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Janetta Kruse commemorate
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Luke & Kristy Haynes

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Writers, Amber D. Browne . Gregg Davis
Nancy Fenton . Erin McEndree
Editors/Proofreaders, Pat Anthony
Teresa Maddison . Angel Morris
Pamela Parisi

GRAPHICS AND DESIGN

Creative Director, Chris McCalla
Artists, Julie Carpenter . Martha Macias
Connie VanderBeek . Allee Brand
Marshall Hinsley . Arlene Honza
Brande Morgan

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography Director, Jill Odle
Photographer, Shawna Napoli
Opaque Visuals

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On The Cover



These March blossoms
will become July's
Parker County
Peaches.

Photo by Melissa Rawlins

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is to make the world a better place.

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Editor's Note

Hello Friends!

Hope you're ready for a beautiful March! Those of us who have lived here awhile know the weather is unpredictable. So during this transition into spring, through the day-by-day changes, we keep our eyes on the ground and the trees. Checking the mesquite trees for tassels, we hope to see that sign of spring. (I first learned about that trick from Granny, who grew up in Big Spring, married in Weatherford and was laid to rest in the Hill Country.)

Checking the bluebonnets for blooms, we hope to have opportunity during spring break to take our children out and pose them amongst the flowers for sweet, only-in-Texas family portraits. Checking the peach trees for blossoms, we hope for the harbinger of bumper crops of that Parker County special, the peach. What are you focused on this month? I'm focused on you and your plans, and would love to hear from you.

Melissa

Melissa Rawlins
WeatherfordNOW Editor
melissa.rawlins@nowmagazines.com
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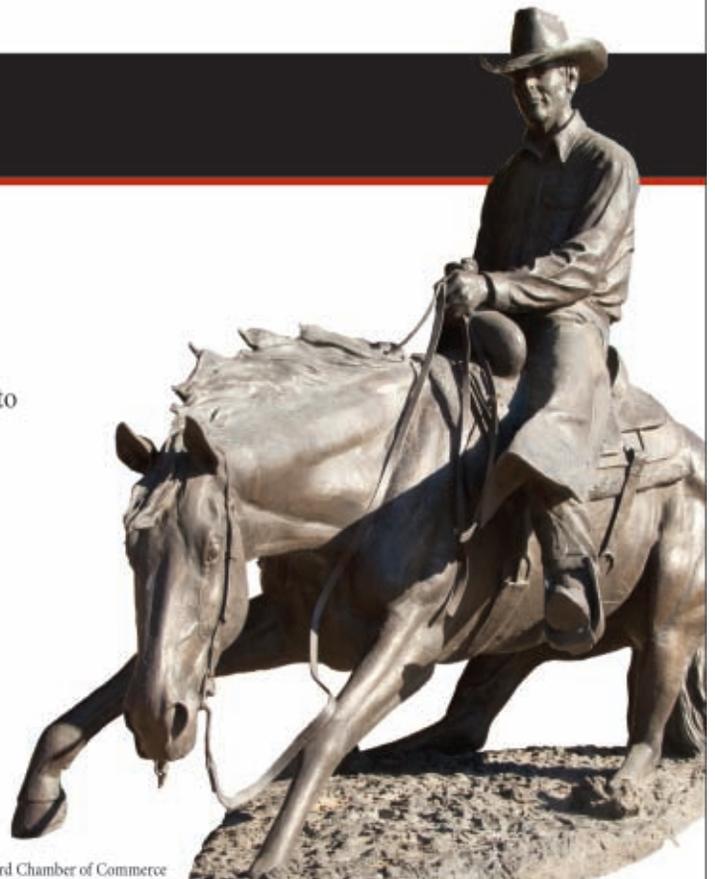
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REACHING A *Milestone*

— By Erin McEndree

The Girl Scouts of the USA are continuing a 100-year-old quest. Their mission is to build girls of courage, confidence and character. To achieve this goal, the Girl Scouts promise to help people at all times through service. For more than a decade, Christy Taylor and Janetta Kruse have done their part to fulfill this mission by leading a troop of girls through service and exploration. Together they lead a troop in the Peach Blossom Prairie Service Unit, formerly known as the Parker County Service Unit.

The Girl Scouts give girls the “opportunity to experience new and different things by getting girls outside their little world. Not that their parents could not give them these opportunities,”

Christy explained, “but they may not think about camping or space ships, for example, if they are not into that.”

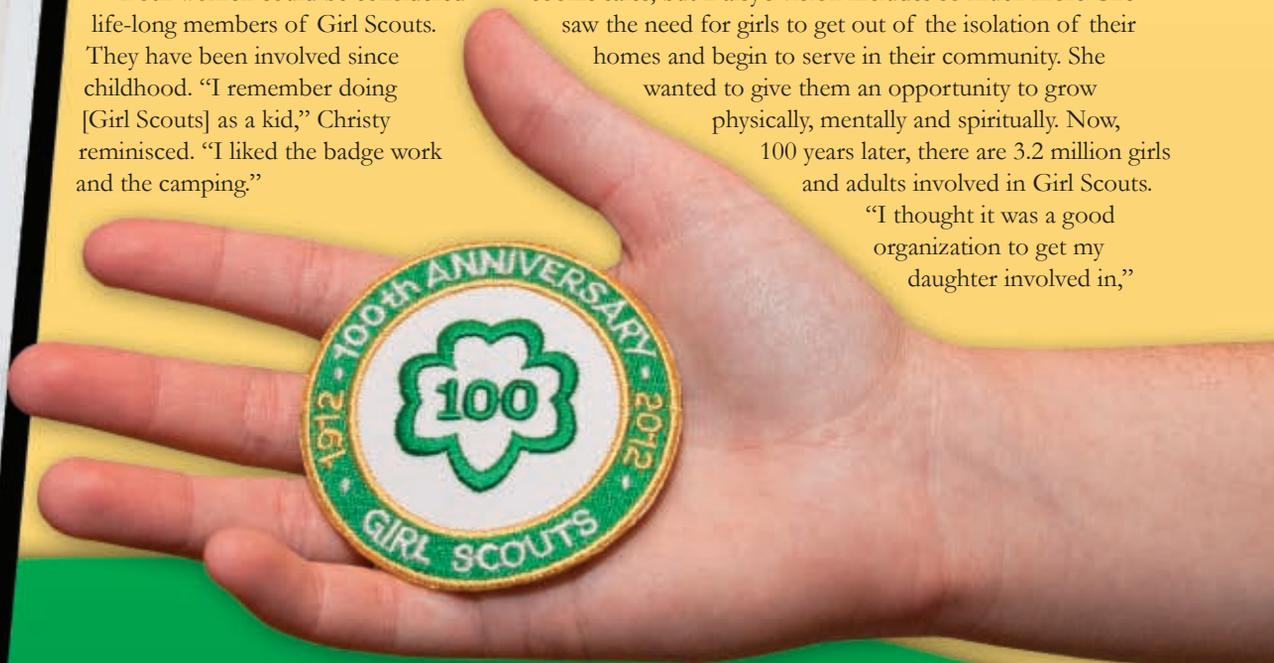
Both women could be considered life-long members of Girl Scouts. They have been involved since childhood. “I remember doing [Girl Scouts] as a kid,” Christy reminisced. “I liked the badge work and the camping.”

Janetta has similar memories. “I was in Girls Scouts growing up. My passion was to go camping, so I sold enough cookies to go camping for a week. Then I sold enough to go camping for two weeks.”

Juliette “Daisy” Gordon Low started the first Girl Scout troop with 18 girls on March 12, 1912, in Savannah, Georgia. Of course, the Girls Scouts are always associated with the cookie sales, but Daisy’s vision includes so much more. She saw the need for girls to get out of the isolation of their homes and begin to serve in their community. She

wanted to give them an opportunity to grow physically, mentally and spiritually. Now, 100 years later, there are 3.2 million girls and adults involved in Girl Scouts.

“I thought it was a good organization to get my daughter involved in,”





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Janetta Kruse and Christy Taylor have been Girl Scout leaders since 2001.

Christy said, “I signed my daughter up for camp in 2000. They asked if I wanted to be a leader, and I have been one ever since.”

“I signed my daughter up a couple of weeks after Christy and became Christy’s co-leader in 2001,” Janetta added.

Christy and Janetta bring different skills and personalities to the partnership. They truly complement each other. Christy describes herself as the “hands-on type.” Janetta is the organizer. The same is true in their personal lives as well. Christy is a dental hygienist at Cosmetic and Family Dentistry, while Janetta coordinates continuing education at Weatherford College. Together they lead, encourage and nurture the Girl Scout troop with the different skills they possess.

Girls are led through six levels starting with the Daisy level. As a Girl Scout moves up in levels, she becomes more involved in service and leadership. The next levels include Brownie, Junior, Cadette, Senior and Ambassador. Christy remembered that during their year as Brownies the motto was Just Try It. “You don’t know how many times over the years the girls have recited that motto when we needed encouragement or courage to try a new food or tackle a challenging skill,” Christy laughed.

Badges are awarded for participation in service projects, trips, events and completing a journey. “The journeys help girls experience different aspects of an issue,” Janetta explained, and the



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lessons can then be applied to daily life. One journey lesson Christy and Janetta implemented was called It's Your Planet — Love it! They took a trip to Central Market to experience unique foods. At one of their meetings, they cooked a meal fashioned after a popular food show using mystery ingredients. Then they held a food drive. The service projects and trips foster knowledge, inclusiveness and courage.

Other service projects include making bird toys and bird bread at the Bird Link Sanctuary in Weatherford, taking dogs to nursing homes to visit the residents, where they also play bingo and plant flowers. All the services performed adhere to the Girl Scouts mission to help others and make the world a better place.

The troop enjoys many educational trips as well. Trips are planned to further their knowledge and understanding about the world around them. The trips range from local attractions like the Fort Worth Zoo sleepover; to state



attractions, such as the capital in Austin; and also national attractions where the Girl Scouts' founder grew up. Juliette Gordon Low's childhood home is a museum, registered as a National Historic Landmark in Savannah, Georgia.

The Girl Scouts' most popular event is the sale of their famous cookies. No story would be complete without the mention of the beloved cookies. Most buyers can't wait to replace their box of Thin Mints or Caramel deLites because they ran out months ago.

Since Christy and Janetta became leaders, their troop has sold over 40,000 boxes of cookies. "I remember cookies being sold for a dollar a box," Janetta

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said. “Now they are \$3.50. I remember the first year my daughter sold cookies, she hid behind my leg. Then the next year, I was behind her. It got easier for her every year. I like seeing her confidence grow as she becomes a young woman, and the Girl Scouts helps.”

Janetta is known as the cookie mom. She is responsible for preordering cookies, storing and distributing cookies to the troops. She helps with booth sales, deposits money and turns in all reports. “This year our troop was selected as one of the pilot groups to measure if using credit card and debit card machines at booths will increase sales,” Janetta explained. “I am interested to see the results.”

“Our biggest troop was in 2003 with 25 girls. Over the years, it got harder to fit Girl Scouts in the girls’ schedule,” Christy said. “They have band, horse events, sports and jobs that compete with their time. We try to get the girls together once a month. They have to be very

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dedicated.” Five members have been in the troop since 2000. They are planning an educational trip to Europe as a senior trip in the summer of 2013.

Along with the Peach Blossom Prairie Unit, Christy and Janetta adopted goals for a period of 100 days to commemorate the anniversary. Their goals are to heighten the presence and visibility of the Girl Scouts to the community and the world by implementing service. A celebration has been planned for late March to commemorate the milestone the Girl Scouts have accomplished. Girl Scouts past and present from Parker County are invited to attend the celebration of what has become a lifelong passion for Christy and Janetta. Their influence on young girls is making the world a better place. **NOW**

For more information e-mail Janetta Kruse at janetakruse@gmail.com.

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AT HOME WITH *Kristy and Luke Haynes*



Comfort *and* Joy

— By Melissa Rawlins

The heart-shaped grapevine wreath greeting visitors to Luke and Kristy Haynes' home says it's all about the family behind the door. Their affection and respect for each other softens their wild sides, resulting in joy and productivity. The heart was chosen by the lady of the house, a road-less-taken kind of woman, whose taste is subtly out of the norm, but

ob-so-fun. For example, she has mixed traditional antiques with eclectic paintings and sculptures. Kristy and Luke painted their walk-in closet in teal, with zebra accents to complement her Louis Vuitton collection. And Kristy displays her fossil collection on the living room hearth. "I just love the past preserved," Kristy said. Growing up in Weatherford,

Kristy remembers walking with her family. Her mother always pointed out neat rocks along the way. "My 'baby' is my amethyst, weighing about 75 pounds. When the sun comes through the window and hits that amethyst, it radiates light and is just beautiful."

The scenic Bankhead Highway is Kristy's favorite route from work to home, which is halfway between Aledo



and Weatherford. Her husband, Luke, on the other hand, prefers missing all the traffic at Santa Fe and I-20, so when he leaves Parker County Physical Therapy, which he and Kristy run together, he takes the Fort Worth Highway. The couple's teenage son, Jacob, also finds that Highway 180 provides "a comfortable, straight shot." His brother, Luke Jr., will not get his driver's license

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for a couple more years — but he plans to follow in his father's footsteps. And their sister, Brooke, drove down the interstate for college in Stephenville just last year. The five of them have enjoyed five years in the bright, high-ceilinged two-story they call home.

Luke met his vibrant wife after he graduated from college and got a job with a local healthcare facility. "Kristy happened to be working there," Luke explained. "We developed a friendship, and one thing led to another." Three children later, they're still in love. Since settling down together, they have brought Luke's mother and father to Weatherford, where Kristy's mother still lives, so all

the generations have made this area home. The Hayneses entertain family and friends out of their large kitchen, which Kristy has lovingly decorated with functional collections that remind her of her grandmother. Kristy prepares meals that bring smiles to every face surrounded by her antique Lance and Tom's jars displayed on her kitchen counter. Her Hoosier shows off Kristy's collection of pale blue delphite and green jadeite Jeannette glass.

Focused on making the Hayneses' home a place where her family can come be comfortable, relaxed and at peace with everybody, Kristy keeps things tidy. "I am amazed at all the work she puts in the

thousand little things that most people would never notice," Luke said. When Kristy hosts fondue parties for the female therapists from the office, she pulls out all the stops. She sets up her collection of fondue pots, including the heart-shaped electric Staub she reserves for the chocolate. "We also set up the masseuse in the bedroom. One girl will be getting a massage, and the rest of us are in the kitchen," Kristy said. "The boys come in later, and they get to eat all the food."

Luke Jr. jokes that the refrigerator is his favorite part of the house, but he and Jacob also love to hang out upstairs. A pool table, electric keyboards and a collection of video games are just a few



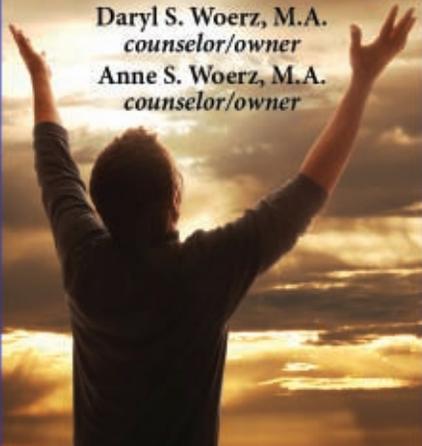
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of the entertainments in the game room at the top of the stairs. To get there, they pass by a collection of framed copies of the United States Declaration of Independence, Constitution and Bill of Rights, which the couple bought on a recent visit to Washington, D.C. In the evening, the boys' friends come over, and Luke and Kristy enjoy having them. "We let the kids basically destroy the upstairs, and we do not go bananas about it," Luke said. "We give them freedom and space to make mistakes."

"We communicate fully with our children," Kristy said. "We always tell them, 'No question is a stupid question.' We also tell them, 'You can talk to us about anything,' and they do." Even while Kristy is studying in her living room-turned-office for her clinical services management degree from Texas Tech University, she is happy to talk when her children ask questions. "You want your kids to be comfortable to come to you, because when the hard questions come, they're more apt to come in and talk to you."

At this stage in their lives, Brooke's bedroom has been turned into a workout and storage room. Even though this pleases her brothers to no end, since they no longer have to share the bathroom with her in the mornings before school, Brooke is always welcome back home. Luke learned — through a childhood of moving so often that he attended nine schools throughout 12 years of primary school — that home was



wherever his parents were. So he has provided his family a place where his children will always feel comfortable at home. They have even lovingly polished the walls with brilliant colors to provide an energizing atmosphere.

Luke's bright blue office, for instance, inspires diligence when he is on his computer, studying for his doctoral degree from Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. He also keeps his collection of six guitars in there and sometimes plays them.

"Playing some guitar is never a bad break," he said. "I do it as a hobby, a stress reliever. It empties the brain out a little bit." He has been playing since he was 15 years old. Kristy admires Luke's musical talent, which allows him to hear

a sound, pick up a guitar, practice and then play that very sound — so she gave him a Gibson Les Paul Studio guitar for a birthday gift.

College gifts are in the works for the boys, who both attend Aledo schools now. Luke has a couple classic Mustangs and a



1959 Impala, and whenever time allows, he and the boys spend a little time restoring the vehicles. "If Jacob and Luke Jr. graduate from college and do all the work on the cars with me, the boys will get the Mustangs for their college gift," Luke said, adding impishly, "The Impala's mine!"

The family loves having the space to spread their projects out, the country feeling around their property and its proximity to the conveniences of a big city, so they have made Weatherford their forever home. "I can't think of better place," Luke said, "to put kids in school, raise a family, run a business and be part of the community." **NOW**



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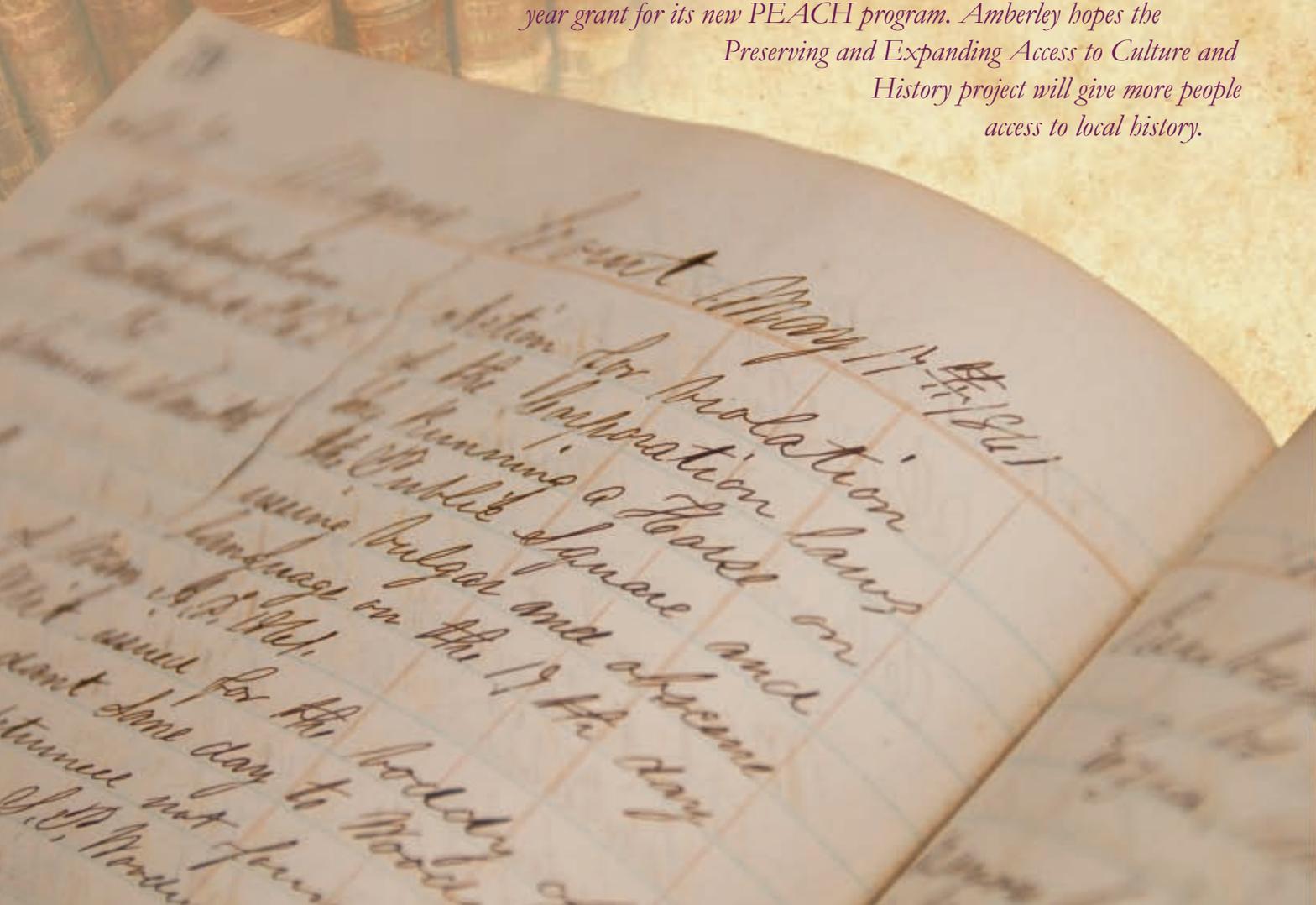
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Preserving Parker County

— By Amber D. Browne

Preserving the history of Parker County is Amberley Parker's top priority at the Weatherford Public Library. She has worked part time as the library's digitization clerk since September, when the library received a \$75,000 one-year grant for its new PEACH program. Amberley hopes the Preserving and Expanding Access to Culture and History project will give more people access to local history.



Although they are still waiting on some of the digitization equipment, Amberley and her co-worker, Christy Bellah, are sifting through old documents and prioritizing them. There is not enough money or time to digitize all the paperwork and other donated items that are sitting in boxes and on dozens of cabinet shelves at the library. Part of Amberley's job is to go through the information and prioritize it for preservation. She reads through the documents, many of which are hand-written, and thumbs through old photographs to find what must be preserved first. "They were basically sitting in boxes turning to dust, so we have a responsibility to do something to preserve it," Amberley explained. "We're focused on preserving the deteriorating things quickly, and obviously the things from the 1800s are

the most fragile." Current technology is helping her convert the papers, photographs and audio recordings into a digital format.

Amberley is using high-quality microphones and audio software to convert old audio cassettes of oral histories, which were recorded back in the 1970s. They will be saved as digital recordings to be posted later online.

Many of the recordings are of late residents who were talking about their parents and growing up in the late-19th and early-20th centuries. "The quality is compromised on some of them, so we have audio software I'm familiar with to remove some of the background hiss to have clarity," Amberley explained. She is also recording new oral histories to preserve for future generations.

Amberley Parker and Christy Bellah enjoy digitizing local historical records.



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“It was very surprising,” Amberley said, realizing she enjoys history, which was not her favorite subject in school. She learned about modern technology through digital media studies at Texas Christian University (TCU). Amberley graduated from TCU in 2010 with a bachelor’s degree in film, television and digital media and now uses cutting-edge technology to help preserve the past. She reads courthouse records, notes in family Bibles and even personal diaries, which are mostly two-line entries lacking any emotion. Some were as simple as, “Today I sowed wheat. Today I went to town and sold five watermelons,” Amberley said. “Once you realize all these people were real people with actual lives and feelings, all of the sudden, it’s real. It’s interesting, and it’s exciting.”

The physical geography has changed so much over the decades. Having a bridge built was a big deal in the local community, because residents often trekked through the creeks and rivers on horseback or in wagons. People living on farms and ranches outside of town came to downtown Weatherford more often than what many might think. The square was the hub, where all the activity and social events took place. “They had a more active social life than modern people do, because there was no television. We have some great pictures of all these clubs and revivals,” Amberley said, grinning.

They may have had some free time for socializing, but early residents made

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everything from scratch. “The women would have contests to see who could spin the most wool, like it was a game,” Amberley chuckled. They would then make that wool into clothing for their families.

Christy explained that more than a century ago, residents’ lives were basically scheduled around the seasons and growing crops. “You can’t make it go fast. You’ve got time. The wheat is going to grow, and the cattle are going to eat. It’s not like every second is filled,” Christy said.

Reading the now brown-tinted papers and seeing the black-and-white photographs of decades past gives Amberley more of a sense of what it was like in the late 1880s. She recently visited a local graveyard and often wonders what those from the past went through. “You can see stories in the gravestones,” she said.

Amberley and Christy never know what they will find hidden away in a box or buried under a pile of old books. They are always looking for more historical information and welcome any local residents who might find something in a cedar chest or even purchased at an estate sale. Community members do not have to donate the item, but instead can allow the library to make a digital copy. Having the historical records available on the Internet will make it easier for genealogists, historical societies and anyone else to find the information and simply know it is out there, and not lost forever.

Weatherford, like many small Texas towns, has a downtown core that has been preserved. “It makes it more real. It’s not just shopping mall after shopping mall,” Christy explained. “We have pictures from the 1880s and 1890s where the Trade Days are happening in that square with the exact buildings all the way around it, that we see every single day,” Christy said.

The library already has a thriving genealogy section. Amberley hopes to excite the general population about local history by posting it online for better access.

Amberley has always been interested in art and started working with computers in middle school. Her uncle was a graphic designer and became an inspiration to her. She began designing artwork for the Aledo High School newspaper. Her first job at 16 was as a sketch artist making T-shirts for a local company. She crossed

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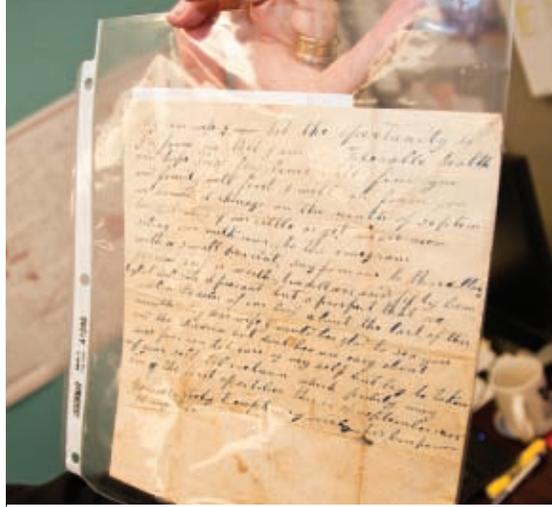
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over into digitization after watching the digitizer turn her sketch into a digital image. “I was just hooked after that,” Amberley admitted. Besides preserving Parker County history, she works as a freelance graphic designer and as a Web master.

Amberley moved to Aledo in the seventh grade and graduated from Aledo High School in 2006. Her parents, Lynette and Tracy McCracken, still live there. Ron and Lila Parker, the parents of her husband, Aaron, live in Hudson Oaks. Although Amberley was born in Tarrant County, the 23-year-old has roots in Parker County, and it has become her home. “I feel even more connected with it after learning about the lives of the people who have lived here for so long,” Amberley said. She often finds herself driving around the area and trying to imagine what it looked like 100 years ago.

Amberley believes many people are interested in local history because of Texas pride. “I think they are very proud of their heritage and their families,” she said. “I think people tend to focus on the positive parts like the heartiness of the people, their survival through sickness, starvation and bad conditions. They pride themselves on being Texas people.” **NOW**

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Barrista, Torie Mudge, serves Aledo High School volleyball player, Shannon Taylor, and their friend, Joe Willson, at Agape Coffee Haus.



Meagan and Madison Crider enjoy an afternoon of shopping in Weatherford's Frog's 'n' Fairies Children's Boutique.



WeatherfordNOW editor, Melissa Rawlins, gets instruction in protecting herself from A.C. Gilbert, DPS CHL and NRA pistol instructor at Lone Star.



Weatherford Regional Medical Center holds a big Grand Opening for their new state-of-the-art Heart and Vascular Center.



Jeff Brazzell, president of Weatherford NAACP, and Roberto Cardarelli, D.O., M.P.H, with the Lone Star Medical Plaza, take questions from the audience at the 20th Annual MLK Jr. Day Celebration.



Ashley, London, Chance and Haigen McAnally take advantage of sunny days in McGratton Park.

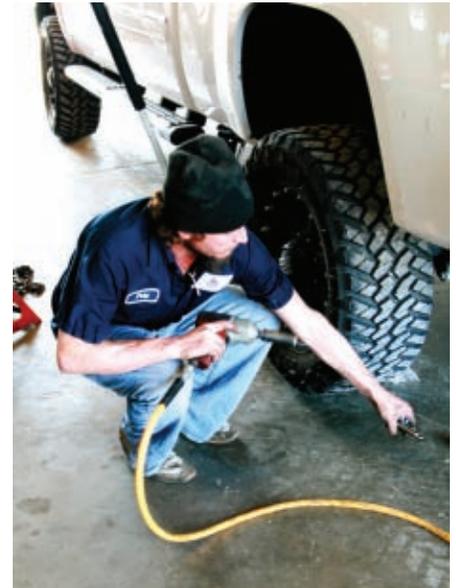


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Caring for You and Your Ride

The guys at 2033 Motorsports want to work on all your vehicles, all the time! — By Melissa Rawlins

Behind the orange pipe fence on the Peaster Highway, just three-and-a-half miles north of the courthouse and 10 minutes from I-20, a group of reliable mechanics take care of Parker County people — and their cars and trucks. At 2033 Motorsports, experienced technicians work on every type auto, from diesels to economy cars to industrial fleets. Customers recommend their work to friends and family, so the shop Chuck Edwards started in 2006 grew within 13 months from 5,000 to 13,000 square feet with 20 bays and eight lifts.

Chuck's dream was a shop people would use for a lifetime. He was born in Weatherford and trained in his father's automotive shop. "Everybody's got their own lawyer and dentist," Chuck said. "Everyone needs a great mechanic they can trust, where they'll get great value for their money."

2033 Motorsports uses every modern tool for monitoring, diagnosing and repairing vehicles. They have the most up-to-date alignment machine on the market and record the history of your car or truck by computer, so they can track its service.

"Find a technician you like and trust and build a relationship there forever," Chuck recommended. "If you come in here every 3,000 to 5,000 miles for an oil and filter change and lubrication, my guys are going to watch out for your vehicle regularly. We're still looking at the belts, hoses, your brakes and tires, and we know the history of that vehicle."

With spring around the corner, this is a good month to prepare your vehicle for the long summer months. "If you maintain your vehicle on a regular basis, you can eliminate a lot of future problems," Chuck said. If you think your car

has problems already, his elite team of seven full-time technicians will diagnose and resolve the problem by the book. Three certified diesel technicians for Ford and Dodge, plus four factory-certified auto technicians, round out the staff at 2033 Motorsports.

“They all have a great attitude plus honesty, along with a certain skill level. They’ve got to be best of the best to be part of our family,” Chuck said. Many single women feel safe bringing their vehicles to 2033 Motorsports because the guys at the front counter — especially Jim Laningham, service operations manager — and the ones doing the service have great people skills and are able to keep every customer’s vehicle in proper working condition.

Mechanics are regular people at 2033 Motorsports, where customers are encouraged to talk to their technician, so he can isolate the problem and get it

“Everyone needs a great mechanic they can trust, where they’ll get great value for their money.”

fixed the first time. Chuck’s employees smile while they work, knowing they are helping their customers achieve their goals. When a person asks for custom work — from lift kits, tire and wheel packages to custom, spray-in, colored bed liners, custom fabrication and modifications — technicians at 2033 Motorsports put all their creativity and precision skills into the challenge.

“It takes a special breed of person to work on modern vehicles,” said Chuck, who has been in the business for 39 years. “There are some cars and trucks that have more sensors than our space shuttles.” When he speaks at Weatherford High School’s career day and is approached by young men who want to be a technician, the two things Chuck asks about are their grades and their computer skills. “You have to be able to diagnose properly and follow guidelines set forth from the factories. It’s no longer just changing a part out.” Not surprisingly, 2033 Motorsports guarantees every job they do. **NOW**

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Don't Play Politics With Your Investment Decisions

While the election season heats up, you will hear more and more promises, claims and counter-claims from the candidates. As a citizen, you may or may not enjoy this "political theater," but as an investor, you might be concerned over all the talk about taxes, Social Security, Medicare and other financial topics. Will you need to adjust your savings and investment strategies? If so, how?

Before you think about adjusting your investment strategy in anticipation of any actions coming from Washington, keep a couple of facts in mind. First, few campaign promises become reality. And second, due to our system of government, radical shifts in direction are difficult to implement — which is why so few of them occur.

Still, we may see some smaller-scale — yet not insignificant — changes in the near future. In light of this possibility, what investment decisions should you make? Here are a few suggestions:

- *Consider owning investments that are taxed in different ways.* No one can predict what will happen with income tax rates or the tax rates that are applied to capital gains and dividends. Consequently, it may be a good idea to seek "tax diversification" by owning investments that are taxed in different ways. For example, when you sell appreciated stocks, you pay capital gains taxes, whereas interest payments from bonds will be taxed at your individual tax rate. And it's always a good idea to take advantage of tax-advantaged vehicles, such as an IRA and your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan.

- *Stick with quality.* It's a good idea, when owning stocks, to invest in quality companies with diversified businesses. These companies are usually less dependant on

a particular government program, and they typically have a global reach, so they may be better able to handle any changes implemented in Washington.

- *Stay focused on your long-term goals.* Politicians come and go, and our political parties seem to take turns holding the reins of power. Yet your long-term goals — such as college for your children, a comfortable retirement and the ability to leave a legacy to your family — don't really change. By realizing that you are largely responsible for achieving your goals, and by following an investment strategy that's suitable for your individual risk tolerance and time horizon, you can make gradual, but still meaningful, progress toward those goals — no matter what's happening in Washington.

- *Review your strategy regularly.* With the possible approach of changes in tax policies and in government programs that can affect your retirement security, you'll want to review your investment strategy regularly to make sure it's still on track toward helping you meet your objectives. As part of this review, you may want to seek out more "tax-smart" investment opportunities, while always looking for ways to supply the asset growth you'll need to enjoy the retirement lifestyle you've envisioned.

Aside from voting for the candidates who best represent your interests, you may not have much influence over what goes on in Washington. But by "electing" the right moves to help meet your goals, you can have plenty of control over your investment strategy. **NOW**

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Gregg Davis is an Edward Jones representative based in Willow Park.

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Opening of Best of the Collection: Ten Year Anniversary Celebration of the Museum of the Americas: 7:00 p.m. Panel discussion: Twentieth Century Club, 321 S. Main, and opening reception at Museum of the Americas, 216 Fort Worth Hwy. Visit www.museumoftheamericas.com, (817) 341-8668.

March 5

Aledo City Council May 12 Election Filing Deadline: 5:00 p.m., Aledo City Hall, 200 Old Annetta Road. Openings: Mayor, Place 2 and Place 4. File with Deana McMullen, (817) 441-7016 or deana.mcmullen@aledo-texas.com.

March 8

Gardeners Club of Parker County meeting: 10:00 a.m., St. Francis Church, 117 Ranch House Road, Willow Park. Maggie Ross McNeely on terrariums. Anita Beckman, (817) 919-6280.

March 10

Weatherford Comancheros Riding Club Play Day: 2:00 p.m. at arena on Osage Trail, off of

Horseshoe Bend. Family event for ages 3-80. Bring proof of Coggins test. For directions: Varsi (817) 721-8057 or Pat Farns (817) 228-2015.

March 10-11

Beginning Clay Technique Workshop: Paul Latham: **Saturday:** 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; **Sunday:** 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., The Fire House Gallery, 119 West Palo Pinto St.: (817) 599-3278 or Paul Latham (817) 694-4260.

March 12

Metro Beekeepers Meeting: 6:30-8:30 p.m., AA China Buffet, 1054 S.W. Wilshire Blvd., Burleson. Speaker: Chief Bee Inspector for Texas. Contact: (682) 459-1737 or www.metrobeekeepers.net.

March 12-16

Spring Break for Aledo and Weatherford ISD.

March 18

2nd Annual Chandor Gardens Bridal Event: 1:00-5:00 p.m., Chandor Gardens, 711 West Lee Ave. (817) 613-1700.

March 22

Senior Circle Five Year Rockin' Anniversary: 3:00 p.m. health fair; 4:00 p.m. dinner, dancing and door prizes. Central Christian Church, 1602 S. Main. Fabulous 50's Band. Cost: \$15/individual or \$27/

couple. Limited seating. Tickets: (817) 599-1672.

March 23

Zonta Casino Night: 6:00-10:00 p.m., Wild Mushroom Steakhouse, 1917 Martin Drive. Casino, silent and live auctions for adults. To donate auction items, call Linda Bagwell, (817) 598-6274 or Angie Martin, (817) 598-5422 or visit www.zontaparkercounty.org.

March 31

Boots 'n' Suits Reverse Raffle Event: 6:00 p.m., Sheriff's Posse Grounds. \$100 ticket includes possible prize and two chuck-style steak dinners. Grand prize is \$5,000. Additional \$3,000 will be given away that night. David Chilcutt, (817) 475-7957.

March 31-April 1

Clark Gardens Spring Festival: **Saturday:** 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; **Sunday:** 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Clark Gardens, 567 Maddux Road. Fun, food and entertainment for all ages. Admission: free/Clark Gardens members or \$10/adults, \$5/child (5-12 years old), free/children 4 and under. Tickets at entry or by phone: (940) 682-4856.

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your event details to melissa.rawlins@nowmagazines.com.



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In The Kitchen With Melissa Payton

— *By Melissa Rawlins*

Serving family and friends is in Melissa Payton's blood. As a child in Turkey, Texas, and later in Lubbock, Melissa always liked to help her mother and grandmothers, Pauline Meacham and Dot Christian, who are her favorite cooks. Pauline taught Melissa to make chicken and dumplings — still a favorite of Melissa's son, Don Paul, who lives in Brock with his wife, Cassie, and their two boys. "I just love it when people ask for my recipes or second helpings," Melissa said. She moved here in November 2004, to help her daughter and son-in-law, Anissa and Michael Teskey, with their two children while they were opening their new store. Surrounded by all of her children and grandchildren, Melissa, known as MiMi, is perfectly at home! **NOW**

Pauline's Bread Pudding

- 1 large loaf French bread**
- 2 cups heavy cream**
- 2-3 cups milk**
- 1 cup sugar**
- 4 eggs**
- 1 Tbsp. vanilla extract**
- 1/2 tsp. nutmeg**
- 1/2 cup butter, melted**
- Cinnamon sugar (to taste)**

- 1.** Cut or tear bread into 1 to 2-inch pieces and put in buttered 13 x 9-inch pan.
- 2.** Whisk remaining ingredients together and pour over bread. Be sure to push on bread to be sure it is covered with mixture. Let soak 10 minutes.
- 3.** Drizzle butter on top and sprinkle lightly

with cinnamon and sugar before baking. Set the pan on a baking sheet covered with foil just in case it drips in the oven.

- 4.** Bake at 375 F for 1 to 1 1/2 hours or until puffy and golden brown. Remove and let sit at least 10 minutes before serving.

MiMi's Ranch Dressing Mix

- 2 tsp. salt**
- 2 tsp. garlic granules or powder**
- 3 tsp. onion granules or powder**
- 1 1/2 Tbsp. dried parsley**
- 2 cups buttermilk**
- 2 cups Hellmann's Real Mayonnaise or any extra thick mayonnaise**

- 1.** Blend all ingredients well with whisk until smooth.
- 2.** Cover and refrigerate.

MiMi's Buttermilk Chess Pie for Teskeys

- 6 Tbsp. butter, melted**
- 1 1/2 cups sugar**
- 2 Tbsp. flour**
- 2 tsp. cornmeal**
- 3 large eggs, beaten**
- 3/4 cup buttermilk**
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract**
- 1 9-inch, deep-dish pie shell, unbaked**

- 1.** Combine melted butter with sugar, flour and cornmeal.
- 2.** Add eggs and mix well.
- 3.** Add buttermilk and vanilla. Mix well.
- 4.** Pour into unbaked pie shell. Bake at 350 F for 45 to 50 minutes or until center is set.

MiMi's Banana Nut Cake With Vanilla Sauce

- 1 cup Crisco shortening**
- 1/2 cup butter, softened**
- 3 cups sugar**
- 5 large eggs**
- 3 cups flour**
- 1/2 tsp. salt**
- 1 tsp. baking powder**
- 3-4 medium-sized ripe bananas, mashed**
- 3 Tbsp. milk**
- 2 tsp. vanilla**
- 1 cup pecans, chopped**

Vanilla Sauce

- 1/2 cup butter**
- 1/2 cup canned milk or heavy cream**
- 1 cup sugar**
- 1 tsp. vanilla**
- Dash of salt**

- 1.** Cream shortening and butter. Add sugar. Add eggs, one at a time. Beat until light and fluffy.
- 2.** Combine dry ingredients.
- 3.** Combine bananas, milk and vanilla.
- 4.** Add liquids alternately with dry ingredients while beating slowly.
- 5.** Bake in greased tube pan at 350 F for 1 hour, 20 minutes. Cool 10-15 minutes before removing from pan.
- 6.** To make vanilla sauce, mix and cook all ingredients in saucepan. Boil for 3-4 minutes.
- 7.** Cool sauce and serve over cake slices. Leftover sauce may be kept in a glass Mason jar and refrigerated.

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First National Bank
Weatherford

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Fred Werner 49 years



Brenda Duncan 30 years