

The Community Magazine Serving Corsicana and the Surrounding Area

Corsicana NOW

M A G A Z I N E

December 2008

**A Texas Artist
With a Mission**

**A Halbert House
Holiday**

**Eagle to
Eagle**

**New School
on the Block**

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**Margaret
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Corsicana
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The Community Magazine
Serving Corsicana and
the Surrounding Area
MAGAZINE

Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

Hello Corsicana and Navarro County!

Thanksgiving is over and our waistbands are just a little bit looser, but Christmas is just around the corner. Why not make everyone in your family something from your heart this year? You could go buy that last minute gift, but try to save yourself some time and money by making a special something for family members by hand.

A fun carriage ride through downtown could be a great holiday activity, especially for those out-of-town guests you may be entertaining. Another fun activity would be the Camp of the Rising Sun's Tour of Homes on December 5 and 6. Do not forget to check out our calendar for activities going on around town.

Wishing you love and kindness always,

Samantha (Stroube) Davis

CorsicanaNOW Editor

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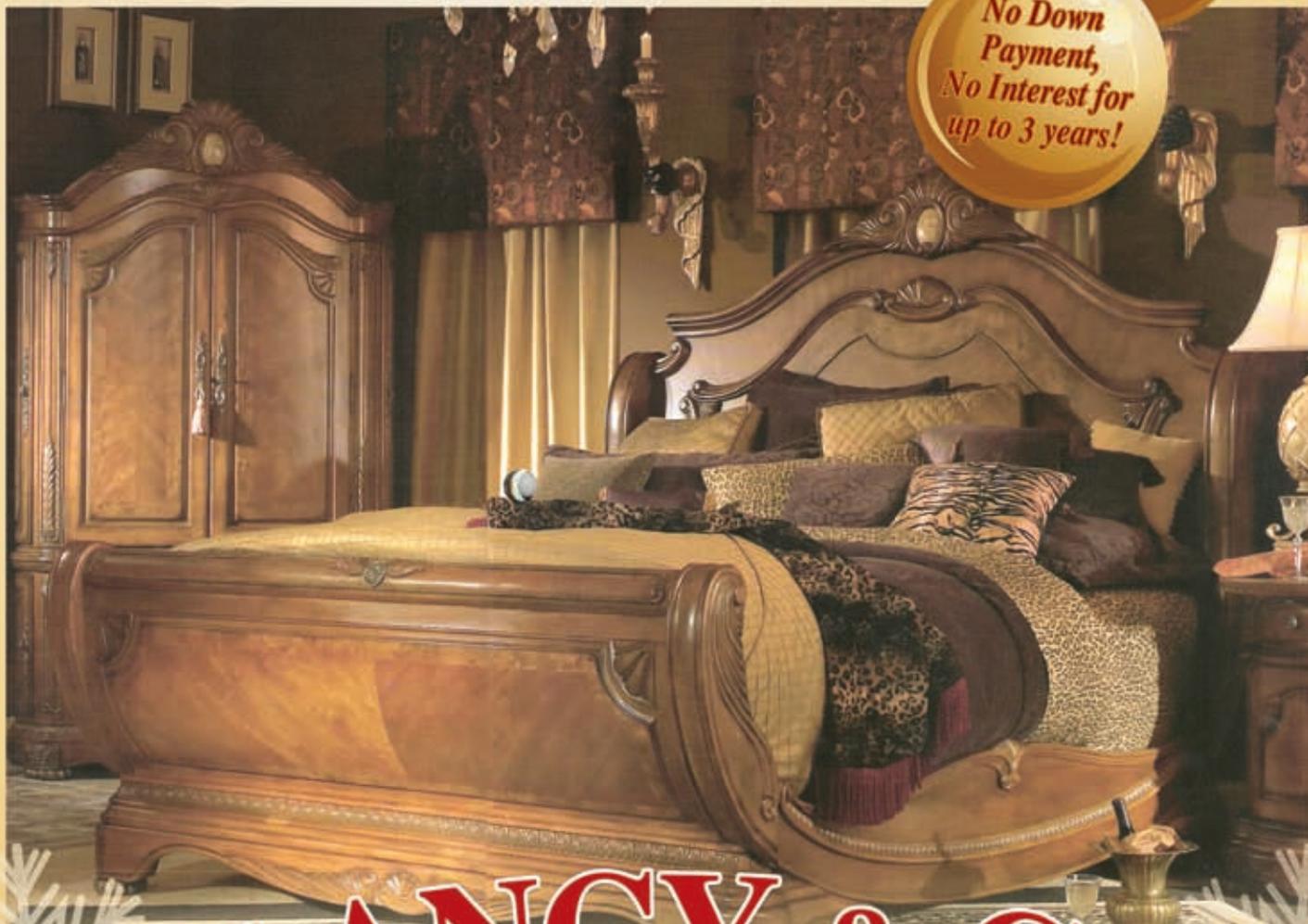
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A Halbert House

Holiday

— By Joan Kilbourne

You will want to put the Holiday Tour of Homes on your “must do” list this year. If you have been watching the remodeling progress on the Halbert House on Third Street, you have seen the transformation from sadly deteriorated to lovely showplace. Now you will have an opportunity to come inside and see it all dressed up for the holidays. The Camp of the Rising Sun is launching itself in a new direction this year by sponsoring a holiday gala Tour of Homes. Executive Director Melissa Nelson and Rising Sun Camp Program Director Jamie Kitchens have been working with the camp board members to plan two days of exciting events on December 5 and 6.

“Friday is the gala event for guests that have purchased a \$50 ticket,” Melissa explained. “The gala will include a tour of the newly renovated interior of the Halbert House, which promises to be decorated in its Christmas finery, while also offering an evening of fun with silent and live auctions and holiday music will be provided by local groups.”

Day two of the Tour of Homes will feature the Halbert House and four other homes located on Third Street. Ticket



books, \$12 when purchased in advance and \$15 on tour day, not only allow visitors entrance to the homes dressed in holiday elegance. "They also include pictures of the homes represented on the tour," Jamie added, "as well as some valuable information about the history of each." Jimmy Hale, owner of the restored Halbert House, will open his personal home located across the street from Halbert House. Mr. and Mrs. Sandy Jenkins, Ms. Lana Johnson and Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Steely have also volunteered to open their homes to those excited to take the tour.

Ten local artists, florists and decorators are each donating a professionally decorated Christmas tree that will be on display at Halbert House. "These special trees will be offered to the highest bidders at the live auction," Jamie explained. "The silent auction will include a variety of Christmas crafts and gifts."

Melissa came to Corsicana from Minnesota with her husband, Jeff, when he accepted the position of CEO of Nelson Putnam Propane Gas. She earned a bachelor's degree in business at Minnesota State University at Mankato and worked for six years in a corporate setting at Best Buy. "I was encouraged to apply for the position of executive director [of Camp of the Rising Sun] by my husband, who was already serving on the board and Pat Harper, a lady I know from church who is also the vice president," Melissa explained. Soon afterward, Jamie was chosen to be the new camp program director. Melissa's experience in the corporate world and Jamie's broad experience working in Corsicana with her own business, the Camp Fire organization and her dealings with nonprofits, combine to accomplish ambitious new program goals. The dynamic duo were able to design a budget, secure grant funding, launch a Web site and organize the holiday fundraising event in just a few short months.

The Camp of the Rising Sun is a free summer camp program for Navarro and Freestone County



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students who are being served by the Special Education program in their school. Since it was established in 1976, the program has offered a camping experience for children from ages 3 to 16. Under the guidance of the volunteer staff members, as many as 150 children enjoy outdoor activities. Teachers, college students, some senior high school students and a registered nurse provide a high level of supervision and specialized care for the campers. A contract with Navarro College will provide an opportunity starting next

“We’re hoping that a lot of people will want to see the Halbert House decorated for the holidays, and that this will be our biggest and best fundraiser ever.”

year for students in the occupational therapy program, and recent graduates from that same program, to get firsthand experience in the evaluation and individual therapy work with campers.

With the new program, campers will be encouraged to try new activities. Physical activities such as dance, gymnastics, swimming and archery, along with a variety of crafts, will hopefully be offered. Activities are individually designed so that every child can experience some new achievement and discover their disabilities do not limit them. “It’s a time for them to just be kids,” Melissa said.

Plans are for Melissa and Jamie to offer the camping experience again this coming summer. They are passionate about giving children with disabilities the opportunity to have play and learning experiences that other children take for granted. Melissa added, “The children’s week away also gives their parents a little time off from a constant focus on physical and medical issues.” Melissa and Jeff have a 5-year-old daughter, Frankie, and a nearly 2-year-old son, Cade. Cade was born

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with a club foot that required a great deal of time and effort on the parts of the parents and child alike as they worked to restore function. Melissa's highest goal for her son and for the students at the camp is to assure that they "enjoy childhood pleasures, that they discover their strengths and that they feel the joy of having success doing what other children do, regardless of the level of disability."

Melissa and Jamie hope to develop some additional one-day programs for the students and their families to enjoy during the year. Their goal is to offer quarterly activities of some sort for children and their families. She is also working with Gander Mountain to secure grant funds for a program in which employees of the company would come to the camp to work with the children to use equipment provided by that same company.

When Melissa undertook the care of a new baby with a physical disability, she "felt overwhelmed and left alone" to learn what medical help was available and what she and her husband needed to do to assure that her child had "as typical a childhood as possible." She found parent support groups on the Internet. "Other parents shared their experiences and their contacts for information on medical issues," she explained. "I didn't feel so alone with my situation."

Melissa wants to give back by focusing on the families of the campers. She hopes the Web site and the daylong family events will provide parents in Corsicana the kind of support she experienced. "I don't want to stop with just a week in camp," she promised. She and Jamie want to create different ways parents can share ideas and wishes. "We're hoping that a lot of people will want to see the Halbert House decorated for the holidays, and that this will be our biggest and best fundraiser ever," Melissa expressed. "We need community support because we'd like to see huge expansion. We have lots of ideas we want to develop this year." **NOW**



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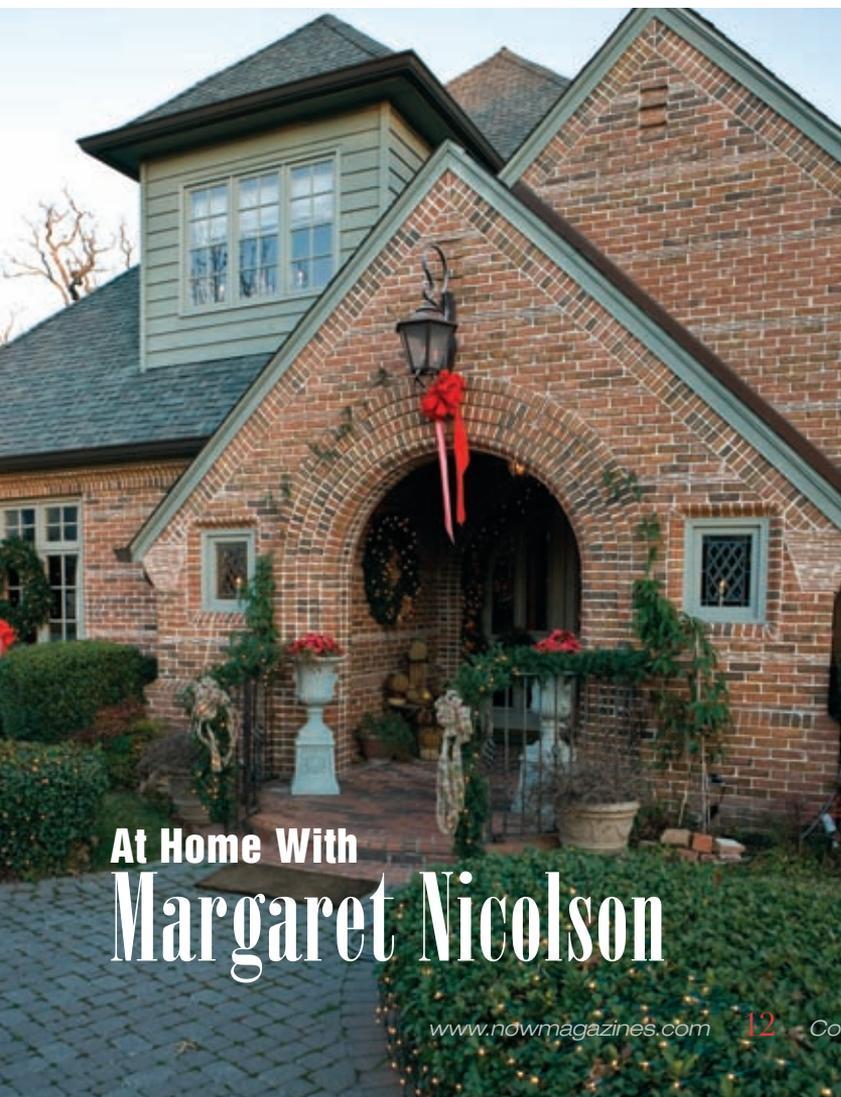
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At Home With
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English Country Cottage

— By *Samantha (Stroube) Daviss*

Finished with the finest of detail and thought, the home of Margaret Nicolson is a hideaway sanctuary most could only dream of. From the rounded bricks on the outer edge of the home, to the view from the picturesque back windows overlooking the pond, this home hidden amongst the other homes in Drane Estates is idealistic.

Greeted at the door by Mr. Bojangles, Margaret's toy poodle, a warmth of invitation exudes throughout the

home. With the lights set just so and the exquisite hardwood flooring, hand laid and designed by the architect, Monty Brazell, you can feel the love and passion in every inch of this home.

The living quarters of this 6,000-square-foot abode is primarily downstairs for Margaret. Each room has a little touch of her personal adventures and interests. The house is centered around the gorgeous dining area and kitchen, ideal for entertaining guests who come to share gourmet meals. The Old World-style kitchen is finished with an iron animal-accented chandelier hanging over the center island, worn brick flooring and gorgeous tumbled marble countertops. Perhaps the best feature of the kitchen and dining room combination is the view past the wraparound back porch to the peacefully, serene pond, with the occasional duck or goose visitor.

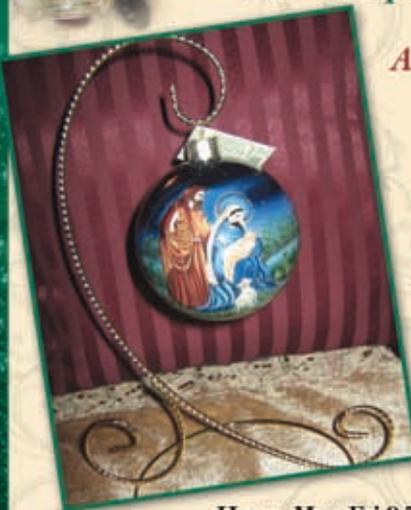
The den, or primary living area, is warm, cozy and functional, centered around a corner fireplace, which is covered with Margaret's "Williamsburg people," dolls from the Briar's Collection. "This is the room that I practically live in, where I spend all of my time," she said. The passion Margaret carries for historic Williamsburg, Virginia, is



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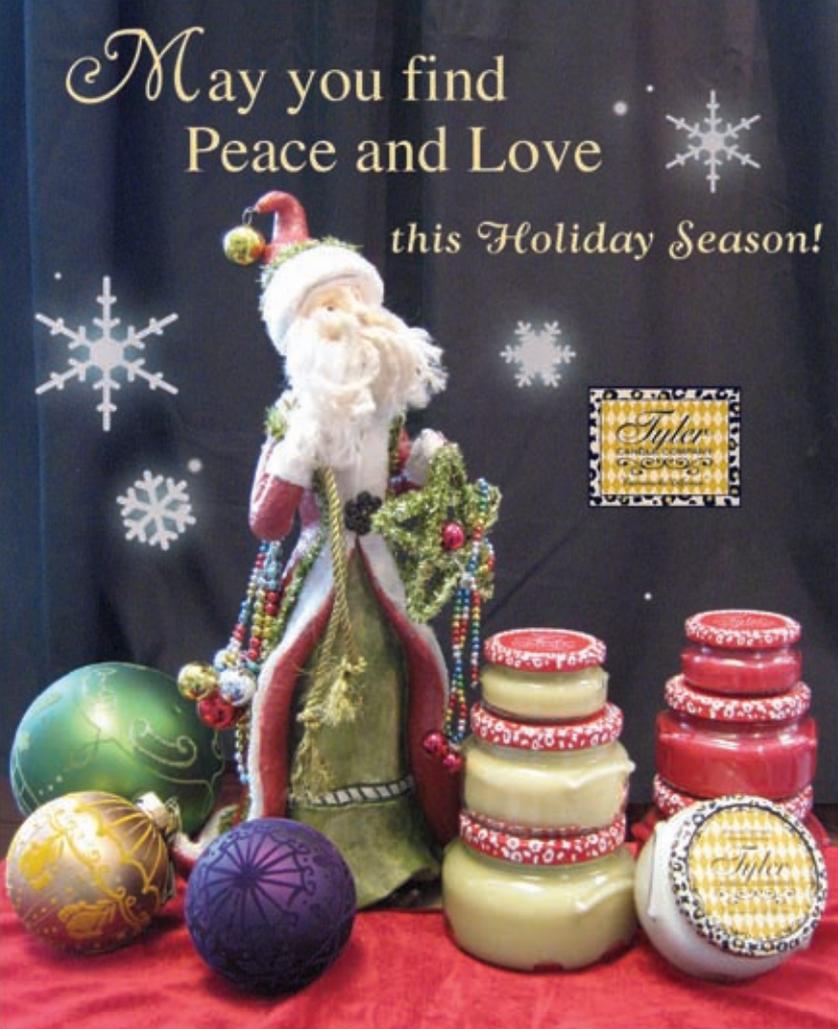
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highlighted by details throughout the home. “I just have a love and passion for Williamsburg. I used to go every year, but now I go every couple of years,” she explained. “I love the history, the people and the fact that they are always in period costume in Historic Williamsburg.”

Dark oak barley twist tables and functional Welch dressers are strategically placed to add a sense of comfort and

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“I remember one time my sister came into the front living room and said, ‘What exactly is your style?’”

beauty. “I remember one time my sister came into the front living room and said, ‘What exactly *is* your style?’” Margaret recalled, describing the look and feel of her home. “And without hesitation, I told her it was, of course, English Country.”

Margaret moved into her home in November 2005. Even though most of her decor is English or Texas antique,



a few pieces from around the world have made their way into her home. Things like the oriental rugs not only add warmth and comfort, but brilliant colors to each and every room.

While Margaret's home furnishings are exquisite, the home itself is a work of fine craftsmanship. The original owners, Monty and Anita Brazell, put a lot of love and thought into the building of this house. The front foyer

“And without hesitation, I told her it was, of course, English Country.”

opens into the home in two directions, with gorgeous arched doorways trimmed in wood. The added height in each room and each doorway is just another signature touch offered by Monty, who not only built the home, but lived in it as well. From the oversized closets (so large some call them extra rooms) to the faux finish on the walls that Margaret calls “chicken feet,” there

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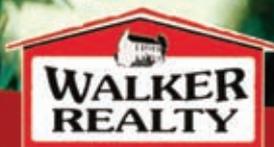
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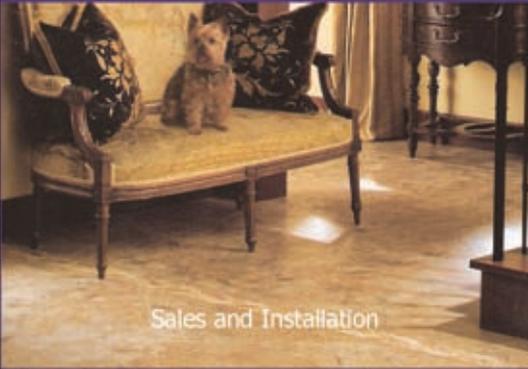
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was thought and precision built into every corner.

Two personal touches Margaret holds near and dear to her heart are the oil paintings of her two sons, done when they were around 9 or 10 years old. They hang in the short hallway just off the foyer, showcased by wall-enhanced lighting. Her eyes light up with pride and joy when she points out her two babies, now 48 and 49 years old, because children will always be children in a mother's eyes. "Also, some of the paintings you see throughout the home were done by Mother," Margaret said, pointing to a gorgeous landscape painting which looks as though it should hang in a gallery.

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When Margaret needs a little rest and relaxation time, she heads back to her sanctuary. Walking into the master bedroom, the space looks like a typical, beautiful, oversized room, complete with a small sitting area near the picture window so Margaret can enjoy her morning coffee and paper while studying the tranquility of the pond. The bathroom, however, holds a big surprise. Not only are there two full-sized bathrooms, his and hers, but the winding shower stands between the two and connects all the way through to each respective side.

Margaret's favorite aspect is her closet. "I don't want to even show you because it is so insanely huge," she



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protested. "I managed to take the clothes from my old house which were spread out through three closets and they fit comfortably in this one."

Back in the main part of the house, the tour continued upstairs, where Margaret is able to comfortably sleep six guests. The room just off the landing at the top of the stairs is filled with delicate white antique twin beds and is draped in pink. "This room is for my granddaughter, when she comes to visit," Margaret said, pointing out the dolls and all the pink accents throughout the room.

Even though Margaret has only

been in this house for three years, decorating for Christmas has always been a major undertaking and favorite hobby of hers. Even though the house speaks volumes on its own, it is even more of a delight to visit and stroll through during the holiday season. "I love the decorations I have on the front door, and the dining room table and Welch dresser lend themselves so well to filling them with beautiful Christmas decoration and color," Margaret said with a smile. For Margaret, only one word sums up all the intricate detail and thought put into this structure — *home*. **NOW**

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A Texas Artist with a Mission

— By Joan Kilbourne

There is a new face in town named Connie Jordan, and a new space in town on Beaton Street named the Jordan Art Gallery. Connie was born in Dallas and grew up in Irving. She gave her first art show at age 5. Inspired by an art competition she saw on TV, she arranged her drawings and pages from her coloring books around her living room. Her parents encouraged the young artist by inviting aunts and uncles to see the show. “I remember making my first sale to my grandmother,” Connie said. “She gave me \$5 for a drawing.”

Connie entered her paintings in many competitions and at age 20, she won first place. Her prize was a fully paid stay in New York City while she painted the lobby of a building. When the work was finished, one of the visitors commented that he would have done something different in one corner. Connie stood up for her work, proud to claim it as her own. “The visitor turned out to be a gallery owner who liked my response, my talent and my Texas accent,” she laughed. He offered to show her paintings in his gallery and, in time, he became a mentor who taught her about the business side of

the art world.

During the eight years she lived in New York, Connie showed her work in galleries in Manhattan, Italy and Paris, and she even opened a gallery of her own. "I do not like the term 'starving artist,'" Connie said. "Artists make this [work] their life. Their work is an emotional expression. They share their souls. This is what they do and they can, and do, make a living doing it." Sometimes, the work is so powerful and personal for the artist that they cannot let it go. Connie knew one young artist who cried when she left a favorite painting in a gallery to be sold.

When her years in New York came to an end, Connie returned to Dallas to care for her father. Upon her return, a history teacher who knew her when she attended Nimets High School in

"Their work is an emotional expression. They share their souls. This is what they do and they can, and do, make a living doing it."

Irving and who followed her career, nominated her as Outstanding Graduate of that school. Connie said she always remembers his good advice. "When I told him I wanted to be the next Picasso," she stated, "he told me to be the first Connie." She also won a state award presented by the Texas Landmarks and Legacies organization. "It really was an honor," Connie smiled. "There are doctors and lawyers and me." Many artists are in the group, but Connie is one of only two abstract artists.

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Connie met her husband, Chris, during her stay in Dallas. He brought her to meet his family in Corsicana and she liked the town at once, “especially the beautiful old buildings along Beaton Street,” she said, describing this time in her life as a big culture change. “In New York, you can work until 11:00 p.m. and go out to eat in any of a number of restaurants. There is no late night life here,” she added, “but there is less stress in a slower paced life.” She soon found out that another option at 11:00 p.m. was to go to sleep.

“This is the next step in my career, in my life — to pay it forward,” she offered. An art critic in New York described Connie as the “Texas artist

“Sometimes, the work is so powerful and personal for the artist that they cannot let it go.”

on a mission.” Connie wants to mentor fellow artists to learn, as she did from her mentor, how to “do more than the painting part.” She has developed seminars to teach artists how to submit to galleries that have different requirements and how to write résumés that speak to gallery owners and sponsors. “Artists need to know how to market their work, get exposure and keep price records so they can make their art their livelihood,” she explained.

The Jordan Art Gallery opened on October 17th with a “New York style” Grand Opening party complete with flowers, wine, hors d’oeuvres and a red carpet at the door. The gallery offers a variety of artistic styles; not all artists

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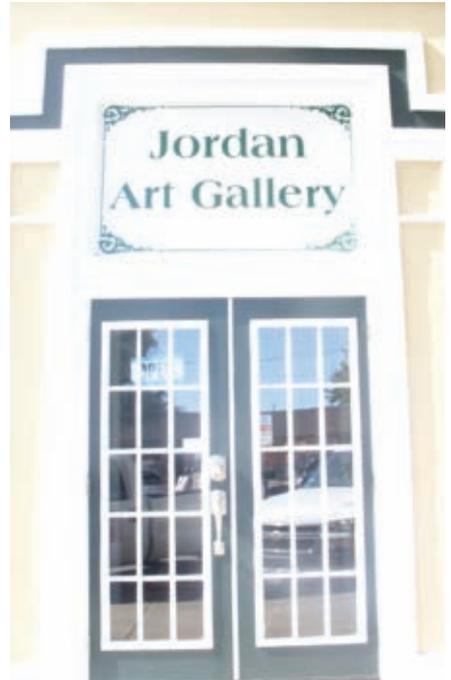
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in the gallery are from Corsicana or Texas. Artists from other countries have submitted some interesting pieces.

Connie has met several longtime residents who have told her about the days when the sidewalks on Beaton Street were full of people walking around. "I would like to see local



The gallery offers a variety of artistic styles; not all artists in the gallery are from Corsicana or Texas.

people and out-of-towners make a day of it in Corsicana visiting the antique shops, galleries and cafés," she expressed. "I need some more competition. I want to see more galleries. There is support in Corsicana for the performing arts, and I would like to develop interest in the visual arts."

Countries often send their art on tours and loan whole collections to museums around the world to show people who they are. By doing so, they are saying, "Get to know us and tell us who you are, too." As Connie said, "People fight; cities fight; countries fight one another, but they all share their art." **NOW**

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Eagle to Eagle

— By Samantha (Stroube) Daviss

Patrick Harvell is no stranger to small town life or the success of a smaller football team and athletic program. Growing up in the small-town environment of Wylie, Texas, Patrick immediately turned his childhood interests into his career.

Patrick remembers all the great times he had as a child and the coaches and men who influenced his life in a positive manner. “All the great men that coached my teams always gave [us] good direction for the remainder of our lives. They left lasting impressions,” Patrick recalled. “That is the reason



I got into coaching. I wanted to have a positive effect on young kids’ lives.”

After graduating from Wylie High School in 1986,

Patrick headed off to Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, Texas. There he began pursuing his degree in kinesiology while minoring in biology in order to obtain his goal of teaching and coaching simultaneously. He ended up graduating from the University of North Texas, the home of the Screaming Eagles.

After graduation, he headed off to Aubrey, Texas, for seven years where he began as the assistant head football coach and then moved into the position of head football coach and athletic director. Soon after, Gainesville was blessed with his presence for six years of his career, where he definitely proved his worth as assistant head football coach and defensive coordinator in addition to being the head track coach. During his time in Gainesville, the football team obtained



“It is just a great group of kids, and they are all really respectful students.”

the title of State Champions in 2003 and made it back to the State Championship game in 2005. In 2002, his track team also made runners-up at the state competition. After his time and success at Gainesville, he coached for two years in Greenville, Texas, before the Mildred Eagles managed to capture his talents at the end of the 2007-2008 school year. "I was actually hired the last day of school last year, so I didn't get to meet any of the kids until the first day of practice. But the minute I stepped on the campus, they made me feel like a Mildred Eagle," Patrick said.

Obtaining the position of head football coach and athletic director really excited Patrick and his family. "It has allowed us to return to the small town living that we enjoy so much," he continued. With Amy, his wife of 15 years and the principal at Rice Elementary School, and his two boys, Jordan and Jake (10 and 8, respectively), the Harvells feel

"That is the reason I got into coaching. I wanted to have a positive effect on young kids' lives."

as if they have returned home. "I really wanted to be an athletic director again, and it was a family decision to make the move to Mildred," Patrick added, "and we couldn't be happier with our decision."

Patrick was not around last year to lead the way to one of Mildred's greatest successes in decades — a record of 8 and 3 that led to the District Championship before falling to Arp in



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the first round of playoffs. However, he could not be more proud of his team's past successes, and has many goals and expectations for his new team this year and for the years to come.

Patrick is not just a coach; he carries his passion for his career and students both on and off the field. "I think coaching is the greatest profession, and I look at it as a ministry—a way to have a positive effect on the kids," he



Patrick is not just a coach; he carries his passion for his career and students both on and off the field.

said with great conviction. "I think that is what most coaches in this great state feel. They make their kids their priority, and if they don't, they should."

Upon his quick arrival at the end of the 2008 school year, Patrick spent the majority of his summer preparing for this current school year. "I was fortunate enough to get to personally select the great group of coaches I am currently

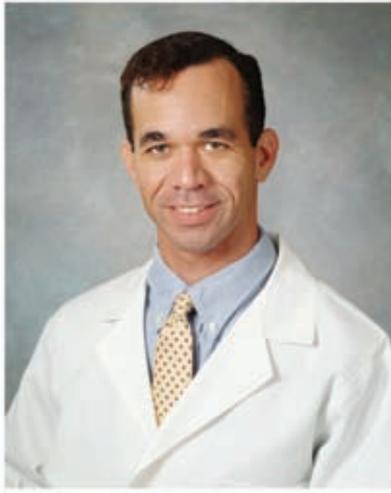


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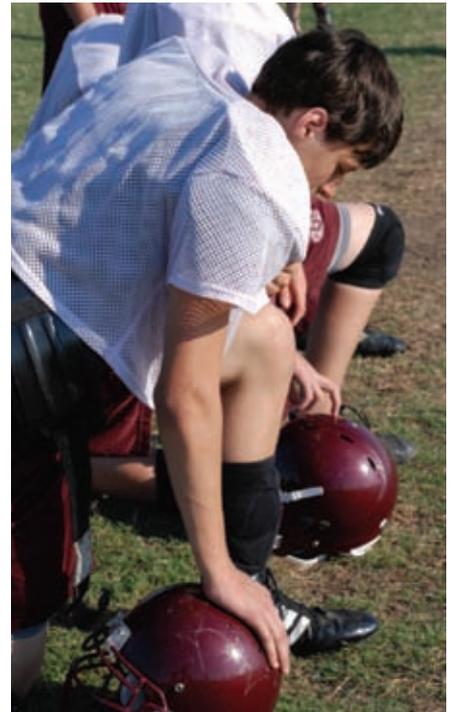
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working with, in addition to preparing all the other sports activities [as athletic director],” he shared. Coach Steve Howell, the offensive coordinator remains a permanent fixture in the Eagle’s success, and Patrick has organized and coordinated seven additional coaches, all having the same goals and visions. Patrick feels he and the staff have meshed. “We are all a great fit,” he said. In addition to his staff, Patrick feels very blessed to work in the positive environment at Mildred ISD. “It is just a great group of kids, and they are all really respectful students,” he added.



As the saying goes, sometimes life really does bring you full circle. Patrick’s journey has taken him from small town boy to athletic director and back to small town life for his own boys to enjoy. Patrick is now laying his roots as a Mildred Eagle, and with the motivation, determination and effort that he and his coaching staff put into their team both on and off the field each day, these fantastic educators will no doubt pave the way for success in their students’ lives. **NOW**

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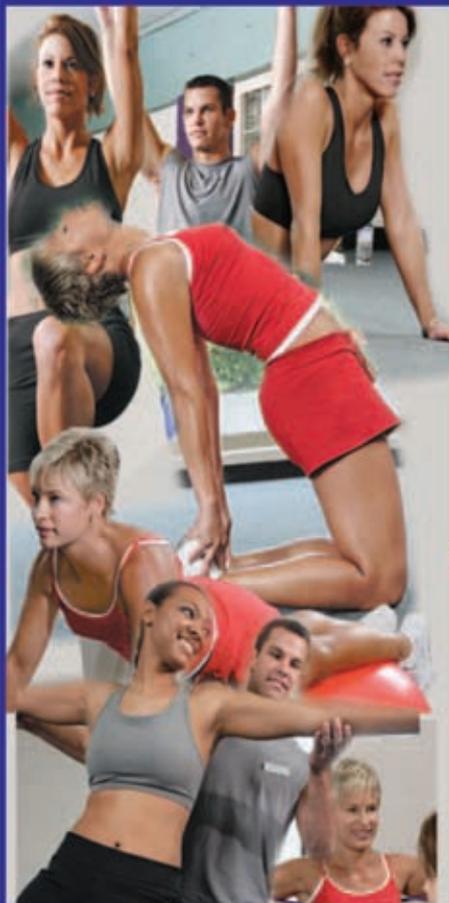
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— By Samantha (Stroube) Daviss



This dynamic mother/daughter duo has not only captured the essence of beauty inside the walls of their floral shop, but on the outside as well. In 2006, Gay Schroeder, and her daughter, Crystal Maddox, purchased one of the antiquated and historic buildings in the 100 block of South Beaton Street. “This actually used to be the sight of the original Opera House that entertained many people in Corsicana at the turn of the century, before the building burned,” Gay said, showing a bit of her historic interest and knowledge as a newcomer to the Corsicana area.

“My daughter and her husband found the beautiful metal ceilings from a company in Chicago, and we redid all the tile work around the [natural wood-burning] fireplace,” Gay said. Then in October 2007, Always in Bloom Floral Design and Arrangements

opened its doors to business.

With great excitement and anticipation, Gay and Crystal were finally able to offer the town of Corsicana their knowledge and expertise in the floral and decoration department. Walking into the building, you feel a sense of peace and calmness. The air is filled with an aromatic touch of pleasure from that day’s selection of candles from the Village Candle collection, which are available at the store in all scents and have a 75-hour burn capability. Slightly dimmed lights also make your shopping and browsing experience unforgettable.

Gay and Crystal specialize in silk and natural floral arrangements in addition to creating gift baskets for all occasions. “We like to take people’s ideas and put them together, whether it is for a bride, a baby’s arrival, or ‘just

because,” Crystal said. “We even add [specialized] food contents to the baskets if desired,” Gay explained. “So if someone is diabetic, we would make the proper selections for that recipient to recognize their health needs.”

Plants and flowers are, of course, their specialty. “Our plants are really well-liked by our customers,” Crystal expressed. “They are always delivered in a really pretty basket or containers, and we like to add simple touches to them such as little birds in nests.”

No matter your floral need, you can be sure Gay and Crystal will put their heart and soul into every single project. Their dedication also shows in their Christmas decorations. Since October, their customers have been able to walk into the store and immerse themselves in a Christmas wonderland filled with beautifully decorated artificial trees that range anywhere from two feet to seven feet in height. Each predecorated tree has its own personality and flavor, from a patriotic tree covered in red, white and blue ornaments and bobbles to an eloquently dressed tree with copper-colored ornaments, gold beading and a satin sheath of copper-toned fabric draped around the exterior of the branches. If it is a plain, undressed tree you are looking for, Always in Bloom has hundreds in stock for extremely reasonable prices.

Gay and Crystal also offer home Christmas décor, including a beautiful resin nativity scene, with each figure standing about a foot-and-a-half high and their gorgeous “Old World” Christmas ornaments from the Merck Family collection. If it is a wreath you desire, with coordinating garland and a tree to match, then you are headed in the right direction.

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New School on the Block

— By Joan Kilbourne

Maybe you have wondered what was happening as a building appeared on the Second Avenue lot across from the Navarro County Hospital. There is a sign there now that is announcing the arrival of Agape Christian Academy. Perhaps no one is more surprised to see a new school in town than Kathi McMullan, the school's principal, teacher and founder. Seven years ago, she decided to homeschool her daughter and a grandchild. Then people began calling her to ask if she would homeschool their preschool children along with her own. "It felt like I was being called to a mission, so I said, 'Yes,'" she remembered.

Over the next seven years, her homeschool of two grew to include 50 students. First there were five volunteer teachers. Then this year when Agape opened its doors, eight full-time teachers, two part-time music and band teachers, two teacher assistants, an art teacher, a Spanish teacher, as well as two office staff employees and most recently two physical education instructors, have joined the school as volunteers. "In the first year, all the children were preschoolers, but then it grew to include the higher grades and finally some high school students came," Kathi said.

At the end of the school term this past year, the enrollment reached 100 students in classes from prekindergarten 3- and 4-year-olds to senior high school students. Kathi's home no longer served the needs of so many students and teachers. It was time to think about moving the school into a building of its own. The father of one of her students offered to act as contractor and builder of a new building, and there it is on Second Street; the new school with a library, an



auditorium/cafeteria space, a kitchen and classrooms.

Kathi taught for six years as a special education teacher at Bowie Elementary. This experience gave her the understanding that every student is a special learner who has different strengths and weaknesses requiring a variety of learning approaches. She saw that students have success when they can progress at their own rate. Math and reading specialists come to the academy classes to help those who struggle with these subjects or who enter lacking on-grade skills. Teachers spend more teaching time in a student's weaker subject instead of assigning him or her to alternate classes across the board.

"Teaching for mastery means that students may move past others in some subject without leaving their peer group behind," she explained. "Some students may also take longer



Education NOW

to progress in another subject without being identified as slow or handicapped.” The faculty agrees that if a student is failing “either they didn’t try, or we didn’t teach them.” When that happens, teachers guide their students to try different ways to learn until they can achieve a grade of 80 percent or better. “We don’t accept less than they are able to give,” she added. “The ‘I can’t’ goes away and ‘I can’ rises.”

Older children may act as peer tutors to students in their class who are younger or less skilled in the subject. Because teenage students are in the same building as their younger brothers or sisters, they are available when a young child is upset and intervention by a family member might be helpful.

“We don’t accept less than they are able to give.”

Kathi believes that family is important to the learning process. The families of the first students Kathi taught are now members of the school board. The parents and families of the newer students will be invited to form a Parent Teacher Association (PTA) group as well. “Our job is to support families,” she said, “not vice versa.” For that reason, teachers at the academy do not assign a great deal of homework. “Home time is family time,” Kathi stated.

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Academy meets the same standards as a public school, and they are seeking certification to offer advanced placement classes for seniors. Stanford Achievement tests are administered at the end of the year “to be sure that the school is doing a good job of teaching,” Kathi said, pointing out that the school’s first graduating seniors were all accepted into college. There are computer stations available and older students bring laptops so they can do research and writing assignments as they are expected to do in college.



High school students are trained in the use of Texas Instruments calculators and graphic calculators they will use on the SAT tests. The Spanish teacher works with students at all levels and offers classes to high school students to meet language study requirements. There is also “elective time,” when students can choose to pursue other interests such as cake design, yearbook publication and Web site design. This year Kathi’s husband, Gary, who teaches mechanical maintenance at Navarro College, will offer a class in aeronautics.

The school “did not start as a business plan,” Kathi said. “It was a ministry, but now I’m learning the business part.” The new building can house up to 300 students, so there is room to grow. “If you keep the same vision and attitude, the number doesn’t matter,” she said. “My goal for the kids is for them to be happy in school.” **NOW**

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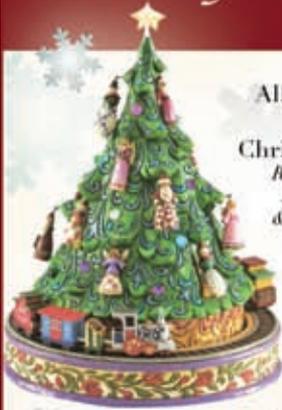
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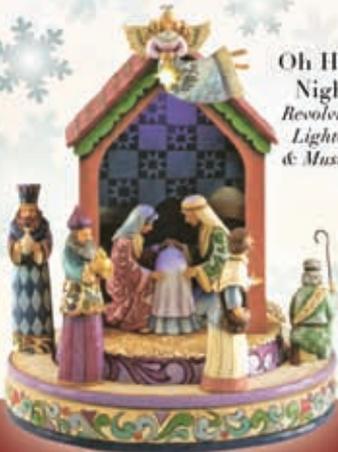
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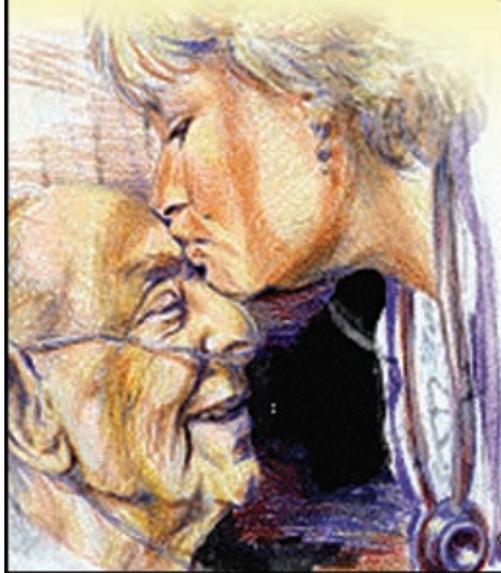
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Look Who's Cooking

— By Faith Browning

It is not a secret that Corsicana High School's Culinary Arts Teacher, Tiffany Morgan, loves to cook! Her husband, Steve, and sons, Jared, Sean and Austin, are her biggest cheerleaders. "My husband thinks I am the best cook in the county (his words), and my co-workers are never disappointed either," she said.

One of Tiffany's favorite childhood memories is making Christmas cookies with her mom. They would make dozens of over 20 different types of cookies and her mom would store them in their cold Western New York attic. "My brother and I would sneak up to the attic almost every day after school to get cookies," she recalled. "Mom would be so mad when dozens were gone before the holiday parties even started." **NOW**

To view more of your neighbors' recipes, visit our archives at www.nowmagazines.com.

IN THE KITCHEN WITH TIFFANY MORGAN

IRISH MASHED POTATOES

1 1/2 lbs. potatoes, peeled, cut into chunks
 1 cup green onions, chopped
 1 cup milk
 1 Tbsp. olive oil
 salt and pepper to taste
 Boil potatoes until tender, about 15 minutes. In another saucepan, combine onions and milk. Bring to a simmer, stirring occasionally; cook until onions are tender, about 10 minutes. Drain potatoes; return them to the pot and mash until smooth. Stir in oil, warm onions and milk. Add salt and pepper to taste.

BACON STUFFED MUSHROOMS

1 1/2 lbs. mushrooms
 5 bacon slices
 12-oz. cream cheese
 Wash mushrooms, removing stems. Chop up stems; set aside. Brown bacon, reserving grease; crumble bacon. Brown chopped mushroom stems in bacon grease; pour off excess grease. Add chopped mushrooms to bacon; stir in cream cheese. Mix well

and remove from heat. Place mixture in mushroom caps. Place filled caps in a large buttered baking dish. Bake for 10 to 15 minutes at 350 F.

OUT OF THIS WORLD STEAK MARINADE

1/4 cup soy sauce
 2 Tbsp. water
 3 garlic cloves, thinly sliced
 1 Tbsp. brown sugar
 1 Tbsp. vegetable oil
 1/2 tsp. ground ginger
 1/2 tsp. pepper
 1 lb. steak

In a large re-sealable plastic bag or a shallow glass container, combine all the ingredients except steak; mix well. Add steak; turn to coat. Cover; refrigerate for 8 hours or overnight, turning occasionally.

PUMPKIN ROLL WITH CREAM CHEESE FILLING

CAKE:
 powdered sugar
 3/4 cup flour

1/2 tsp. baking powder
 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
 1/2 tsp. cloves
 1/4 tsp. salt
 3 large eggs
 1 cup sugar
 2/3 cup pumpkin
 1 cup walnuts, chopped

FILLING:

8-oz. cream cheese
 6 Tbsp. butter, softened
 1 cup sugar, sifted
 1 tsp. vanilla

Preheat oven to 350 F. Grease 15 x 10-inch jelly-roll pan; line with wax paper. Grease and flour paper; sprinkle with powdered sugar. In a small bowl, combine flour, baking powder, cinnamon, cloves and salt. In a large bowl, beat eggs and sugar until thick; beat in pumpkin. Stir in flour mixture. Spread evenly into prepared pan. Sprinkle with nuts. Bake 13 to 15 minutes or until top of cake springs back. While cooling, prepare filling by combining all filling ingredients. Spread filling evenly over cake. Gently roll cake. Slice when ready to enjoy!



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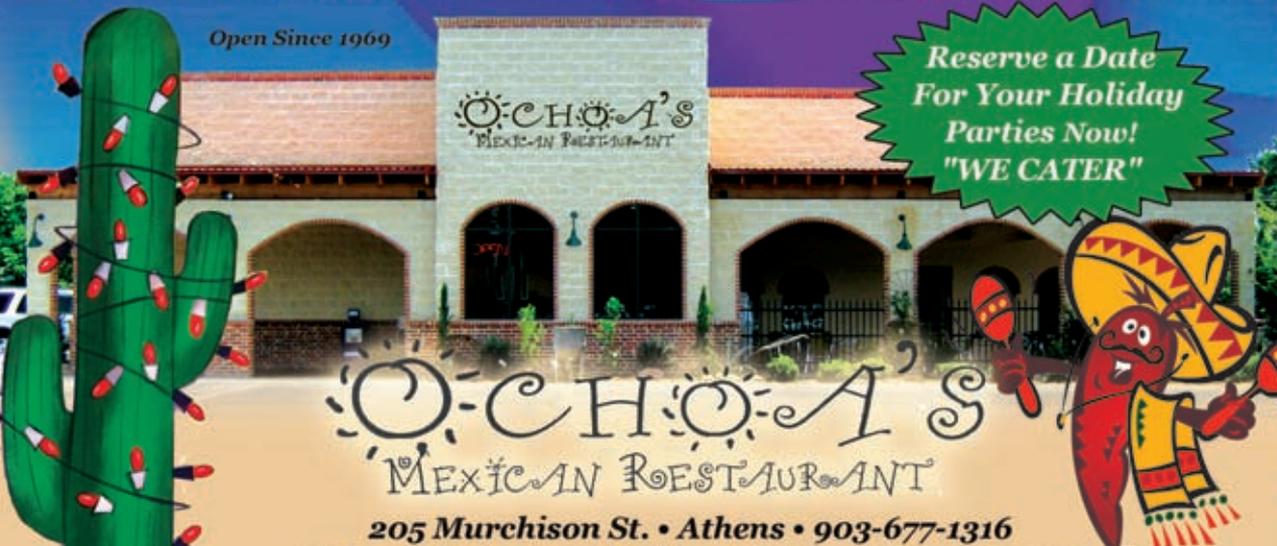


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Financial Literacy: Survey Finds Young Adults are Optimistic About Their Financial Future

— By Lynda Housley

How confident are you about your financial future? A recent report detailing the State of America's Financial Education (SAFE) shows two-thirds of young adults and recent graduates are optimistic about their financial outlook despite the country's economic difficulties and their present state of financial readiness.

The report, conducted by NFO World Group, examined financial literacy, perceptions, attitudes and actions among young adults aged 18 - 29. Nearly 60 percent of survey participants expect to be financially comfortable in five years, as opposed to 15 percent who feel that way now. Notably, only one percent expects to be struggling financially in five years.

Nearly 70 percent of those surveyed are confident in their ability to plan for their financial future. Many young adults have taken the first steps toward achieving these goals through sound money management skills. Over 60 percent of participants say they save money on a regular basis and try to follow a budget. And over three-fourths had either a savings or checking account.

Yet, the need for financial literacy remains. Less than one-quarter (24 percent) claim to have a good understanding of how to invest in the stock market or mutual funds, and only one-third (33 percent) feel comfortable taking financial risks if there is a possibility of gain. A majority of recent graduates know little or nothing



about home mortgages or IRAs. Less than one-half of young adults pay off their credit card every month. And only 43 percent have established a "rainy day fund" for emergencies.

The survey suggests that while many young adults focus on financial independence, budgeting and saving for major purchases, meeting current or short-term needs remains a priority

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over planning for the long term.

There is a fundamental need for financial education in our homes and schools. The survey suggests the largest resource for financial advice and guidance for this age group is parents (48 percent), while the Internet is the next most frequented source (16 percent). Only one percent of young adults seek financial advice and guidance from schools or colleges.

As parents and mentors, there is more we can do to help promote financial literacy. Basic money management fundamentals and the principle of consistently contributing to savings and investments early in life are valuable lessons we can pass along to our children. **NOW**

Lynda Housley is a State Farm agent based in Corsicana.

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COPD: It is Preventable

— Ron Rodriguez, D.O.

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is the fourth leading cause of death in the United States, affecting 32 million people. It is the fifth leading cause of death worldwide. COPD is a chronic lung disease in which the lungs are damaged, making it harder to breathe. Men are more likely than women to develop the disease, and it occurs predominantly in individuals older than 40. However, recent studies reveal that since the year 2000, the number of female deaths associated with COPD exceed the number of male deaths. Chronic bronchitis, emphysema and in some cases, asthma are commonly associated with COPD.

When breathing in, air travels down the trachea and into the bronchial tubes. From the bronchial tubes the air is carried through small air passages that branch off into each of the lungs. At the end of each of the branches are thousands of little air sacs known as alveoli. The airways and air sacs of healthy lungs are elastic, springing back to their normal shape after filling with air. With COPD, the airways and air sacs lose their elasticity and shape, making it harder for air to flow out of the lungs. The air sac walls are destroyed and the walls of the air passages thicken and produce an increased amount of mucus, blocking the airways.

There is no cure for COPD. The damage to the airways and lungs is irreversible. Fortunately, it is preventable. Smoking is the primary cause of COPD. Smokers are 10 times more likely to develop COPD than nonsmokers.

Exposure to secondhand smoke may also increase a person's chance of getting the disease.

Another cause is exposure to indoor or outdoor pollutants. A recent study found that 19.2 percent of COPD cases are connected to work-related exposure to toxic chemicals and pollutants. A rare genetic disorder called Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency and other respiratory infections may be causes as well.

Symptoms such as persistent cough, increased mucus production, shortness of breath (especially during exercise), wheezing and a tight feeling in the chest are warning signs of the disease.

COPD is often mistaken for other conditions, such as "smoker's cough." It is sometimes under-diagnosed and mistreated for several reasons:

- Symptoms are often dismissed as being related to aging. People often attribute reduced physical ability and shortness of breath to normal aging. Shortness of breath, wheezing and reduced stamina could indicate COPD and should not be ignored.
- COPD is commonly confused with asthma. Studies have shown that some people with COPD have been misdiagnosed with asthma. Shortness of breath, wheezing and chest tightness are symptoms of both conditions. However, it is vital that COPD is correctly diagnosed and treated.
- Symptoms can be misunderstood during the early stages. Smokers dismiss the shortness of breath and cough

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associated with smoking. Quitting will not eliminate the symptoms of COPD once the condition is present, but smoking cessation can help slow the progression of COPD and is always advised.

Although there is no cure for COPD, the symptoms can be manageable. Lifestyle changes, such as smoking cessation, regular exercise and a healthy diet may improve shortness of breath and strengthen the body. Patients are encouraged to visit a physician to discuss medications and treatment options that may also be appropriate. If you are experiencing symptoms associated with COPD, seek medical attention early to reduce your risk of developing COPD. **NOW**

*Ron Rodriguez, D.O.
Navarro Regional Hospital*

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December 2008

Community Calendar

Third Thursday

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

December 2

The Navarro College SBDC will sponsor a workshop on small business startup basics, 10:00 a.m. - noon. It will be held in the Waxahachie Chamber of Commerce at 102 YMCA Drive.

December 4

Navarro Small Business Development Center will sponsor a basic workshop on how to start a small business, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. in the Corsicana/Navarro County Chamber of Commerce conference room at 120 N. 12th Street.

December 5 - 22

A *Christmas Story* by Jean Shepherd, adapted by Philip Grecian, presented by the Ennis Public Theatre: 2705-C N. Kaufman St. Fridays and Saturdays: 8:00 p.m. Special December 22 Monday

night showing: 8:00 p.m. December 14 and 21
Matinees: 2:30 p.m. \$15 adults/\$12 students and seniors. (972) 878-PLAY.

December 6

Jingle Bell Jog, 9:00 a.m., Corsicana YMCA, 400 Oaklawn. (903) 874-2412.

The annual Festival of Lights Parade will be held at 6:00 p.m. in downtown Corsicana, followed by lighting of Community Park. Lineup for the parade will begin at 5:00 p.m. at Cornerstone Baptist Church parking lot, 801 N. 13th St., Corsicana. Entry is free. To enter the parade or for more information, contact Dennis Thornberg at (903) 872-2641.

December 6 - January 1

Holiday in the Park at Community Park, 400 Oaklawn Drive (903) 654-4850.

December 7

Holiday Tour of Homes sponsored by the Blooming Grove Historical Society, 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10 each. Contact (903) 695-2724.

December 10 - January 10

Navarro Council of the Arts presents the Star Harbor Watercolor Society at the Warehouse Gallery. This exhibit is free and open to the public.

December 13

Day in December Arts and Crafts Show, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., College Park Mall, 3500 W. 7th Avenue. (903) 872-7486.

December 16

Michael Martin Murphey's "Cowboy Christmas" 6:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m., Palace Theater. Tickets go on sale November 12th.

December 11 - 14

The Corsicana Children's Company presents *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* at the Warehouse Living Arts Center in downtown Corsicana. Please call (903) 872-5421 for times and ticket prices.

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

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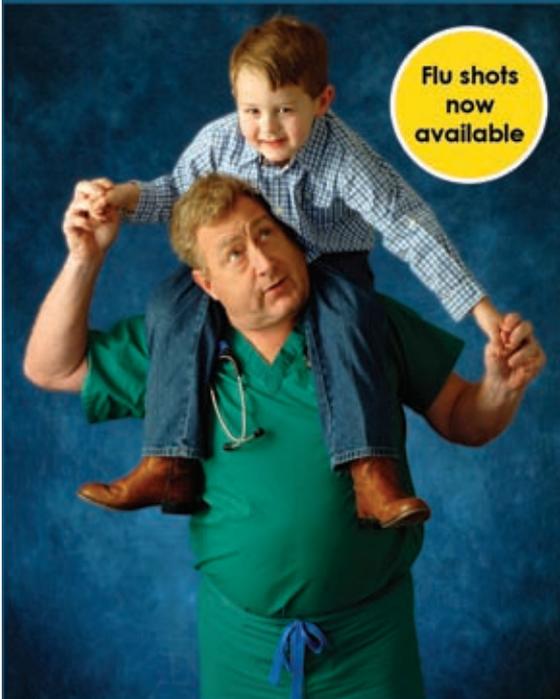
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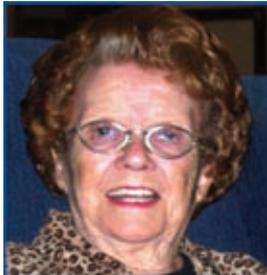
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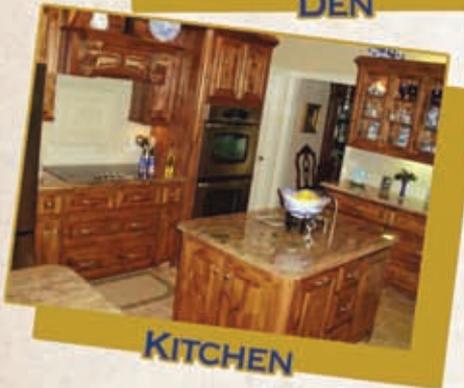
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