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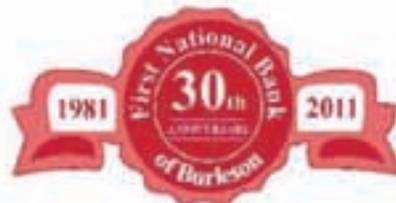
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Burluson Editor, Melissa Rawlins  
Editorial Coordinator, Sandra Strong  
Editorial Assistant, Beverly Shay  
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Rena Noatch . Carolyn Wills  
Editors/Proofreaders, Pat Anthony  
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Artists, Julie Carpenter . Martha Macias  
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**On The Cover**



Chad Jones has been determined to be the best fiddler he can be since his first lesson.

Photo by Jill Rasco Photography.

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# Editor's Note

*Happy 2012!*

At this time every year, I get to start over, in a way. I just celebrated my big 44, and now I'm thinking of all the new beginnings ahead of me. Some will be of my own making, and others will be given to me to make good on. What sort of fresh ideas are you considering this month?

It seems as our region grows and changes, one thing stays the same for each of us: We all have 168 hours every week to invest into our liberty, our health, our happiness, our wealth and our family and friends. How we accomplish these tasks is personal and fascinating, not to mention motivational. I invite you to share with me your plans and ideas — or your neighbors' — for making a difference in 2012. I sure am blessed to be able to tell your good stories to our whole community, and look forward to hearing from you!

Have a peaceful year!

*Melissa*

Melissa Rawlins  
BurlsonNOW Editor  
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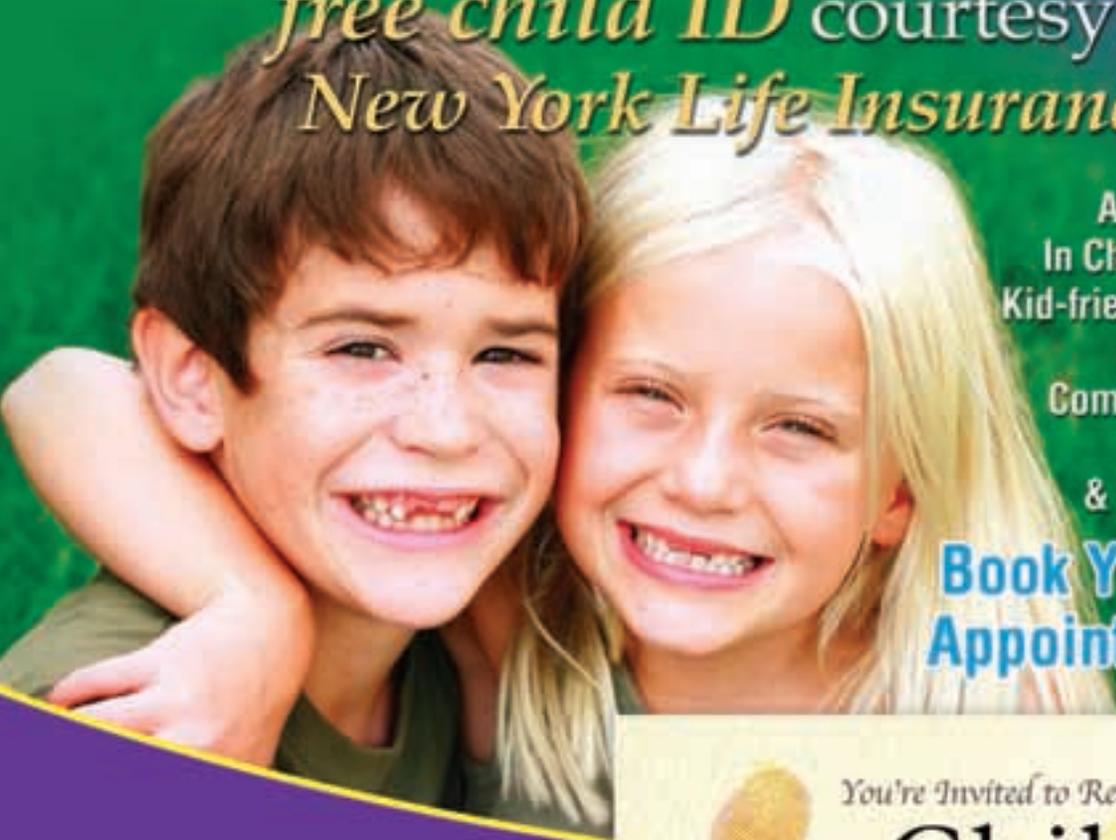
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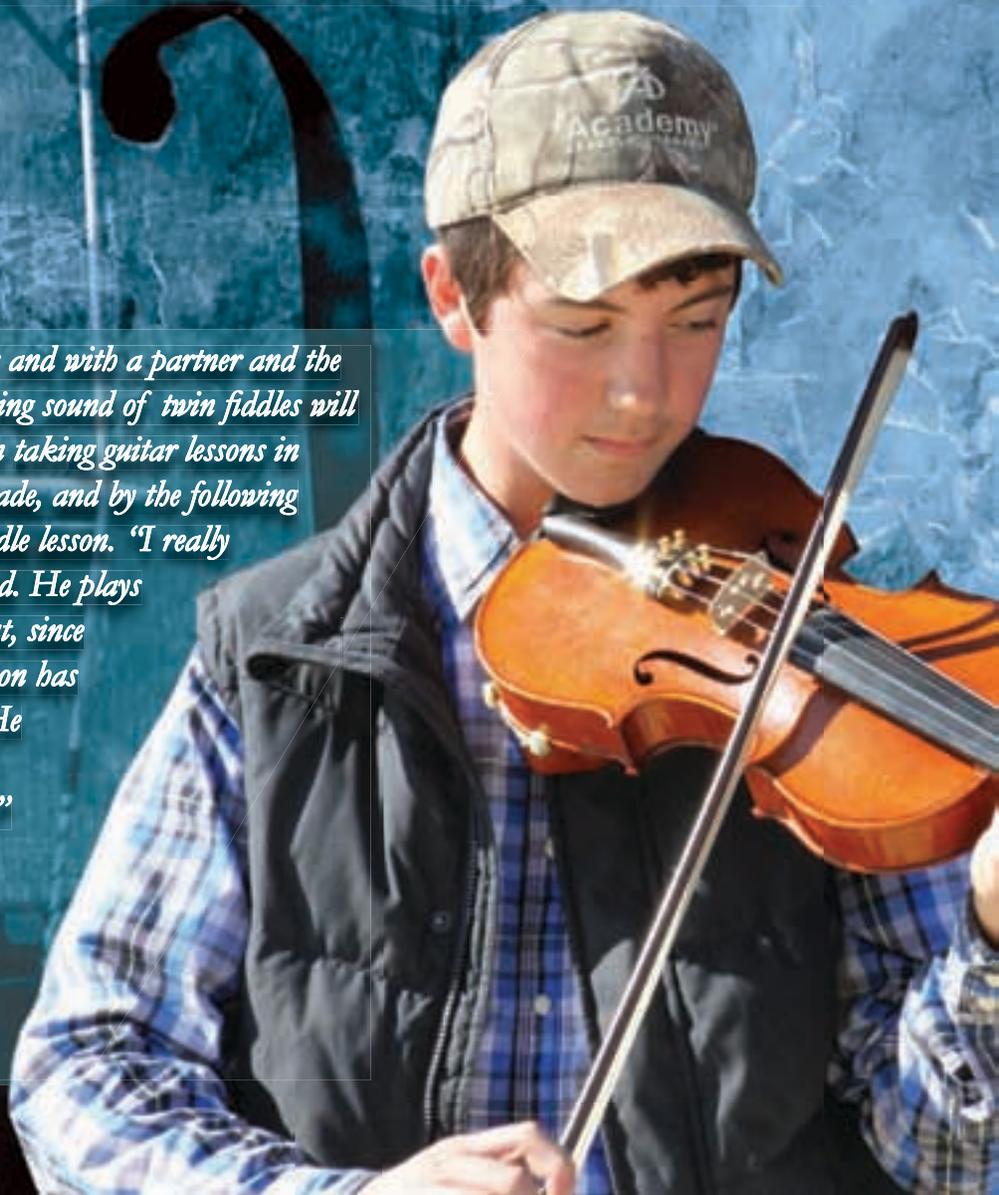
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# Above All Else, a Fiddler

— By Carolyn Wills

*Give Chad Jones a fiddle these days and with a partner and the opportunity to perform, the heart-melting sound of twin fiddles will quickly explain his passion. He began taking guitar lessons in June 2009, the summer after sixth grade, and by the following June, he had signed up for his first fiddle lesson. "I really like the way the fiddle sounds," he said. He plays guitar and a little banjo and piano but, since that first fiddle lesson, his determination has been to be the best fiddler he can be. He enjoys old songs like "Sally Goodin," "Cotton-Eyed Joe" and "Faded Love" and musicians like Flatt & Scruggs, Bob Wills and Johnny Cash. "I like Clint Black, Brad Paisley and Luke Bryan, too," he said. "My favorite is Alan Jackson."*



Last year, Chad and 4-H friend, Holly Strevey from Grandview, teamed up to play twin fiddles at the 4-H Share the Fun competition in Johnson County. “We won first place and then finished first at the district level,” he said. The two had played together only a short time, yet their styles blended well. They went on to play at a few events that were not associated with 4-H, too.

In the fall, Chad began to take lessons at a studio closer to his home in Burleson and met and practiced with fellow student, Katie Crawford. “Katie and I are playing together for guests arriving at this year’s Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame induction,” he said.

While music is his passion, Chad’s list of interests is anything but short. In fact, he is a very busy young man. “My mom says when I was in sixth grade I suddenly became interested in everything,” he smiled.

**“School is a priority in my family. I want to go to Texas A&M someday, and I understand that a high GPA is important. So far, I’ve maintained an A average on my report cards. Once in a while I get a B, but not often.”**

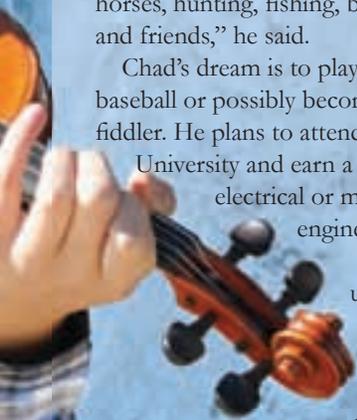
He is decidedly younger than his four half-siblings, aged 27 to 36, and has the charm of being the baby in the family and confidence of an only or oldest child. He is blessed with a supportive family including two very proud parents. At age 15, he’s handsome, personable, an A student in his ninth-grade class at Centennial High School, and his list of pursuits is impressive. “I love music, horses, hunting, fishing, baseball, family and friends,” he said.

Chad’s dream is to play professional baseball or possibly become a famous fiddler. He plans to attend Texas A&M University and earn a degree in electrical or mechanical engineering.

Chad grew up in Burleson. “We’ve lived in the same house all of my life,” he said. “My

grandparents own a farm in Godley, and it’s the family gathering place. I spend a lot of time there hunting, fishing and riding horses, especially in the summers. I practice fiddling, too. Sometimes, when I play a song like “Cotton-Eyed Joe,” my grandmother will dance and everyone sings along.”

About the time he discovered music, Chad also fell in love with horses. “When I was 12, my brother-in-law bought a horse. Soon after that, my mom, my granddad and I bought three horses,” he said. “I needed to become a good rider, but before that happened, I was bucked off.”



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With the help of 4-H friends, he was able to move past the bucking incident and eventually entered some local 4-H horse shows and won a few ribbons. In February 2011, Chad and his mom bought a 3-year-old Quarter horse gelding named CR Moonshine Rey. "Rey is short, about 14.3 hands, and I'm almost 6 feet tall. It's easy for me to ride him," Chad smiled. "I like to ride bareback, and I've taught him to side pass without a bridle. We are learning to sort and cut cows so that Rey and I can compete at the 4-H district and state levels and, hopefully, win some scholarship money."

Last August, Rey was sent to a friend's place to refine his sorting skills and, in the meantime, Chad rode his grandfather's gelding, JR. "My grandfather grew up on a farm," Chad said. "He knows horses. When he was my age, he used to break young horses now and then."



To see Chad with Rey and JR is to know he is a natural. "I love being around horses," he said, "I started riding and taking music lessons in the sixth grade and, even though I enjoy both, I think I like fiddling the most. With horses, you're either up or down whether you're riding, training or competing, but with fiddling, you're in control and once you're good, you're good. From my first lesson, I caught on quickly and have been practicing and taking lessons individually and with partners. If I get extremely good, I would like to be famous some day but, for now, I'm happy playing for tips."

Beyond fiddles and horses, Chad is an avid hunter and fisherman, baseball player and devoted Rangers' fan. "I'm certified to hunt alone, and I hunt everything from white tail deer, dove, quail and ducks to hogs and coyotes, and if necessary, skunks," he grinned. "Last

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June I joined the Bursleson Bass Club, and I also play short stop or second base on two baseball teams at the Bursleson Youth Association. Our fall team finished undefeated last year."

Chad is also an active 4-H member. "I'm going to Washington, D.C., with a 4-H group from Johnson County this June," he said. "It's up to us as a group to raise money for the trip." He has participated in food drives and horse judgments, and his family usually hosts the group's Christmas and New Year's Eve parties at his grandparents' barn.

When he is not in Godley, at school, fiddle lessons or 4-H, Chad is at home with two very special friends. Lucy, his 16-year-old Labrador/Collie, has been with him his whole life. Then, there's Piglet, the 3-year-old Corgi/Healer/Australian Shepherd who arrived as a snorting puppy and remains a feisty friend.

The most important prerequisite to all of Chad's passions and hopes is education. "School is a priority in my family. I want to go to Texas A&M someday, and I understand that a high GPA is important," he said. "So far, I've maintained an A average on my report cards. Once in a while I get a B, but not often."

If becoming a famous fiddler is in the cards for Chad or playing professional baseball, being a successful engineer, conducting big-game tours — or merging every interest into one colossal passion — this gifted young man is sure to give it everything he has. Just ask anyone who knows him. **NOW**



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# Hope for a Hobby

— By Melissa Rawlins

*When Billy Hutchings was young, he got an apple, an orange, some candy and a toy at Christmas — and he was happy with it. “Still, I agree with the theory that our kids need to have it better than we did,” Billy said. And so he worked two jobs for many years when he was in his 20s to help support his mom, his stepdad and his brothers. During the last six years of his 41-year career with Howell Instruments, Inc., Billy also was on the organizing board of the Crowley House of Hope, which was the brainchild of three United Methodist women. Janice Cortbay was the first president of its board of directors. Billy’s responsibility was to go each week to the Tarrant Area Food Bank on his lunch hour.*

“In the evening after I got off work, I would take all the nonperishable food items to the House of Hope and put them on the shelves,” Billy said. He organized the Fun Run for the House



of Hope for several years to raise funds for rent and utilities, and then began the Penny Race. Each year, the Penny Race pays for school supplies and uniforms for about 700 children in the Crowley Independent School District.



***“When clients say, ‘Thanks, God bless you,’ it makes it all worthwhile.”***

In 1996, Billy began serving House of Hope as president of the board. He retired from Howell Instruments in 1999, and it did not take long for Billy and his wife, Linda, to jump in nearly full time. Now House of Hope’s COO, Billy deals with operational and management issues six days a week, even though it is only open four days each week. And Linda is there every Thursday, whistling while she works in the thrift shop.

Its clothing selection, tidy organization, professional displays and low prices attract shoppers from miles around. Run entirely by volunteers, the thrift shop earns enough each month to put \$3,000 back into the Crowley community to help people with medication, utility bills, rent and food. Such a dollars-and-cents approach pleases the board of directors of the emergency assistance center.

Citizens who have the time volunteer on-site or join the board of Crowley House of Hope and help guide its affairs. Dusty Babitzke has been president of the board the past two years. John Quiroz,



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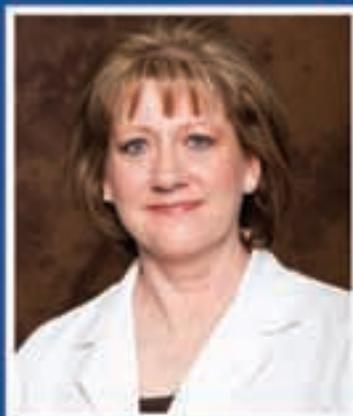
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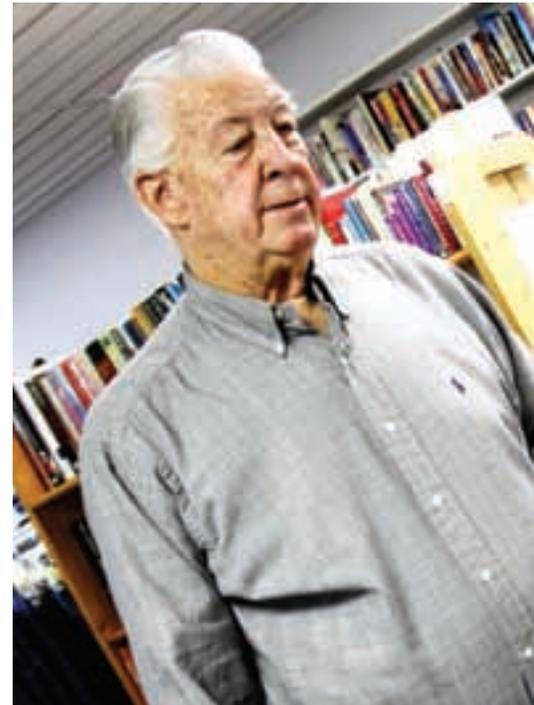
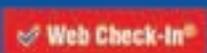
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a faithful volunteer of many years, has recently been elected president of the board for 2012. Billy looks back at the long history of community leaders and appreciates the progress House of Hope has made. "A lot of the longevity and smoothness of growth is due to our wonderful group of good, caring volunteers," said Billy, who works with 12 churches around the area. "Some of the churches provide monetary gifts, others help with the special projects and still others have volunteers who help on a weekly basis."

Individuals and local businesses worked hard to create the physical structure that houses the vital services provided by the House of Hope. "Originally, we assisted with food and clothing from a 20-by-20 room next to Dr. Baker on Texas Street, for which we paid \$200 per month in rent and utilities. After four months, the operation moved to 105 West Main Street, next door to Martinez Cleaners," Billy remembered.

He and the board used to daydream about the assistance center having its own building. In 1996, Billy and Linda visited Community Christian Storehouse in Keller and decided to set up something similar to help the Crowley community. The board of directors agreed with the vision and donated its energy and time to run the new thrift shop.

The fledgling store immediately began



earning money, and by the year 2000 the board had \$40,000 sitting in a building fund. Billy negotiated with the landowner and the House of Hope paid \$45,000 for 450 feet running along the west side of the railroad track north of Main Street. In one year, the property was paid for and, with guidance from Realtor Mary Jane Stuart, used as collateral to build the first of three buildings. The 5,000-square-foot original structure now houses the thrift shop, food pantry and two offices.

Charley's Cement Company donated the cement for the first parking lot. "The construction took quite a while because we did a lot of the work with volunteer help," Billy said, his eyes twinkling with pride in his community. A dedication ceremony was held October 1, 2001. The names of more than 300 people who provided funds, services and in-kind donations are engraved on plaques that hang inside the building around the corner from Billy's office. More than 40 volunteers carry on their mission to help families put square meals on the table and clothes on their backs.

Brenda Solis, whose salary is paid from thrift shop earnings, interviews 60 to 100 families each month to make sure they qualify to receive food and financial assistance. "The good Lord sent us a good one when he sent us Brenda," Billy said. During the last few months,



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her workload doubled because she also oversaw the application process for school supplies, Thanksgiving baskets and the Share the Love Holiday House Christmas project. Two buildings south of Brenda's office, "Share the Love" distributes, from donations alone, an abundant Christmas for nearly 1,000 children.

In between these two buildings is a 3,000-square-foot structure housing two different programs. A three-year-old service, The Snack Sack Program, is coordinated in one large room by Evelyn Pipes and her many volunteers, who work to ensure that every Friday 300-400 school children receive a large Ziploc bag full of snacks. Local businesses, churches and individuals provide funds for this project. "I'm a retired school teacher, and I know kids need nourishment. This goes to those, selected by counselors, on free and reduced lunches," Evelyn said, "and supplements their nutritional needs over the weekend."

On the southern end of this building is the Crowley House of Hope Clinic, offering free medical care for those who qualify and reside in an area including all of Crowley ISD and extending all the way to Hulén Mall. Dr. Elvin Adams serves as the medical director and his wife, Marie Adams, is the clinic coordinator. Leona Rapp coordinates the clinic volunteers and day-to-day operations.

Billy drives a pickup donated by Chesapeake Energy. "I appreciate it very much. The truck I had was my personal truck, and I wore it out driving it for the House of Hope. I burn a lot of gas picking up food each week at the Tarrant Area Food Bank and at other locations," Billy said, "but when clients say, 'Thanks, God bless you,' it makes it all worthwhile. I love doing what I can to help others." Instead of playing golf during retirement, Billy's hobby is Crowley's House of Hope. **NOW**

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# Truly Remarkable

— By Carolyn Wills



## At Home With Jeff & Kathe Reis

*Jeff and Kathe Reis are self-reliant, energetic and entrepreneurial by nature. Jeff creates successful companies and Kathe runs her own boutique. By 2007, their daughter, Kylin, had graduated from high school and Jeff and Kathe had agreed it was time to sell the house in Oak Valley Estates to build a new home. They had purchased acreage near Crowley years ago. The barn was already there, as were Kathe's horses and a small group of Jeff's cows, and, for eight years, it had been their daily routine to drive to the property to feed the animals. "We originally bought the place for Kathe's horses," Jeff said. "It was covered in mesquite trees and separated from the main road by a house that had once been part of the property."*



In 1998, Jeff and a partner had started a company serving the wireless industry. At the time, he and Kathe lived in Oklahoma City. The business grew quickly and was increasingly taking Jeff to Texas. "Kathe finally said, 'Let's just move,'" he said. They found a home in Oak Valley Estates and 10 years later, the company sold, and he and Kathe were ready to design their own home. The house they envisioned was not just any house, though, and, when the last tile was laid and appliances installed, it was truly a remarkable home.

Beyond the pastoral view, natural landscaping and breathtaking Texas Hill Country design, the Reises' home is special because it was built for sustainability. As a result of complying with green standards developed by the U.S. Green Building Council, the home is certified as a Platinum Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). "We knew that we wanted a 'green' home," Kathe said. "We designed it with the help of an architect who specializes in sustainable design and then selected a builder experienced with green standards."

The approach to the home is a curving driveway that leads to an enormous back porch which, for all purposes, is the front porch, too. "We don't have a front door," Kathe smiled. "Our back is the front, because we built the house to face south for efficiency and for the view. We entertain a lot and have really enjoyed having a patio with retractable screens."



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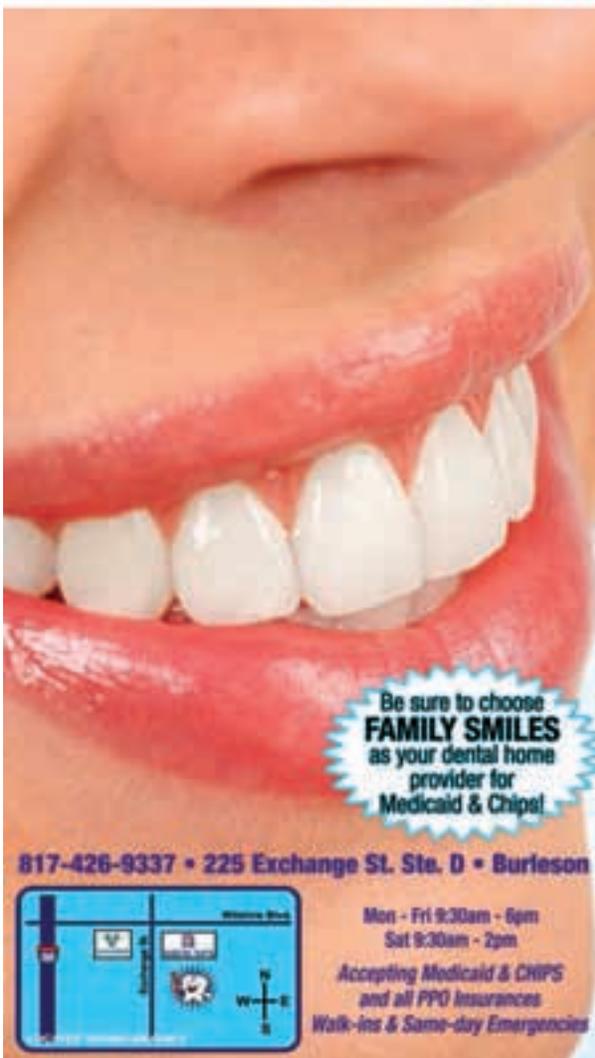
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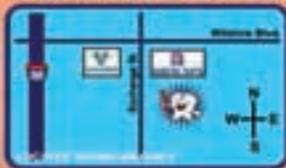
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The porch extends the length of the 3,600-square-foot, two-story home and overlooks a kidney-shaped swimming pool bordered by three metal palm trees that double as light sources. Beyond the pool is a view of pastures, grazing horses, cows and a donkey named Junior.

“As it turned out, our previous house sold before this one was built, so we moved into the apartment in the barn,” Jeff said. “I did most of the contracting and all of the dirt work myself including

clearing tough mesquite trees. Kathe was here every day to monitor the work and interior design.”

The home is topped by a metal roof and faced with the soft, beautiful colors of Palo Pinto sandstone. “We love the Hill Country look,” Kathe said. The porch opens into a large space that includes the living room, kitchen and dining area. The kitchen cabinets and most of the wood throughout the house are made of knotty alder finished with a

pecan stain. The counters are made of granite hand-picked by Kathe and a long exterior island features lower cabinets painted soft green in contrast to the darker cabinets mounted on the adjacent wall. “Jeff’s favorite place is the breakfast bar,” Kathe said. “We have breakfast, watch TV and enjoy the view all at the same time.”

In the main area, the ceiling peaks at 26 feet, and there’s a huge upstairs loft at one end with office spaces for Jeff and

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Kathe. The primary interior color is a light sage green accented with sandstone. Two of the three bedrooms are carpeted, and the rest of the downstairs flooring is a dark brown tile that looks amazingly like wood. "We have cork flooring in the loft," Jeff said. "It's sustainable and helps buffer sound."

"We wanted a comfortable home," Kathe said. "We hope everyone who comes here feels relaxed and welcomed."

In addition to beautiful accents like leather and fabric custom window coverings are some wonderful, whimsical touches. Three small bronze figures appear to be scaling the stone wall behind the wood pellet stove. "Those are our wall climbers," Kathe smiled. "They're quite a conversation piece, especially when they're decorated for the holidays." A large dog sculpture sits in the corner of the living room and a small cat figurine is in the dining room.

While the home's substance and design speak for themselves, Jeff and Kathe are especially proud of energy features like the solar water heater, wood pellet stove, rain catch system with its 16,500 gallon tank, recycled plastic insulation and five-rated windows manufactured for efficiency. "The walls are structurally insulated and were pre-cut and delivered in 8-foot panels on semi-trucks," Jeff explained. "Our attic is like a big foam-insulated Igloo ice chest. In the summer, it stays the same temperature as the house."

Jeff and Kathe met about 25 years ago in Oklahoma City. Jeff had been stationed in Alaska with the Air Force

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and, when his tour was up, rather than stay in Alaska or go back home to Wisconsin, friends encouraged him to move to Oklahoma. He and Kathe met while working at a vocational school. Success in business drew them to Texas where Jeff ultimately sold one company and recently started a new one with offices in Arlington.

“Kathe and I still have friends in Oklahoma City and a ranch in Durant, Oklahoma, where we run cattle. I only keep a few cows on the property in Texas,” Jeff said. He is the cow person and Kathe the horse person.

“I don’t ride anymore,” she said. “When we first bought our acreage I had four horses, and now I have one. Kool is a retired therapy horse. He is older now and happy to share the pasture with Junior, the donkey. We also have an indoor cat named Frisky and seven barn cats.” Their four rescue dogs include 13-year-old Libby, 9-year-old Smudge, a 3-year-old Great Pyrenees/German Shepherd mix named Shaq and a friend he recently brought home.

“We know all of our neighbors,” Jeff smiled. “Working with a backhoe out here is like a magnet. People are really friendly and everyone watches out for each other.”

The Reises’ home is remarkable not only in beauty, but in efficiency and sustainability. A sign on the wall in their kitchen indicates their ultimate design goal: “Enjoy Live Relax” and, without exception, Jeff and Kathe’s home reflects those words. **NOW**

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# REBELS WITH A CAUSE

— By Carolyn Wills

*Dean Nancy Holland welcomed more than 350 students to Hill College @ Burleson last fall. In 2006, she was present as the associate dean to greet the newly opened educational center's initial class of 87 students. "It's such a privilege to be part of Hill College," she smiled. "For some, walking through these doors for the first time can be one of the hardest things they will ever do, and I am honored to be in the position to welcome them."*

With classes averaging 16-22 students and classrooms sharing one building, the culture at Burleson's Hill College is friendly, purposeful and charged with the promise of change. "Education is not limited to the classroom," Dean Holland said. "It surrounds us in everything we do." To say she is passionate about the importance of community colleges to the American educational system and to the students they serve is an understatement. "Community college is not only a stepping stone to the university," she explained. "We represent new beginnings, providing an opportunity for individuals to become



productive citizens with skills to enter many career fields.”

As a former Hill College student, Dean Holland speaks from experience. “I grew up in Cleburne. After high school, I was determined to go to college, but I knew that I needed to work. Fortunately, as a community college student, I had the opportunity to do both.” She graduated from Hill College distinguished as *cum laude* with an associate degree and, then, finished her Bachelor of Science degree at East Texas State University (now Texas A&M University-Commerce).

Dean Holland served as CEO with the YMCA before beginning as assistant and, then director of financial aid at Hill College. She returned to Texas A&M University-Commerce, graduating with a master’s degree in higher education

**“I’ve always been guided by faith and determination.”**



administration in May 2004. She became associate dean at Hill College @ Burleson in 2006. “It seems I’ve always been drawn to higher education,” she stated.

By 2009, her work as associate dean led to her decision to earn a Community College Leadership Certification (CCLC). The 18-hour program in leadership, teaching and learning was offered at the University of North Texas in Denton. As intense as the drive and workload was, it proved to be an extraordinary experience. “I’ve always been guided by faith and determination,” Dean Holland explained, “and the belief that there is a season and a reason for everything. As

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part of the CCLC program, we studied the works of Robert K. Greenleaf and, to my amazement, his description of servant-leadership put words to what has motivated me throughout my life. It also helped me to move forward on the dream of seeing a student group at Hill College @ Burleson.”

In the spring of 2010, her vision materialized with the beginning of the student group, Rebels With a Cause. “Rowdy Rebel is the Hill College mascot,” Dean Holland said. It seemed appropriate to apply a twist on the James Dean movie title for such a positive undertaking. “After tossing names around, the group voted to call themselves Rebels With a Cause,” she said, “and added the motto ‘Learn to lead ... Lead to learn.’”

Becoming a member of Rebels With a Cause is a chance for students to enjoy student life and feel part of something bigger. Membership requires a student to be enrolled in good standing at Hill College @ Burleson.

The core leadership of Rebels With a Cause is under the guidance of the dean. “The leadership team accepts the roles of officers and committee chairs,” Dean Holland explained. “They are required to submit an essay describing their definitions of a leader, leadership and how they will contribute. They make a commitment to practice service learning, volunteer in the community and establish high leadership standards.”

The leadership team, consisting of



four to six members, represents Hill College @ Burleson in the community, as well as to the students. "They have really become involved," Dean Holland said. "They've participated in community events such as Founders' Day and the Mayor's Book Club. In black slacks and blue shirts with our Rebels With a Cause emblem, they are impressive and charming."

Dean Holland praises the group. "The group was charged with the task of producing a pep rally conveying to our student body the purpose of Hill College's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), a plan demonstrating ways to solve problems using critical thinking skills. Having only two weeks to get it together, the group did a fantastic job transforming the student center into 'QEP Pep Rally Central.'"

Each year at the Hill College annual gala, "Boots & Suits," accomplishments and contributions to the mission of Hill College are recognized. As a result of its success, Rebels With a Cause was presented with funds to enhance student life in Burleson.

Hill College is a comprehensive residential community college with campuses in Hillsboro and Cleburne, educational centers in Glen Rose, Burleson and Meridian and, also, a virtual campus. The main campus in Hillsboro opened in 1923, and all its campuses now serve some 4,500 students. Hill College @ Burleson offers core curriculum classes and was created when Mayor Ken Shetter encouraged the city of Burleson

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Nancy was named dean in spring 2011. She lives in Cleburne with David, her husband of 33 years. David is an electrical supervisor in the nuclear industry. “Being a first generation student, having the support of several — but most importantly my parents, my older brother and sister, and especially my husband — has been a blessing,” Dean Holland said. “Their support and love is what allowed me to spread my wings and be the person I am today.”

Education, community college and students are her passion. “I believe that everyone has a special gift to bring to the party,” she smiled. When Dean Holland speaks to students she tells them, “With heart and the passion to learn, you are in the right place, at the right time. Learning one new thing each day will make a difference in your life, and sharing it will make a difference in another’s. The first step is walking through the door of opportunity, the door you walked through to get to where you are at this moment.”

Robert K. Greenleaf defines a servant-leader as one who begins with a natural feeling of wanting to serve. Dean Holland fits the criteria. To paraphrase one of her favorite Greenleaf quotes, she said, “Don’t speak unless you can improve upon the silence. But when the Spirit moves, you must give it voice.” **NOW**

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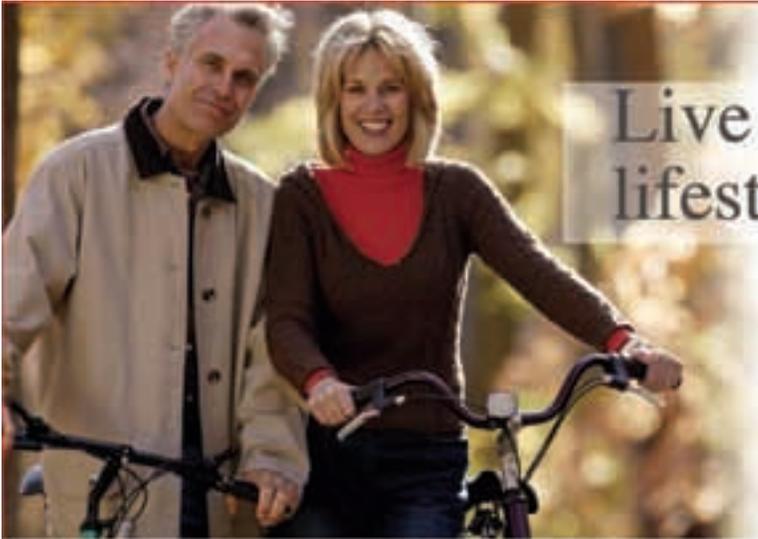
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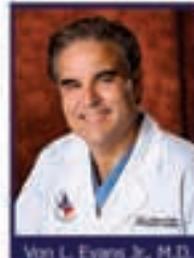
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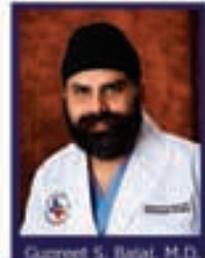
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# THE CASA CONNECT

— By Julie B. Cosgrove

*Johnson County native, Steve McClure, has been an attorney in Burlison since 1987, and he's golfed and hunted throughout his adult life. About five years ago, when his attention and his heart turned to children who need representation in court, Steve's love for outdoor sports inspired two fun ways to help these children. "I do a lot of family law," Steve admitted. "There are a lot of kids who need help."*

According to Steve, when Child Protective Services removes children from their home environment due to violence, neglect or abuse, the children are placed in foster care. In court proceedings, the parents and social workers can testify and have attorney representation. "But it's hard to get through the layers to the real truth at times. The children need someone who has spent time with them, visited the home and can give the judge an unbiased, in-depth opinion of the situation." Steve explained that the children need a go-between, without an agenda, who will speak up for them in court. "These kids usually have lots of problems and don't know who they can trust."



# CASA ATION

*“CASA is a very well-organized group. Judges rely on the CASA volunteers to help them see the whole picture.”*

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) was established to fill this need. A national program, it was implemented in Johnson County by Judge John E. Neil on November 20, 2002. “He saw the benefit of the program, and the difference it can make in a child’s life.” Steve did as well, but because he is an attorney who may have to represent the parents in the courtroom, he could not become an advocate within the CASA organization. “That would be a conflict of interest.”

Still, he and his wife, Kathy, wanted to help. “She became a volunteer for CASA, and as it gained steam, she ended up on the board of directors,” he explained. Kathy became the program director in January 2011. The program has six office staff and 93 trained volunteers. Cheryl Price is the executive director. “She is a bundle of energy,” Steve pointed out. “So are the case work managers. People don’t realize how hard the staff and the volunteers work.” Since 2002, CASA volunteers and advocates have served more than 1,000 children in over 600 cases.

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“Volunteers are extensively trained,” Steve said. “They learn how to be critical observers of the home life and look for psychological and social, as well as physical signs of abuse or neglect.” Volunteers may attend conferences throughout the state and nation, and are encouraged to participate in continuing education classes. “CASA is a very well-organized group. Judges rely on the CASA volunteers to help them see the whole picture.”

Steve believes CASA volunteers not only make a difference, but get a great deal of satisfaction out of their efforts. “It’s tough work. The volunteer may



work months on a case. Often, only after a case is closed do you realize how much of a difference you've made in one child's life. I can always tell when Kathy has had such an epiphany. She skips through the house on a cloud," Steve said. "The staff tells me there is nothing they would rather do."

CASA is headquartered in Cleburne where Steve was born and reared. It is funded solely by charitable donations, federal grants and state support. That is where Steve found his niche — fundraising. He decided to be the "CASA Gopher" and participate in charity events for the nonprofit organization. Taking his love for clay shooting and golf, he organizes two fundraisers each year.

In mid-April, he helps with a charity shoot at Alpine Shooting Range called Aim High for Kids. "It's become a big deal. We have lots of people from merchants to dignitaries from all over, not just Johnson County, show up. Alpine has been helping us out with this event for years. It is always well-attended," Steve said.

Clay shooting is different from skeet shooting. "It takes a lot of skill. The targets are set up to fly toward or away from the shooter from different angles and speeds. It can be like disturbing a flock of birds," Steve said. Steve has been shooting most of his life. "Kathy joins me sometimes. She doesn't mind me shooting clay. It doesn't have a heartbeat."



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In 2011, CASA held a golf tournament at Hidden Creek Golf Club in Mid-October. It was called the Drive Away Child Abuse Golf Tournament. "They gave CASA a great rate and helped raise quite a bit of money," Steve said.

Steve chose golf because of his love for the sport. "My family has always been hunters. But I became interested in golf when I was about 14 years old. I've been hooked ever since." He stated it has nothing to do with his Scottish heritage, however. He said it was pure coincidence that one of his favorite pastimes was invented in his ancestral country.

Other fundraising events for CASA happen during the year as well, like a 5K run in the fall. Plus, Steve pointed out, "CASA accepts charitable donations throughout the year from individuals and organizations. Monies not only go to paying the expenses of running the program, but with helping the volunteers become trained." People are welcome to donate wish list items as well, such as Walmart and H-E-B gift cards, postage stamps and gift cards to office supply stores.

Steve gets excited when the donations roll in. "This year, we got a sizable donation — a house!" He helped with the deed drafting. "I can, as an attorney, help out CASA in other ways like that."

However, CASA is not Steve's only charitable interest. He is also involved in the Baker Foundation of Burleson, a nonprofit organization begun by long-term resident, Howard W. Baker, which strives to promote the city of Burleson. "We do things like provide funding for student scholarships and fund local charities, such as Harvest House," Steve added.

Steve believes people should give back to their community. The pride on his face when he talks about his charities is evident. Both the Baker Foundation and CASA are very worthwhile in his eyes. "The thing about CASA that is so vital is the volunteer advocate becomes a friend to these kids. They do a lot more for the kids than people realize. They may drive them to an appointment, a court hearing or a funeral," Steve said.

He smiled at the photo of him and his team at the Alpine Range Charity Shoot with the CASA logo banner in the background. "I am glad to help out however I can." **NOW**

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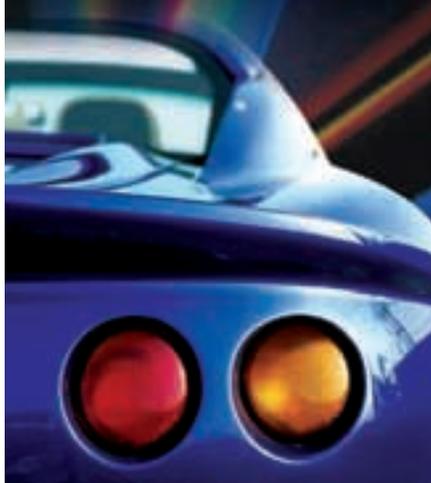
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Bringing 20 years of experience working with women's hearts and skin to the spa she has created inside Family Medicine Associates, Chancee works closely with a physician to aid the individualized treatments given to women seeking beautiful skin

renewal. Owners Heather McKenzie, Ph.D., and Crissy Welch, FNP, are available to perform the BOTOX and JUVÉDERM injections Laser Rejuvenation offers for women of all skin types. "I have received laser and facial treatments from Chancee," Dr. McKenzie said, "and she is fantastic."

Chancee began using laser hair removal technology 16 years ago when she worked for the first company in the United States to offer laser hair removal. She has been improving and adding to her list of available laser treatments since then. "At Laser Rejuvenation, we use the YAG or an Alexandrite laser, which are the gold standards in laser hair reduction," Chancee said. She usually tells people they should expect to have occasional touchups after the first year, or every few years. Laser Rejuvenation also offers removal of age spots

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“We’ve progressed from the days 15 years ago, when long recoveries were required after really kind of barbaric facial treatments,” Chaneé said. “Chemical peels are available now that are derived from fruit and milk acids, which are already a natural part of life. Although the results can be really intense, the treatments are actually somewhat gentle. You might peel for three or four days, not any worse than if you went to the beach and got a bad sunburn.”

Not all “age spots” are what they seem. Sometimes, they are early signs of skin cancer. One of the benefits of Laser Rejuvenation being located on the premises of Family Medicine Associates is that Dr. McKenzie is able to examine the skin and give a safe go ahead or suggest that alternative measures be taken through a physician before proceeding with cosmetic procedures. Although Chaneé specializes in adolescent and adult acne, she also recognizes that some patients need more than the knowledge of a medical aesthetician. She works with the physicians of Family Medicine Associates, who offer medical care needed for advanced acne.

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Chaneé takes time, as well, to instruct each patient in new habits for home care so that their success is her success. “We have very close relationships with our clients,” Chaneé said, “and want them to be happy.” Chaneé acts as both a personal skin care coach and a gentle hostess for the women who come to Laser Rejuvenation for laser hair removal, skin rejuvenation, laser vein removal, chemical peels, microdermabrasion, skin tightening, dermal fillers and BOTOX. Laser Rejuvenation invites you to visit its Web site to learn more about its comprehensive approach to making pretty people beautiful, inside and out. **NOW**

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# Lookout Below!

— *By Becky Walker*

Lighthouses hold an almost irresistible draw for many people. There is something romantic about the idea of someone spending their life warning others of danger and helping guide them to safety. Often located on islands accessible only by ferry boat, it is the isolated and mysterious nature of lighthouses, which intrigues some. History buffs find the role of lighthouses in naval expeditions and battles fascinating; adventurers find a thrill in climbing the steep stairs and photographers enjoy the scenic views from their observation decks.

While lighthouses are wildly popular in our culture because of what they symbolize — safe passage through stormy seas — the cost of constructing and maintaining them along with the



development of modern navigational equipment made them less and less essential. One by one, they have been decommissioned and those that are still operational are now automated.

Only five historic lighthouses still exist in Texas; of those five, only one is open to climbing. The Old Point Isabel Lighthouse, located in Port Isabel, Texas, is an easy nine-and-a-half hour drive from the Metroplex, and offers a step back in time for those who visit.



Constructed in 1852 and decommissioned in 1905, the 57-foot white brick tower is situated just across the Queen Isabella Causeway from South Padre Island and was once vitally important to the trade industry in the region. Larger ships would dock at Port Isabel and transfer their cargo to smaller vessels, which could navigate the shallow waters of the Rio Grande River to interior settlements. During the Civil War, the lighthouse was valued as a lookout tower from which to watch the movements of enemy forces. The lighthouse was occupied by both the North and the South at various times during the Civil War, and the Confederates even attempted to blow it up to keep it from falling into "Yankee" hands.



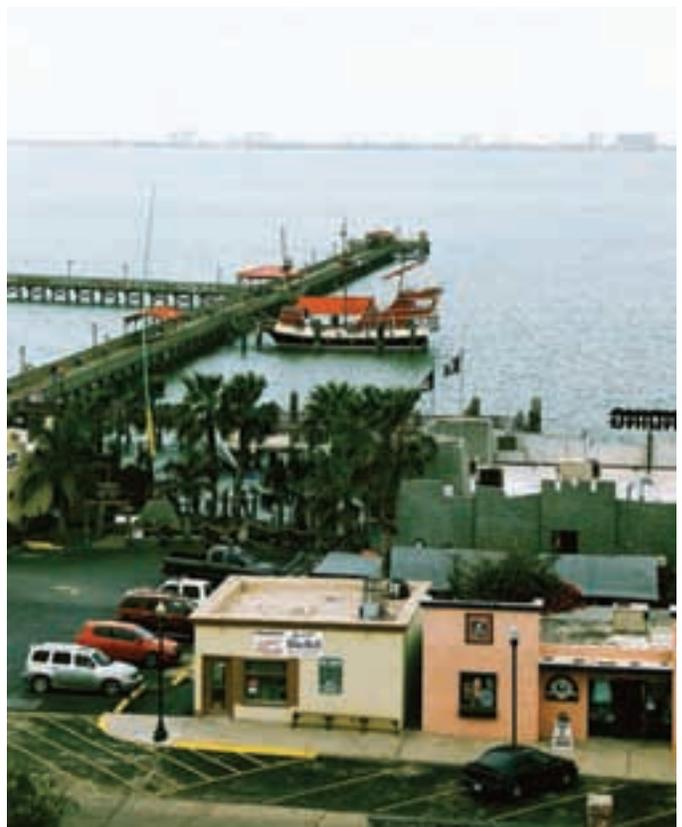
Today, the tower sits on a small rise in the middle of Texas' smallest state park, Port Isabel Lighthouse State Historical Park. Though not as tall as some lighthouses, the climb is quite steep and two short ladders must be navigated to reach the top observation deck. But the view is well worth the effort. The tower overlooks Laguna Madre, South Padre Island



and, on a clear day, the Gulf of Mexico is visible on the far side of South Padre.

The lighthouse is surrounded by shops, restaurants and antique stores boasting maritime treasures. Two additional museums, the Port Isabel Historic Museum and the Treasures of the Gulf Museum provide information about the rich history of the area, including the role General Zachary Taylor, who would go on to become the 12th president of the United States, played in the region.

Point Isabel Lighthouse, located on Queen Isabella Blvd./ Highway 100 in Port Isabel, Texas, is open to the public daily (weather permitting). Tickets to tour the lighthouse or combination tickets for entrance into all three museums may be obtained at the Lighthouse Keepers Cottage, which houses the Port Isabel Chamber of Commerce. Senior and student discounts are available. For more information, call (956) 943-7602 or visit [www.portisabelmuseums.com](http://www.portisabelmuseums.com). **NOW**





Fifth- and sixth-graders in the Crowley Intermediate School Honor Choir entertain the crowds during the Christmas season.



The Crowley Fire Department helps get City Hall ready for the Christmas season.



Daniel Woods has fun juggling sticks at the park.



Burleson Chamber of Commerce Breakfast Club donates can goods to the Harvest House and Our Soliders, as well as a check for \$250 to the Burleson Harvest House.



Mekasha A. Brown, Hughes Middle School principal, with Trent Eberhart, Hughes Middle School "Citizen of the Year."



Renee San Jose and Dan Conochan work at the Digital Book Mobile.

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Teresa Nelson, representative for Save our Soldiers, accepts a \$200 donation from the Bursleson Ambassadors to help provide care packages for our troops.



Chad Hennings, former Dallas Cowboy and fighter pilot, congratulates Chad Smithers Norwood after Chad is presented with the John Mark Stallings Award by the Bursleson Independent School District.



Davana and Rose Marie, Anna, David and Leroy Carfrey and Chelsea Schrader enjoy dinner.



Citizens on Patrol, David Sinzinger and Vicki McElroy, working a crosswalk.



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# Just Don't Do It

— By Scott Brown

Every couple of years, a high profile company makes headlines as their financial woes come to the forefront of discussion. It's usually a well-established household name that most people are aware of and so large of a company that many people can't imagine the world without this product or service in it. So, when people hear stories indicating the company might file for bankruptcy protection, they think that surely this company won't go away, and it might be the buying opportunity of a lifetime.

Buying stock in such a company can be a very lucrative speculation in certain circumstances. But in most other circumstances, it can be a way to virtually guaranty 100 percent loss of principal. To understand which is going to happen to you, it pays to know a little about corporate balance sheets, how Chapter 11 bankruptcies work and who gets what when a company files for bankruptcy protection. There are mitigating factors to all bankruptcy proceedings, so what



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follows should only be used as a primer of sorts — an incomplete template to give you an overview of the process.

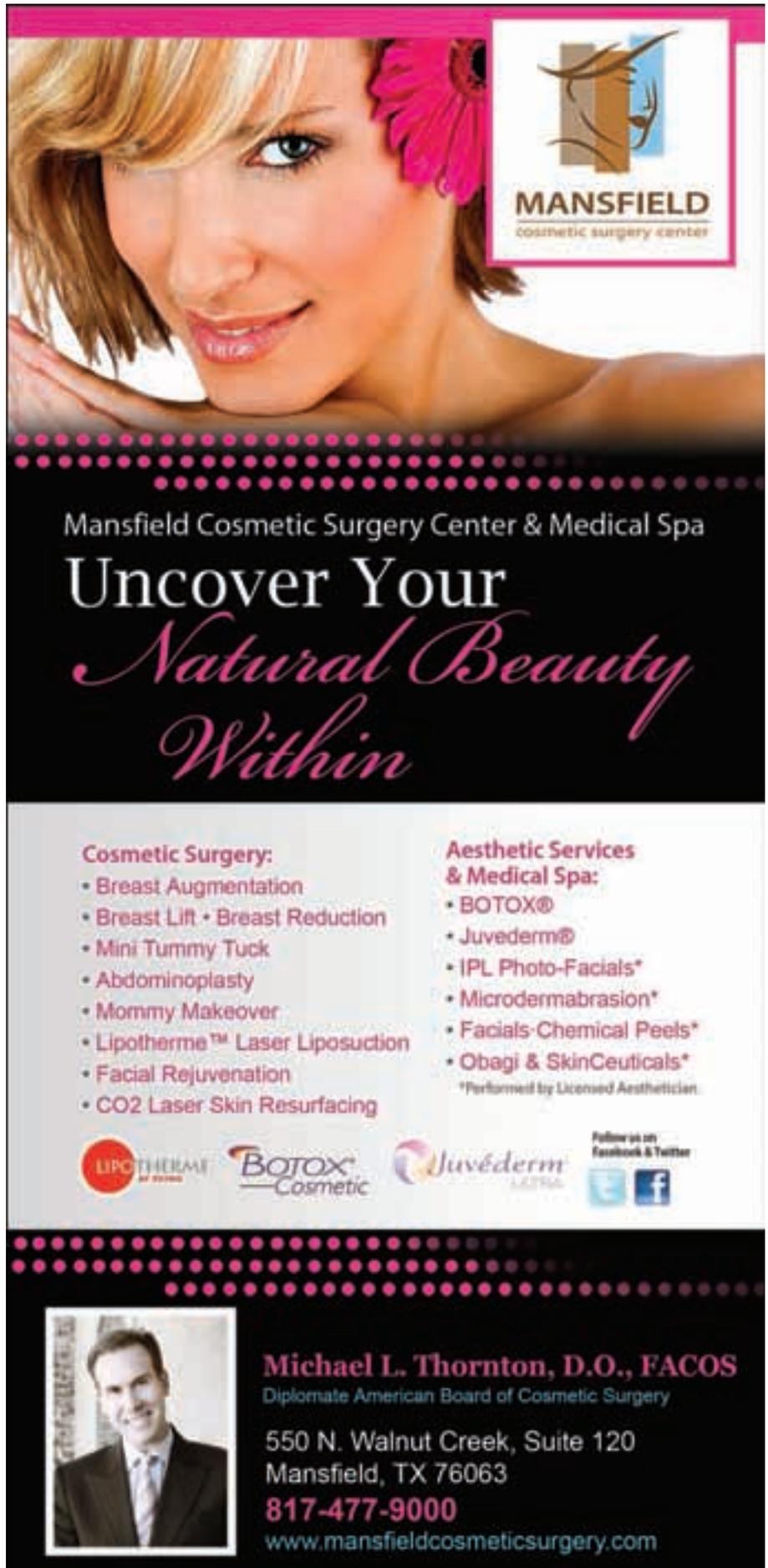
Chapter 11 is called a “restructuring” bankruptcy because the company management feels as though they can continue in business if they shed or rework their liabilities with their creditors. In most larger corporations, there are a number of layers to the corporate totem pole, each layer representing some party that has a financial stake in the business. Wall Street calls these people stakeholders because they have money at stake riding on the success of the company. The lower one goes on the pole, the more protection that one has in the case of an insolvency. At the lowest level is usually the internal revenue service and employees. Generally, if the restructured company remains in business, any taxes that are due and any back salary that is owed must be paid.

Next are the secured creditors. These people have loaned money to the company using certain business assets as collateral. If they are not repaid, they can demand liquidation of these assets to recoup their investment. If there are assets left over after the secured creditors have been paid, unsecured creditors then get a chance to be repaid. If assets remain after the secured creditors are repaid, preferred stockholders then have a chance to recover value. On the lowest rung, common stockholders get what’s left, if anything. If agreement cannot be reached with the debt holders, the company may be forced into a Chapter 7 liquidation bankruptcy, and the company will be dissolved.

Usually when a company files Chapter 11, the existing common shares are cancelled leaving zero value. When the company emerges, a common settlement is for the old debt holders to get new shares in the new company as partial payment for their debt. In essence, the old owners of the company now own nothing. The company may carry the same name as the old company, but is now a new company, with new shares and new owners.

*Caveat emptor* ... buyer beware. Even though the shares continue to trade on an exchange, it does not mean they have any value. As in everything, always know what you own, how it works and why you own it. **NOW**

*Scott Brown is a financial advisor with Superior Retirement Strategies based in Joshua.*





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# Small Steps, Big Changes for a Healthy Lifestyle

— By *Rena Noatch*

It's the same story at the start of each New Year: resolutions are made to lose weight or exercise more frequently, but by Valentine's Day, they're forgotten and sneakers are buried in the back of the closet out of sight.

One of the biggest reasons resolutions get tossed to the wayside is that expectations are set too high. People might expect themselves to lose 10 pounds in a week or jump into an intense exercise program and then get discouraged when they fail. The key to making healthy lifestyle habits stick is to make small, realistic changes that can be sustained long term. Creating an exercise program based on your interests and goals will help you become successful. A personal trainer can help you accomplish that.

Another tip for success is to be flexible with your schedule and fit in a few 10 or 15 minute increments of exercise throughout the day if you don't have time for a longer session. Start slowly and gradually work exercise into your daily routine. Give your body time to work up to a more vigorous program. As always, check with your physician before starting a program.

Similarly, when it comes to eating, people tend to be drawn to diets that offer the instant gratification of quick weight loss. But they're likely to gain back any lost weight if they're using methods that can't be maintained in the long run. There is no pill, potion or

shot that can cure obesity. We all need to be aware of the calories we eat with portion control and increase our physical activity. A healthy weight loss of 10 pounds in 10 weeks can be achieved by making food substitutions for lower calorie options like using fat-free mayonnaise instead of regular and drinking fat-free milk instead of whole. Stick to low calorie or no calorie drinks instead of sugary sodas and juices.

If stress or emotional eating is your downfall, keeping a daily food journal might help you pinpoint and address the problem. Food journals may seem tedious, but with just a little work and planning they can provide insight and solutions that normally are not obvious. Keep a record of what you eat, when you eat it and how you are feeling at that time. After a few days, your answer may be obvious.

If you'd like help in setting and achieving your fitness and weight-loss goals, seek out a personal trainer in your local area. Personal trainers can help guide individuals toward a better quality of life, help you gain strength and stamina and guide you toward lifestyle changes that can improve overall health for the New Year. Make 2012 your healthiest year yet! **NOW**

*Rena Noatch, personal trainer*  
Texas Health Harris Methodist Outpatient Center Burleson

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# Calendar

## JANUARY 2012

### January 3

Students return to classes at Burleson and Crowley Independent School District schools. Call Burleson ISD at (817) 245-1000 or Crowley ISD at (817) 297-5800.

### January 9

Students return to classes at Joshua Independent School District schools. Call Joshua ISD at (817) 202-2500.

Metro Beekeepers Meeting: 6:30-8:30 p.m., AA China Buffet, 1054 S.W. Wilshire Blvd. Novice and expert beekeepers in Texas will enjoy learning from each other at all Metro Beekeepers. Contact Stan Key at (682) 459-1737 or stankey.texas@gmail.com or visit [www.metrobeekeepers.net](http://www.metrobeekeepers.net).

Burleson Mayor's Youth Council meeting: 7:00-8:00 p.m., City Council workroom, Burleson City Hall, 141 West Renfro Street. Call (817) 426-9600 for details.

### January 11

Mobile Health Clinic: 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-3:00 p.m., St. Matthew Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 380 N.W. Tarrant

Avenue. Huguley Health Services operates the monthly clinic providing complete examinations, minor acute-illness care and other health care services to those unable to access health care due to lack of transportation or adequate financial resources. Other dates and locations are also available. Call (817) 568-3253.

### January 16

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday: city of Burleson offices will be closed.

### January 23

Crowley City Council election packets available: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Crowley City Hall, 201 East Main St. Place 1 and Place 4 on the Crowley City Council are expiring for the May 2012 election. Candidates who wish to file for the election must file between Monday, February 6, and Monday, March 5. Contact Angela Winkle, Crowley city secretary, at (817) 297-2201, ext. 4000.

### January 26

Burleson Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Banquet: 6:00-9:00 p.m., Centennial High School, 201 S. Hurst. Sponsored by

Texas Health Resources, this banquet is a night to remember 2011 and rally for an awesome 2012. Please RSVP by **January 18**. Tickets are \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members. Contact Burleson Chamber of Commerce at (817) 295-6121.

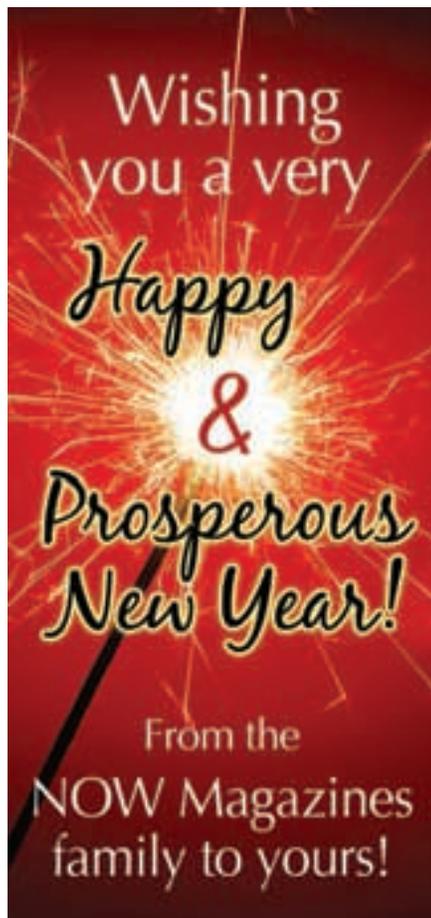
### January 27

Power of Heels: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Jellystone Park, 2301 South Burleson Blvd. This is your opportunity to come join The Power of Heels for lunch and discover the mission of some wonderful women in our community, the Athena Society of Burleson. Contact the Burleson Chamber of Commerce at (817) 295-6121.

### January 1-February 18

Joshua Baseball and Softball Sign-up: Youth ages 4-15 are invited to sign up for 2012 baseball and softball. Play will start in March 2012, and games will be played at Joshua Baseball Fields. To sign up, call David Estes at (817) 371-2619.

*Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your event details to [melissa.nowmag@sbcglobal.net](mailto:melissa.nowmag@sbcglobal.net).*



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## In The Kitchen With Lary Hawkins

— By *Melissa Rawlins*

Born in Fort Worth, Lary Hawkins is Texan through and through. He works in Weatherford and lives in Burleson, where he enjoys cooking for his family and his church. His mother taught him to cook.

When Lary was about 12, his mother and grandmother went on a trip, so he fed his sister and his father. “I prepared fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, dinner rolls and a chocolate cake,” Lary remembered. “It was then I realized I was a good cook, because it pleased Dad.” Now 97, Mr. Hawkins still enjoys Lary’s meals. Lary recently began cooking diabetic-friendly cuisine for some of his church family, and has learned to use a conversion chart to control overall sugar level without compromising flavor. **NOW**

### Diabetic-friendly Streusel Apple Muffins

- 1/2 cup plus 2 Tbsp. packed light brown sugar (divided use)**
- 1/2 cup applesauce**
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil**
- 1 egg**
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract**
- 1 cup plus 2 Tbsp. all-purpose flour (divided use)**
- 1 tsp. baking soda**
- 1 tsp. baking powder**
- 1 tsp. cinnamon (divided use)**
- 1/2 tsp. cardamom**
- 1/2 tsp. nutmeg**
- 1/4 tsp. cloves**
- 3/4 cup apple, peeled and finely diced**
- 1 tsp. margarine**

1. Preheat oven to 375 F
2. In a large bowl, combine 1/2 cup brown

sugar, applesauce, oil, egg and vanilla; mix until smooth.

3. In a separate bowl, whisk together 1 cup flour, baking soda, baking powder, 1/2 tsp. cinnamon, cardamom, nutmeg and cloves.

4. Combine wet and dry mixtures, stirring until incorporated.

5. Add diced apple. Spoon into greased 12-muffin pan (or use paper cake cups), about 2/3 full.

6. In a small bowl, make topping by combining 2 Tbsp. brown sugar, 2 Tbsp. flour and 1/2 tsp. cinnamon. Cut in margarine until crumbly.

7. Sprinkle topping evenly over muffins. Bake for 20 minutes or until tops are firm to the touch.

### Chicken Tetrazzini

- 3 large chicken breasts**
- 5 cups water**
- 1 5-oz. pkg. vermicelli**

- 1 cup celery, finely chopped**
- 1 cup onion, finely chopped**
- 1 cup bell pepper, finely chopped**
- 1 10 3/4-oz. can cream of chicken soup**
- 1 10 3/4-oz. can cream of mushroom soup**
- 1 cup cheddar cheese, grated (divided use)**
- 1/4 tsp. garlic salt**
- 1/4 tsp. salt**
- 1/4 tsp. pepper**

1. Boil chicken (season chicken as you normally would before boiling); debone and cut into 1/2-inch cubes.

2. Measure remaining stock and return 3 cups to pot. Add chicken and vermicelli and cook until vermicelli is tender.

3. Sauté celery, onion and bell pepper until translucent. Add to broth along with soups, 3/4 cup cheese, garlic salt, salt and pepper. You may adjust consistency with more broth if desired. Put in casserole dish and bake covered at 350 F for 50 minutes.

4. Add remaining 1/4 cup cheese as a topping. You may prefer to top it with mozzarella cheese.

### Vegetable Medley

- 2 medium tomatoes**
- 1 cup each broccoli and cauliflower, chopped (for winter season)**
- 3 each small zucchini and yellow squash (for summer season)**
- 1 medium onion**
- 2 cups croutons (divided use)**
- 1/2 tsp. garlic powder**
- 2 Tbsp. Italian seasoning**
- 1 1/4 cups mozzarella or Parmesan cheese, grated (divided use)**

1. Prepare vegetables. Cut tomatoes in eighths, broccoli and cauliflower in small bite-size pieces (or zucchini and squash in 1/2-inch slices) and onion in 1/2-inch slices which you then quarter.

2. In large casserole bowl, toss all vegetables with 1 cup croutons, seasonings and 1 cup cheese. Bake at 350 F for 20-30 minutes, until vegetables are soft.

3. Top with 1 cup croutons and 1/4 cup cheese. Return to oven, uncovered, until cheese is melted.

To view recipes from current and previous issues, visit [www.nowmagazines.com](http://www.nowmagazines.com).

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