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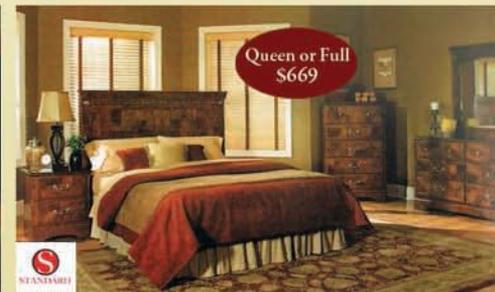
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General Manager, Rick Hensley

#### EDITORIAL

Managing Editor, Becky Walker  
Weatherford Editor, Amber D. Browne  
Editorial Coordinator, Sandra Strong  
Editorial Assistant, Beverly Shay  
Writers, Lisa Bell . Betty Tryon  
Editors/Proofreaders, Pat Anthony  
Randy Bigham

#### GRAPHICS AND DESIGN

Creative Director, Chris McCalla  
Artists, Eduardo Barajas . Kristin Bato  
Julie Carpenter . Morgan Christensen  
Martha Macias . Felipe Ruiz  
Brande Morgan . Shannon Pfaff

#### PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography Director, Jill Rose  
Photographers, Sarah Claussen  
Sarah McVean

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### ON THE COVER



*MiMi Farr and her mother, Paige Farr, cuddle with their retired show dog, Beamer.*

*Photo by Sarah McVean.*

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# Editor's Note

Greetings!

Fall is a busy time of year in Weatherford. October is full of events for the entire family, so get out there and have some fun!

On October 4, Clark Gardens hosts its annual fall festival, the Spiciest Festival Around. The festival features a half marathon, chili cook-off and Scarecrow Storybook Village. It's a time of food, music and fun for

the entire family.

The 3rd Annual Hometown Heritage Stampede will be held in Historic Downtown Weatherford on October 11. The 2014 Talking Tombstones Tour is scheduled for October 18. "The Wonderful Women of Weatherford" will be celebrated during tours at Old City Greenwood Cemetery.

On October 19, strolling musicians and local artists will entertain at the Autumn Art Walk at Chandor Gardens. Chandor Gardens will host Goblins In The Gardens on October 26. Children can participate in fun games and grab treats from costumed characters.

Enjoy!

*Amber*

Amber D. Browne  
WeatherfordNOW Editor  
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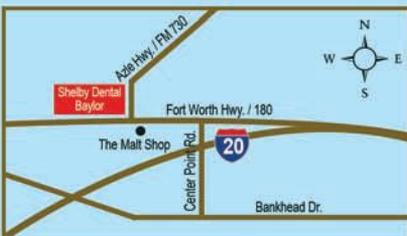
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# One Dogged Youth

— By Amber D. Browne

*Gracefully entering the ring with her furry companion, MiMi Farr exudes confidence as she grabs the crowd's attention. The 13-year-old holds the leash gently as she glides alongside her show dog, presenting the pup to the judges. She has trained the animal in obedience and knows everything there is to know about its American Kennel Club breed standards. MiMi is certain she'll leave the dog show a winner.*

For five years, MiMi has trained dogs for show. As a 6-year-old, MiMi entered the Aledo 4-H Club as a Clover Kid. She later joined the Weatherford 4-H's Parker Pack to learn how to train show dogs. As a junior handler, her love of dogs has amplified over the years.

"All of the events for juniors encourage the kids to be good pet owners," explained Paige Farr, MiMi's mother. Handlers must learn how to groom the dog, take care of the animal properly and know the history of the breed. Over the years, MiMi has worked with various breeds including Standard Poodle, Labrador Retriever, Bichon Frisé, Borzoi and many others. One of her favorite show dogs is a now-retired English Springer Spaniel named Beamer. She co-owns Beamer and trained him for a number of years.

During competitions, MiMi and her dog are judged in several events. In the ring, MiMi will command the dog with vocal or hand signals. "You do whichever fits the dog best, so the dog can be the best it can be," MiMi explained. Obedience includes five basic commands — come, sit, stay, down and stand. The

agility event is an obstacle course for the dog. The dog must obey the handler's commands, so it stays safe on the course. The two are in sync throughout the competition. During the conformation event, the judge awards ribbons and points on the manner in which the dog moves, its facial expressions, AKC anatomy standards and other elements. In the showmanship event, the judge scores the performance of the handler.

Several other events are incorporated into 4-H dog shows. MiMi and members of the Parker Pack compete in the Drill Team competition. "It's obedience to music. We can dance. We can dress up. One year, we did the Rosie the Riveter theme," she said. "We just felt so empowered. We were so excited. We won!" During the competition this summer, the team also took home first place. The Parker Pack has been successful in Quiz Bowl competitions at the shows, as well. "We were so proud of ourselves, because we would work for hours studying," MiMi said.

In 4-H, MiMi also learns about nutrition. "We learn how important it is to be healthy," Mimi mentioned. "Nutrition is





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also good for your dog, because if your dog doesn't have good nutrition, they are not going to have a good coat, and they're not going to feel good."

MiMi is an avid photographer and competes in the Texas 4-H Dog Show photography competitions. She has won Best in Show for her photos three of the past four years. With a win, her photo graces the cover of the show's brochure. The show's costume contest is also a fun competition for MiMi. "It's really cool, because you get to dress up with the dog," MiMi said. "You tell the judge how you came up with the costumes and what your story is about." One year, MiMi dressed as a librarian and sewed a bookworm costume for Beamer. "He was so cute!"

Although Beamer isn't with MiMi full time, she has three other pups at home



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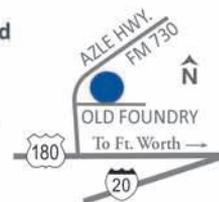
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— Yuliana, Minnie Pearl and Kicker. "My dogs are like my family," MiMi said. "They're my best friends. If I ask them to do something, they do it because they love me." Kicker, a Chinese Crested Dog, has a bouncy personality. "He is so much fun," she grinned. One of her goals as a junior handler is to be invited to compete with Kicker at the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship.

MiMi is a focused and determined teenager. She has been homeschooled

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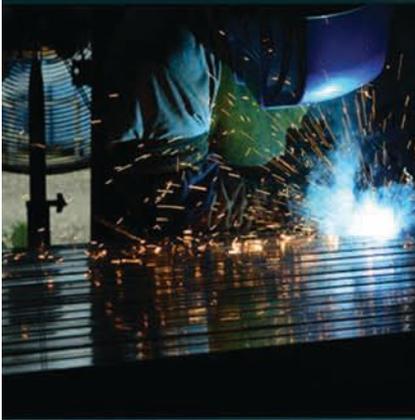
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since the third grade. Homeschooling allows her to be involved in more extracurricular activities. "It's opened a lot of windows and opportunities for me," she said. "I've been able to spend so much time with my family and my friends and doing things I love."

Paige felt called by God to homeschool MiMi and her 10-year-old sister, Beni. Paige and her husband, Danny, work together to help their daughters pursue their educational goals. MiMi enjoys biology and has studied foreign languages including Latin, Spanish and sign language. "I want to be able to communicate with different people," MiMi said. She loves to travel and can't wait to experience the different cultures of the world.

"My parents have supported me through everything I've wanted to do. Our family motto is: Do your best and never quit. My parents are awesome," MiMi gushed. "I'm just very glad my parents allowed me to be in 4-H, because it has really impacted my life."

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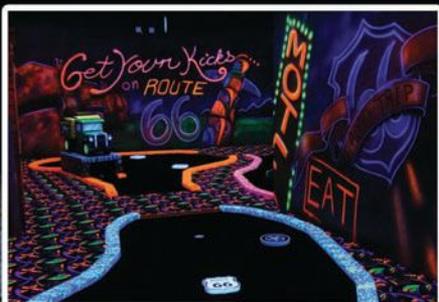


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“There were times where I had to sit down with her and ask her to pick and choose,” Paige said. “She has to have time for her friends and still be a kid. I want to make sure she doesn’t get too busy, and her grades have to stay up.”

As a straight-A student, MiMi occasionally stresses over her grades. “I want to be the best I can be. I want to be able to do whatever I want to do when I go to college,” MiMi said. She would like to attend Texas Christian University and dreams of becoming a lawyer, news reporter or criminal investigator.

In her free-time, MiMi likes to have fun and enjoys reading, watching movies and riding roller coasters. She always has a smile on her face. “I like to be happy. It’s my favorite emotion,” she said. “I like to think that a smile or a hug can just make someone’s day.”

As she enjoys her youth, MiMi plans to continue to excel in her studies and her competitions at dog shows. During her years training dogs with 4-H, she has learned patience, work ethic and good sportsmanship. “Even though I may not win, that means someone else has, and they’ve worked just as hard as I have,” she said. MiMi won Best Junior Handler in 2014 and Best in Show Puppy at an international show in Waco earlier this year. “I like to win, but I also have to remember it’s not just me who got me there. I’ve had people along the way to help me and give me advice,” MiMi said. “Showing dogs has impacted my life so much. It’s been an amazing experience.” **NOW**

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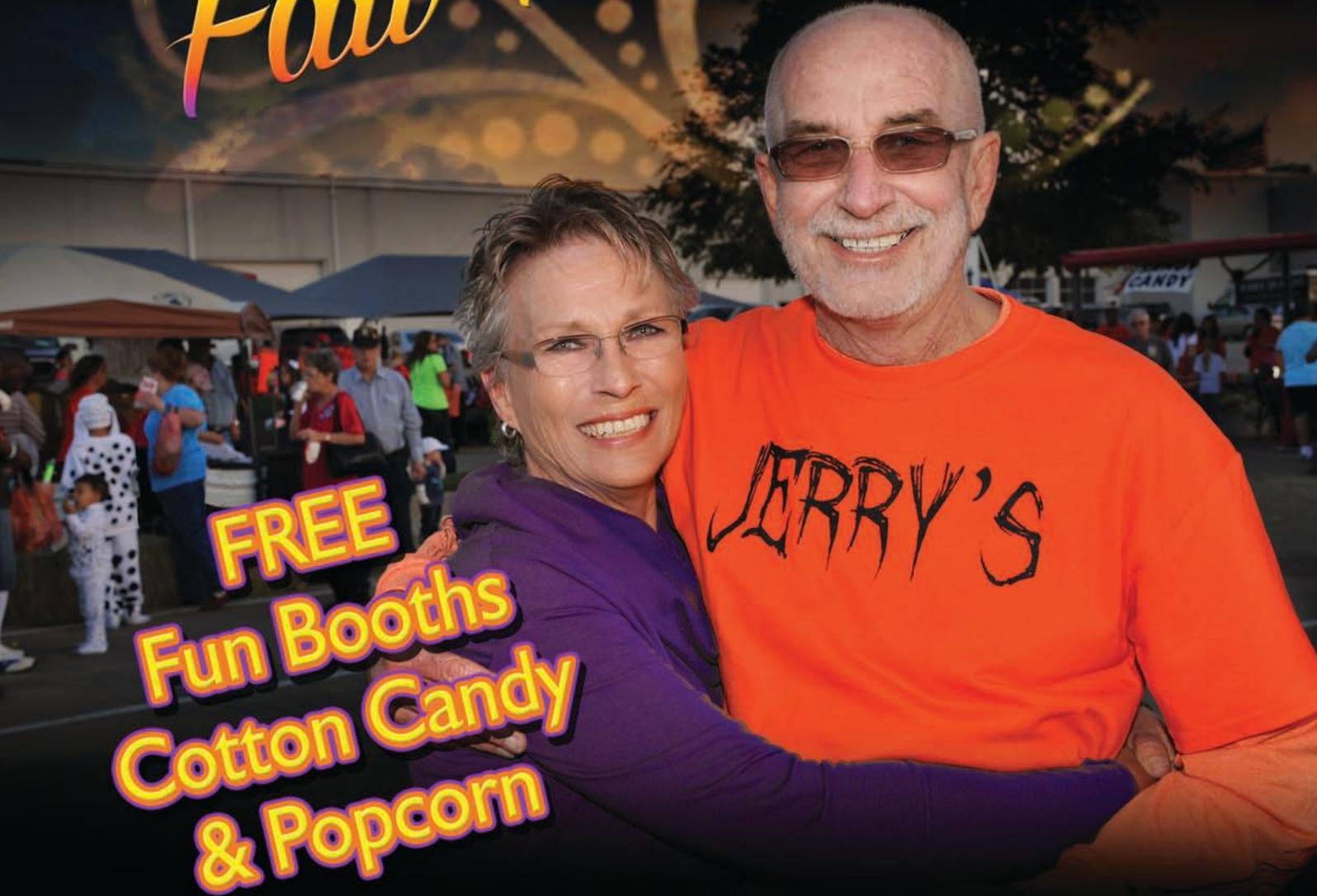
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*Mark and Nicki Dover moved to Aledo from Metro DC/northern Virginia in 2012. As a career military family, they had lived in many places throughout the United States and traveled in Europe and the Middle East. After 21 years of military housing, the couple knew what they wanted.*

Mark and Nicki met at Auburn University in Alabama. Although Mark lived in the Houston area during his middle school years, as a couple, they had never lived in Texas. “We did drive across Texas a couple of times. It always took two days,” Nicki said, laughing.

Mark retired and accepted a job with Lockheed. He arrived in Texas, while Nicki stayed with the kids until a home was found. Initially, they planned to settle in North Dallas-Fort Worth. However, one commute did it for Mark. Years of living in metropolitan areas and fighting traffic left him looking farther west. Of course, with three children, they also wanted a great school district.

# Planting Roots

— By Lisa Bell

**At Home With Mark and Nicki Dover**





The real estate agent they used through the United Services Automobile Association (USAA) home-finder program located a house in Aledo. The decor didn't particularly fit their tastes. However, it met Nicki's must-have list. "I told Mark if he was moving me to Texas after 21 years of living near water, I had to have a pool," Nicki said, "and lots of trees, plus a good neighborhood for the kids."

Nicki's mother always had a keen eye for decorating and redesigning, which helped Mark and Nicki look past the surface, seeing great possibilities. Putting in hard work, they developed a primarily modern home with touches of heirlooms and reminders of places they had lived. Nicki added their personalities, bringing the home to life.

The Navy had reassigned Mark every two years, so they had never purchased a home or spent a lot of time decorating. Coming to Texas gave them the



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opportunity to plant roots — literally and figuratively. Alongside the vast number of trees on the property, they have a vegetable garden and decorative plants.

Never knowing exactly what type of housing the military would provide, Nicki could never justify buying a formal dining room set. The new house had a formal dining area that she has transformed into a parlor. Removing an elegant chandelier, they installed a two-bladed fan and strategically placed chairs and a coffee



table, plus a piano one of their daughters played. From the entryway, the parlor invites visitors to come, sit and talk. A Victrola Nicki's grandmother received for her 16th birthday stands as an entryway sentinel, guarding memories of long-ago days when families used parlors. A rug from Turkey and an Aborigine woman's painting complete the comfortable setting.

The large kitchen features granite countertops. The couple was able to

match the granite to add a large island, which doubles as an eat-in breakfast bar. In the dining area, a second two-bladed fan replaced another chandelier and helps circulate air through the lower level of the two-story home.

Neutral colors flow between the rooms. A soft grey tone on the living room shelves accentuates a variety of objects from all over. New to Texas, they didn't inundate their home with a country

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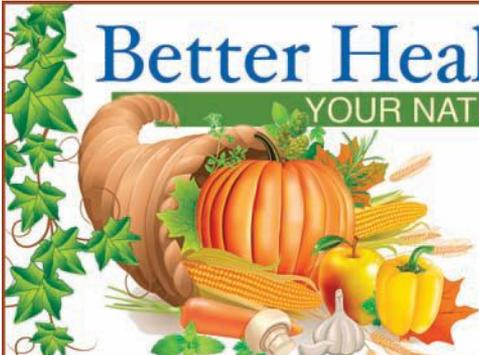
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look. They did, however, find a side table made from horns and cowhide, a subtle touch to their new residence.

Across the back of the house, large windows overlook the backyard. Conversational-style furniture on the covered patio quickly became a favorite place for gathering. The pool design blends with the wooded look of the yard, appearing more like a rock-lined diving hole.

Back inside the house, Nicki changed up a corner half-bath with a splash of color. She took down the traditional mirror, replacing it with gecko-shaped mirrors. "No one stands here putting on makeup or anything," she said. A freestanding toilet paper holder replaced an awkward-angled wall version.

Nicki works for the Aledo ISD, so having office space is a bonus. To decorate her latest room-in-progress, she hung National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration charts featuring all the places they lived. She also displayed a Native American whale carving from Washington state.

At the top of a curved staircase, a large room explodes with plenty of space for their kids to entertain friends. Their son, Collin, uses the room often and refers to it as his living room. The picture hanging near the television is reminiscent of the family's backyard view they enjoyed when living in Hawaii. The simple decor shouts relax and have fun.

The sixth-grader's bedroom fits his personality — blue walls, sports and cars everywhere. Nicki also included Route 66 memorabilia, because he loves everything about the famous route they once drove. A Jack-and-Jill bathroom connects Collin's room with what is now an extra room. The large, plain mirror had no personality, so Mark custom-built a frame. Nicki painted it red to tie the two rooms together.

Their eldest child, Rachel, graduated and moved to Weatherford, where she began working while waiting for her first

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semester of college. When she visits for the weekend, a daybed gives her privacy and a place to sleep. Any other time, the room hosts several instruments and prints, revealing the family's love of music. An audience of bunnies sits near a raised ceiling. The attic structure gave the room a higher ceiling, and seemed out of place to Nicki. By painting the ceiling and top foot of the wall, she created the illusion of a tray ceiling.

Most of her life, their daughter Lindsay had loved mermaids. As a 10th-grader taking possession of her big sister's room, she convinced her mom the sea creatures needed to go. A print hand-painted by one of Nicki's friends remains as a reminder of younger days. Lindsay loves purple. Two shades of her favorite color, including large dots on one wall, bring a smile. A band of blue looks almost violet, but matches the lone mermaid picture, while a small window gives the teen a beautiful wooded view.

Nicki's favorite room is the Hawaii fun room. The walls, painted in deepening shades of ocean colors, take her back to one of her favorite places. Photos she took while living in Hawaii dot the walls. Bamboo graces the room, and a hula skirt covers the window. Mark's surfboard and skateboard hang on one wall. The only upstairs bedroom with a television, the kids sometimes use it when friends sleep over. But for Nicki, the room is a welcome retreat where she slips into the corner chair and relaxes.

The adjoining bathroom continues the ocean theme. Mark built a frame for the mirror in this bathroom, as well. Nicki chose to leave the natural cedar rather than paint it, but she replaced the standard light fixtures with a decorative option.

Mark and Nicki have transformed the interior surfaces of their new place and added personal touches to the exterior. Little changes brought the family's character to a house and created a home — a home of their own at last. **NOW**

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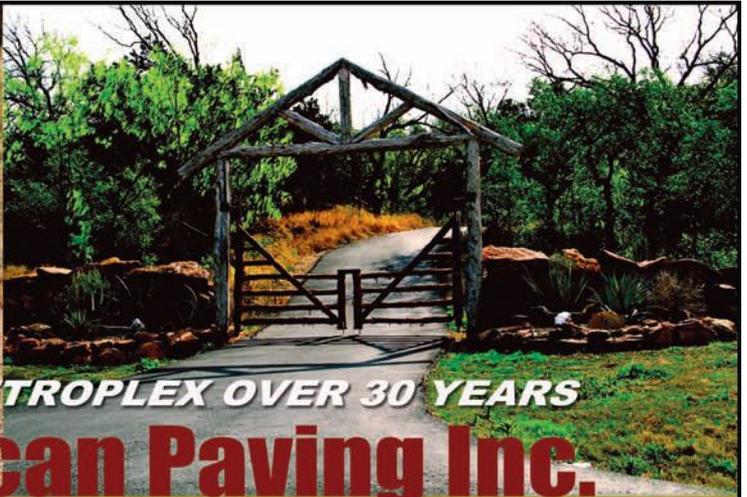
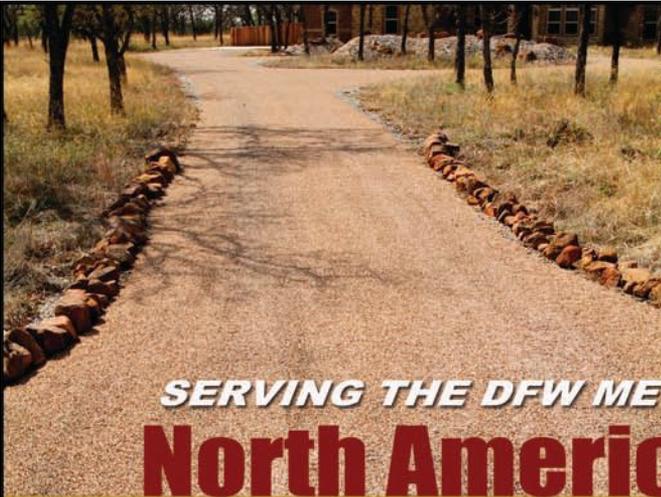
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# The Greatest Reward

— By Amber D. Browne

*Giving back to the community has always been an important part of Craig Harbuck's life. "I can think of nothing more rewarding, than helping people get what they need. Volunteering my time always comes full circle with regard to the initiative and the outcome," Craig stated. Volunteerism is rewarding for both the volunteer and those helped along the way. Over the years, Craig has served on committees and boards with numerous organizations, including his current stint as chairman of the board of Parker County Health Foundation.*

Thousands of people in Parker County do not have the funds necessary to meet all of their health care and well-being needs. The mission statement of the 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit organization is to enhance the health and well-being of Parker County residents by providing funds to help access health-related services. The funds for these services are made possible through the efforts of the Foundation's board and the community as a whole. "Parker County Health Foundation helps fill a void in health care, therapeutic services and nutritional services in Parker County," Craig explained.

With nine partner agencies, PCHF funds a variety of services. "If you are struggling financially, I think the most challenging part of that struggle would be if you couldn't afford health care; if you couldn't get prescription medication; if you couldn't get some sort of palliative care; or if you couldn't get those nutritional supplements you have to have," Craig explained. "There are organizations that provide it, and we just happen to be an organization that helps fund those organizations. It comes full circle, because you get to see people helping people."

Organizations funded by PCHF must submit a grant application each year, and once approved and funding is received, the partner agencies provide



Parker County Health Foundation volunteers Zan Prince and Craig Harbuck stand ready to assist health-related organizations in the community.

# ward

quarterly financial reports outlining how the money was spent. Kingdom Smiles Ministries receives grants to provide dental care to Parker County residents. Other partner organizations include Freedom House of Parker County, which assists victims of domestic abuse, sexual assault and violent crime. With PCHF grants, Freedom House provides therapy to victims. "The Center of Hope is a big partner of ours — both for what they do in regard to day-to-day operations and in providing financial support for prescription medications," Craig explained. Parker County Committee on Aging uses PCHF funds to provide nutritional supplements and medications to community members. "We also partner with Child Protective Services."

Each October, PCHF holds a consistently sold-out fundraiser, which ultimately raises about \$80,000 annually for Parker County ladies. The Pink Luncheon raises funds to help Parker County women who can't afford or don't have access to mammograms. Zan Prince, who serves on the PCHF board, is chairman of the 9th Annual Pink Luncheon. "We live in the most generous and caring county and the most extraordinary state in the country," Zan said. "People acknowledge there is a need for people to have access to medical services. The people in this county are enthusiastic about taking care of an unmet need."

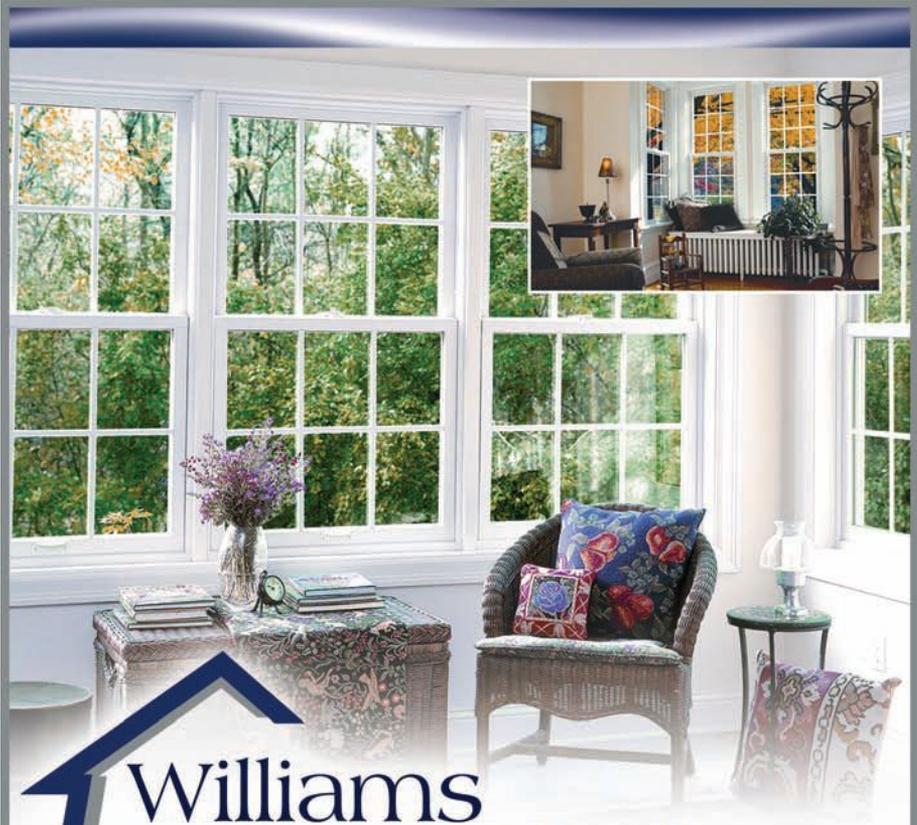
This year's Pink Luncheon will be held at a new venue on October 10. The luncheon has been sold-out every year, and the PCHF board hopes the larger venue at New River Fellowship will allow more people the opportunity to get involved. "It's a community coming together to meet a need and have fun while we're doing it," Zan shared. "It's going to be great. We have a wonderful



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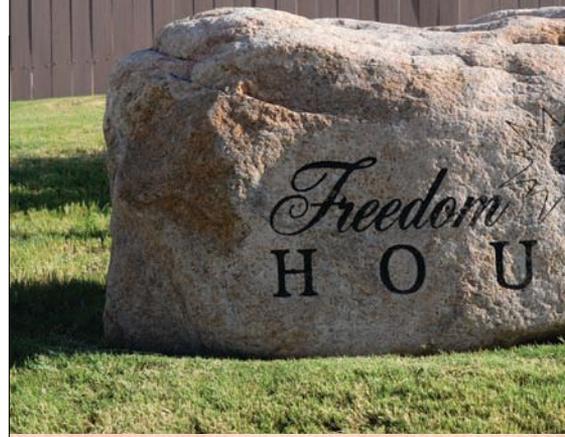
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speaker and a lot of really great raffle items.” With the help of PCHF and other volunteers, the Pink Luncheon is sure to be another success.

PCHF partners with Careity Foundation to provide services including mobile mammograms to Parker County women who may not be able to afford the service or have access to it. “It’s real easy to put it off, but when it’s close, accessible and encouraged, these women take advantage of the opportunity and lives are saved. That’s the bottom line,” Zan shared. “Lives are saved, and families are changed. People know somebody in the community is thinking about them and helping them with their medical needs.”

Craig first got involved with PCHF in 2008 for just that reason. He heard tremendous things about the foundation from several community leaders. That was all it took, and he soon joined the board. Along with his volunteer work with PCHF, Craig spends time volunteering with the Business



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Volunteering is a way of life for Craig, shown here with Catherine Tietjen, director of Freedom House.

Development Group of Aledo, the Armed Forces Bowl and Tarrant County College Foundation. Craig's desire to help others seems to be a family affair. He and his wife of 25 years, Lori Harbuck, previously served as youth counselors at church. Lori teaches fourth grade in Aledo and has been involved with many of the school district's teaching initiatives. Their three children, Matthew, 23; Madison, 21; and Beverlee, 18, also volunteer their time to serve others. "They've all gone on mission trips during the summer. They serve meals to the homeless at various times of the year and give their time monthly to Catholic Charities," Craig shared.

Although volunteerism can be time-consuming, Craig's family supports his desire to help others. "I think if any man has a big a heart as my dad, I would be lucky to marry him," Beverlee shared. Beverlee hopes to join her brother Madison as a student at The University of Texas at Austin in the fall of 2015. She has written an initiative

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to help the homeless that she plans to implement on campus. Students can use their school identification cards at kiosks on campus to access a bag of necessities and nonperishable items to deliver to a homeless person. Beverlee hopes the idea will be implemented at other universities. "I know someday I will need help, and I would like someone to do the same. It's not like I do things to get something in return. I do things, because I think it's the right thing to do," Beverlee stated.

And for Craig, the right thing to do is to continue volunteering with Parker County Health Foundation. "There are a lot of great organizations that pull at your heartstrings, so when you volunteer your time, talent and resources, you have to be very passionate and intentional about it," Craig explained. The Pink Luncheon is PCHF's main fundraiser of the year, but the board would like to implement additional fundraisers and incorporate their partner agencies into the events. With creative members on the PCHF board, great things are in the works. "If you bring a community together, there are more opportunities to raise awareness, raise money and help people. After all, that is why God put us on this earth — to serve and help others." **NOW**

*Editor's Note: For more information, visit [www.parkercountyhealthfoundation.org](http://www.parkercountyhealthfoundation.org).*

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# TO PRUNE OR NOT TO PRUNE



— By Randy Bigham

*The onset of harvest time brings more than the turning of the leaves. For most of us, it means raking them up after their inevitable descent, transforming lawns and driveways everywhere into a crunchy nuisance. Autumn's inception also inspires well-meaning homeowners to prune branches and hedges while the weather is still nice. But increasingly, the word from lawn care specialists and gardeners is to hold off on pruning until winter. Resisting the urge to prune in the fall is the advice of*



famous green thumb Paul James, host of HGTV's Gardening by the Yard. "The tender new growth that would result may not have a chance to harden sufficiently before cold weather arrives," Paul explained, "and that can lead to damage."

Horticulturalist Deborah Brown agreed. "Pruning in late winter, just before spring growth starts," she said, "leaves fresh wounds exposed for only a short time before new growth begins the wound-sealing process."

Gardening author Mike McGrath is more adamant in his advice. "The rules of fall pruning are simple," he maintained. "Prune nothing in the fall! Nada! Zilch! Ladies, hide the pruners from helpful husbands!"

But we yard lovers needn't fret. There's plenty of lawn and garden maintenance for us to accomplish long before winter wields its icy claws.



## Lawn cleanup and maintenance

Keeping lawns free of leaves is the main objective in the fall, so let the raking begin. And we may as well do it the right way. Yes, there's a method to leaf-free madness, as Barbara Pleasant outlines in her book *Compost Gardening*. She recommends raking with the wind (and downhill when possible). Matching your rake to the kind of leaves in your yard and to your body type is also suggested. Your favorite mom-and-pop garden

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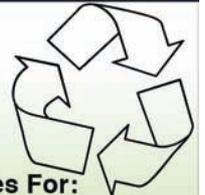


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centers, as well as your local big box stores, offer a range of sizes and weights.

Most importantly, use your shredded leaves as mulch. “Leaves contain some of the nutrients that trees and shrubs have taken out of the soil,” Barbara wrote, “and it’s in keeping with nature’s plan that you should give back some of those purloined nutrients by mowing over part of your annual leaf fall, thus returning organic matter to the soil.” Ellis County Master Gardeners are in favor of this form of organic recycling, advising a 3- to 6-inch layer of leaves as mulch in vegetable and flower beds and around trees and bushes.

Writer and avid gardener Lisa Kaplan Gordon suggests patching bare or thin spots of grass during the fall. Remove dead grass and replace with an inch of compost and an appropriate grass seed suited to shade or sun. “You’ll want to keep the patch moist,” Lisa said, “so lightly water once a day until the seed germinates, and the new grass gets about 1-inch tall.”

## Planting and transplanting

Fall is a good time for planting vines and ground covers from containers. Cool-season annuals like pansies, daffodils, dianthus and ornamental kale or cabbage are ripe for autumnal planting, as are leeks, garlic and onions, especially



those “from bulbs in soil enriched with organic matter.”

Paul James believes container plants deserve more attention from fall gardeners than they receive. “You can take cuttings of various annuals and root them in either water or a potting medium such as vermiculite, perlite or soil-less potting mix,” he instructed. Paul also recommends transplanting potted perennials into the garden.

## Fertilizing

Roger Cook of *This Old House* magazine reminds his readers fall is the optimum time for fertilizing their lawns. “Taking the time to fertilize in the fall will strengthen your plants’ and lawn’s roots, giving them a strong base on which to thrive next spring,” he pointed out. He recommends a formula of 20-8-8 (nitrogen-phosphorus-potassium) for the best blade, foliage and root growth and trace element absorption. Check with your local Master Gardeners for the ideal time for lawn fertilization. Roger also suggests fertilizing shrubs and trees in the fall. “I recommend applying one to three

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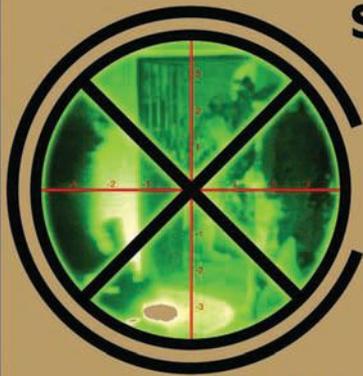


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pounds of slow-release nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of bed and cultivating lightly," he shared.

## Pruning

While fall pruning isn't advocated by most professionals, there are some basics to remember and apply to the task when trimming is safer for the plants. Mike McGrath expounded on why it's advisable not to prune until winter. "As I try to stress every year at this time, pruning now stimulates new growth just when the plants are trying to go dormant, and this severely weakens the plants."

Once winter has arrived, pruning is recommended to promote overall plant health, encourage flower and fruit development, control size and eliminate broken, hazardous branches. For large, established trees, pruning is best left to qualified professionals. A number of knowledgeable, reputable tree trimming services provide care programs and fertilization. Some employ certified arborists to assist clients and offer tree trimming along with traditional lawn and garden packages.

Among shrubs to prune in winter are hydrangeas and camellias. Trees to be pruned at the same time include: juniper, spruce, Bradford pear, honey locust and poplar. Trees *not* to prune in winter are maple, birch, dogwood, walnut and elm.

Whether raking and mulching or planting and fertilizing, remember to pace yourself. As Barbara Pleasant wrote in *Compost Gardening*, "Leaf season will last for several weeks, so you have plenty of time to let yourself enjoy the weather and the work!" **NOW**

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# GUNS, GARDEN AND MORE!

*Customers can find just what they're looking for at Gibson's Discount Center in Weatherford.*

*— By Amber D. Browne*

Variety is said to be the spice of life. And, at Gibson's Discount Store in Weatherford, you will find a variety of items for everyday living. Need a new pair of cowboy or work boots? Gibson's has them. Need a greeting card and toy for a child's birthday? Gibson's has those, too. How about a firearm and ammunition for the upcoming hunting season? Gibson's on Main Street offers a wide selection of firearms and ammo at competitive prices.

"We have really good customer service. If you don't know guns, we try to train you. No question is stupid," shared Brandon Seidler, sporting goods department manager.

Gibson's buys, sells and trades guns, and the store often runs sales on its firearms. Brandon can special order a firearm, if it's not on the shelf. "If it's available, normally I will get it for you within 24 hours." Gibson's carries every brand of firearm, and although customer traffic may increase during hunting seasons, the sporting goods section is busy year-round.

The sporting goods section features other items like bows, YETI coolers and fishing gear. In lawn and garden, customers will find decorative yard art, wind chimes, plants, trees and sod. If you're in the mood to redecorate a room in your home, Gibson's has what you need for that, too. The store

offers Ace Hardware paints and other housewares items. Customers can find clothing, shoes and jewelry, as well as crafts and fabric. "We have people who drive from 100 miles away for the fabric section," Brandon said. The store also includes an automotive department and a small grocery section. "We have a little bit of everything at discount prices." Customers have been known to say if they are unable to find an item elsewhere, they can find it at Gibson's.

Gibson's Discount Centers were once popping up across the country. But now, the location in Weatherford is one of a few remaining stores. The Weatherford location is a family-owned business. The history of the Seidler and Holladay families' involvement with Gibson's in Weatherford stretches back decades. While working as a receiving man's helper at the previous location on Fort Worth Highway, Tommy Holladay had the chance to buy the store. The owner at that time decided to sell when another retailer moved into town, so in 1986, Tommy and Jerry Durant purchased the store. Tommy and his two children later bought Jerry's portion of the business, and so began the family-owned venture.

Many family members now work at the store. "I think it's unbelievable how well our family gets along," Tommy said. "They are very competitive, and they want to be good. I just think there's lots of love in the family. We pretty well fit together," Tommy said.

At Gibson's, the owners and staff treat their customers like family. "It's my favorite store. I don't even live in Weatherford anymore, but if I come to Weatherford, I have to come to Gibson's," remarked longtime customer Bryan Crowder. "They have a knowledgeable sales staff. It just has that small-town feel to it. That's something you don't find anymore."

"The reason I think we're successful is because we're together. We're laughing, and we care for each other. And, everyone really cares about the store," Tommy shared. "It's a close family, and I think that makes us successful. The Lord has really blessed us." **NOW**

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*Aledo ISD students, Alyssa Oestreich and Kaleb Oestreich, place in their races at the TAAF Region 4 Championship Swim Meet.*



*Erin Miller and her daughter, Kadence, shop for groceries at Brookshire's.*



*Julie Lundy has a blast with the Renegades at Lone Star Guns, Gallery & Gear.*



*Brad and Cresha Humphries get ready to close up shop for the night at Lazy J Ranch Wear.*



*Instructor Loretta Benham leads the Yoga in the Garden class at Chandor Gardens.*



*Chelsi Rogers, Chris Sarcbet, Ashley Sims and Paul Sims help raise funds at a golf tournament to benefit Team Coblson.*



*Leila Bruce gets pampered by Tina Nguyen at Nails Spa.*



*Paul and Melissa Thurman grab a bite at Chicken Express.*

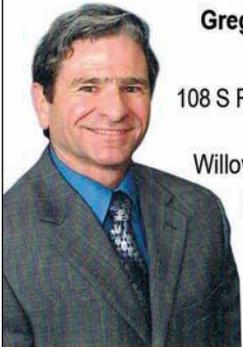


*Roy Patterson spends the afternoon running errands in Weatherford.*



*Weatherford ISD staff participate in the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge at the district's 2014 Convocation and Vendor Fair.*

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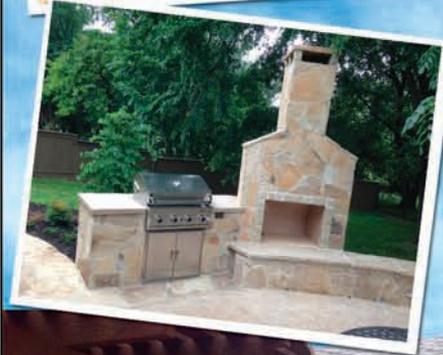
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The average U.S. worker will hold up to 11 jobs between the ages of 18 and 44, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Some of those past jobs probably came with a 401(k) or an IRA account as a perk. According to a recent study, more than 50 percent of American workers have two or more retirement accounts to keep track of.

### Why consolidate your accounts?

Say you have \$3,000 sitting in one retirement savings account, \$4,000 in another and \$2,000 in a third. They may be costing you money, because most funds charge annual fees for accounts containing less than \$5,000. And once you reach age 70 1/2, you will have to start taking money out of those accounts. Who wants to keep track of all that IRS paperwork?

### Is there a better option?

The answer is yes. You can consolidate your IRAs and 401(k)s into a single rollover IRA. Doing so would accomplish several worthwhile investment goals, including:

- Receiving just one monthly statement
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- Having more investment control
- Increasing fund leverage
- Saving money on account fees

### How difficult is it to consolidate?

Consolidation is simple and easy. For many, IRA rollovers are a simple, safe and secure way to consolidate your retirement assets. And the fund consolidation

trend is growing. Some estimates say that more than \$370 billion annually will be rolled into IRAs from 401(k)s over the next few years.

### What are some other advantages?

Rolling over your funds into a new IRA can expand your retirement portfolio options. For example, some employer 401(k)s only offer limited investment choices, but with a rollover IRA, you can tailor your investments to meet your precise retirement goals. There are also more flexible distribution provisions with a rollover IRA.

### How do I get started?

To set up a rollover IRA, consult a financial professional. In some cases, your advisor will even help you fill out the paperwork to close the other accounts. Keep in mind that some funds charge fees for closing an account.

### Are there any disadvantages to consolidating?

Yes. You can borrow from a 401(k) account, but not from an IRA. You can withdraw funds without a 10-percent early withdrawal penalty from a 401(k) if you leave your employer at age 55 or older, but with an IRA you have to wait until you are age 59 1/2.

With any investment opportunity, it is important to do your homework. Seeking the advice of an investment professional before making any changes to your retirement accounts is advisable. Find out for yourself whether the risks outweigh the benefits. **NOW**

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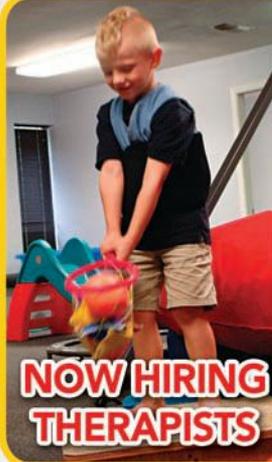
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11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Clark Gardens, 567 Maddux Rd. Call (940) 682-4856 or visit [www.clarkgardens.org](http://www.clarkgardens.org) for more information.

Parker Paws 3rd Annual DOGtoberfest:  
Noon-4:00 p.m., Fish Creek Restaurant and Oak Ridge Church of Christ, 4899 I-20 Service Rd., Willow Park. Enjoy a doggie costume contest and wiener dog races. Visit [www.parkerpaws.org](http://www.parkerpaws.org) for more.

### October 10

9th Annual Pink Luncheon:  
11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., New River Fellowship, 3252 Interstate 20 Frontage Rd., Hudson Oaks. Visit [www.pinkluncheon.com](http://www.pinkluncheon.com) for more.

### October 11

3rd Annual Hometown Heritage Stampede Festival: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., historic downtown Weatherford. This family-friendly event celebrates Weatherford's western heritage. Visit [www.weatherfordtx.gov/stampede](http://www.weatherfordtx.gov/stampede) to find out more.

6th Annual Kangaroo Craft Sale & Expo:  
10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Weatherford High School Gymnasium, 2121 Bethel Rd. Call (817) 598-2858 to find out more.

### October 14

94th Annual Weatherford Chamber Banquet:  
7:00-9:00 p.m., Parker County Sheriff's Posse, 2251 Mineral Wells Hwy. Call (817) 596-3801 for more.

### October 16

Weatherford High School Homecoming Parade: 5:30-7:00 p.m., Ninth Grade Center, 1007 S. Main St. Call (817) 598-2956 to find out more.

### October 17

Weatherford High School Homecoming Football Game: 7:30-10:30 p.m., Kangaroo Stadium, 1007 S. Main St. Call (817) 598-2956 for ticket information.

### October 18

2014 Talking Tombstone Tour: 1:00-3:00 p.m., Old City Greenwood Cemetery, 300 Front St. Visit [www.parkercountyheritagesociety.com](http://www.parkercountyheritagesociety.com) for more.

### October 19

Autumn Art Walk at Chandor Gardens:  
Noon-4:00 p.m., Chandor Gardens, 711 West Lee Ave. Visit [www.chandorgardens.com](http://www.chandorgardens.com) for more information.

### October 25

Garage Sale: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., St. Francis Church, 117 Ranch House Rd., Willow Park. The garage sale sponsored by Gardeners' Club of Parker County will feature a variety of items. Call (817) 919-6280 for more information.

### October 26

Goblins in the Garden: noon-4:00 p.m., Chandor Gardens, 711 West Lee Ave. It's a fun experience for the entire family. Visit [www.chandorgardens.com](http://www.chandorgardens.com) for more.

### October 30

Bag Lady Luncheon: 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Parker County Sheriff's Posse, 2251 Mineral Wells Hwy. The auction and luncheon benefits the Parker County Senior Center and the Meals-on-Wheels Program. Purchase tickets at (817) 596-4640.

### November 1

Art Show and Sale: 5:00-9:00 p.m., Mader Bagley State Farm Building, 1916 Martin Dr. Call (817) 599-3278 for more information.

*Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your event details to [amber.browne@nowmagazines.com](mailto:amber.browne@nowmagazines.com).*

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## In the Kitchen With Michelle Gibbons

— By Amber D. Browne

At a young age, Michelle Gibbons found inspiration in the kitchen from her father, Michael Gibbons. “I have fond memories of trying new things as a child, which is where my growing love for food began,” Michelle shared.

Michelle has worked in bakeries for 12 years. “I love to decorate and see the faces of the children or the brides-to-be when they see their cakes.” She dreams of appearing on her favorite television show, *Master Chef*, and opening a restaurant or food truck. Until then, Michelle will share her love of cooking with her children, including her daughter, Autumn. “I look forward to teaching her more as she grows, along with her three little brothers. My children love to eat, and I so enjoy seeing them clean their plates.” **NOW**

### Beef Stroganoff

- 1 Tbsp. garlic powder
- 2 lbs. round steak, fat trimmed and thinly sliced
- 1 Tbsp. paprika
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 3-4 Tbsp. flour
- 2 Tbsp. vegetable oil
- 2 medium onions, diced
- 1 Tbsp. minced garlic
- 1 10.5-oz. can Campbell's beef consommé
- 1/4 cup water
- 1 lb. mushrooms, thinly sliced
- 8 oz. sour cream
- 1 pkg. wide egg noodles, cooked

1. Sprinkle garlic powder on each side of steaks and layer them in a bowl. Refrigerate 2 hours.
2. Combine next 4 ingredients in a 1-gallon

Ziploc or plastic bag. Remove steaks from refrigerator and bring to room temperature. Add meat to bag and shake well.

3. Heat oil on medium-high in a large pan. Add meat, onions and garlic. Stir occasionally until onions are translucent.
4. Add consommé, water and mushrooms. Stir together; bring to a boil. Cover; simmer on medium-low, stirring about every 5 minutes for 1-2 hours. When meat is fully cooked, stir in sour cream. Serve over egg noodles with garlic toast.

### Chicken Alfredo

- 1 lb. boneless, skinless chicken breast or tenders
- Water, enough to cover chicken
- 2 Tbsp. butter or olive oil
- 1 medium onion, minced
- 1-2 small cloves garlic, minced
- 1 Tbsp. each onion and garlic powder
- 1 tsp. each salt and pepper

- 1 to 2 16-oz. jars of Alfredo sauce
- 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese
- 1 lb. fettuccini noodles, cooked

1. Boil chicken in water for 30 minutes, or until chicken is done. Remove from water; cool on a plate. Once cooled, shred chicken.
2. Place butter or oil in a large frying pan. Add onion, garlic and seasonings. Sauté over low to medium heat until onions are translucent.
3. Stir in Alfredo sauce and cheese. Slowly add chicken and stir. Cook over low to medium heat until thoroughly heated. Serve over noodles with salad and garlic bread.

### Guacamole

- 2 large or 4 small avocados, peeled, pitted and chopped
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 2 medium tomatoes, diced
- 2 small jalapeños, seeded and finely diced
- 2 tsp. garlic powder
- 2 tsp. onion powder
- 2 Tbsp. salsa
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1/8 cup sour cream

1. Mix first 8 ingredients thoroughly, smashing avocados with fork. Add sour cream. Chill for 30-60 minutes before serving.

### Corn Casserole

- 1 15.25-oz. can cream-style corn
- 1 15.25-oz. can whole kernel corn
- 6 oz. sour cream
- 2 eggs
- 1 box Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- Grated cheese (optional)
- 1 stick butter or margarine, melted

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Coat an 8x8-inch casserole dish with cooking spray.
2. Mix all ingredients and pour into dish. Cover with foil and bake for 1 hour. Uncover and bake another 15-20 minutes, or until golden brown.

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

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