flight instructors. We were crushed, because we wanted to go to combat with our class. It was really an honor, but we were kind of disappointed." For a year, they honed their experience in all the phases of fighter training. "We admired my old squadron commander, who was an original Flying Tiger, and we decided we wanted to go to China." Before World War II, General Chennault went to China to battle the Japanese with the American Volunteer Group, (the AVG). During World War II, the AVG was transferred to the U.S. Army, but they still called them the Flying Tigers, although they were not the original volunteers.

Finally, Forrest and Don were sent to China as Flying

Tigers. "Most of our missions were ground support, looking for supply trains and truck convoys. On my very first mission, I flew Tail-End-Charlie, the



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last man in a formation of four. We flew P-38s down the South China Sea, looking for ships. We found two ships tied up at a dock, an ideal target. We had two 500 pound bombs on our planes. The three planes in front of me dropped their bomb, and when the

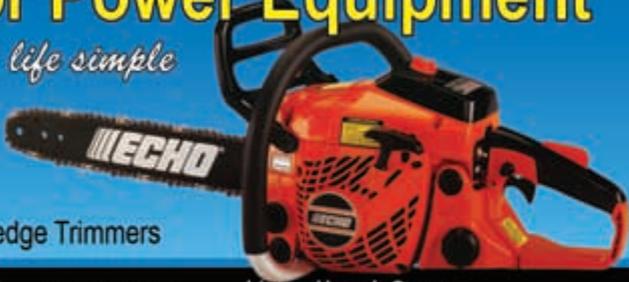


third man peeled off in front of me, I could see that the ships were unscathed. Six bombs had missed. I thought, 'If I miss, this whole mission is going to be washed out.'" Confident because of his experience, Forrest went in and dropped his bombs. "I looked back and there was black smoke coming from both ships. We were supposed to keep radio silence, but when I dropped those bombs, the other pilots came on the radio and said, "Ding hao, ding hao!" which is Chinese for 'Great, well done!'"

After the war, Forrest flew out of China, over the Himalayas, and into India, near Calcutta, where he was assigned to fly transports. Eventually, he rotated out on the troop ship, the

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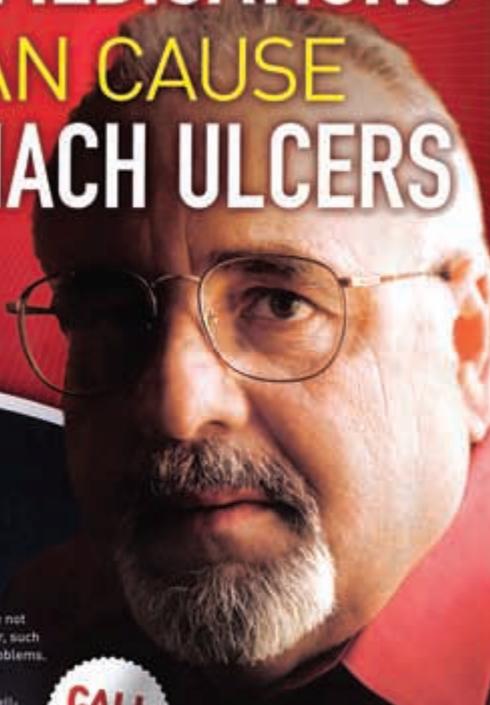
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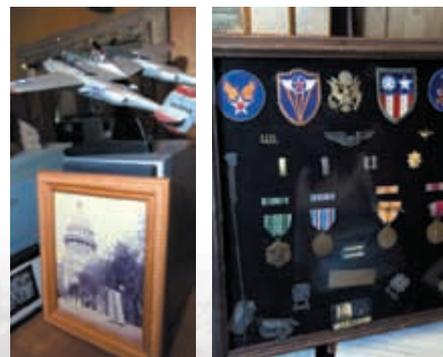
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General Bliss. “I left the U.S. from Miami, Florida, and went all around the world, and came back to San Francisco, and it didn’t cost me a penny. Most people have to pay to go around the world.”

Forrest had purchased a 160-acre ranch in Arlington during the war. When he returned following the war, he spent eight hours a day working at the post office, then eight more hours a day working his ranch. “Highway 30



came along, and it put most of my land on one side and most of my improvements on the other side.” Disheartened, he spent five years in Iowa as a postal inspector. “It was a real interesting and challenging job. I never did get used to those winters. The snow would go as high as the cross arms on the telephone pole.” As he recalled basking in the Texas sun, he soon decided to follow the example of the geese flying south, and returned to Texas and to ranching. He worked at Bell Helicopter for a couple of years, and then in 1964, he had the opportunity to purchase his current land in Navarro County.

In the '70s, Forrest was the chairman of the Beef Cattle Committee, which is under the county agent. This led to successfully running for state representative for Navarro and Ellis Counties in 1972. “I thought, well, I have given four years to the federal government in World War II; I will give four years to the state. I would

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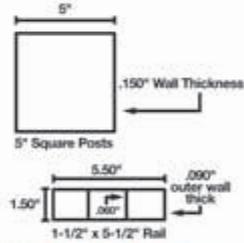
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up with eight years.” He served on several committees, especially enjoying his work on the environmental affairs and house administration committees, and eventually served as chairman of the agriculture committee. “I was undefeated in every election, and it was a reassuring thing to me that the people always gave me a pretty comfortable margin. I learned a whole lot. It was a challenge. I kind of look on it like my military experience — while you are doing it, you don’t really like it, but it is kind of fun to reflect on it.”



“After serving in Austin, I came back and focused on the ranch.” Getting the land in shape took a lot of work. “I would work all day on that fence and hate for that sun to start going down, because I wasn’t through. Now, I am 85, and I look at that sun, and I say, ‘I don’t know if I am going to be able to make it until sundown or not,’” Forrest added with a laugh. “This is a different phase of life.”

But, after many years of ranching, Forrest shows no signs of slowing down. He enjoys being involved with philanthropic community efforts. “I am on the Navarro College Foundation Board, one of my favorite jobs because you are associated with businessmen that have a goal in mind and get things done. Mainly, I have worked with the Cook Center.” In spite of a busy life, Forrest has always made time for contributing his time, energy and resources to the good of his country and community. **NOW**

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Artful Eye

— By Samantha Stroube

Amber Payne, from an extremely young age, knew she wanted to live in the world of art. More importantly, she wanted to teach art to students so they could someday have her appreciation for it. Amber, a rising star in the Corsicana educational system, is currently the art teacher at Collins Middle School.

Amber grew up in Enid, Oklahoma, where she spent hours with her mom and two siblings creating and drawing various projects and ideas. Amber admitted that her mother was an extremely creative woman. Instead of watching television or spending tons of money on various things, her mother would come up with innovative and creative ways to entertain her three young children. Amber is extremely close to, and proud of, her mother. “You could truly regard my mother as an artist,” she said.

In fact, in one form or another, Amber’s entire family is involved in the creative aspect of living. “My mom is really involved in art. She makes the most beautiful jewelry; she paints, and creates and paints small figurines,” Amber beamed. “She also teaches art to 4 year olds at the Catholic school in Enid. He [Amber’s dad] is fantastic



“My students always asked me during our art history study time if I had actually seen any of the things they were studying. I got tired of telling them I hadn’t, but now after my trip, I can proudly say that I have.”

with potter’s clay, but he gave up drawing when he married my mom,



because her talents intimidated him,” Amber added, with a smile. Her older brother expresses his drawing skills as a successful architect. Her younger sister received her bachelor’s in theater,

was involved with several plays, and is currently pursuing her master’s at Purdue University.

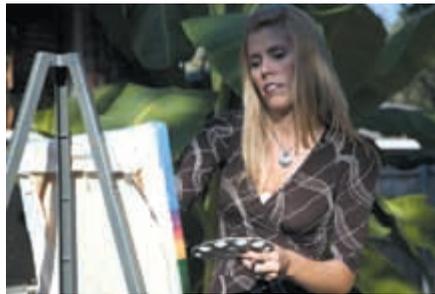
Amber’s interest in art was revealed in the seventh grade when she realized she was most comfortable in the world of art. “My first passion or discovery of art came when I began drawing and creating with colored pencils,” she said. Then, as her time in the art world progressed, Amber decided during her sophomore year of high school that she wanted to teach art.

After her high school graduation, Amber went on to Oklahoma State University (OSU), where she received her Bachelor of Fine Arts with the

**ARTS
NOW**

option of education and a minor in art history in May 2003. "My passion in college was metal work," Amber explained, referring to her college art career. "I loved soldering and creating beautiful jewelry."

Soon after graduating from OSU, Amber began the pursuit of her teaching career. She sent her résumé



out nationwide, in search of a fantastic teaching position as an art teacher. Much to her surprise, she received a phone call from the Corsicana Independent School District. "I had never even heard of Corsicana," she said, "much less knew where it was."

As a teacher, Amber is extremely hands-on. "I believe they should see what you teach," she said, explaining that she never wanted her students to think all she could do was give instructions. She wanted them to know she could do what she was requesting of them. This year, Amber and her husband of one year, Jason Payne, decided to take her love of art a little bit further. For their first anniversary gift, which is traditionally paper, they gave each other airline tickets to London, where they visited the national museum, and to Paris, where they

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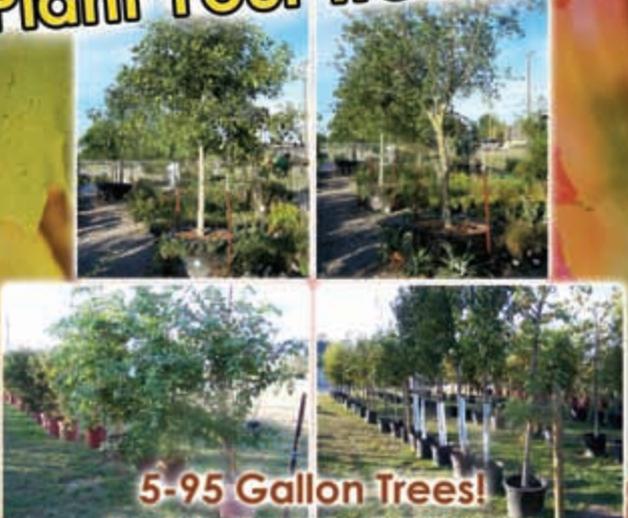
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could study the treasures buried deep in the Louvre. “My students always asked me during our art history study time if I had actually seen any of the things they were studying. I got tired of telling them I hadn’t, but now after my trip, I can proudly say that I have,” she said smiling.

Upon her return home, Amber took the initiative to create a painting representing the various stages in her life. Her piece was displayed in the local artisans display at the Warehouse of Living Arts Center. She described her painting as a progression through her life. “The left side of the painting is that of a cherry tree, which represents my growing up in Oklahoma. ... We



had a huge cherry tree in our backyard, and there were always cherries around,” Amber said. “The middle portrait is that of bluebonnets representing my transition into my new life in Texas. ... The final section of the painting is that of the Eiffel Tower, signifying the importance of my one-year anniversary trip, and my passion for art and finally getting to see it in person.”

Amber has recently decided to move her career in teaching to the next level, and is working toward a master’s in education. She is considering entering the curriculum administrative side of education one day in the far off future, or becoming a college art instructor. “Right now, I’m completely satisfied teaching my students about my love and passion for art,” Amber said. “I want my students to feel free to open their minds.” **NOW**



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LaKresha Bradford was just 8 years old when she discovered the world of speed skating. “My aunt and my parents took me one time to roller skate,” LaKresha remembered. It was a day that changed her life. She took to it like the proverbial duck to water. “I am quick to learn things,” she explained. Her athletic ability, including a natural agility and amazing capacity for speed, was soon noticed by the rink’s owner, Delisa Dean. “She noticed my speed and approached my dad and told us about the speed skating team in Longview, Texas.”

In 1992, LaKresha joined the team. “My parents were always with me,” she recalled appreciatively. “We went two or three times a week to Longview to practice, driving an hour to an hour-and-a-half each way.” She started in quads (four-wheeled skates), then she also began to compete in in-line skating events. “In-lines are different from roller blades,” LaKresha pointed out. In-line skates are what the speed skaters use. In her first year of competition, she excelled. “I was in a two-girl relay in Fresno, California, at the National Speed Skating Championship Competition with my partner, Carmen Snapp, in 1992.” Carmen and LaKresha placed in the finals at that event.

At one point, the Olympic Committee was considering having

Sports NOW

speed skating as an event. In 1995, LaKresha was invited to train for three days at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

For four exciting years, LaKresha participated in speed skating, qualifying for the nationals each year. She traveled to Buffalo and to Syracuse. She also went to Lincoln, Nebraska, to compete. It was an exciting and busy time for her, traveling to competitions and practicing her sport.

Her family was always involved. "My dad and I would go and skate the bike trails at White Rock Lake when I was doing the speed skating," LaKresha remembered. As an only child, she enjoyed spending time with both her parents.

By the time LaKresha reached junior high age, she was ready to concentrate on school sports. "I did basketball, and I was the Varsity Point Guard for ladies basketball," she remembered. "I played second base in softball." Her speed skating training made her a natural in track. "People were amazed that I never tired."

However, the love of skating remained a strong pull. "When I was 16, I was watching TV with my parents, and we saw a rink in Oak Cliff called Southern Skates. It was owned by an African American, and that stood out to us as being unusual at the time. Speed skating had been a predominately Caucasian sport." The family went up and skated there. LaKresha remembered that it was primarily adult skating, 21 and up. "But, my dad told them about my skating background, and since I was with them, they let me skate there." In college, she started skating a lot at Southern Skates. What she saw there introduced her to a new aspect of skating. "I saw people there dance skating to the music! I went home and practiced in my kitchen." LaKresha watched the dance skaters whenever she was at the rink and returned home to learn the moves on her own. Eventually, she

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began dancing with them at the rink. Before long, LaKresha met Cornelius Granger, the founder of the dance skate organization called the "Showtime Rollers."

In 2004, she officially joined the organization. "I had some catching up to do," she admitted. LaKresha spent her evenings practicing dance skating,



while she spent her days preparing for a teaching career. She graduated in December 2006 from the University of Texas at Tyler with a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies. LaKresha is certified to teach early childhood through fourth grade. She now teaches second grade.

All of her skating practice paid off. For the last two years, she has won Best Female Free Style Skater at the Memphis, Tennessee, national convention called "Rolling on the Bluff." At the national conventions, skaters come from each state. "Each state does a different style and does an exhibition of their skating," she explained. "Then there are competitions."

When the team is home in Texas, they practice every week, and perform in local events and parades. "We performed in the Martin Luther King Day parade in Dallas." The team has over 20 members, who gather on Sunday evenings to skate together to hip-hop and rhythm and blues music. "We do synchronized skating," she said. "We each have skater names, and mine is KSmooth." The team just returned from a trip to Chicago where

Sports NOW

they had what LaKresha calls “a skate jam.” A national skate event in Arkansas was next, where each athlete skated individually, and then they all skated as a group.

Competitions are satisfying, and LaKresha likes the opportunity to showcase the sport of skate dancing to hip-hop music.



“Skating is not just for kids; there are skating opportunities for adults, also.” Yet, one of her favorite activities is doing performances for kids and exhibitions at schools. LaKresha enjoys sharing the thrill of skating to music with young people and introducing them to the sport. “I love dance skating because it is a passion — I like the energy. When the song comes on, I can’t be still.” **NOW**



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Business
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It is Family to a Tea

— By Dia Catalani



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“I definitely saw its potential. I knew it was something we could work with, and this is something I’d always wanted to do after the kids were off to college. We had all the right manpower, and we went to work getting it done,” said Julia Motycka, who along with her husband, Scott Motycka, owns the structure. “We did everything ourselves except paint,” Julia continued. “Our kids helped with a lot of the remodeling — whatever it was, they pitched right in.”

In addition to Scott and Julia, the crew included: Luke, 23; Josh, 21; Rebekah, 20; and Julia’s mom, Nell Laswell. Julia said their dedication to this family business will always be appreciated. “They are a big part of this. They’re why we were able to do this,” Julia said.

The family’s collective hard work is



paying off. Open just four years, the unsightly, but historic, two-story which once worried the neighbors, is now a bustling restaurant and gift store. The upper level became the Texas Tea House, a bona fide tea room that is much more than its name implies. Three themed dining rooms lend an attraction to after-hour parties. Here delicious noon meals and Texas Tea House’s famous frozen meals to-go are made, little princess parties are hosted, office parties given and business appointments kept.

“My husband said if his name was going to be associated with any tea room, it would have to have a room just for men,” Julia said of the Texan Room (also a favorite for women). “There [are] a lot of clubs who like to come here, and we’re also one of the stops for many of the Red Hat Society groups. They come from all over, and we really enjoy their company. There’s nothing sweeter to see than those ladies — they really, truly enjoy life.”

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Education
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— By Samantha Stroube

Jim Barnette is a true Corsicana Tiger through and through. He has been associated with the Corsicana Independent School District and the high school in one way or another for over 26 years. He has held an amazing career within the academic arena, and in his current position, he is managing to wear numerous hats for various job responsibilities.

His career in the academic world began when he obtained his bachelor's in education from the University of Texas at El Paso. He subsequently went on to pursue and obtain his master's in education from the same institution. "Someone once told me that if you didn't get your master's immediately after your undergrad years, you will never go back to school," Jim stated, "so I got mine immediately."

After a brief stint of coaching in El Paso, Jim and his lovely wife, Beverly, moved to Arlington and then on to Athens, Texas. In 1981, he began his career in Corsicana. Dedicated to his wife and two children, Jennifer and Joshua,

Jim commuted for two years back and forth between Athens and Corsicana High School (CHS). Finally, the time came for the family to move to Corsicana.

When Jim first began his career at CHS, he was one of the varsity football coaches in addition to being a math teacher. He taught geometry, algebra (I & II), trigonometry and the fundamentals of mathematics. After 16 years

of teaching math and coaching football, Jim was given the opportunity in the fall of 1997, to move into the administrative side of education as the Collins Scholarship Program administrator. Jim did not officially start the position until the end of the 1997 football season.

The Collins Scholarship Fund was originally set up in 1954 by James L. Collins of Corsicana. At the beginning of the life of the scholarship, Mr. Collins wanted to assist at least three students in going to college. Today, the board of

“College is the number one thing we push for, but we respect all post-secondary opportunities.”

Education **NOW**

directors, under the guidance and assistance of Jim, is able to give almost 30 scholarships per year.

Jim explained that his job brings him much joy and heartache. There have been numerous students who



rightfully deserved the scholarship and did not receive it. "There really is no hard and fast rule," Jim said, "It's on a comparative basis." Jim went on to explain the basic stipulation for being considered for a scholarship: A student must be in the top 25 percent of their graduating class; they must have attended CHS for three years; they have to have taken the SAT or ACT, in order to demonstrate a motivation to attend college; their citizenship grade point is taken into consideration, and they can not have any red flags on their record; and they must show discernible financial need.

In addition to giving out the scholarships, Jim is also in charge of monitoring the students who have received them. Jim travels all over to visit the scholarship recipients, making sure they are maintaining the required 2.5 grade point average.

His second standing job is the GO Center Director at CHS. The GO Center assists and motivates students to realize and reach their potential goals. "College is the number one thing we push for, but we respect all post-secondary opportunities," Jim explained. "We are trying to connect

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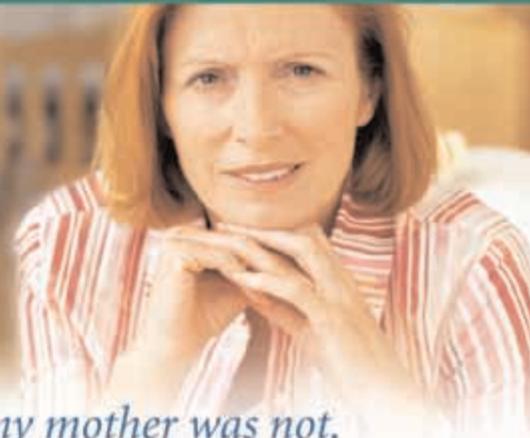
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them with the opportunities that can train them for the skills they will need in the career of their choice.” The GO Center is designed for students to look at their options after graduation, be it college, a technical school, a trade school or the military. “We work through the senior English classes trying to assist them and encourage them to make a transition decision,” Jim said. “The key is getting the parents on board through brochures and evening meetings.”

The third hat Jim wears at CHS is that of the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) district director. AVID takes the average student, not currently engaged in the most rigorous curriculum, and encourages them to take the more difficult curriculum and be successful. “This is our first year,” Jim said, “and we have begun with the freshman class. Next year, hopefully, we’ll be able to add the 10th grade and [also] begin the program in the middle school.” Jim proudly stated that over 99 percent of the students in the AVID program will go on to college.

Finally, Jim juggles, along with teachers, staff and administration at CHS, another new program implemented this year — the “ATTACK Squad,” meaning All Tiger Teachers Advocate for Corsicana Kids. Each teacher and administrator at CHS is assigned 11 students to watch over. “Our goal and duty is to stay on top of our assigned 11 students. Saturday is “ATTACK Day,” that’s when we call or follow up with personal meetings with parents of each of the students,” Jim explained. “Our goal is to meet each ninth-grader’s parent in person, so we can get to know them and they can get to know us. We are their mentors and their positive connections on campus. We want them to feel they can come to us for anything.” Jim and many others just like him are making positive connections at Corsicana High School. **NOW**

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Look Who's Cooking

— By Melinda Hines

IN THE KITCHEN WITH KAREN BOTTOMS

Karen began cooking with Dora Grantham, who was like a grandmother to her. “I would copy down her recipes, and we would watch *Julia Childs* and the *Galloping Gourmet*,” she said. Karen has enjoyed cooking with many of the women in her life. “My mom and mother-in-law were wonderful mentors in the kitchen,” she added.

Karen is an excellent cook in her own right and an avid collector of recipes. She has over 100 cookbooks and three full recipe boxes. “I read cookbooks like anyone else would read a good book,” she said. Karen loves to cook for her family, especially her grandchildren. “My daughter made up a framed recipe card that reads Maw Maw’s kitchen serves 4 with the grandchildren’s names,” Karen said. **NOV**

SQUASH MUFFINS

- 1 1/2 cups cooked squash (approximately 3 or 4)
- 2 Tbsp. margarine
- 10 saltine crackers, crushed
- 1 Tbsp. chopped onion
- 1/4 cup Bisquick
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 1/2 cup grated cheese

Combine all ingredients and pour into 10 - 12 muffin cups. Bake at 350 F for 20 - 25 minutes.

PUMPKIN CUSTARDS

- 3 eggs, slightly beaten
- 1 15-oz. can pumpkin
- 1 1/2 cups whipping cream or half & half
- 2/3 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- 1/2 tsp. salt

Preheat oven to 350 F. In a large bowl combine eggs,

pumpkin, cream, brown sugar, pumpkin pie spice and salt. Mix well with a whisk. Divide among 8 6-oz. custard cups. Place in a roasting pan. Pour hot water into pan around custard cups to a depth of 1 inch. Bake for 45 - 55 minutes or until set. Remove cups from water. Cool slightly and serve warm or chilled.

PORK TENDERLOIN

- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 Tbsp. lemon juice
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 2 pork tenderloins (1 pound each)

Combine first 6 ingredients. Rub over tenderloins. Place tenderloins on a rack in a shallow roasting pan. Bake uncovered at 350 F for 1 1/2 - 2 hours or until desired tenderness. Use a meat thermometer (for medium at 160 F or well done at 170 F). Cover with foil and let stand for 10 minutes or longer before slicing. Serves 6 to 8.

FESTIVE PINEAPPLE CRANBERRY SALAD

- 8 oz. crushed pineapple
- 1 8-oz. pkg. raspberry Jell-O
- 1 16-oz. can cranberry sauce
- 1 medium chopped apple
- 1/3 cup chopped pecans or walnuts

Drain pineapple, reserving liquid. Add enough cold water to liquid to measure 2 cups. Pour into medium saucepan. Bring to a boil. Remove from heat. Add dry Jell-O mix and stir until dissolved. Add cranberry sauce and stir until well blended. Refrigerate 1 1/2 hours or until thickened. Stir in pineapple, apple and nuts. Refrigerate 4 hours or until firm.

MISSISSIPPI MUD PIE

- FILLING:**
- 1 cup unsifted flour
 - 6 Tbsp. cocoa
 - 1/4 tsp. salt
 - 1 cup butter, room temperature
 - 1 1/4 cup sugar
 - 3 large eggs

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Who's Cooking **NOW**

- 1 1/2 tsp. vanilla
- 2/3 cup chopped pecans or walnuts
- FUDGE CANDY ICING:**
- 6 Tbsp. butter
- 6 Tbsp. cocoa
- 2 cups powdered sugar
- 6 Tbsp. Eagle Brand Condensed Milk
- 1 Tbsp. light corn syrup
- 2/3 cup plus 2 Tbsp. chopped pecans or walnuts
- 1 tsp. vanilla

PIE: Preheat oven to 325 F. Sift flour, cocoa and salt together. Set aside. Cream butter and sugar together, add eggs one at a time. Add vanilla. On low speed add flour mixing only until well blended. Stir in nuts. Pour batter into a generously greased 11-inch pie plate. Bake 35 - 40 minutes, until a toothpick inserted comes out clean. Do not over bake. **ICING:** Melt butter over low heat in a heavy 2-quart saucepan. Remove from heat and blend in cocoa, powdered sugar, condensed milk and corn syrup. Mix until smooth. The mixture will be thick. Place saucepan back over low heat and stir constantly until the mixture becomes shiny and thin enough to spread. Remove from heat and stir in 2/3 cup nuts and vanilla. Spread over pie while it is warm. Sprinkle 2 Tbsp. of nuts around the edge of the pie.

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Dr. Confer is a member of the medical staff at Navarro Regional Hospital.

Around Town

NOW



Army PFC Ryan Gantt, top left, is a hometown soldier from Blooming Grove, Texas, who recently deployed to Iraq. Eric Adade and Charles Polk, top center, graciously served beverages during a Chamber event held at Cook Center. A groundbreaking ceremony, top right, was held for the new Freestone-Navarro Bi-County Cooperative Building. Karlan Hightower, bottom left, learned how to bake a cake in style. High-stepping cloggers, bottom center, entertained a crowd in downtown Corsicana. Local students who participated in Tech Camp, bottom right, gathered for a group photo at Navarro College.

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Photo provided by the Byron Cook for Texas House Campaign, David E. Coley, Treasurer, P.O. Box 1397, Corsicana, TX 75115

Around Town **NOW**



Teresa Jenkins of T & Company, top left, was caught in a whimsical moment while decorating her store. Teachers from the Candy Cane Day Care Center, top center, enjoyed a night at Old Mexican Inn following open house. Hospital volunteers, top right, met at Cancun's to enjoy their monthly breakfast event. Paleontologists-in-training, bottom left, dug for dinosaur bones at Cook Center's Dinosaur Camp. Junior volunteers, bottom center, enjoyed an end-of-summer swim party, hosted by volunteer Sandra Curtis. At bottom right, Nita Marshall, left, and Daisy Beggs, right, assisted Betty Kilgo with a jewelry sale held at a Navarro Regional Hospital volunteer scholarship fundraiser.

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— By Sandra McIntosh

Becky Burns admitted she could easily bury herself under a mountain of paperwork, but to do so would fall short of what is most important to her. “It’s the students,” Becky said, referring to what she feels is the main priority in her position as assistant superintendent at the Mildred Independent School District. “All the students know I’m here for them. They grow up knowing I’m always available.”

As a 1975 graduate of Mildred High School (MHS), Becky had dreams of coming home and making a mark. After

“All the students know I’m here for them. They grow up knowing I’m always available.”

earning degrees at Texas A&M and Stephen F. Austin, she found herself doing title work until the day she went to pick her younger brother up from school.

“The principal/superintendent at the time told me to come into the office and sign a contract,” she said.

“I wanted to be a teacher because I

had such an incredible time in school myself. I wanted to come home and give back some of what I was given.”

Becky feels that 18 years as a teacher prepared her for the

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responsibilities she faces today on the campus that houses no fewer than 700 students from kindergarten through the 12th grade. It is a job she does not take lightly. "I temper all I do with the perspective of putting myself, or my own children, in someone else's shoes," Becky said, of her "behind-the-desk" and "out-in-the-hallway" philosophy. "I know how I'd like my kids treated,



so I treat 'my kids' here on campus the same way, and I treat 'my parents' the same way I want to be treated, as well."

As construction liaison between the district and the architect, Becky is looking forward to the future. Plans for a brand new elementary campus, slated to open next fall, are currently underway. Becky realizes that the success she is experiencing is not hers alone. She gives credit where credit is due. "I could not do this job without the support of my husband, Roy. He is totally behind what I do here. He is supportive and understanding," she explained. "I can't forget superintendent Doug Lane, who is not only my boss, but my mentor and friend." As Becky continued to speak highly of the people she pulls positive energy from, she saved the largest group for last — the staff of over 100. "The best can still

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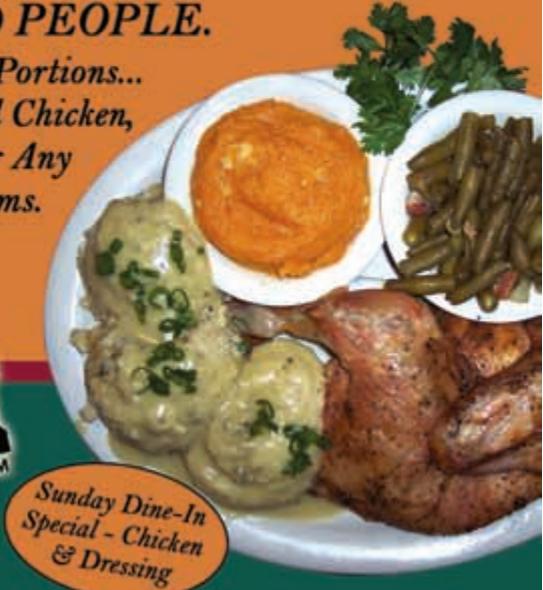
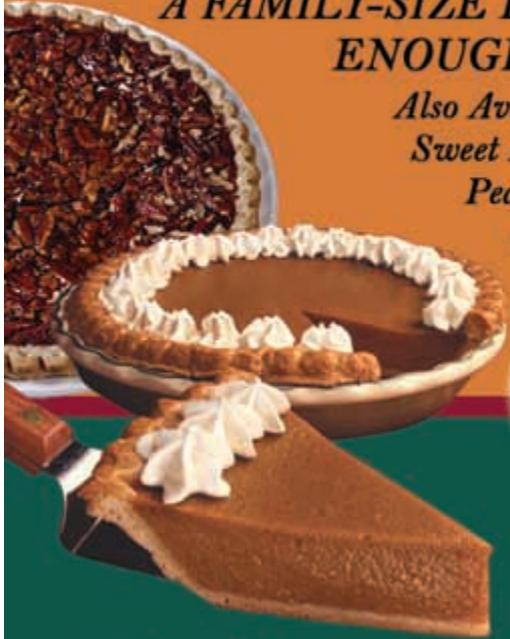
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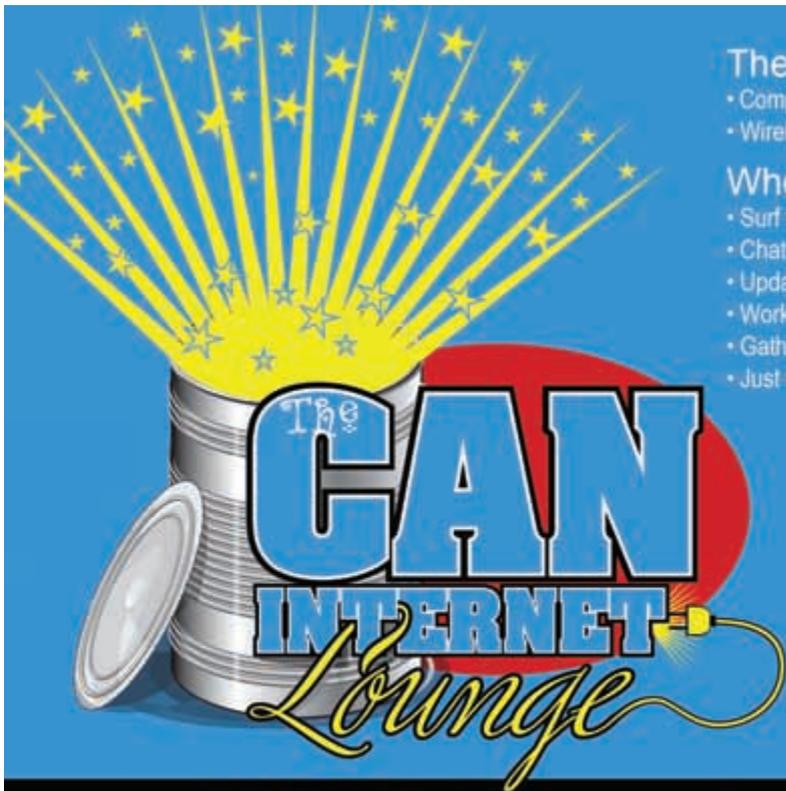
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be found in a small school district. I have the best custodians, the best support staff, the best teachers and the best principals,” she said, with that matter-of-fact expression that means she is not kidding. “I’m really so blessed to be here!”

Setting good examples for others to follow begins at the top. Becky, always following Doug’s lead, sets an example



that in turn sets the mood for the entire campus. “Don’t ever underestimate the power of a smile or a kind word,” she said. “You have to be willing to set the example. I never want anyone to say I don’t work hard and long for my children, my staff and my school.”

The only way Becky is able to set the example is to get out from behind her desk and be seen and heard in the hallways. Sometimes, it is as simple as setting the alarm on her cell phone. “I do this often so I don’t miss class changes,” she said. Becky cares so deeply about her students that she knows each of them by name and, in most cases, she also knows the names of their parents. “They [students] have to know you care about them,” she added, as she excused herself to help one new student find his next class, only to return to help another open a jammed locker. “It would be easy to get lost in all the paperwork, but I always try to remember why I’m here. This is my school. I want everyone to get up and want to come to school. I want them to be glad they are here.” **NOW**

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— By Sterling Hyden

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**Health
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Women's Health, Part 1

— By Michelle Confer

As you may be aware, October was National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (NBCAM), and you may have seen campaigns to promote breast cancer awareness, screening, treatment and research. As the daughter of a breast cancer survivor and an OB/GYN, I applaud effort made to provide awareness about cancer and its prevention.

However, I would like to take the opportunity to focus on women's health in general, not just the prevention of breast cancer. You may not know that women are at far more risk from cardiovascular disease for instance, than all cancers combined. In the U.S., approximately 350,000 women a year die from cardiovascular disease and, listen up ladies, more women than men die from these diseases each year! That means that we are more likely to die from a heart attack than breast cancer or ovarian cancer or cervical

cancer, and we are more likely to get that heart attack than our husbands! I am sure you all have heard about this in some form or another, but maybe it has not yet hit home for you. So, here is a list of the top five causes of death for women in the U.S.:

1. Cardiovascular disease

2. Cancer

According to the American Cancer Society, more than 70,000 women in the United States die of lung cancer each year, with the majority of these deaths linked to cigarette smoking, exceeding breast cancer which is responsible for about 40,000 deaths each year.

- a. Lung cancer
- b. Breast cancer
- c. Colorectal cancer

3. Stroke

4. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

5. Alzheimer's disease

Does this list surprise you? As a healthcare provider for women I know this list, but, as a woman like you, it still surprises me that these diseases we long thought were more common in men, such as heart attacks and colon cancer, are actually more common in women. I, therefore, understand why my average patient looks at me in shock when she comes to see me for her "yearly PAP smear" and I pull out my stethoscope to listen to her heart or ask about her cholesterol level.

As you see the pink reminders of the risk of breast cancer and the intense research into its prevention and treatment, let that remind you that the rest of your body needs comprehensive attention, too. Visit your local OB/GYN to let him or her help you to be as healthy as you can be. Next month, I will further discuss the role your OB/GYN plays in keeping you healthy. **NOW**

*Contributed by Michelle Confer, MD
Obstetrics & Gynecology
Navarro Regional Hospital*

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November 2007 Community Calendar

First Wednesdays

Richland Chambers Lake Committee meeting, 4 p.m., Oak Cove Marina. Dates are subject to change due to scheduling conflicts. Call (903) 874-4731 to confirm date and time.

Ambassador Committee meeting, 1 p.m., Chamber of Commerce. Dates are subject to change due to scheduling conflicts. Call (903) 874-4731 to confirm date and time.

Second Wednesdays

Utility & Infrastructure Committee meeting, 11 a.m., Chamber of Commerce. Dates are subject to change due to scheduling conflicts. Call (903) 874-4731 to confirm date and time.

Executive Committee meeting, 3 p.m., Chamber of Commerce. Dates are subject to change due to scheduling conflicts. Call (903) 874-4731 to confirm date and time.

Second Thursday

Tourism Committee meeting, noon, Chamber of Commerce. Dates are subject to change due to scheduling conflicts. Call (903) 874-4731 to confirm date and time.

November 3

Corsicana Start! Heart Walk 2007 at the Corsicana YMCA. Registration: 8 a.m. Walk: 9 a.m. Enjoy a 5K non-competitive walking event designed to bring public awareness to physical activity and a heart-healthy lifestyle while raising funds for the life-saving mission of the American Heart Association.

Southwestern Donkey and Mule Society Show, 9 a.m. at the Navarro County Expo Center. (936) 396-6377.

Corsicana Opry takes the stage. Dining: 6 p.m. Show: 7 p.m., Martin's Music Hall, 201 South Beaton Street. Spotighting songwriter/singer/musician Sarah Getto as well as Zanada Tally, Dave Young, Virginia Martin, Billy Lewis, Bobby Fluker, Fred Hayes and Michael McClune. Tickets are \$10 per person. Call (903) 872-8226 for reservations.

November 5

The Corsicana Art League meeting, 6 p.m., The Senior Center, 919 West Park. Guest speaker will be well-known local artist Chuck Miller on "Painting Art on Commission."

November 7

Richland Chambers Lake Committee meeting, 4 p.m., Oak Cove Marina on S. Hwy 287. Dates are subject to change. Call (903) 874-4731 to verify.

November 10

Annual Arts & Crafts Show, 9 a.m., College Park Mall. Approximately 80 - 100 vendors will display handmade quilts, dolls, toys, woodcrafts, ironworks, Christmas decorative items, jams, jellies and so much more.

Central Texas Quarter Horse Association Fall Show Series, 8 a.m. at the Navarro County Expo Center. (903) 641-6844.

November 13

"Your Inside Story" hosted by the Emmanuel Baptist Church, 2217 W. 7th Avenue. Learn your inside story through a sophisticated health screening. (877) 854-4735.

November 13 - 15

Corsicana Chamber of Commerce Membership Drive, 7 a.m., Corsicana Country Club. (903) 874-4731.

November 15

City of Corsicana Government Day #2, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. at City Hall.

November 17

Lone Star Pony Club Performance Show, 8 a.m., Navarro County Exposition Center. (325) 356-3838.

November 24

Heart of Texas Barrel Racers Association Barrel Racing Series, noon, Navarro County Exposition Center. For more information contact Camille McCain at (903) 875-5283.

Hat Brand Winter Rodeo Series, 7:30 p.m. at the Navarro County Exposition Center.

November 28

Healthy Texans Class, 3:30 p.m., Bank of America Building VOICE Office. Class held in partnership between VOICE and the Navarro County Texas Cooperative Extension Office. For more information, contact Gina Dieterichs at (903) 872 - 0180.

To have your events posted on the community calendar, e-mail us at: kkovar@nowmagzines.com.



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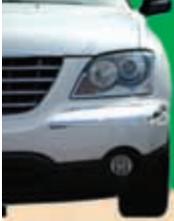
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