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June 2008

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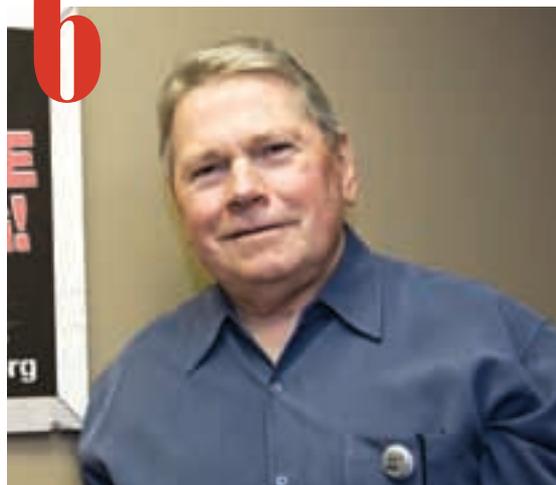
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Corsicana NOW

Editor's Note

Hello Corsicana and Navarro County!

The first month of summer is here. The children are out of school; you are planning summer vacations and ready to relax a little bit. And of course, we cannot forget those dads out there; June 17 is Father's Day.

Our June issue is filled with some exciting stories. One in particular really touches our community as a whole: the fight against underage drinking and tobacco use, which will really be affecting our teens this summer. Alvis Reeves, IMPACT Corsicana Coalition director, explains the continued success being had in the crusade for our children.

Another fascinating story lies in the walls of the Single Believers Ministry, offering our community hope, faith and the power of prayer.

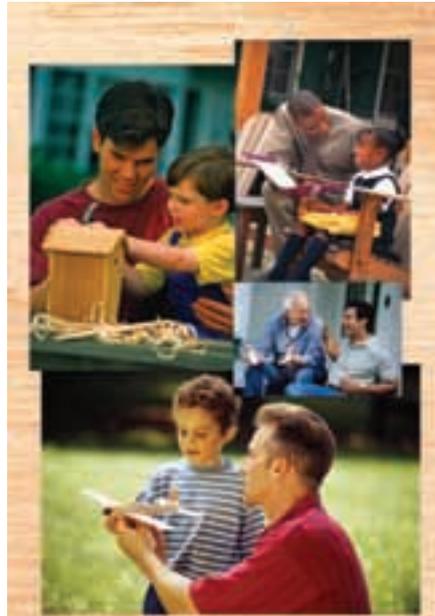
If you ever get the opportunity to hear The Seven Bridges Band, you are in for a real treat. Just expect to be transported back into the days of The Eagles and their phenomenal recording career. They are a listening delight.

Remember if you have a great idea for a story or feature and want to see it in print, please feel free to contact me. Please note that my e-mail address has changed.

Wishing you love and kindness always,

Samantha Stroube, CorsicanaNOW Editor

samanthas@nowmagazines.com



It's Father's Day!

The day we honor the men who raised us and taught us well. The day we remind our fathers just how much they mean to us, and the day we remember just what it means to be a good dad.

On this father's day, do your dad a favor — stop by Corsicana's most respected lumber and hardware store and buy that man who taught you right from wrong a gift card! It's a small token of your appreciation that will tell your father, "Dad, you make me proud!"

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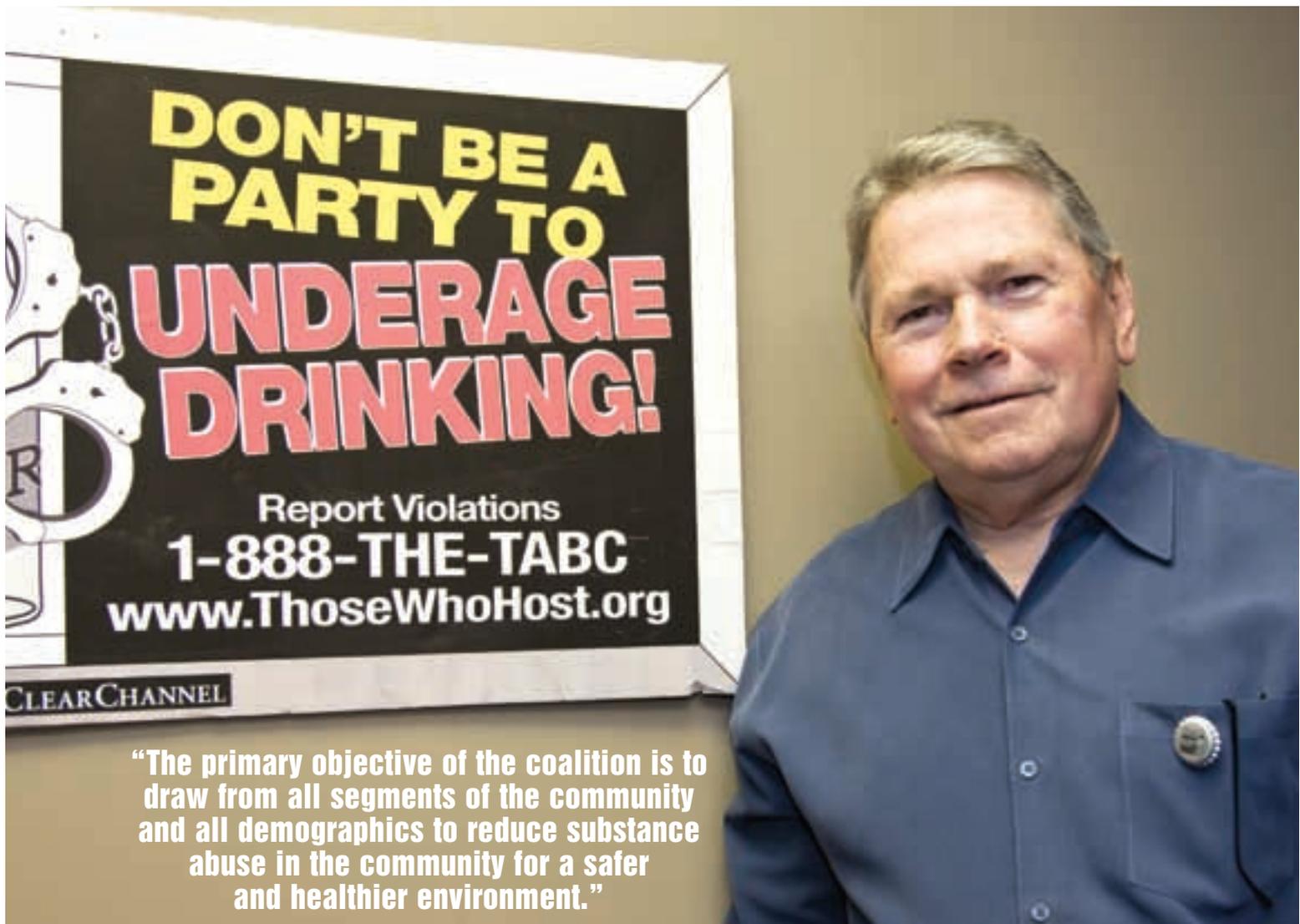
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“The primary objective of the coalition is to draw from all segments of the community and all demographics to reduce substance abuse in the community for a safer and healthier environment.”

Saving Our Youth One Day at a Time

— By Samantha Stroube

IMPACT Corsicana is a newly developed coalition formed two-and-a-half years ago. Each and every board member is striving to inform young people and their parents of the importance of avoiding and preventing underage drinking, tobacco use and illegal drug abuse.

IMPACT is managed and receives funding from Drug Prevention Resource, Inc. (DPRI) out of Irving, Texas, and is directed by Mr. Alvis Reeves of Corsicana. The current officers on the board who also assist in the direction of the coalition are Jerry Ashcraft (chairperson); Karen Cook (vice-chairperson); and Andrea Boruk (secretary).

Alvis, who was enjoying retirement, took on the responsibility of coalition director to ensure the purposes of the coalition are carried out every day. “The primary objective of the coalition is to draw from all segments of the community and all demographics to



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reduce substance abuse in the community for a safer and healthier environment,” Alvis explained.

The board of directors of IMPACT Corsicana have four primary goals or focuses. The first is education, and this effort is currently being headed up by board member Elizabeth Thompson. Education is used to inform adults about the dangers of underage drinking and the laws pertaining to it. On April 1, 2008, IMPACT kicked off its “Those Who Host, Lose the Most” campaign at Tiger Stadium. The program was designed to inform the press, Corsicana Independent School District (CISD) board members and employees, and the community as a whole, of the dangers of underage drinking.

Law enforcement is the second goal of the coalition. Sheri Short is currently heading up this effort. This branch works in conjunction with retailers and merchants by diligently performing age checks on all young purchasers.

Policies, led by Sergeant Kenneth Authier, is the third focus area for the coalition. This committee is focused on talking with city officials and working with the city government to try to change particular city ordinances and accept particular policies; they also work closely with various other organizations around town. For example, one ordinance was passed over a year ago making it illegal for adults to



host underage drinking parties.

The fourth group, alcohol merchants, is led by Mickey Hillock. This group works diligently with the merchants and retailers around town on various sale procedures, in order to prevent sales to youth. They also organize a merchant-training course using training from TABC (Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission) to inform merchants of youth purchasing, store safety and handling of intoxicated customers.

Alvis is diligently trying to get out in the community and be heard by all age groups, beyond merely acting as a catalyst to keep youth from underage drinking. The board of directors wants to reach everyone, especially the adults. Alvis feels that if the adults understand the dangers, then they can communicate and talk to their kids about the dangers. He wants parents to understand the importance of talking and communicating with their children and not maintaining a complacent role in their children's lives. Therefore IMPACT has worked extremely hard to get their name and face out in the community at various events.

"We typically hold an annual 'Town Hall' meeting, usually at the Corsicana Library," Alvis said. "We use this time as a continued education opportunity for adults to come and talk to us and ask questions."

"We have also started a back to

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school rally (the first one was in the summer of 2007) at Fullerton Garrity Park, where we invite vendors to come and talk about the realities of substance abuse,” Alvis said.

Alvis also explained the integral part CISD has played in assisting the coalition with their crusade. “They have allowed us to post signs on every campus for the ‘Those Who Host, Lose the Most’ campaign. Alvis remarked, “Corsicana High School has also welcomed us into their halls and allowed us to post campaign posters, audition and recruit the PRIDE students [a group of students who

“We typically hold an annual ‘Town Hall’ meeting, usually at the Corsicana Library. We use this time as a continued education opportunity for adults to come and talk to us and ask questions.”

have vowed not to use drugs and alcohol], and encourage the students to take pride in themselves and their school.”

“[The program has] enjoyed success through a survey given by the Texas State Health Department, which shows that teenage attitudes have changed significantly toward avoiding drinking and drug abuse over the last few years,” Alvis proclaimed. “And we feel that at CHS the kids’ attitudes have changed mainly in part to the ‘Actuality Campaign’ that we began running last year.”

The “Actuality Campaign” is a positive campaign, which began on a high school campus in Colorado; it was so successful that it has begun to spread throughout the nation. And

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CHS was one of the first campuses in Texas to accept this campaign. The information offered to the students throughout the year hangs on posters in the hallways of CHS. The statistics and information shown is all based on a survey students complete at the beginning of each year. It allows them to understand perception versus reality, in a positive light. It is not meant to scare the students away from drinking; it is used to encourage them not to drink.



For example, some of the posters for the campaign just have numbers on them. At the end of the year, what those numbers represent is revealed to the students. They may explain how

many students are not using drugs and are not drinking; it also discloses the pride students carry for their school. "This campaign really makes them think and ask questions," Alvis said. "In fact, since we began running the campaign, we have learned the kids who do perform underage drinking are in the minority, not the majority. And more students are starting to show more school pride.

"We realize that prom and graduation have just passed, but we are constantly working to keep our young minds away from drugs and alcohol," Alvis proclaimed. IMPACT is certain that with your assistance and awareness of your child's interests, whereabouts, and friends, you can help fight the problem of underage substance abuse. Please do not be afraid to talk to your children; you are their only link and hope to a happier, safer life.

IMPACT is constantly running opinion editorials in the newspaper as a reminder for parents to get involved and talk to their children. These letters are written and signed by various IMPACT coalition members offering some insight on how to handle and talk to your child/children. You can never start talking to them too soon. **NOW**



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— By Sandra McIntosh

Brian and Nikki Purcell dated for about two-and-one-half years before exchanging their wedding vows on January 30, 1999. Both were spending a night out on the town at The Dallas Alley when Nikki spotted Brian across the room. “After telling my sister how cute I thought he was, I asked him to dance,” she said. “We’ve been together ever since that first dance,” Brian quickly interjected. Since marrying, it seems as if the couple has lived just about everywhere. Nikki is from Garland, and Brian considers Pilot Point to be his hometown. “Our first home as husband and wife was in Garland,” she recalled. Before settling into their new four-bedroom, five-bath home in Navarro Mills in November of 2004 with their two boys, Colton and Garrett, now 8 and 5 respectively, they had also had addresses in Palmer and Waxahachie.

Looking back, it seems as if the 28 acres they had in Palmer was not enough. “Land, lots of land, was what Brian wanted,” Nikki said, explaining the move from one small town to another. “I’m more of a city girl. I’ve sacrificed for the men in my life.”

At Home With
**Brian
 and
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 Purcell**





Living in the country, Nikki realizes the boys can ride their four-wheelers, fish on one of six fully-stocked tanks and grow up just being boys in the wide, open spaces. They also spend time as a family on the lake they share with their neighbors. Sixty of the acres are home to a rental property already in place at the time of purchase, and



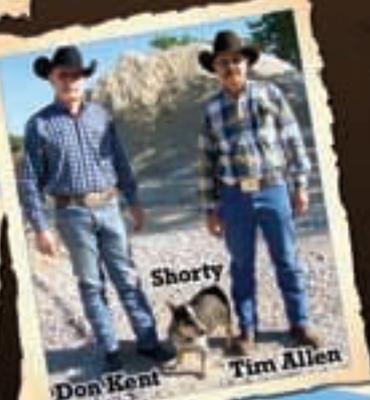
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the remaining 200 acres are used for hay farming, cows, horses and a few donkeys.

The comfortable, open floor plan is a far cry from what Brian and Nikki first started with. In fact, the home, originally built in the late 1990s, was totally remodeled from top to bottom. "A lady in her 90s lived here before we bought the place," Brian said. "Her kids built the house, expecting to move in with her, but that never happened." Since the lady was confined to a wheelchair, the light switches are lower than normal and all the ceilings, except for the vaulted ceiling in the living room, are only eight feet in height.

Brian has been building things with his hands for years, so saying he did 40 to 50 percent of the remodel with help from Nikki would be more than

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accurate. "He knows how to do it all," Nikki added, with pride in her voice. They knocked walls out, only to add new walls in new locations. They relocated the electricity in the small hallway. All flooring and countertops, installed by Avery Flooring, are new to the home. Each room received a facelift of color in shades of gold, brick red, gray and a light khaki, blending beautifully with one another as you transition from one room to another. All the pine trim and doors throughout were installed by Brian. The character they now possess was captured with a dark stain, enhancing the natural beauty of the wood.

When visiting the home for the first time, guests notice the ranch-style with a deep European flavor almost immediately. The simple, yet elegant



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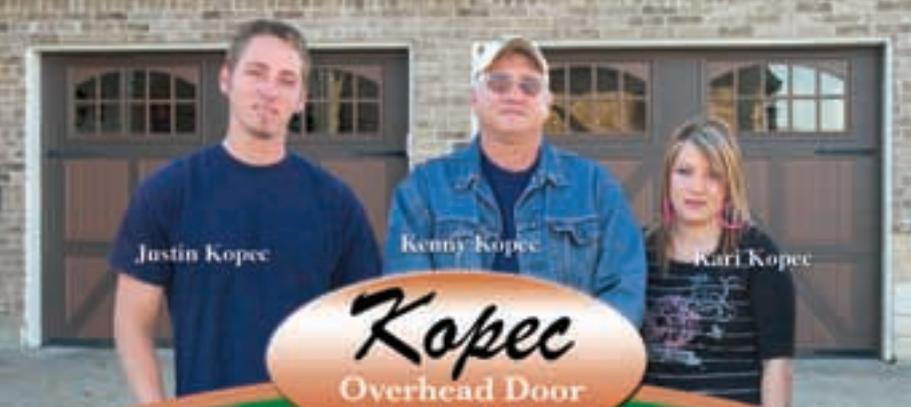



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living room has a wonderful view of the front yard. The open floor plan gives it the great room effect that Brian and Nikki were going for when they removed the half wall between the living room and kitchen, adding two floor-to-ceiling columns in place of the wall. The columns are home to what means the most to the Purcells — family. Photos of family members dating back to August 1, 1942 adorn the shelves. “Those are my grandparents,” Nikki said, explaining the dated wedding



Justin Kopec Kenny Kopec Kari Kopec

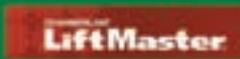
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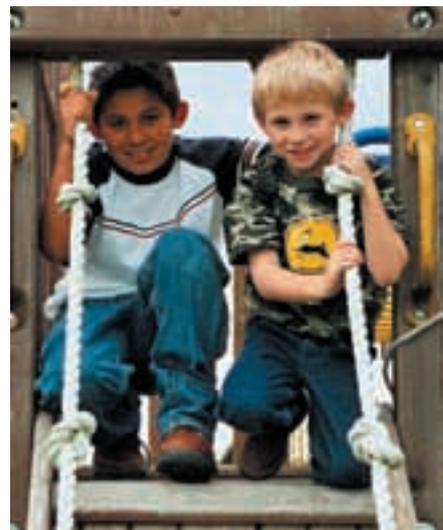
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photograph. “They were both 15 years old when they married.” When looking from Nikki to the framed black and white photo, the resemblance between grandmother and granddaughter is easily noticeable, and something of which Nikki is quite proud.

One other collectible besides the family photographs Nikki has accumulated over the years is a modest assortment of roosters and chickens,



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which she displays in the kitchen. “The glass display case once belonged to my grandmother,” Nikki said, pointing to one corner of the kitchen. “The case means a great deal to me.” The cabinets in the kitchen are the one thing they have not changed; they remain a lighter color that complements the dark granite countertops and stainless steel and black appliances. “The lighter cabinetry lightens up the kitchen,” she added.

Each bedroom boasts of its very own bathroom, with the smaller, fifth bathroom located down the hall from the kitchen, close to the door leading out to the oversized two-car garage that one day Nikki hopes to see enclosed. “Our vehicles are too big and long to fit in the garage so we park outside,” she laughed. “I’d like to enclose the garage and make [it into] a huge family room with a fireplace.”

The boys’ rooms are truly a reflection of their likes and interests. Colton is not at all shy about his love for the



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University of Texas Longhorns. A nice touch Nikki added to his room are the curtains, made from three individual Longhorn jerseys. Garrett's room is decorated in the Sponge Bob Square Pants theme with a few Power Rangers thrown in for a good balance. Colton plays basketball, and both he and Garrett are heavily involved in soccer.

The master bedroom, regal, yet cozy and warm, is Brian and Nikki's haven

from the outside world. The bedroom suite is constructed of wood with leather insets and brass studs. The brick-red wall behind the bed and on the hallway wall leading to the master bedroom is Nikki's favorite color in the home by far. "I'd like to paint the whole room this color," she



said, referring to the master bedroom.

The guest room is also known as the firehouse/exercise room because of the workout equipment and fireman memorabilia found throughout. As a tenured fireman with the Lewisville Fire Department, Brian has accumulated lots of items not only as gifts from his wife, but also from actual fires where helmets were partially melted while they were still atop Brian's head. "The helmets hanging on the bathroom wall were all worn in the line of duty," Nikki said. "They serve as a gentle reminder of the career he began 13 years ago and still loves today."

Granted, just the undertaking of a new home is daunting. A complete remodel just adds to the overwhelming feeling, but when asked what they liked best about their new home, they both simultaneously said, "The finished product is what excites us the most!" For the Purcells, life in the country is turning out to be a true blessing. **NOV**

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Church *on* Wheels

— By Faith Browning



The community of Corsicana has a valuable treasure in The Singles Believers Ministries. Cathy Douglas founded the ministry in October 2005, with her best friend, Margaret Evans, serving as executive administrator. These two classy women ride around Corsicana in a “cool vanilla” Chrysler PT Cruiser convertible, which they lovingly call their “Church on Wheels.” Their mission is to reach out to singles and get them involved in helping others, their community and themselves.

Cathy and Margaret encourage the involvement of singles from all churches and denominations. “Most local churches overlook singles,” Cathy said. “We want to reach all singles and make them feel a part of something.” They send out their message of hope to widows, widowers, divorced men and women and single parents. “We want them to know they need to love themselves first,” Cathy said. “Everyone needs to get rid of their old baggage and move forward.”

To enable their nonprofit, charitable organization to be self-sustaining, they fill their busy calendar by organizing fundraisers benefiting their various causes. These fundraisers allow the singles to be involved in community causes so they can see how they make a difference. The ministry raises funds to provide scholarships for students from low-income families, to provide food to feed the homeless, to assist in the “Beautification of Woodland Cemetery Project” and to help support their Sunday afternoon radio broadcast.

Every first Sunday you can find them feeding the homeless on East 1st Street. They minister God’s Word while they serve them lunch. “So many showed up last Sunday we ran out of food,” Cathy said. During the holidays, they make it an extra special occasion by giving out gifts, while serving turkey and dressing.

Adopt-a-Street is a program they started last November. They get singles to pick up trash, doing their part to beautify the community. “We are cleaning up the streets one precinct at a time,” Cathy said.

The month of January found them assisting Pastor Dairy Johnson with the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration. This year was

the first time the celebration was held at The First United Methodist Church with over 300 people attending. “Eastside people went to celebrate with the Westside people,” Cathy said. “Everybody was praising together.”

During February, they put on The Golden Girls Fashion Show for ladies ages 60 and up. The ladies gathered at the MLK Center to have fun fellowship while modeling their own fashionable outfits. “They really love it,” Margaret said. This past March they assisted Minister Clarence Horne in a fundraiser at The Palace Theatre featuring the concert



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ministries of Dr. Vernard Johnson. This event was a production put on with the assistance of many spiritual people, like Pastor Joseph Johnson, Pastor William Lewis, Bishop K.D. Davis, soundman Lloyd Huffman and his crew. Carl White Chevrolet provided Dr. Johnson with a vehicle while he was in town. "He said he wanted to



come back to Corsicana," Cathy explained, "because of all the love he received here."

During Derrick Days, some of the singles assisted Pastor Dan Layne in organizing five hours of gospel performances. According to Cathy and Margaret, this is the most exposure given for gospel music during Derrick Days. This month, they have organized an event called Praise in the Park. This social event will supply gospel music from various groups for the enjoyment of the people in Bunert Park. "We went to the Parks and Recreation Director Sharla Allen with the idea," Margaret added, "and she loved it."

This coming July will be their third year to hold a benefit for the Mary Peterson Daycare. "It's the oldest black daycare on the Eastside," Cathy said.

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This is a big event where they close certain streets to create an old-fashioned block party. Last summer, country singer Byron Haynie gave a free performance. "He enjoyed it so much, he wants to come back again this year," Cathy added.

The month of August has them involved in assisting the Back to School Rally put on by IMPACT of Corsicana youth substance abuse awareness program. They assist in contacting local businesses about

generously donating prizes to this important cause. "We have a lot of businesses donate prizes for this event," Margaret said. "They also help hand out school supplies to all children who show



up." They participate in honoring the victims of 9/11 and our American veterans with the Freedom Flag Celebration held on Veteran's Day in the month of September.

Fall will also be filled with activities such as the "Couples Night Out Jazzfest" at Napoli's Italian Restaurant, featuring the musical talents of Angela Blair and Corsicana's own Bobby Sparks. "They blew the house open," Cathy exclaimed, referring to last year's event. The ladies are also looking to orchestrate a repeat performance of last year's "Dress for Success," a children's fashion show which benefited The Boys and Girls Club. Cathy said they are looking to make it a yearly event.

A food drive to benefit the Navarro County Dream Center is slated for

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the month of December. Musical entertainment will be provided for the generous individuals who bring bags of food to feed the homeless. They also collaborate with Go Rope Productions of Corsicana to put on The Battle of the Choirs Competition. "Choirs from around the state come to participate hoping for the chance to win the production of their own CD," Margaret added. "Last year, Go Rope gave six hours of free recording time to the winning choir."

Every Monday morning, you can find Margaret ministering to the homeless at the Dream Center and Tuesday evenings you can find Cathy ministering at the same location. "We want to reach out to the survivors," Cathy said. "The more we do, the more we want to do." Their future vision for the ministry will require a building to house an office, a prayer room and a food bank they plan to open every day of the week. "People get hungry every day," Cathy expressed. "They need a place to get food whenever they need it." They also need a van to transport supplies and groceries.

Cathy and Margaret have known each other most of their lives. They grew up in the same neighborhood and were brought back together just three years ago. Cathy shared her vision to start the singles ministry with Margaret. "I have not met anyone with a bigger heart," Margaret said, as she described Cathy. "She can't stand to see someone in need. She will give them the shirt off her back." With Cathy's vision and Margaret's management skills, they started this unstoppable ministry. These remarkably blessed women can sometimes be found enjoying refreshments at the Gourmet Café. You will recognize them by their infectious laughter or by the song they may be singing: "It takes two, baby, it takes two, baby. Just me and you!" **NOW**

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- (2) *For General Questions for IRS: www.irs.gov*
- (3) *For General Questions for State Comptroller: www.window.state.tx.us*
- (4) *Deadline for Franchise Tax Returns (for corporations, LLCs, LLPs and general partnerships with partners that aren't individuals): June 15, 2008*
- (5) *Extension Deadline for Individuals: October 15, 2008*
- (6) *Extension Deadline for Partnerships: July 15, 2008*
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- (8) *For General Questions for Texas Workforce Commission: www.twc.state.tx.us*
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Like No Other — By Samantha Stroube



If you want to take a step back in time and really feel the sounds of an iconic musical sensation, then you need to take the time out of your hectic life and listen to the remarkable sounds of Jason Manning and his band, 7 Bridges: The Ultimate Eagles Experience. The act is comprised of six uniquely talented artists who have managed to recreate the ultimate Eagles performance. Most, having seen the group perform live (most recently at The Palace Theater on April 26), are able to unequivocally compare their exactness to the legendary Southern California musical geniuses.

Lead vocalist, Jason Manning, portrays his alter ego as Glenn Frey from the original band. A native of Corsicana, Jason graduated from Corsicana High School in 1988; he attended Texas A&M University majoring in communications with a minor in music. “Those were definitely the best seven years of my life,” Jason

said jokingly (but understandably so considering the performance schedule he maintained while in school).

During his junior year (in 1990) at A&M, Jason joined a band in College Station named Touch 'N Go; he played with them for over four years. “I wish I could say that I got into music by some profound manner. Actually, what happened was one of my buddies at A&M approached me to join his band, because some of the guys were graduating,” Jason said lightheartedly. As lead vocalist, guitarist and keyboard extraordinaire, Jason, along with his band, managed to balance performance time and study time. “We mainly traveled the college circuit, offering any type of music to our fans,” Jason admitted. “We did everything from dance music, to rock 'n' roll, to country.”

After completing his degree at A&M in 1992, he decided to stick around College Station for a few more years continuing his successful musical

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The 7 Bridges band performed at the Palace Theatre during Derrick Days this year.



endeavor. If you have ever been to College Station, there are two local hangouts which should not be missed. One, of course, being The Dixie Chicken, right across from campus on University Drive; the other being The Tap, another known watering hole off of Harvey Avenue. The Tap first opened while Jason was in school there, and he and his band made a name for the place. "We [Touch 'N Go] were the first live act to perform at The Tap," Jason said. His band continued their success on the college circuit until all the members of the band graduated and headed their separate ways into life.

Soon after leaving College Station, Jason had collected enough material to cut two albums, *Texas Avenues* (1994) and *Writing on the Wall* (1995), which were more heavily weighted with a Texas country music sound. He then toured for a bit through the southwestern region of the United States (Texas,

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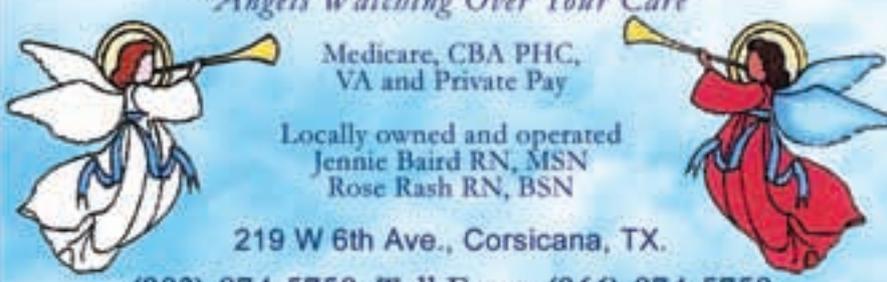
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New Mexico and Arizona) to help support the heavy airplay time his music was receiving.

Once the touring was complete, he decided his next move would be to the country music capitol of the world, Nashville, Tennessee. During his eight-year stint in Nashville, Jason was fortunate enough to discover another side of himself and the music industry that he really loved. "I was able to learn a lot from people in the business there and really work on the production and writing side, which



I truly enjoy," Jason explained. He learned from artists such as Don Ellis and Yankee Grey, with whom he performed on occasion.

Following his time in Nashville, Jason was contacted by one of his friends to join his Eagles tribute band, Tequila Sunrise, as the new "Glenn Frey." The then band leader, Paul Sidoti, was thrilled to have Jason join the group. But in 2007, Paul left the group to go on tour with Taylor Swift (an up-and-coming female country singer), prompting Jason to become



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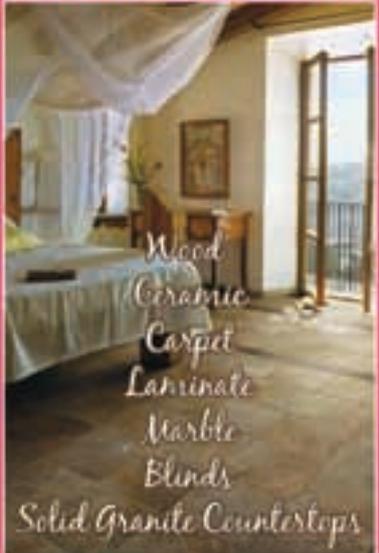


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ARTS NOW

the band leader. Jason then renamed the band, 7 Bridges, from the original Eagles song.

Jason and the band have managed to completely replicate the original Eagles sound and experience through all of the original musical talents each member brings to the stage. The band portrays all the original members' alter egos: Jason Manning (as Glenn Frey), Keith Thoma (as Don Henley), Jason Dickson (as Timothy Schmit during some songs and Randy Meisner

"I really love what I do. The music (especially performing live), recording and the writing all keep me so motivated."

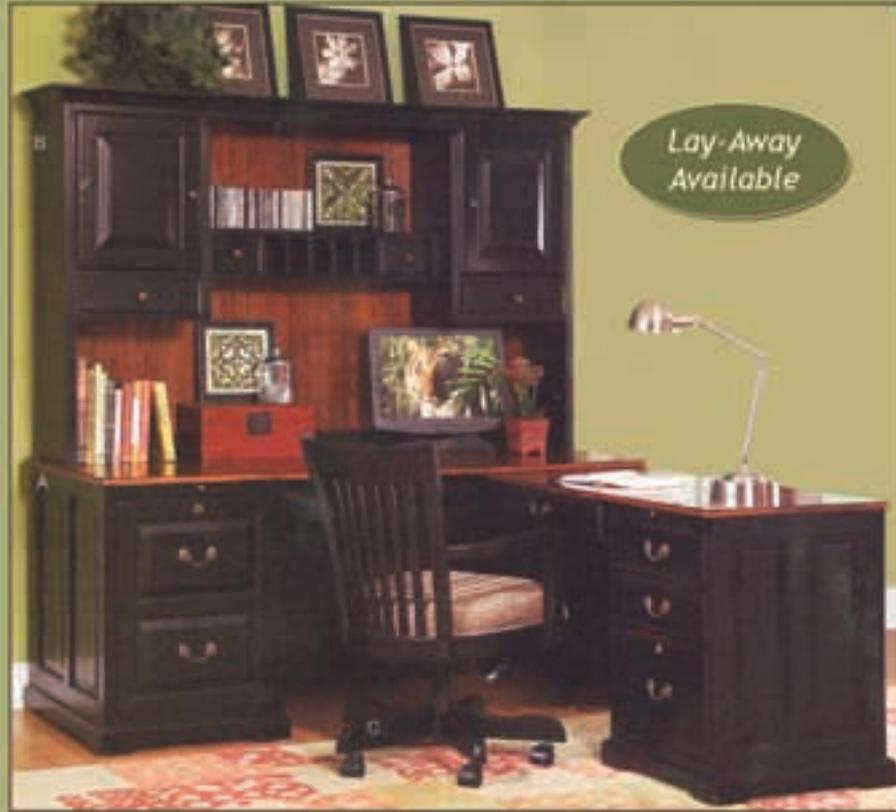
during others), Doug Gery (as Don Felder), Vernon Roop (as Joe Vitale) and Ray Neighbors (as Joe Walsh). "We basically tour on the weekends since some of us live in the DFW area and the majority of the guys live in Nashville," Jason explained.

Even though the band lives miles apart, they manage to perform in almost every state around the country with over 100 performances a year. "I really love what I do," Jason said. "The music (especially performing live), recording and the writing all keep me so motivated." In addition to continuing to perfect their Eagles sound, they are also working on original projects collaborating all of their talents and abilities, all of which should be heard on their new album coming out in late 2008 or early 2009. **ARTS NOW**

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Sports
NOW

Fishing Dreams

— By Faith Browning



James Grigar is casting dreams, not just fishing lines.

Every angler dreams of catching a 20-pound bass, but for James Grigar and Jerry Jordan fishing dreams are much bigger. They have grand visions of thousands of bass being caught by thousands of anglers from all over the state. These visions bring valuable economic growth to Navarro County. They see Richland Chambers Lake as the resource to fulfill their dreams, and they want to help the community visualize the same. “We want to open their eyes to realize what kind of revenue that it brings to the community,” Jerry said. “We want to get the community excited about getting involved.” James added, “People are not aware of the asset the community has here.”

Bringing in large bass tournaments will undeniably boost sales for many businesses. “It puts heads in beds,” said Jerry. “We want everyone to understand the positive aspect of the tournaments coming to the lake.” They explained how people who participated in bass tournaments need places to sleep,

restaurants to eat in, businesses to shop at and fuel to get around. Some of the anglers bring their families, making the head count of consumers even greater.

The larger tournaments can bring in 150 to 200 boats, and every boat can contain an average of two people fishing. This means around 400 people, not including their families, will be in the area during tournaments. James and Jerry are looking to attract even larger family tournaments, where wives and children are included in the festivities. “Some of these tournaments, like the Texas State Bass Tournament, can bring in around 300 boats,” James said. “You can count on about two per boat, plus their families making the total count almost 700 people in town.”

Bass spawn in April and May, making those the busiest tournament months. “We have

something going on just about every weekend,” Jerry claimed.

Championship tournaments take place in September and October. James and Jerry want to draw those prime tournaments into the area. “The whole goal to fishing all year long is to make the championship,” James said.



Sports NOW

Persuading tournaments to come to Richland Chambers Lake is not as easy as one would think. "Most championship tournaments require financial support from the community," Jerry explained. "We have other communities competing

"Some of these tournaments, like the Texas State Bass Tournament, can bring in around 300 boats."

for the same tournaments." Therefore, Jerry and James' main objective is to enlighten area businesses on the economic growth potential large bass tournaments can generate. "If business owners find it to be important, the Chamber of Commerce will find it to be important," Jerry said. "We can do



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Sports NOW

some of it ourselves, but we are not strong enough to draw the big ones without community support."

Most of the championship tournaments are planned years in advance. "It takes planning those two to three years down the road," James said. "This is where the big money is involved." These tournaments are two- to three-day



events, involving multiple nights of consumer dollars being spent on food and lodging. Additional revenue occurs when anglers come before the tournaments to find the good fishing spots. Some enticement is needed. "We have to sweeten the pot to get them here," James explained.

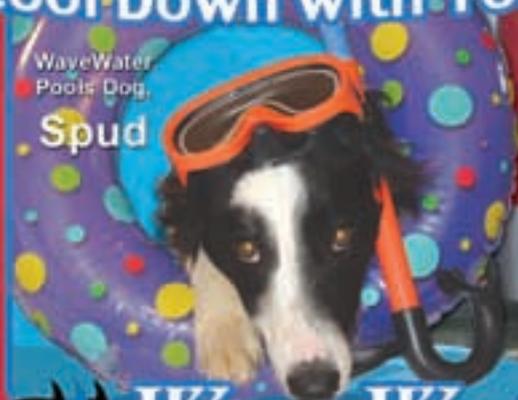
James and Jerry are both active in the Corsicana Chamber of Commerce. They serve on a Chamber committee which is working on a new project to attract tournament attendees to shop the community. The committee is offering local businesses the chance to get their names in front of the anglers and their families via packets full of coupons and discounts. "The more business you have out there, the more people and tournaments you are going to attract," James said. "It's a snowball effect." Tournaments must grow each year for them to return. If a tournament does not pull in as many anglers as the time before, then most likely they will not return.

Large tournaments normally have grand prizes of no less than \$25,000 in value. Some give away cash, while still others give away boats valued up to

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Sports **NOW**

\$50,000. "You have a one to 200 shot of winning," James said. "It has better odds than the lottery."

Richland Chambers Lake is truly a fisherman's dream. It is the third largest lake in Texas, containing many black bass for serious tournament fishing, as well as catfish, crappie, white and hybrid bass for recreational fishing. "The average hybrid is around 10 pounds," James said. "You get a hold of one of those and they will pull you and your boat around. They can really put up a fight."

James came to fish the lake in 1994, and was so impressed with the lay of the land he decided to move his family there. "A lot of people who live here now are people that came to visit the lake for one reason or another," James said. "It's easy to fall in love with this area." **NOW**

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From left to right: Teresa Guerry, Miranda Mitchell, Shauna Duke, Darrell Van Horn, Jessica Sanders, Sandra Ware, Dana Colvin

Creating New Smiles Every Day

— By Samantha Stroube

Dr. Darrell Van Horn, D.M.D., M.S. has been helping people in Corsicana find their new smile nonstop since 1989. Dr. Van Horn has been in the business of orthodontics for over 22 years, where he focuses his talents and education on patients of all ages. “Children typically start their orthodontic checkups around the age of 7, but they typically don’t get braces applied until they are at least 11,” Dr. Van Horn explained.

Dr. Van Horn has an extremely impressive academic résumé, initiating with his undergraduate studies at the University of Texas, where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in zoology. He then obtained his dental degree and an additional master’s degree in Public Health from Harvard University in Boston, Massachusetts. Upon completion

of his time in Boston, Dr. Van Horn rounded out his current vocational skills with a degree in orthodontics from the University of Nebraska in 1986.

During his first year out of school,

he worked for an orthodontic practice in Dallas. Soon he moved to Waco to open his own practice in 1988. Shortly after beginning his work in Waco, Dr. Van Horn decided to expand his business to Corsicana in 1989, splitting his time between the two cities. As the business in Corsicana expanded more rapidly than the one in Waco, Dr. Van Horn decided to sell his Waco branch in 1993 and reside in Corsicana full time.

After some time in Corsicana, Dr. Van Horn built his current facility

located on Second Avenue in 1999. It includes 3,000 square feet of modern, up-to-date orthodontic equipment used to enhance and aid his patients’ orthodontic needs. This state-of-the-art

“We all work so well together. It truly is like a family environment down here.”

facility houses enough chairs and rooms to allow him to see at least 60 to 75 patients a day. “At first when we built the facility, I thought it was going to be too big, but we have definitely grown into it,” Dr. Van Horn admitted.

One feature of the building of which he is extremely proud is the beautiful bay window located in the patient care area. “Our other office didn’t have a window, so we really love that our patients get to look out and see the goings-on on Second Avenue,” Dr. Van

Business NOW

Horn stated. In addition to the beautiful care area, the facility also provides a private room for initial examinations and paperwork. The other private rooms are for X-ray purposes and brace removal. All stations are equipped with the latest in viewing entertainment: high-definition flat screen televisions.

In addition to all the modern conveniences necessary to run this successful and ever-expanding practice, this beautiful red brick building also houses and employs a family of friendly and welcoming faces every day. To greet you immediately as you walk in is Dana Colvin, the receptionist and office manager, who has been with Dr. Van Horn for over 14 years. Assisting him with his massive daily patient load are his five dedicated chair-side assistants: Shauna Duke, Teresa Guerry, Sandra Ware, Miranda Mitchell and Jessica Sanders. Rounding out this family is Lauren Dickson, the sterilization specialist.

"We all work so well together," Dr. Van Horn admitted. "It truly is like a family environment down here."

Come on down and visit Dr. Darrell Van Horn for any orthodontic needs.



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Education **NOW**

Dual Language, Double Success

— By Sandra McIntosh

Sam Houston Elementary, under the leadership of Principal Laurie McCoy Sharpley, is on the cutting edge of something wonderful, exciting and doubly beneficial for its students. Soon to begin its third year as a “dual language campus,” simply means the pilot program to intermingle and instruct both English- and Spanish-speaking students has proven to be a huge success. “The dual language program has been in place for two years,” Laurie said, also mentioning that she has 243 students already on the roster for the coming school year. “It started with four classes — two pre-K and two kindergarten classes. The second year, we added two more kindergarten classes, as well as two classrooms for the students who were promoted to the first grade.”

To explain the philosophy of adding classes from year-to-year is actually

quite simple. As the first year’s group of kindergarten students continue to pass on to the next level of educational instruction, classes will be added, thus keeping the campus a true dual-learning facility. The goal is to one day have a dual campus, which encompasses students in grades pre-K through the fifth grade, with kindergarten through fifth having four classrooms each. The current class ratio of Spanish- and English-speaking students is split down the middle. “It’s 50-50,” Laurie stated. “The core academics are also taught 50-50. The students receive 50 percent of instruction in English and 50 percent of instruction in Spanish. This makes for an even playing field.” All new students begin classes either in pre-K or kindergarten or they transfer in from another school where they were actively involved in a

dual-language program.

Laurie proudly went on to say that Sam Houston is the only campus in the Corsicana Independent School District currently participating in this program. “We are a school of choice,” she added. “Students who come here want to be here.” Parents who elect to enroll their children at Sam Houston are taking a big step into the future. As Laurie put it, “They send their children here because they want them to be dual-language speaking individuals.”

The positive effects experienced in two short years have been many. The children, as a whole, have been able to embrace a culture different from the ones in which they grew up. “They realize there is a bigger, grander world beyond the Corsicana classroom



Education NOW

as they learn about each other," she enthused. "The size of the campus lends for a family atmosphere." Teachers, support staff, parents and students have become quite a team. "Because we are a smaller school," Laurie said, "we may have to take on a bigger piece of the pie, but the benefits and successes are worth it. The beauty



for me is that I'll know all my students by name and face."

As a past reading specialist, Laurie understands the importance English as a Second Language (ESL)/bilingual programs have offered students on sister campuses. The major difference in the dual-language program has already proven to have a profound effect. "In ESL, all work taught is translated to the students," she explained. "Here, the work is not translated, thus forcing the students to listen to the component they are not fluent in. The students listen to one another and also know they are being listened to." Positive attitudes, as well as young bilingual-speaking students, are being born here. Just going out on the playground during recess is proof positive the district is headed in the right direction. "They are using their dual languages to speak to one another," Laurie said, "not only on the playground, but also in social situations."

She realizes that when she talks about the world's future, she is talking about "her kids." "Research has shown that third-graders in a dual-language program begin to surpass peers not involved in the program," she said,



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emphasizing the students' marketability once they graduate from high school and college. "Employers today are looking for employees that are bilingual. That trend is only going to increase as our population in Texas grows."

Being consistent as a leader is another important aspect of Laurie's position as principal. "I'm committed and passionate," she said, referring to her role as a "worker bee" in relation to the staff she oversees. "The staff has the same passion and commitment to the job as I do. They are the true heroes here." Laurie realized early on that the best way to accomplish her goals was to lead by example. She does this with what many would call an "open door policy." Laurie not only makes herself available to teachers, support staff and parents, she also makes it a priority to interact with the students on a daily basis.

Laurie's internship began with the 2007-2008 school year. At the end of that same year, the job she now holds came available. She, like so many others, applied for the position and, thankfully, she was awarded the position. "I am so blessed to be here, involved in this new innovative program," she said with excitement for what the coming year has to offer. "We're on the cutting edge of things to come. I'm thankful to have been given the opportunity." **NOW**

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Around Town NOW



Michael Parks of Corsicana and his girlfriend, Keli, top left, showed their Aggie spirit. Teachers from Bowie Elementary, top right, avoided some llama drama before leaving on a field trip to Austin. Ann Stites, second row left, helped out during the Corsicana Education Foundation campus celebration. Representative Cook, second row right, talked to Bowie students before their trip to Austin. A couple got engaged, third row center, while dining at Napoli's Restaurant. Jimbo and Phyllis Parks, bottom left, were proud of their son, Michael, after he received his Aggie senior ring. Judge H.M. Davenport, third row right, spoke during the Navarro Regional Medical Complex grand opening ceremony, bottom right.

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Look Who's Cooking

— By Faith Browning

Growing up in the Catskills of Margaretville, New York, with her parents and grandmother gave Frances Cobb great childhood memories. “I remember going out to the garden with them to pick what we were going to have to eat,” she said. “Back then, we grew everything we ate.” Her grandmother started teaching her to bake cookies and breads when she was around 5 years of age.

“My mom has a picture of me standing in a chair at the counter helping Grandma cook,” Frances recalled. She still enjoys spending time in the kitchen creating her favorite recipes like Boston Cream Pie and bread pudding. You can also find her working in the garden. Frances said, “I now like to get out in the yard and play in the dirt with flowers.” **NOW**

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

IN THE KITCHEN WITH FRANCES COBB

BEEF MEXICAN CASSEROLE

- 2 lbs. ground beef
- 1 medium yellow onion, chopped
- 1 bell pepper, chopped
- 1 Tbsp. cumin
- 1 Tbsp. paprika
- 1 Tbsp. onion powder
- 1 Tbsp. garlic powder
- salt and pepper, to taste
- 2 cups rice, cooked
- 1 20-oz. can chili
- 1 10-oz. can Ro-Tel tomatoes, chopped
- 1 8-oz. pkg. shredded cheddar cheese

Cook beef with onion, bell pepper and all spices; drain. Add rice, chili and Ro-Tel; mix well. Place in greased 9x13-inch baking dish; top with cheese. Bake at 350 F for 1 hour.

SWEET AND SPICY SAUSAGE DINNER

- 1 lb. smoked sausage, chunked
- 3 jalapeños, sliced
- 1 large bell pepper, bite-sized chunks
- 1 large white onion, quartered
- 1/8 cup hot sauce, more if preferred

- 1 12-oz. jar sweet-and-sour sauce

Tear two large pieces of foil, bend enough to make a large bag. Place everything inside bag. Bake at 350 F for 45 minutes or on the grill. Serve with rice or potatoes.

BOBBY'S BEEF STEW

- 4 carrots, chopped
- 1 onion, chopped
- 3 celery stalks, chopped
- 1 Tbsp. garlic, diced
- 1 Tbsp. thyme
- 1 Tbsp. cumin
- 2 Tbsp. butter or oil
- 2 lbs. beef sirloin roast, diced
- 1 14-oz. can Mexican stewed tomatoes
- 3 oz. tomato paste
- 2 16-oz. cans beef broth
- 1 5.5-oz. V-8 juice
- 1 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
- salt and pepper, to taste

Sauté all vegetables, garlic and spices in butter; place in a bowl. Sauté beef, until brown. Place beef and vegetables in a pot or Dutch oven. Add tomatoes, tomato paste, broth,

V-8 juice, Worcestershire, salt and pepper. Simmer over medium heat for 1 to 2 hours, until meat is tender and stock starts to thicken.

CHERRY THUMBPRINT COOKIES

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup flour
- 2 Tbsp. baking powder
- 1/2 cup whipping cream
- 1 tsp. lemon or almond extract
- 1 8-oz. jar cherries, whole or halved

Cream butter and sugar until blended. Mix together flour and baking powder. Mix together flour mixture, sugar mixture, whipping cream and extract. Mix until stiff and firm. Chill for 30 minutes. Use a teaspoon to create dough balls; place on cookie sheet pressing one cherry into the middle of each cookie. Bake at 350 F for 8 to 10 minutes, until bottom is golden brown. Yields 6 dozen.

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Who's Cooking **NOW**

2/3 cup sugar
 6 Tbsp. corn starch
 1/3 baking cocoa
 1/4 tsp. salt

PUDDING:

1/2 cup water
 1/4 portion of dry mixture per pudding
 2 tsp. butter
 1/2 tsp. vanilla or almond extract

(Dry mixture makes four puddings.) Combine the ingredients for the dry mixture and store in a re-sealable storage bag for use as desired. When ready to make pudding, combine pudding ingredients and bring to a boil; then simmer stirring constantly for 2 minutes. Remove from heat; place in serving bowls. Top with whip cream or cocoa.

RASPBERRY BREAD PUDDING

1 loaf French bread, cubed
 4 large eggs
 2 egg yolks
 1/2 cup brown sugar
 1 Tbsp. vanilla
 1/2 tsp. lemon zest
 1/4 tsp. salt
 3 cups half-and-half or heavy cream
 1 pint raspberries, or berries of your choice

Mix together all ingredients. Let set until bread is soaked. Bake at 350 F for 30 to 40 minutes in a greased 8x10-inch oblong pan.

Dining Guide



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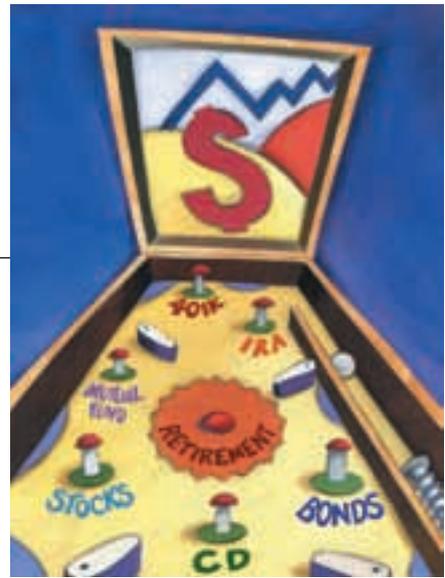
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Finance
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A Time to Plan, Part II

— By Gary Hayden



This is a follow-up article to one that appeared a few months ago encouraging us all to develop a financial plan for 2008. Nobody really likes deadlines, but the truth is that they give us the 'oomph' we need to get things done. Try blocking a few hours on a weekend or a weeknight to get organized, to assign due dates for certain tasks, and to track your progress and follow through.

With the volatility in the investment markets, it would be wise to re-examine your goals, your asset allocation targets, and your return expectations. By committing your intentions in writing, you have taken a major step in getting your investments on the right track.

Get your emergency fund in place. You need to know that if something unexpected comes up, you will be okay. If you are in your 20s or 30s, you can probably get by with three months of living expenses covered. As you get

older and your income increases, you will want to increase that to cover approximately six months of expenses. Your emergency fund should be invested in something very liquid such as a money market or savings account.

Update your beneficiary designations. Make sure your beneficiary designations on your life insurance, retirement plans and other contracts are current and up-to-date. There may have been some lifestyle changes lately and it is easy to forget to update these over time.

Throw out unnecessary paperwork. It is easy to accumulate piles of paperwork all over the house that you keep meaning to go through. These piles are not only a distraction to enjoying life, but can be a huge energy drain on you personally. So block off some time to clean this mess up, and you will be amazed how much better you feel.

If you have younger children at home, review how much you have

saved for their college expenses. Make sure you are on course to accumulate the necessary funds by the time the child is ready for those post secondary educational expenses.

By getting your financial house in order, you should feel very good about this year. And if you can accomplish much of this by mid-November (remember those deadlines), you can relax a bit and enjoy the holidays with family and friends.

My pre-New Year's toast to you: Congratulations on a very successful and prosperous 2008! **WUWU**

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

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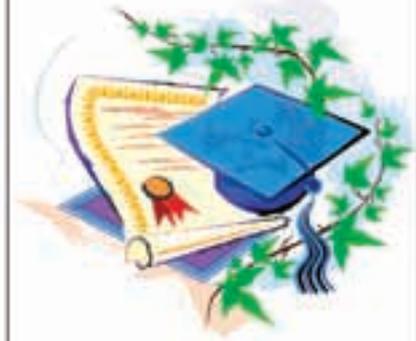
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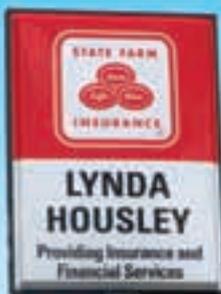
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Phyllis Hammond, Wendy Slovák, Becky Lester,
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Health NOW

Recognizing Stroke Symptoms

— By Charles Williams, M.D.

A cerebral vascular accident (CVA) is commonly referred to as a “stroke.” Strokes are the third-leading cause of death and a leading cause of adult disability in the United States.

A stroke occurs when there is an interruption in normal blood supply to the brain. This interruption can occur when arteries supplying the brain with oxygen-rich blood become blocked by a blood clot or plaque (ischemic stroke) or as the result of a leaking or ruptured blood vessel in the brain (hemorrhagic stroke). Another condition that has been associated with a stroke is a transient ischemic attack (TIA), often described as a ministroke. Although many of the same symptoms occur in the event of all three conditions, there are signs and symptoms that tend to be more common to each. Recognizing



the symptoms of a stroke or TIA and seeking immediate medical care can greatly improve the chances of avoiding mental and physical disability or even death.

Those experiencing either type of stroke or a TIA may complain of:

- **A severe headache.**
- **Weakness, numbness or paralysis of the face or extremities on one side of the body.**
- **Difficulty walking.**
- **Loss of balance or coordination.**
- **Dizziness.**
- **Vision problems, such as blurred or double vision.**
- **Trouble speaking clearly, including slurred speech.**
- **Confusion or trouble**

understanding communication.

Stroke symptoms may begin and progress suddenly, or gradually develop over the course of days. Symptoms of an ischemic stroke are generally focused on one side of the body, whereas the symptoms of a hemorrhagic stroke may be accompanied by nausea, vomiting, confusion, neck stiffness, dizziness, seizures and/or unconsciousness. TIA symptoms closely mimic those symptoms of an ischemic stroke, but are usually short-lived and resolve within the matter of a day.

Recognizing the signs and symptoms of a stroke or TIA and seeking immediate medical treatment can minimize the effects of a stroke and greatly improve your chances of avoiding permanent physical and mental disability, or even death. **NOW**

*Charles Williams, M.D.
Emergency Medicine
Navarro Regional Hospital*



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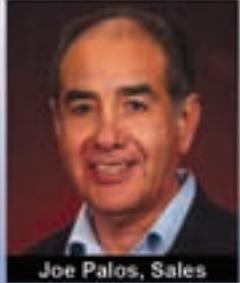
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Great Outdoors
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Mother's Day *Forever*

— By Nancy Fenton

Did you get one of those big, beautiful hydrangeas for Mother's Day? It does not have to be a one-time thing, if you are willing to give it a little help.

When it starts to droop inside, soak it overnight in a deep dish outside and find a good-sized spot near your back door for it. Get that spot ready by digging in lots of organic stuff like dead leaves or compost. Hydrangeas need lots of air and water and will grow large. Our clay/rock soil needs organic help in that area. Of course, we are talking about a shady spot since hydrangeas will not take hot sun



without burning up. After the plant has soaked overnight, plant it in a wet hole in that shady spot you have ready. Planting it by the door where you walk in and out makes it easier to remember to water it!

The plants that are forced in a greenhouse will grow outdoors with a little extra care, but do not look for luscious blooms next Mother's Day. It will take a bit longer, but they will bloom if you have not cut them back. All hydrangeas bloom on old wood, so trimming is in line right after they bloom. If you wait until spring, you stand a chance of cutting off all the stems that would have bloomed! They can be shaped up after blooming and left to make lots of new blooms the following spring.

Nurseries sell several varieties, if you did not get one for Mother's Day. Bluebird is a sturdy variety with oblong olive leaves and flat lacecap flowers. Annabella develops into a white hedge, whereas the newest variety, Endless Summer, produces large, showy flowers over several months.

Winter care requires heavy mulching to protect the plant from the cold. If you have yours in a large pot, a light place in the garage will do. Plant and protect for a lifetime of blooms to remind you of a special Mother's Day. **NOW**

Nancy Fenton is a Master Gardener in Ellis County.

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June 2008 Community Calendar

For the month of June

Janet Burton will be the featured Art Exhibit at the Warehouse Living Arts Center.

Second Thursdays

Corsicana Education Foundation board meetings at the CISD Administration Building board room. 4:30 p.m. (903) 654-2838.

Fourth Thursdays

Corsicana Chamber of Commerce meetings at the Corsicana Chamber of Commerce. 11 a.m. Contact number (903) 874-4731.

First and Third Tuesday

Corsicana City Council Meetings. City Hall board room. 6:00 p.m.

May 30 - June 1

2nd Annual Country Thunder USA Music Festival. Country music and camping, North of Hwy. 34 off 877 on Thunder Ridge Ranch. (262) 279-6960. www.countrythunder.com.

June 6 - 29

Ennis Public Theatre presents *Twelve Angry Men* by

Reginald Rose. (972) 878-PLAY. www.ennispublietheatre.com.

June 10

"How to Start a Small Business" seminar hosted by the Navarro County Small Business Development Center at the Chamber of Commerce, 120 N. 12th St. Please call Ophelia Mendozze at (903) 875-7667 to pre-register.

June 13

Shakers & Scrapers Car Club meeting, 6:30 to 10:00 p.m. at Emmanuel Baptist Church, 2217 W. Seventh Ave. A variety of cars and spectators will be present, as well as music, a 50/50 pot and random door prizes.

June 14

Flag Day!

June 15

Father's Day!

June 20 - 22

The annual Summer Balloon Classic will be held at Mid-Way Airport, Midlothian. Over 50 hot air balloons will take to the sky in all colors, shapes and sizes.

Friday from 4:00 - 9:00 p.m., Saturday from 6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. and Sunday from 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. The event is free to the public. Parking is \$5. For information, visit www.summerballoonclassic.com.

June 26

"How to Write a Business Plan" seminar hosted by the Navarro County Small Business Development Center, 1:00 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce, 120 N. 12th St. Please pre-register by contacting Ophelia Mendozza at (903) 875-7667.

June 27

VOICE will have their 2nd Annual Kerens Summer Fundraiser at 6:30 p.m. at the KESA Building in downtown Kerens. This year will be "YEE HAW," a tribute to local talent. This will be a Kerens-version of the old variety television program *Hee Haw*. Many local talents will be featured including a surprise guest who impersonates a very special member of the *Hee Haw* cast. There will be dinner, a live auction and the crowning of the Kerens Yee Haw Idol for 2008. For more information contact Gina Dieterichs at VOICE (903) 872-0180 or gdieterichs@voiceinc.org.

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

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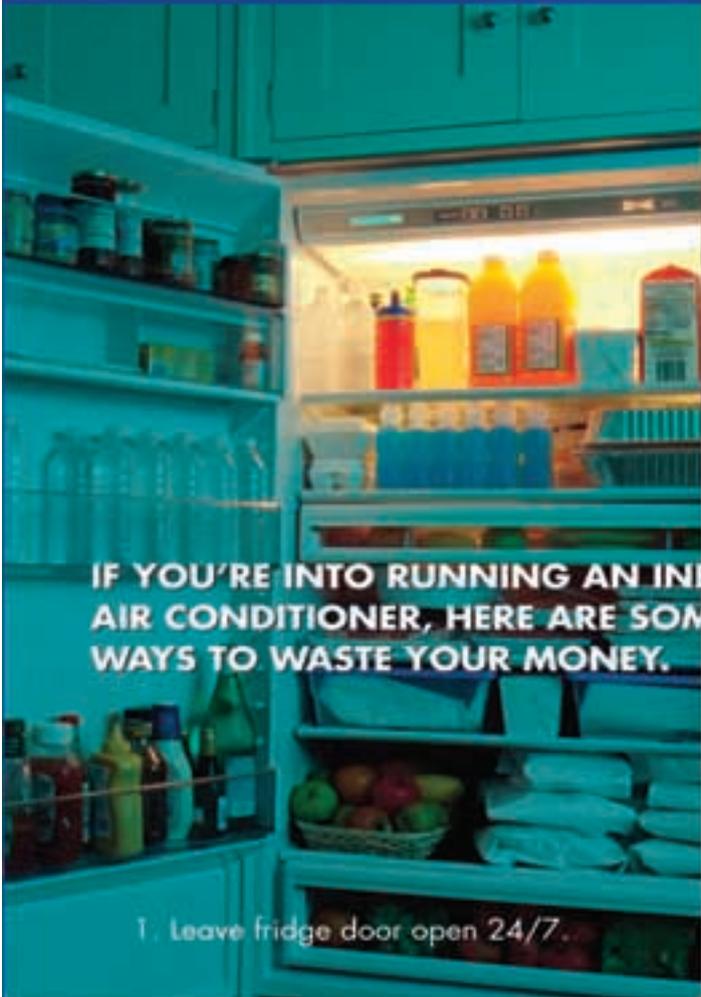
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