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# Corsicana NOW

M A G A Z I N E

August 2010



## An Army Wife in Wartime

## On the Road to Famous

### ALSO INSIDE:

Interpreting the World  
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## On The Cover

Diana and Larry Levy at home by the lake.

Photo by Terri Ozymy.

# Editor's Note



Dear Readers,

If there is some common thread running through the stories this month it is about people who have met a turning point in their lives with optimism and creativity. An unknown author has said, "It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change." Let me introduce you to some positive responders. Cristina Williams is reorganizing her life around the absence of her soldier husband. Larry and Diana Levy are relaxing into retirement in a new home in a new neighborhood. Kristee Porter is leaving the excitement of travel abroad with a professional volleyball team to find a new kind of satisfaction coaching her college team and settling into her former home and family circle. Linda Lopez, our featured cook is responding to a new interest in raising organic chickens and author Paul McConnell is writing books for a different audience.

Joan Kilbourne  
*CorsicanaNOW* Editor

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MLS#11229556/Kerens 123 acre pasture land, close to Hwy 31W 903-654-0720 [christinehowell.remax-texas.com](http://christinehowell.remax-texas.com)



MLS#11351227/Huge Price Reduction - 25 acre horse property w/ 4/3/2 home & pool, 10-stall barn w/ elec. & water. 903-654-0720 [christinehowell.remax-texas.com](http://christinehowell.remax-texas.com)



MLS#11307870/Corsicana - 4/2 Spanish style home on 9 acres, Rodeo arena and 4-stall horse barn. 903-654-0720 [christinehowell.remax-texas.com](http://christinehowell.remax-texas.com)



# AN ARMY WIFE IN WARTIME

— By Joan Kilbourne

*and has kept herself busy with clients and she has recently started doing hair and make-up for professional photographers and still is able to manage raising her children from a previous marriage. You know a lot of people like to call us heroes for doing what we do, but the real heroes are the wives or husbands left behind taking care of things on a daily basis while their significant other is away!"*

*Sincerely, Cpl. Williams, Justin,  
D co 1/141 IN "Operation Iraqi  
Freedom"*

Justin's bride is Cristina Williams. "He couldn't wait to surprise me," Cristina said. "He called me to tell me what he had done. We were married August 3, and he was deployed to Iraq on September 6 — just 34 days after the wedding." Justin is from Corsicana. He joined the Army when he was 18 and left after his first tour. "He thought about going back in but joined the National Guard in order to be at home with me," Cristina said. Justin had intensive training in New Mexico to prepare him for his assignment in Iraq. "They even played Islamic music to make it familiar," Cristina said. Now he trains Iraqi soldiers. Soldiers on deployment

*On April 14, 2010, at 11:25 p.m., Cpl. Justin Williams typed an e-mail to CorsicanaNOW Magazine: "Hello. My name is Justin Williams, and I am currently deployed overseas in Iraq. ... I would really like to surprise her [his wife] with an article done about her in your magazine. ... We have been married since August, and I had to leave in September for Iraq! She is an Army wife, and she is doing a great job being this is her first deployment she has to endure. She is a hairstylist*



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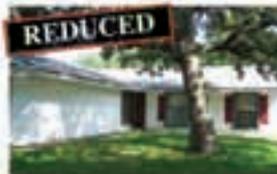
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Beautiful 4/3 Austin stone home on 2+ ac w/ lots of extras, pool, hot tub.

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are cautioned not to reveal information about the specifics of their daily routines. They are told not to mention dates or places. “Justin just says, ‘When I was at work,’ and he talks about the people around him. Of course I worry about him, but he is the kind of person who notices everything around him. He is very resourceful.”

Reflecting for a minute, Cristina said, “Everything slowed down when Justin left. We had an active life. During one month we went to San Antonio for a concert, to Dallas for a rock concert,

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took dance lessons and went roller skating. We like to have new experiences together, do new things. My motto is: “Why not?” I have been doing hair for 14 years, so I have my work to stay busy,” Cristina said. “Also, Justin gave me a camera before he left knowing how much I love photography. I started doing more with photography to keep busy. I had an opportunity to do hair and makeup for someone who was going



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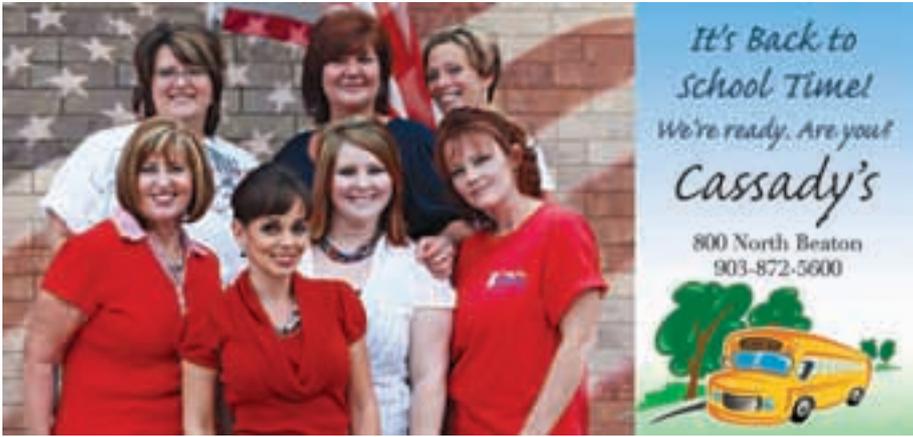
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to a photo shoot. That led to other requests for hair and makeup for bridal couture and for a model who wanted an online portfolio.” Cristina began to be as busy as she wanted to be, making new connections with each job she did. “I worked with a model and met her photographer who sent referrals to me. I also met a wardrobe stylist who was helping a contestant for the Mrs. Texas contest. Because I am alone now, I can focus more time on developing my career in photography.”

Gone are the days when service wives waited for letters from their loved ones overseas. Today’s sophisticated communication technology makes it easy to enjoy frequent and intimate connection. Cristina and her husband talk face-to-face on the Internet. “It is much better when you can see his expressions, better than letters and phone calls,” she said. On his day off, Justin gets up at 6:00 a.m., which is 10:00 p.m. Corsicana time, to talk with Cristina. “I put on a pot of coffee, and we talk and play games like scrabble on the Internet. I send him online magazine articles, and I mail paper magazines that I highlight interesting things and write comments in the margins. He likes those because it is like we are reading something together. I also send care packages. There are flat rate boxes designed to send overseas. I send a box when I fill it up with movies, books and magazines. It’s hot there. They had 120 degrees the other day, so I sent him some water guns with a note about enjoying some “friendly fire.” I put notes on everything telling him why I sent it and what I was thinking he would do with it.

“The hardest part is going to bed and waking up with no one there,” Cristina said. “He used to bring me morning coffee and wake me up with the smell of it. Some couples don’t make it through

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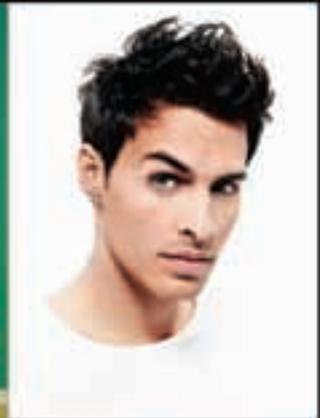
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the separation, but Justin is my perfect match. We'll be OK. I want to know who he is as an old man."

The National Guard offers supporting events to the husbands and wives and the children of deployed service people. They offer "Yellow Ribbon Events" which are classes and workshops that center on coping with deployment. Workshops on relationships inform the families about the emotional stages that

**"Some couples don't make it through the separation, but Justin is my perfect match."**

accompany departure, being away and the return home. Cristina sometimes visits online Web sites with other service wives. There is a Facebook page called Dear Deployment I Hate You where the wives can share their frustrations about doing everything on their own. They also use the link to encourage one another and compare notes on coping strategies.

The children of service men and women who are overseas have their own struggles with the absent parent. Cristina's daughter, 14-year-old Adrianna, goes to Agape Christian Academy. "She is involved with everything they are doing there," Cristina said. "That keeps her busy, too." Her daughter, Alyssa, is 13 and her son, Gabriel, is 3. Soldiers can make a DVD of themselves reading a book to a child. "Gabriel has a copy of the book at home and he plays the DVD a couple of times a week when he wants to be with Justin. When Justin asks a question while he is reading, Gabriel answers him."

Sitting in her comfortable and attractive living room, dressed and made up like a model herself, Cristina presents a cheerful face and offers optimistic comments for an interview about the life of a newly married serviceman's wife whose husband is far away in a war zone. She keeps herself busy with productive work and takes care of the children. Justin is right. That is how heroism looks. Cristina said, "His coming home will be like a sigh of relief. We'll have a normal life again, and I won't have to kill my own bugs!" **NOW**

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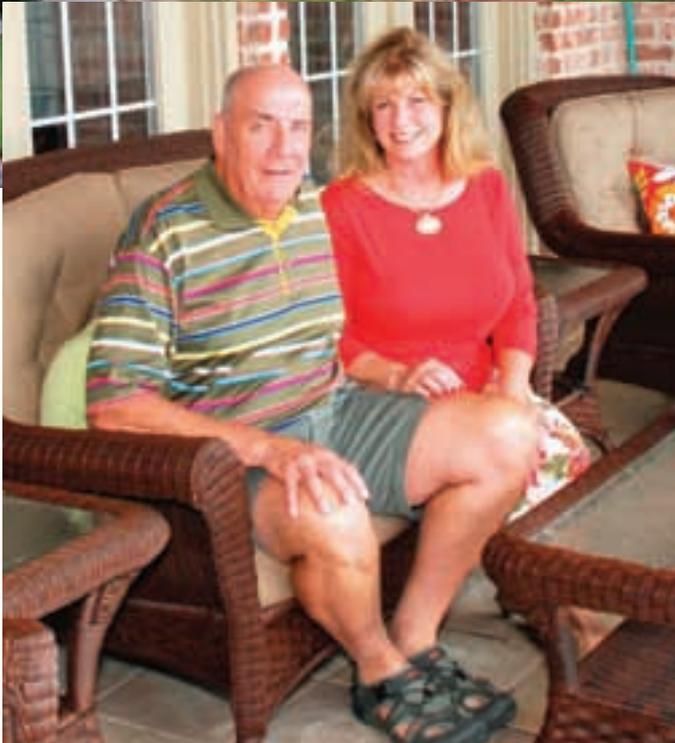
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## *Weaving a Life Together*

— By Virginia Riddle

### At Home With *Larry and Diana Levy*



*A kaleidoscope wheel of brilliant colors greets visitors to Larry and Diana Levy's beautiful lakeside home. Dominated by different shades of red, color emanates from Larry's flowering gardens to every room in their home. Just as with every turn of a kaleidoscope, Diana has skillfully painted and woven each room to be different while blending into the next room's design. "My home is my hobby, and the yard is Larry's passion," Diana said.*





When Larry and Diana married 19 years ago, they met the challenge of weaving her two daughters and his two sons into a family along with their two households. Just as Diana's great-great-grandmother used the spinning wheel that is proudly displayed to weave a beautiful, yet strong yarn, Larry and Diana have used her talents in design and his talents in landscaping to create a home that is beautiful, functional and enjoyable.

While still working for J.C. Penny in Dallas 12 years ago, this couple was looking for a lake lot on which to build their retirement home. They found their dream lot in a gated community on the shores of Richland Chambers Lake. "We had friends from Penny's who had bought here," Larry said. "We liked the quiet and the idea of being on the lake."



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Being on the lake gives everyone a reason for coming down (from Dallas) besides just seeing mom and dad. I'm happy they (friends and family) have a place to do that. They can come here, kick off their shoes and enjoy relaxing."

Diana spent several years clipping designs and ideas from magazines, and they both relied on their experiences from building previous homes. Many of her designs were incorporated into the final plans that were created by Dallas architect, James Kiraly. Their builder was Dennis Melton of Generation II Builders of Corsicana. "Dennis was willing to try anything. We were really pleased," Diana said. After living in the home for four years, Larry and Diana agree that it is still a work-in-progress that continues to be influenced by their travels and entertainment needs.

Visitors are welcomed enthusiastically by the couple and their beloved rescue dog, Sandy, from a front porch beautifully framed by a multi-gabled roof. The broad reception hall opens into the living room with a view of the lake and "Larry's Haven," otherwise known as a study, which features Diana's father's



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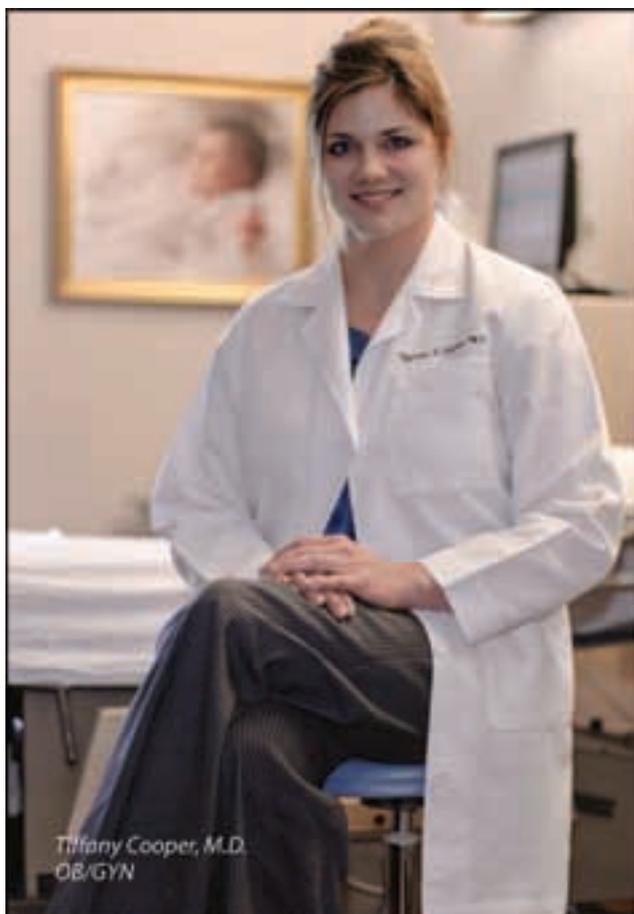


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boyhood camera and typewriter. Beautiful woodwork, brick floors and a large mantled fireplace welcome guests.

A turn of the kaleidoscope and the functionally elegant kitchen and dining area appear. "Being a homemaker is fun for me," Diana smiled. "I cook 95 percent of the time when we're home. Everyone can help and get into the kitchen." The custom cabinetry provides lighted display spaces for Diana's colorful collections of Polish pottery, mixing bowls and Longaberger baskets. Polished copper pots hang from a handsomely carved pot rack through which Diana has hung three small red glass lights that illuminate the granite covered work island.

The dining room features a rock

fireplace, more Polish pottery, family antiques and the lake view. A family photograph of Larry and Diana and their four children graces the fireplace mantel. A sitting area provides the couple an afternoon reading nook and access to gentle lake and ceiling fan breezes. An upstairs patio overlooks the lake and has a spiral staircase leading downward to the pool and the elegantly landscaped yard where abundant blooms display Larry's gardening skills.

The master bedroom and bath provide a restful retreat, as well as another wonderful view of the lake. "When the sun shines on the lake it is so beautiful," Diana exclaimed. The master bath and a powder room's beauty are enhanced

with an etched glass panel, transom and chandeliers. A beveled mirror, a wedding gift to Diana's parents, brings the 1940s era into the yellow guest bedroom and bath. Diana's Mrs. Beasley doll enjoys the beautiful view from her chair.

Sandy's room, otherwise known as the mud room, and Diana's "hangout," a combination workroom and office, offer access to the garages and work area. These rooms provide Diana a creative space for her decorative wreaths. Larry's grandmother's Singer sewing machine adds a decorative touch.

The downstairs lake-level basement was designed to be another complete home by itself enabling the couple to live upstairs and use the lower portion of the

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home primarily to entertain and make overnight guests and family members feel at home. Kaleidoscopic colors weave through the generations as the hallway winds through the “Rogues’ Gallery” of framed family photograph groupings beginning with Larry and Diana’s children, moving to the couple’s grandchildren and, finally, focusing on the ancestral beginnings of this family.

A kitchen and living area with its own separate entrance offers guests self-sufficiency. The living area is the “the kid’s playroom” complete with a handsome, red-stained oak game table. “The guys and kids can play games while watching their sports,” Diana said. Framed posters and treasures collected from America, Canada, the Baltic and the Caribbean bring back memories of the couple’s travels. “I don’t know where my favorite place is,”

Diana remarked. Framed vintage record albums and a working Victrola balance the state-of-the-art media center. The exit to the pool and lake leads through a screened-in porch where the grandkids have stored their treasures and toys.

Everything Texan is featured in the Texas bedroom complete with handmade bunk beds and Diana’s father’s trains and paintings by her mother. The red, white and blue Americana bedroom features Diana’s Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls, her grandfather’s rocker and footstool and a lamp and clothes rack handmade by her father. Half of Diana’s father’s childhood “horsy rocker” is hung on the wall; her mother has the matching other half in her home. A photo of Marilyn Monroe entertaining the troops leads into the white and black tiled bathroom which



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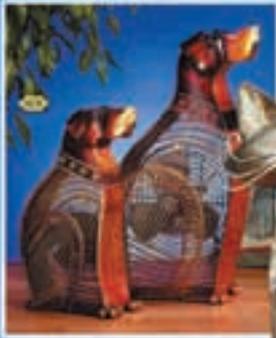
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Keeping their focus on what is important, Larry and Diana volunteer with Meals on Wheels. "We deliver food to very nice people," she offered. Larry and Diana also enjoy socializing with their neighbors. "Our neighbors are all about the same age as us," Larry said. "We watch out for one another."

"We have wonderful, wonderful neighbors," Diana added. Larry and Diana have not only created a "masterpiece home" as described by neighbors, Larry and Linda Walton, but they have woven their past and present lives into a wonderful future. **NOW**

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*Collin Street Bakery draws visitors both far and wide. From top left: Out-of-towners Vic and Fran Hatchett stop by on the way to Austin; Kay Baldrige, Katherine Battles and Cameron Batte are eager to purchase baked goods.*



*Judy Cutting, assistant dean at Navarro College, gets a cold beverage.*

*Teams congratulate each other after a tough game.*



*Mark, Tyler, Steve, Melissa (the future Mrs. Randle), Nick, Shae and Brooke Randle grab a bite at Chili's.*



*The Tabernacle Ladies enjoy a spa pedicures and massage chair.*



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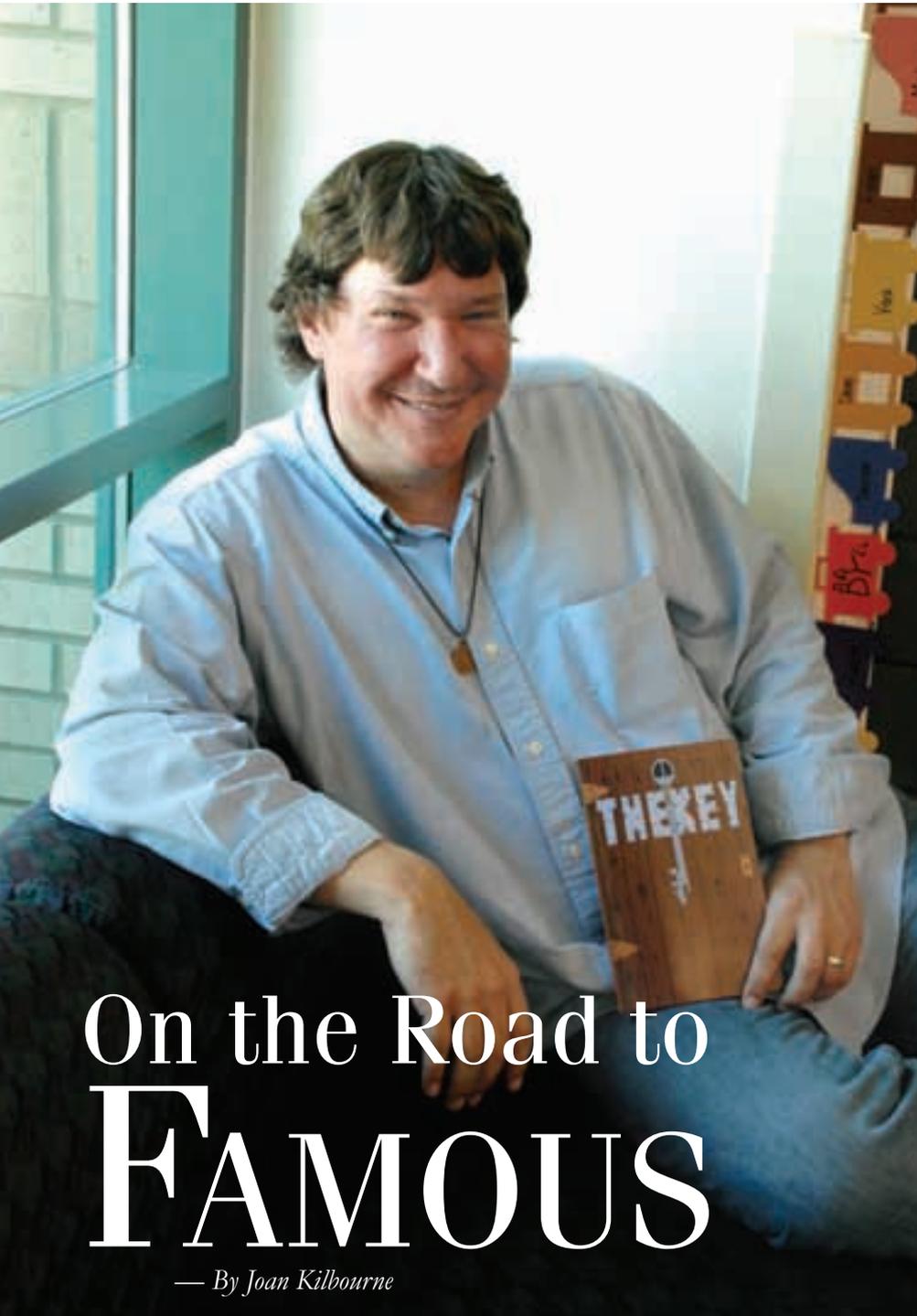
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# On the Road to FAMOUS

— By Joan Kilbourne

When a well-known author of books is interviewed, he or she will often credit their success to the discipline of writing every day and to a compelling drive to tell their stories. If these are the characteristics of a successful writer, then local author, Paul McConnell, is surely on his way to famous. To begin with, Paul has been writing since he was about 4 years old playing with toy soldiers

and making up stories about them. His mother would ask, “What are the soldiers doing?” When she heard his stories, she suggested that he write them down. “They were pretty simple stories,” Paul said. “Now I write because I *need* to write. I have to get the stories out of my head. I have written 15 novels, and I am working on three more.

“My first novel was called *Element*

{245},” Paul remembered, “and it was the first of a series of horror stories.” Along the way, Paul began to write western romance stories. “At first, I was not sure how to go about writing a western novel, and someone suggested I go to the library and read some. I read books by Louis L’Amour and thought, *That’s how I write, like him — straight forward with little fluff.* It made me think that there must be a market for what I was writing, too.”

Recently, Paul wrote what he describes as a Christian thriller. “It was different when I wrote the first of the Christian thrillers,” he said. “I don’t usually get what they call ‘writer’s block,’ but I got stuck one day and could not go forward. I was in a pool when an idea came to me. I got out of the pool to go inside and write it down. It was different from everything else I had written, but I couldn’t stop working on it until it was done. When I finished that book, the next part of the other novel I had been writing was now ready to be written.

“It takes me about two months to write a book,” Paul said. “I see a movie in my mind, and I just describe the scene I am looking at. I may be working on three books at a time. Each of the series, the horror, western and Christian thrillers is so different that when a new story idea comes, it is not hard to switch to working on another book for a while. I have





Paul autographs a book for a fan.

**“I see a movie in my mind, and I just describe the scene I am looking at.”**

published three of my books, and if I could work with an agent I know I could publish more of them. I am hoping an agent will Google me and see that I have already written a body of books ready to go to publishers. It is a writer's fantasy that someone will pick up a book and want to publish it, and then someone will read it and say, "This will make a great movie!" I have a wife, Connie, and three children: Connor is 10; Dana is 13; and Keeli is 16. I think they would enjoy that kind of success, too."

Until his "big break" comes, Paul is teaching a language arts curriculum to sixth-grade students. "I really like working with sixth-grade boys and girls," Paul said. "They are still young at 11 to 13 years of age and you get to watch them mature during the year." Teachers are required to focus on teaching the reading skills that will be tested, but because he has 90-minute classes, Paul has time at the end of the lesson plan to work on writing skills. "Teachers at Collins tell me they know which ones are

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my students because they have a good grasp of writing techniques,” Paul said. “At first they write a story all in one long paragraph, so I show them in a book how paragraphs look and, for the first time, they connect what they read with the rules for writing.

“Now that I am teaching young children, I wanted to be able to read to them something I wrote. So, I wrote a children’s fantasy story called *The Key*. This is my first children’s book, but I have already started a second one. My friend Micah Sapok made the sketches I



Paul McConnell reads to his son, Connor.

**“Now that I am teaching young children, I wanted to be able to read to them something I wrote.”**

wanted to have in *The Key*, and I filled in the drawings and added some detail.”

The Corsicana library hosted a book signing for *The Key*, and Paul donated part of the proceeds from sale of books to the Boys and Girls Club. “George Lucas kills off the good guy in his films, the character people learn to like,” Paul said, “but I keep my fans in mind; I write what they like to have happen. When someone says to me, ‘I hated that character,’ I say, ‘Thank you. I wanted you to hate him and now I know that I was successful.’ It is great when I get compliments like that. Now if an agent should come to town and want to publish,” Paul smiled, “I am ready with 15 novels. A contract for film rights would be OK, too.” **NOW**

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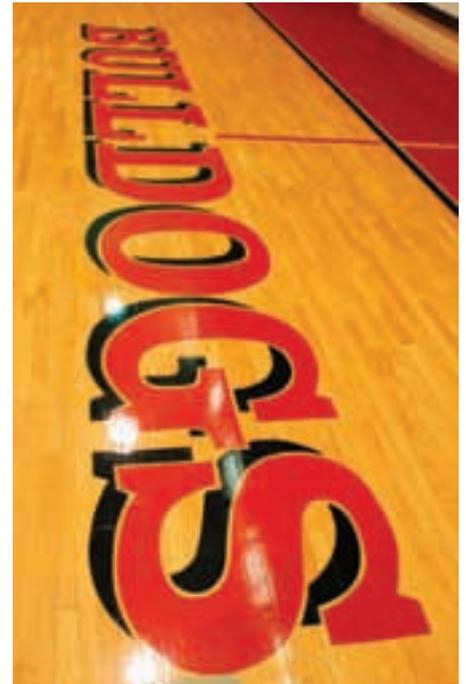
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# From Star to Star Maker

— By Joan Kilbourne



Although she grew up in Tyler, her recent move to Corsicana to coach volleyball for Navarro College “felt like coming home” to Kristee Porter. “I lived in Tyler, but for family reunions, we always came to Corsicana where extended family members live. Kristee has three sisters and three brothers. She is “daddy’s girl,” influenced by her dad to enjoy athletic games. “He loved sports, and people tell me he was an outstanding basketball player,” Kristee said. “I joined the school band and played clarinet until sixth grade when someone took my instrument.” Undaunted by this setback,

Kristee brought her considerable energy to the school volleyball, basketball and track teams at John Tyler High School. “I like to compete,” Kristee said. And she found she could do that with great success. She was a state champion triple jumper and, when she won second place in the national decathlon event, her track coach encouraged her to specialize in track events. “But I liked being on all the teams,” Kristee said. She became Texas state volleyball player of the year.

A basketball scholarship took Kristee to the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). “I went there because that’s where Jackie Robinson went, and he was on both baseball and football teams. He was my inspiration.” Los Angeles was an eye-opener for a girl reared in Tyler, who found herself on a university campus with 174 buildings and an enrollment of nearly 40,000 students. “I just stood still one day and looked at

all the people passing by, people from all over the world I'd never seen before." Determined to excel in more than one sport, Kristee achieved an outstanding record. She lettered in all three sports — volleyball, basketball and track. "We played sand volleyball, too, because my teammates were beach girls and the coach came from beach town, too." Kristee set more records at UCLA. She was the all-time kills leader, making 2,255 points for UCLA with attack shots that the opposing team could not return. She was a two-time All-American and a three-time All Pac 10 selection in volleyball and second leading rebounder in the Pac-10 in basketball.

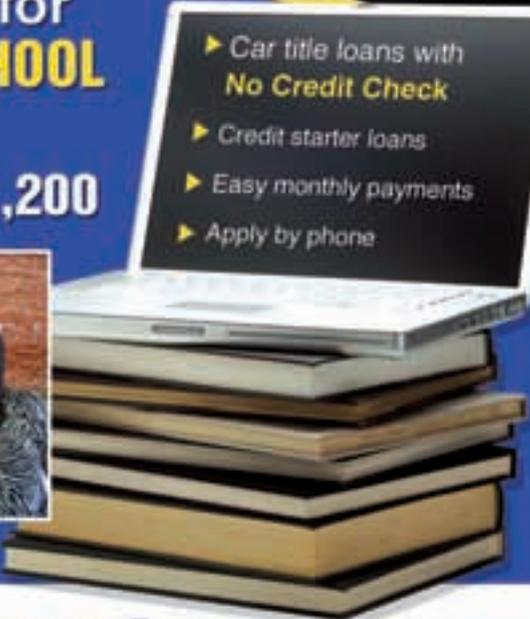
**She is sharing with the girls on her teams her skills, her enthusiasm and her vision of what is possible.**

When Kristee was selected to be on the U.S. National Women's Volleyball Team in 2001, she began to travel to competitions held in other countries. "I saw Russia and Japan when I traveled with the national team," Kristee said. "I liked Paris best. That sounds like a cliché but, as a history major, I just loved how you could touch history with your hand. I like Holland, too; the shopping is great, and I love cookies and snacks and they seem to have a lot of that in shops there." While training at the Olympic training facility in Colorado Springs her coach urged her to play for two years with a professional team in Japan to prepare for the 2004 Olympics. At that point, Kristee said, "I had not been home in three years. My friends were all getting married and having babies, so I turned down the offer and went home.

"I just relaxed for two months," Kristee said with a smile. "Then I joined a professional team, *Pinkin de Corozal*, in Puerto Rico for a three-month season. She filled the one place they were allowed for "imported" players. Kristee has the long-legged, long-armed physique that makes her a force to contend with

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as the outside hitter whose job is to spike the ball over the heads of the opponents. A skilled outside hitter is a valuable player, always in demand as a team member. The team in Puerto Rico maintains an apartment where Kristee stayed. "Puerto Rico was a great place to live," Kristee said, "and my friends liked to come to visit the island. We won six championships there." Another opportunity came to play with a



Alissa Sanchez and Megan Morrow help rack up a win. Photo by Jeremy Pereira.

professional team in Spain for two years. While she was with the team in Spain she had opportunities to coach younger girls in the volleyball camps, and that is where she learned to speak Spanish.

Kristee's career brought her home again when she was offered a position as coach of the women's volleyball team at Navarro College. Her contract allowed her time off to play with the professional team in Spain from January to April of 2010. "My agent asked if I would like to play on a team in Italy after that," Kristee said, "but I turned it down. I'm retired now from volleyball. My knee injury makes it easy to decide to stay here at Navarro College to coach the girls' volleyball teams. I have a great team of girls who are mostly freshmen, so we will play together for two years. I'll miss them when they move on. We are doing some fundraising now so I can take the team to see more of the world. I want them to see some of the places I have been." At this turning point in her career, Kristee is giving back from her own success. She is sharing with the girls on her teams her skills, her enthusiasm and her vision of what is possible. **NOW**

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*From left:*

Cody and Ashley Hanna with their children  
Rayley and Karley.

# Paint Your Wagon

*Cody and Ashley Hanna bring new leadership to a local auto body repair and custom paint shop.*  
— By Joan Kilbourne

A year ago in March, Cody and Ashley Hanna became proud owners of their own business. Cody and Ashley were neighbors and friends since they were both in the same second-grade class in Mildred. “She moved about 100 feet from home to our house when we were married,” Cody said. The front office of his shop is decorated on all sides with trophies. Some of the baseball trophies were earned by Cody when he, as the pitcher on his high school baseball team, led the team to the state tournament in 1998. Cody is still playing one or two tournaments a month in a men’s league. He plays on a World Class E team that ranks first out of 1,256 teams in Texas and is holding on to third place in the nation.

After high school, Cody began to work in the body shop run by Ashley’s dad. He was hired to sweep up for \$7.50 an hour, but the next day the paint prep person quit and Cody became “the prepper” for \$12 an hour in commissions. Ashley grew up in the shadow of her dad’s auto body shop, but a job at a local bank sparked her interest in banking and she enrolled at Sam Houston University. When Ashley moved to Huntsville to start classes, Cody took a job there to be with his fiancée. After she graduated with a degree in finance and banking the couple wanted to return to live near friends and family in the area around Mildred. They began looking for a business to buy, and they found the auto body shop in Corsicana on Craig’s List on the Internet. Two

## Business **NOW**

weeks after seeing the ad, they moved into the business.

Cody decided to keep the name of the business to take advantage of the existing signs and advertising. Both Cody and Ashley share the front office work of doing estimates, ordering parts and keeping accounts. "The bank is my full-time day job," Ashley said. "And my night job is at the body shop." When she comes into the shop in the evening she



brings their two daughters, 4-year-old Rayley and 1-year-old Karley. The little girls have a play place set up in one of the offices. Both Mom and Dad agreed, "They are both little redheads with big personalities."

Cody draws on his many years of experience to do all of the frame work, bodywork and painting. He was first trained to meet the exacting standards of Ashley's father and then, working for auto dealerships, he learned to meet the "good as new" quality standard they required. "It is our goal to meet customer needs rather than the needs of an insurance company," Cody said. "We don't often end the day at 6 o'clock. That's when we get started in the shop," Cody added. "We might be here until 10:00 p.m. to get a job done for a customer. Cody does custom painting and has worked on the restoration of vehicles belonging to the Shakers and Scrapers Club. Ashley pointed out that "Cody has a good eye for paint color to make good matches and to design interesting new colors." As a new business in town, Cody is working hard to establish a good reputation for quality work. They are beginning to have repeat customers, which tells them they are succeeding in this effort. **NOW**

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# Interpreting the World

— By Virginia Riddle



Paula Ross-Lewis and Cynthia Garcia sign, "I love you."

Expressive fingers fly as Cynthia Garcia, Deaf Education (Deaf Ed.) teacher at Collins Middle School, and her colleague, Paula Ross-Lewis, Deaf Ed. paraprofessional at Fannin Elementary School, relate how they met. After attending classes at Corsicana High School, Paula would then teach sign language classes. This is when the lifelong friendship began. "Back in our school days, there were no interpreters like now; we only had note takers," Cynthia related.

Cynthia, who lost her hearing when she was 4 years old, and Paula who was born deaf, traveled to the Dallas Society for Crippled Children and Callier Center for Communications Disorders at the University of Texas at Dallas, respectively, for their early schooling. Deaf Ed. services were not offered by Corsicana Independent School District (CISD) during the early 1970s. That all

changed with the enactment of Special Education laws and through the efforts of Cynthia's parents. "My mother wrote letters to Congress to bring the program to CISD," Cynthia said. CISD became the managing agent for one of 52 statewide Regional Day School Programs for the Deaf. Today, this program provides Deaf Ed. services to students from 36 area independent school districts. While some students spend more than an hour on a one-way school bus trip, they are no longer isolated or traveling to Dallas, but are provided a supportive community within their school.

Joining Cynthia and Paula in providing services are CISD Deaf Ed. teachers Heather Thornton, Pamela Fletcher, Kari Richter, Renee Frazee and Barbara Treat. Interpreters include Stacy Rogers, Toni Niles, Tish Huddleston and Nicki Biggs. Kathi Perez, director, and Karen

Ashcraft, special programs secretary, complete this highly specialized team. "Wherever the student needs a voice, that's where we are," Stacy revealed. From the morning announcements to the last moment of late night or weekend after-school extracurricular activities, the interpreters are busy signing, not just what the teachers say in classes, but also jokes and conversations between students, discipline situations, voice tones and inflections and special programs. They also interpret during CISD's public meetings and staff meetings.

The journey to become a member of this team is arduous even for "hearing" teachers and interpreters. Teachers must obtain a college degree and the basic teaching certifications. Additionally, all Deaf Ed. teachers and interpreters must pass the State Board of Evaluators' Interpreters Test. "People don't understand how long it takes to learn sign language," Heather said. This team also has to be proficient in using whatever sign language each student uses: Conceptually Accurate Signed English (CASE), American Sign Language (ASL), English or Total Communication. Interpreters must also subscribe to a code of ethics. Even after becoming certified, the team attends conferences to stay up-to-date with a constantly evolving language by learning new words and politically correct signs and perfecting their practice of "building a picture for the kids."

Working with many professionals as well as parents is a part of daily life for these Deaf Ed. team members. Some of the students have multiple disabilities which require the services of occupational and speech therapists. Serving students in regular classrooms means working with classroom teachers. Some classes such as shop, physics, driver's education and Spanish are challenging. "Teachers are not always at ease at first, but we are usually good partners by the end of the year," Stacy related.

Teaching signing classes for the public

# Education **NOW**

and especially parents of Deaf Ed. students is a special mission for both Cynthia and Paula. The “go-to” authority in signing, Paula learned to sign while attending Callier. Cynthia, proficient in lip reading from childhood, learned to sign while a student at East Texas State University. Cynthia’s husband, Leonel, and her two sons sign and are very supportive along with a new daughter-in-law who is learning. Paula’s son signed without voicing until he was 4 years old. Cynthia and Paula know firsthand, from the constant support of their own parents, what an important role parents play in a deaf child’s life. Heather acquired the skill of signing after her deaf son was born. She became educated about a parent’s role through the process of learning to sign, obtaining services, being an advocate for her child and by providing early learning experiences.

Deaf Ed. services are offered from birth or as soon as a child is identified by an audiologist’s testing. Barbara works

**“My goal is for the student to be out in the real world and be successful.”**

with families of children, birth to 3 years old, within their homes and Kari specializes in transitioning students into life after high school. “When parents are aware of the choices available, the children are more likely to venture out into the world beyond their family,” Kari said. The Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) helps students move forward to college or job training so they are employable and independent.

“My goal is for the student to be out in the real world and be successful,” Paula said, speaking for all of these dedicated professionals.

Cynthia, who is working on her master’s degree, said, “Our deaf students can’t believe we can work with them since we are deaf ourselves. We tell them they can become whatever they want to be. It’s hard, but you can do it.” Speaking from first-hand experience these two role models are “heard” throughout the Deaf world as they interpret the world for their students. **NOW**

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# In The Kitchen With Linda Lopez

— By Faith Browning

Linda Lopez acquired her love for cooking from both of her parents and her husband, Miguel. “While my mother cooked from scratch every day, it was the Lithuanian food prepared by my dad or my grandma that really tickled my taste buds,” she explained. “My husband introduced me to the wonderful flavors of Puerto Rico/Cuba/Caribbean. You never know what part of the world our

dinner will be coming from!”

Linda enjoys spending time with her family fishing on their pontoon boat, riding Harleys, raising organic chickens for their eggs and preparing home-cooked meals from scratch. “I love recipes that allow me to use leftovers in another dish,” she said. “The flavor builds in leftovers, and transforming them into something different is always a treat!” **NOW**



## HOMEMADE MAYONNAISE

1 egg yolk, at room temperature for 30 minutes

1/2 tsp. Dijon mustard

1/4 tsp. sea salt

3/4 cup extra-virgin olive or vegetable oil (or a combination), divided

1 tsp. white-wine vinegar or cider vinegar

1 tsp. fresh lemon juice

1/4 tsp. white pepper

1. Whisk together egg yolk, mustard and sea salt until well-combined.

2. Slowly add about 1/4 cup oil drop by drop, whisking constantly until mixture begins to thicken.

3. Whisk in vinegar and lemon juice, then add remaining 1/2 cup oil in a very slow, thin stream, whisking constantly until well-blended. If at any time it appears that oil is not being incorporated, stop adding oil and whisk mixture vigorously until smooth, then continue adding oil.

4. Whisk in white pepper to taste.

5. Store homemade mayonnaise in a tightly covered container in the refrigerator. Use within five days.

## FRIED RICE

2 Tbsp. vegetable oil

4 cups rice, leftover or prepared the day before and chilled overnight

4 eggs

1/2 bag frozen peas and carrots mix

1/4 cup oyster sauce

1/4 cup reduced-sodium soy sauce

1/4 cup green onions

Sesame oil, to taste (optional)

1. Heat a large, deep-frying skillet over high heat. Pour in oil, then stir in the rice; cook about 2 minutes, to warm; separate the rice. Push the rice to one side of the pan.

2. Crack eggs into the empty portion of the frying pan, stirring or whisking quickly to scramble.

3. Mix rice and scrambled eggs. Stir in frozen peas and carrots. Stir in oyster sauce and soy sauce; toss to coat. Add green onions. Drizzle with sesame oil, and toss again.

## SPINACH AND CHEESE STRATA

1 lg. sweet onion, finely chopped

3 Tbsp. unsalted butter

1 tube pork sausage

1 10-oz. pkg. frozen spinach, thawed, squeezed of all excess liquid and chopped

8 lg. day-old croissants, cubed

3 cups sharp cheddar cheese, grated

2 1/4 cups half-and-half

12 eggs

2 Tbsp. Dijon mustard

1/2 tsp. black pepper

1 tsp. dried basil

1. Cook onion in butter in a large, heavy skillet over moderate heat, stirring, until soft, 4 to 5 minutes. Add pork sausage, breaking it up while it fries. Cook until done, and no longer pink. Stir in spinach; remove from heat.

2. Spread one-third of croissants in a buttered lasagna-type deep baking dish and top evenly with one-third of sausage and spinach mixture. Sprinkle with one-third of each cheese. Repeat layering twice, ending with cheeses.

3. Whisk together half-and-half, eggs, mustard, pepper and basil in a large bowl and pour evenly over strata. Chill strata, covered with plastic wrap, at least 8 hours (for



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croissant to absorb some of the egg mixture).  
 4. Preheat oven to 350 F. Let strata stand at room temperature 30 minutes. Bake strata, uncovered, in middle of oven until puffed, golden brown and cooked through, 45 to 55 minutes. Let stand 5 minutes before serving. *I prepare this dish a day ahead of time, so I can just pop it in the oven early and serve it for breakfast.*

**JASMINE CASHEW CHICKEN SALAD**

3 cups cooked chicken, diced (Grilled, rotisserie or lemon chicken tastes best.)

3/4 cup sliced green onion (Use entire onion.)

1 1/2 cups celery, sliced

1 cup coarsely chopped cashews

3 cups Jasmine rice, cooked and cooled

1 tsp. curry powder

1/2 tsp. sea salt

1/2 tsp. lemon pepper

1 cup homemade mayonnaise

1 Tbsp. horseradish sauce

2 Tbsp. Miracle Whip®

1 Tbsp. honey mustard

2 tsp. lemon juice

1. Combine chicken, green onion, celery, cashews and rice; set aside.
2. Blend together remaining ingredients and pour over the chicken and rice mixture. Toss to completely combine and coat.
3. Refrigerate for at least 8 hours to allow flavors to blend and cashews to soften. Serve chilled.

**BLT DIP**

1 lb. bacon (turkey or pork)

1 cup homemade mayonnaise

1 cup sour cream

1 lg. tomato, diced

1 bag FRITOS® SCOOPS!® Corn Chips

1. Cook bacon and let cool. Once cool, crumble bacon and mix together with the rest of the ingredients except chips.
2. Chill. Serve with chips.

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5 lbs. potatoes, peeled and grated

2 med. onions, grated

1 lb. bacon, fried and crumbled (reserve about 1/4 cup drippings)

6 eggs

1 lg. can evaporated milk

1 stick butter, melted

4 tsp. salt

Pepper, to taste (about a teaspoon)

1. Peel and grate potatoes and onions. Do not drain.
2. Fry and crumble bacon, add to potatoes and onions, along with 1/4 cup drippings. Mix well.
3. In a bowl, well-beat the eggs; add evaporated milk, melted butter, salt and pepper; mix well.
4. Add egg mixture to potato mixture; mix together.
5. Pour into a well-greased 9x13-inch cake pan (Yes, it will fit — barely.)
6. Bake at 350 F for 90 minutes. Slice into squares, and top as you would any potato dish. Leftovers are best sliced thin and sautéed in melted butter. This dish freezes well.

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# Avoid These Five Common Investment Mistakes When Planning for Retirement

— Submitted by Scott Stanley



Only about a quarter of American workers say they are “very confident” they will have enough money to live comfortably throughout retirement.\* To help reduce such uncertainty from your life, consider these five common investment pitfalls — and how to avoid them.

## Mistake #1: Waiting to Maximize Your Contributions

The sooner you start contributing the maximum amount allowed by your employer-sponsored retirement plan, the better your chances for building a significant savings cushion. By starting early, you allow more time for your contributions — and potential earnings — to compound, or build upon themselves, on a tax-deferred basis.

## Mistake #2: Ignoring Specific Financial Goals

It is difficult to create an effective investment plan without first targeting a specific dollar amount and recognizing how much time you have to pursue that goal. To enjoy the same quality of life in retirement that you have become accustomed to

during your prime earning years, you may need the equivalent of up to 80 percent of your final working year’s salary for each year of retirement.

## Mistake #3: Fearing Stock Volatility

It is true that stock investments face a greater risk of short-term price swings than fixed-income investments. However, stocks have historically produced stronger earnings over the long-term. \*\* In general, the longer your investment time horizon, the more you might want to rely on stock funds.

## Mistake #4: Timing the Market

Some investors try to base investment decisions on daily price swings. But unless you have a crystal ball, “timing the market” could be very risky. A better idea might be to buy and hold investments for several years.

## Mistake #5: Failing to Diversify

Investing in just one fund or asset class could subject your investment portfolio to unnecessary risk. Spreading your money over a well-chosen mix of investments may help reduce the potential for loss during periods of market volatility. Diversification may offset losses in any one investment or asset category by taking advantage of possible gains elsewhere.

Now that you are aware of these five common investment errors, consider yourself lucky. You are ready to benefit from other people’s experiences — without making the same mistakes. **NOW**

\*Source: Standard & Poor’s. Stocks are represented by total returns from Standard & Poor’s Composite Index of 500 Stocks, an unmanaged index generally considered representative of the U.S. stock market. Bonds are represented by annual total returns of long-term (10+ years) Treasury Bonds. Indexes do not take into account the fees and expenses associated with investing, and individuals cannot invest in any index. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. With any investment, it is possible to lose money.

\*\* Source: Employee Benefit Research Institute, 2007 Retirement Confidence Survey.

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Scott Stanley is a Woodmen of the World agent based in Corsicana.



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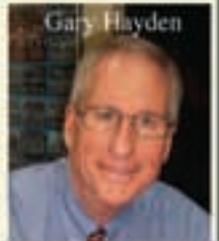
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# It's Wise to Immunize

## New immunization guidelines in effect this school year

— Provided by Navarro Regional Hospital



As back-to-school season approaches, along with those new school supplies, shoes and haircuts, make sure your child has his or her necessary immunizations. School-age children must receive certain vaccines before admission to school — but more importantly, staying up-to-date on necessary immunizations is a matter of good preventive health.

If your child has had an annual doctor's visit in the last year, chances are they're current on any immunizations required for school admission. Your doctor can provide you a copy of your child's immunization record for your school's files.

From birth to age 6, children receive regular vaccinations at each pediatrician's visit. After age 6, it's still important to see the pediatrician regularly for a well-child visit. Additional vaccinations are given at specific intervals between ages 7 and

18, including catch-up immunizations for children who may have missed a routine immunization at an earlier age, and vaccinations for children who are at an increased risk for certain diseases or conditions.

And, even if your child has had the needed immunizations, this time of year is fitting for a well-child visit, if you haven't already scheduled one for the year. An annual well-visit provides an opportunity for you and your pediatrician to discuss your child's growth, nutrition, sleep, safety, illnesses that are circulating, developmental milestones, as well as any questions you may have.

### Updated Immunization (or Vaccination) Guidelines

Earlier this year, the Centers for Disease Control updated the list of recommended childhood vaccinations.

The guidelines, approved by the American Academy of Pediatrics, went into effect July 1, 2010, and include the following changes:

- Yearly influenza vaccination for everyone over 6 months of age. (The fall 2010 influenza vaccine will contain the H1N1 antigen.)
- The human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, which guards against genital warts, is now offered to boys. Previously recommended only for girls, the vaccine is offered in a three-dose series to males ages 9 through 18.
- The addition of a booster for the bacterial meningitis vaccine (MCV4), at age 11 or 12, or age 13 through 18 if not previously vaccinated. Children at high risk — i.e., those with weakened immune systems or other health conditions — should be vaccinated earlier, between ages 2 and 10.

### The Importance of Vaccinations

Recent research indicates that resurgences of certain illnesses are often due to parents' reluctance to vaccinate their children. A 2010 study by the Kaiser Permanente Institute for Health Research of 90,000 children enrolled in a Colorado health plan found that children were nine times as likely to get chickenpox when their parents decided not to have them vaccinated.

Unsure if your child is up-to-date or needs a vaccine that is recommended, but not required? Schedule a well-child visit with your pediatrician or family physician for a check-up and discussion of your child's individual needs. **NOW**

Sources:  
Centers for Disease Control & Prevention ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)).  
American Academy of Pediatrics ([www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org)).  
American Academy of Family Physicians ([www.familydoctor.org](http://www.familydoctor.org)).

*Remember that this information is not intended to replace the advice of your doctor, but rather to increase awareness and help equip patients with information and facilitate conversations with your physician that will benefit your health.*



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# GETTING YOUR TREES READY FOR WINTER

— By Nancy Fenton



Did you notice how many limbs some of the trees lost this year? Let's talk about what happens when trees are not pruned on a regular basis. The worst case scenario would be for a rather large branch to drop through your roof or on your car! The second worst incident would be for the falling limbs to take out electricity or close bridges and roads. We may not like it, but our local utility companies and counties have to pick up the slack when safety becomes an issue. Let's face the reality; tree trimming can be a costly procedure, and if we do not do it ourselves, someone has to.

The county and the utility companies do not cut the limbs over your roof, but they do protect the lines that power our homes as well as the roads on which we drive. They have a lot of territory to cover, and it is an economic reality that they will move through as quickly as possible. Each one of us could pick up the cost of having our trees trimmed the way we want it done — as long as the safety issues were addressed. All it takes is a plan and a phone call to the utility or the county. Hey, it saves them time and money, so they would be delighted to see the homeowner/landowner take care of it.

Most of the trees around our homes are the slow growing, beautiful ones like live oaks, maples, burr oaks and pecans. Hackberry trees, poplars and cedars are fast-growing and short-lived. Even though they may look awful when the utility or county workers are forced to cut them back, they will cover the road again in two years if not "whacked back" again. Of course, any landowner has the option to trim back any trees on their property. The county and utility companies only do it to keep us safe on our public roads. The pictures taken on our public county roads may look bad right after the trees are trimmed in the spring, but drive back by in the summer months, and you will see lush growth everywhere.

This is the month to start scheduling your own tree trimming if you do not do it yourself. The first freeze is usually around Thanksgiving, and you do not want to be cutting on your trees anytime after October 1. The trimming stimulates growth, and you do not want the freeze to really damage your trees. Call a licensed and insured tree service now to get on their schedule, and get ready to sit back and smile as others scurry to repair roofs, get electricity turned back on and even to get out of their driveways when the big storms come! **NOW**

*Nancy Fenton is a Master Gardener.*

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### Summer Reading Club

The annual program is open to all children each summer. The Library hosts programs, events, and offers incentives for the children to read or be read to. Contact the Library at (903) 654-4810 for additional information.

### August 1-2

Navarro College Freshmen Orientation.

### August 1-31

The Navarro Council of the Arts is sponsoring a show of the work of artist Janet Barton at the Warehouse Gallery, 119 West 6th Avenue. For further information, call (903) 872-5411.

### August 3

St. Jude Car Show: 6:30-9:30 p.m., Chili's parking lot, 2201 S. Hwy. 45. The car with the most donations wins dinner for two. Join us and help cure cancer. All Proceeds go to St. Jude. Come see the awesome classic cars, motorcycles and race cars. Contact Semonna at Chamber@corsicana.org or (903) 874-4731.

### August 7

Ambrosia at the Palace Theater at 7:30 p.m. In the year 1970, four young musicians from the South Bay of Los Angeles, came together to create a new invigorating style of music. Exploring the possibilities of progressive classical and world influences, yet rooted with the soul of the blues and R&B, Joseph Puerta, Christopher North, David Pack and Burleigh Drummond created a new sound that was defined and recognized as "Ambrosia." In its brief recording history, Ambrosia garnered five Grammy nominations, five hit singles, heavy FM airplay and the admiration and respect of the musical community. All this was in addition to sold out concerts around the world. Biggest hits include "Biggest Part of Me," "You're the Only Woman," "Holdin' on to Yesterday" and "How Much I Feel." E-mail: corpalace@sbcglobal.net or call (903) 874-7792 for information and tickets.

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**\*\*Hurricane Season - Safeguard Your Tax Records:** Create an electronic set of backup records; document valuables; update emergency plans. We're here to help. If disaster strikes, call us right away, and we'll help get you back on track.

**\*\*Don't Panic - Things you need to know if you receive an IRS notice:** Many of the letters can be dealt with simply and painlessly. Each letter or notice offers specific instructions on how to satisfy the inquiry. Review the IRS information against your copies of your returns and decide if you agree or disagree with their inquiry. Don't ignore their correspondence. If you are concerned, call the telephone number on the upper right-hand corner of the IRS notice and keep copies of all documentation.

**\*\*Tax Credits for Home Improvements:** There are still tax credits for home improvements available. Check with your home improvement dealers for qualifications.

**\*\*Getting Married or Divorced or Having Children?:** Don't forget you may need to adjust your withholding.

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The Coyote Squadron of the Commemorative Air Force's monthly meeting: 10:30 a.m., Campbell (Corsicana municipal) Air Field.

### August 18

Fresenius Medical Care of Corsicana offers a treatment options program: 9:00 a.m., 1321 W. 2nd Ave.

### August 19

Pearce Civil War Museum Summer Film Series will show the popular film Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid: 7:00 p.m., Cook Center, 3100 Collin St. Admission is free. Two Doors Down Café will provide coffee to filmgoers. Please RSVP to (903) 875-7642 by Aug. 18.

### August 23

Classes begin at schools in the Corsicana Independent School District.

### August 24

Healthy Woman meeting: 6:00 p.m., The Palace Theatre, 112 W. Sixth Ave. The event is sponsored by Navarro Regional Hospital. The program will be on osteoporosis prevention and awareness. Free admission. For more information, call (903) 654-6948.

### August 25-28

Navarro College housing opens for students registering for the fall semester. Classes begin August 30.

### Second and Fourth Tuesday

I.O.O.F., Home Rebekah Lodge No. 128 meeting: 6:00 p.m.

### Second and Fourth Thursday

Corsicana Lodge No. 63 meeting: 7:00 p.m.

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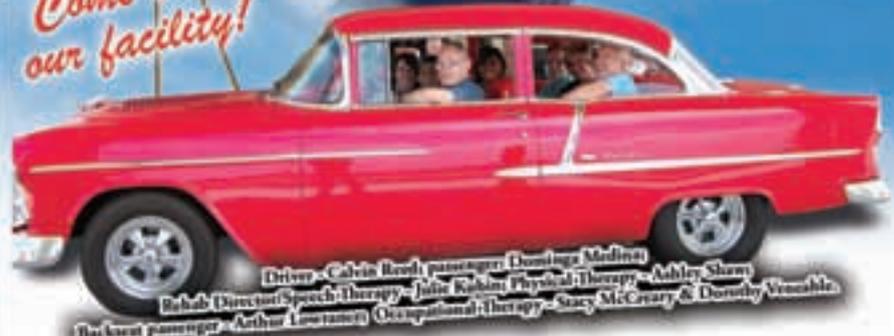
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Any Complete Front-end Repair

**Brake Special**  
**Front \$23<sup>95</sup>\***  
**Rear \$35<sup>95</sup>\***  
Plus Parts



**Ennis Orthopedic Surgery & Sports Medicine Center**



Kevin A. Williams, MD

- Over 10 years Private Practice Experience
- Sports Injuries
- Arthroscopic Surgery
- Joint Replacement
- Fracture Care
- Carpal Tunnel Syndrome
- Second Opinion

*Most Major Insurances  
Medicare, Medicaid & Workers Comp*

Located in  
Ennis Doctors Center  
802 W Lampasas  
Ennis, TX 75119

**For an appointment, call 972-875-4700**



"My husband and I were planning to start a family..."

My grandmother was a patient at Ennis Regional in 2008. She went on and on about the wonderful staff and excellent service.

Dr. Kingsley is absolutely wonderful. He is very caring and patient with my many questions, whether I am seeing him for my yearly exam or during my pregnancy."

Jonathan, Dusty & Brazos Kunkel  
[16 weeks old]  
Wortham, TX

"My experience..."

The entire staff couldn't have been better. I just felt so at home at Ennis Regional – like family really. My nurse Jill made me feel so comfortable and really gave me a sense of peace. Our room was very quiet which was nice for the three of us to bond together as a family. Couldn't have been better; I will never forget it.

At my six week checkup, I even joked with Dr. Kingsley that I needed to hurry up and have another one. His response, "I am not going anywhere; I am going to be here for a long time."



Ennis Regional Medical Center is PROUD to offer a friendly and professional birthing center not just for the people of Ennis but all of our Ellis County and neighboring families. As we did with Jonathan, Dusty and little baby Brazos, we take immense pride in showering our mothers and babies with the care and attention they deserve. Please come visit us for our weekly child birth education classes or tour our spacious delivery rooms.

The perfect place to start your family is right here...come see us.

For a tour, call please Bebe Janish at 469-256-2167.

# SUMMER SAVINGS



American Standard  
13-Seer R-22 Condensers

**IN-STOCK!!**

American Standard Allegiance 13 condensers include a 10-YEAR compressor warranty!

Don't forget the ice...



Manitowoc Q-270  
\$2,825.00\*



Manitowoc S-300  
on B-170 bin  
\$3,135.00\*



Manitowoc S-450  
on B-400 bin  
\$3,585.00\*

\*Prices do not include delivery, installation or sales tax.



## Area Wide Services

Commercial & Residential Air Conditioning  
Commercial Refrigeration - Ice Machines - Coolers - Freezers

903-874-5298