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ON THE COVER



After several years in the military, Corporal Max N242 gets some much-deserved relaxation.

Photo by Sarah McVean.

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Editor's Note

Greetings, *WeatherfordNOW* readers!

If you're looking for something to do this month, August includes a number of observances. National S'mores Day is celebrated on the 10th. It's a great time to gather around the campfire to enjoy some chocolatey s'mores! August 15 is National Relaxation Day. If you choose to celebrate, why not get a massage or spend a few minutes swinging in your hammock?

National Senior Citizens Day was first recognized in 1988 with a proclamation by President Ronald Reagan. Celebrated on August 21, the day is a perfect time to show appreciation to our senior citizens or volunteer with the elderly.

If you want to adopt a furry family member, August 26 might be the perfect time to do so. The day marks National Dog Day, which promotes the rescue of dogs from homelessness and is also a time to honor canines for their companionship.

Take care!

Amber

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A Dog's Nose

— By Erin McEndree

A dog's life seems pretty easy. Fetching balls and taking walks are the highlights of any dog's day. For Max, a lovable 8-year-old, tan, Labrador Retriever, living the "easy life" is a well-earned reward for his military service. Corporal Max N242 served as an IED Detection Dog in Iraq and Afghanistan. He is credited for faithfully performing his duties and preventing the deaths of countless Marines. When Max had to be retired in November 2011 because of medical issues, Captain Jeffrey Park volunteered to adopt him, but he has had his parents, John and Julie Park, care for Max until he can complete his duty assignment overseas. "Jeff and Max had a strong bond even though Jeff was not his handler," Julie said. "We feel so blessed to have Max, because he enabled our son to return safely from combat."



Knows



Special procurement officers choose puppies that show strength, intelligence and perseverance to complete training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio. “Dogs that have a strong urge to perform for a reward are the best,” John said.

Besides basic obedience commands, these dogs are taught to detect nine different odors in explosives. They also have to learn to tolerate a gas mask, ride in military transportation and become acclimated to gunfire. IED Detection Dogs are taught to stay unleashed 10- to 15-feet in front of the men who are following in a Buffalo — a mine-resistant armored vehicle — while searching for IEDs and clearing the routes for soldiers. “Max was a part of the platoon as much as anyone else,” Jeff shared. “You can’t quantify what he did for us, because it was consistent, everyday selflessness of devotion, discipline and character.”

The training is engrained into Max’s behavior. “On our walks, Max stays ahead of us, too. I think he is trying to protect us from danger,” Julie laughed. He seems always on the alert for anything that could be potentially hazardous.

When Max suffered two heatstrokes in 2011, he could no longer serve as an IDD. Jeff took a leave of absence from Camp Pendleton to retrieve Max from Lackland AFB. “I knew it was my job to take care of one of my Marines,” Jeff shared. “Perhaps I saw in Max what I saw in the other injured Marines from my platoon who were parting ways from the military service due to medical limitations. In his case, I could give him a home that he deserved and a family that knew his story firsthand.” Because Jeff



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was soon deploying to Afghanistan, he left Max with his parents in Weatherford.

Max is extremely active, and he still reverts to the training he acquired while on active duty. "I try to sleep late, but Max is used to getting up early," John said. "He constantly nudges me awake with his nose in the morning earlier than I would like to get out of bed. He can't wait to search for something." Max also checks out every corner of a vehicle that arrives at their house.

"Max goes everywhere with us. While we were waiting at Camp Pendleton to welcome Jeff home from Afghanistan, four of Max's previous handlers recognized him and wanted to tell us their experiences with him," Julie said. "It was like a reunion. John took a photo of Max and all four Marines."

One day while Julie was in the library, the book *Soldier Dogs*, authored by Maria Goodavage, caught her attention. "I was amazed to find a chapter about Max," Julie said. That chapter revealed the details of Max's heatstroke, which led to his honorable discharge. Julie and John later had the unexpected opportunity at Yuma Proving Ground in Arizona to meet the military veteran who had supervised Max's medical care. "When a receptionist was tracking down the veterinarian on the phone, I heard her say, 'They are in the lobby right now,'" Julie recalled. The vet was so excited

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seeing Max healthy and happy. She cried and gave him the biggest hug. Max was excited, too, and seemed to hug her right back.

“Max finds a way into people’s hearts because he has such a love of life. He survived because he wanted to play ball,” John laughed. “Max is a kid magnet and animals aren’t afraid of him. When we take our walks, horses and deer follow us. I’ve even noticed squirrels seem to line up to watch Max play.

“Activists have done a good job to raise awareness of the plight of military working dogs,” John said. “People’s attitudes have changed, and now they help dogs find good homes when they retire.” Military working dogs are still considered equipment and transported separately from the handlers, but legislation, called the Canine Members of the Armed Forces Act, has been introduced to reflect the importance of our nation’s war dogs. The goal is to treat canines as fellow soldiers and allow veterans to adopt retired military dogs, so they can continue to be of service.

Jeff was instrumental in reuniting a military working dog with his handler who had been severely injured. Animals can be important in the healing process. “It was critical for the man’s recovery to get his dog,” Julie said. “Jeff is a true dog lover and has bonded with other canine comrades he wishes he could adopt. I think he envisions our family’s homes becoming havens for retired military working dogs.”

To help spread awareness about military dogs and their situation, John shares Max’s story with local Lion’s Club groups and Boy Scouts troops. Max proudly wears his custom harness and collar adorned with insignia depicting his tours of duty. John enjoys speaking about military dogs and their adoption potential. “Max is an ambassador for



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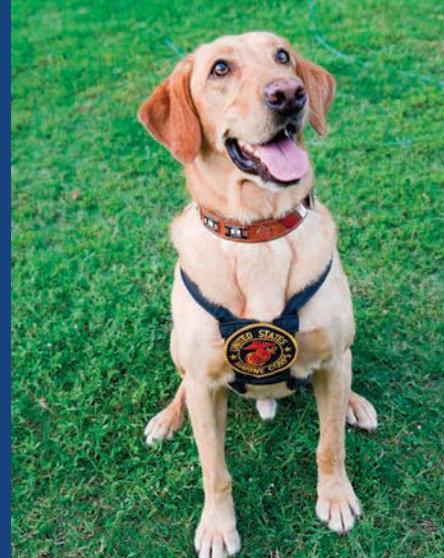
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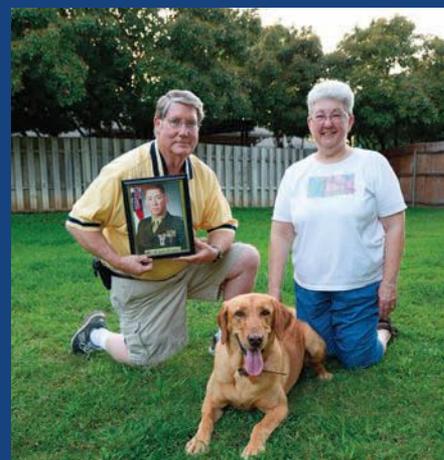
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raising awareness about military working dogs,” John said. “I always end my speeches by saying, ‘When you see a vet, thank him or her. When you see returning troops, offer up a prayer for military working dogs.’”

Like many Marines, Jeff credits Max with having saved his life multiple times. “Max, to me, is a constant reminder of why I initially joined the military — to look after one another,” Jeff stated. “At a time of immense loss, he rose to the



occasion and performed, as you would expect of any Marine in combat, beyond reproach.” In return, Jeff is passionate about taking care of military dogs and reuniting them with their handlers or injured veterans. John and Julie are more than happy to keep Max until Jeff returns from overseas because the unbreakable bond between their son and his dog transcends time and distance. Their reunion is certain to be filled with joyful smiles and slobbery dog kisses. **NOW**

Editor's Note: For information on adopting a military working dog, visit save-a-vet.org.

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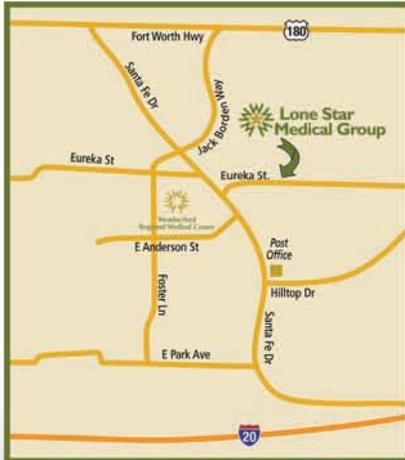
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Transplanted Texans

— By Amber D. Bronne

On a quiet street in Willow Park sits a house made into a home, with a little hard work and a lot of love. The Cerja family moved to the area from Fort Worth seven years ago. Although they aren't native to the Lone Star State, they consider themselves Texans.



Mark and Lori Cerja grew up in Pennsylvania and met while attending Indiana University of Pennsylvania. The Fort Worth Independent School District was part of a teacher-recruiting event at the college and drew Mark to Texas with a job offer. "I didn't think this far south. I thought maybe the Carolinas," Lori laughed. Mark moved south first, as Lori finished her final two years at the university. While in school, she planned their wedding, often visiting Fort Worth. "Mark showed me all around the malls and the excitement of the city that I wasn't used to," she explained. During one of her trips to Fort Worth, she met with school district officials. Lori began teaching with the district after she and Mark married in 1999. "I fell in love with the schools, and 17 years later, I'm still there." Lori works in special education, and Mark is now in administration.



At Home With
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“We both grew up less than an hour or so from Pittsburgh,” Mark explained. “We like Fort Worth, but we never really got completely used to it, with the traffic and congestion. Aledo was more comparable to how we grew up.” They bought land in Willow Park after living in Fort Worth for 10 years. Their neighborhood is spacious. Their lot is just under an acre and provides the Cerja children, Madelyn, who will be 12 this month, and Mark, 7, with plenty of space to play. The family’s 4-year-old Goldendoodle, Ranger, enjoys

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the space, too. Ranger is well-known in the neighborhood, thanks to his walks with the Cerjas. “We purposely built a metal fence, so he can see what’s going on up and down the road,” Mark shared. “He greets everybody who walks by.”

Mark likes taking Ranger on fishing trips. “I’ve been fishing and boating since I was an embryo,” Mark laughed. “Just getting out on the water and enjoying nature — it’s very peaceful and relaxing.” The Cerjas love the water and spend time boating on Benbrook Lake, Lake Fork and Lake Weatherford.

“I found out many years later that’s probably why we moved to Texas — for all the lakes,” Lori laughed. Mark’s love of fishing is apparent in the TV room.

The children have confiscated access to the television in the living room, so Mark and Lori find solitude in the neighboring room. Because Mark catches and releases his fish, he displays his love of the sport through someone else’s “big catch,” which he purchases on eBay. The fish that adorn the walls are native to Pennsylvania.

One wall displays a vintage fishing basket and net from his grandfather, James Buffone, who taught Mark how to fish. “I was the only grandson who ever went back with him. Fishermen are supposed to have patience. He didn’t have much patience,” Mark grinned, “but I loved it so much, I kept going back. I became his fishing buddy, his fishing partner.” Framed fish pictures, a fish clock and a border of





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fish swimming underwater line the walls. The room also includes an autographed Jason Witten jersey. Mark is the only Dallas Cowboys fan in the house. The other Cerjas cheer for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Steelers' memorabilia can be found throughout Mark Jr.'s room, where he spends time reading and drawing at his desk. A three-sided fish tank is home to his Betta fish — Bubbles, Scooter and Naughty, so named because he's red. Mark Jr. spends most of his time outdoors. He plays a lot of baseball in the spring, and it's all football in the fall. A ring won during the Aledo Football championship during his first-grade year and trophies are featured throughout his room. He also enjoys riding his four-wheeler out back.

On the back porch, where the family spends time grilling, Madelyn houses her pet rabbit of five years, Princess Angel. Back inside, visitors know which room belongs to Madelyn because of all the hot pink decor. Lori crafted a hot pink, black and white wreath to hang above Madelyn's bed. "She's our princess, so when we did this room, we wanted more of a cathedral ceiling," Mark explained. Framed family photographs, including those from her elementary school's daddy-daughter dances, are placed throughout the room. Madelyn's artwork is also proudly displayed. She spends most of her time cheering, competitively, in gymnastics or choreographing and recording dance videos to music.

The children find more entertainment in the living room where dark brown, leather furniture with built-in recliners provides plenty of seating. The home is full of warm colors, including the wheat-colored walls in the living area and kitchen. "We painted it ourselves," Mark said. "It was fun. It was a nice family project."





They use the fireplace for roasting marshmallows on frosty, winter days.

The kitchen features a large island for cooking and entertaining. "It seems like we're always having a family party — at least once a month, we take turns," Lori shared. Both Mark and Lori's families are of Italian heritage, so she enjoys hosting large gatherings and cooking homemade lasagna and spaghetti and meatballs. The children eat most of their meals and complete their homework at the bar that overlooks the kitchen. The dining room includes a large, wooden table and hutch. The walls hold a framed wedding photo of Mark and Lori, as well as a marriage blessing from Pope John Paul given as a gift from her uncle, Father Peretti. A cross hangs above each doorway in the home. The Cerjas are devoted Catholics and attend Holy Redeemer Catholic Parish, where Lori volunteers with Sunday school classes.

Family is their No. 1 priority. With busy schedules throughout the school year, summer provides a time to settle down and relax. Mark's family has moved to Texas, but Lori's family still resides in Pennsylvania. Each summer, her family visits, and Mark's friends plan a fishing trip to Texas. The Cerjas enjoy traveling to Pennsylvania and the Ozark Mountains in Missouri during the summer. Enjoying time with their children brings them much happiness. They are self-proclaimed homebodies and plan movie nights with the children. "We live in this house. The kids are free to be in the home and play," she said. "They are the center of our lives."

Although it was a busy blur when they moved into their home, they have enjoyed the peacefulness of the neighborhood and all the local area has to offer. "This is home now," Lori smiled, "We're Texans." **NOW**

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Passion FOR SERVICE

— By Amber D. Browne

Serving others can be recognized in many forms. Some may help their neighbors pick up the pieces after a devastating storm or family loss. Others may spend time helping the less fortunate. For Prissy Neely, serving others is a passion she has worked a lifetime to realize. Prissy has not only served the area's youth as an educator, but she has aided the community in her roles with local organizations.

Prissy always knew she wanted to be a teacher. Her mother, LaRue Young, taught for 30 years in Weatherford and greatly influenced Prissy's career in education. Prissy graduated from Weatherford High School in 1965. Her class was the largest of its time, with around 300 graduates. Prissy is currently chairing the class' 50-year reunion, which will coincide with homecoming in October. "It's going to be a busy weekend," she said. "We are really looking forward to having a good time."

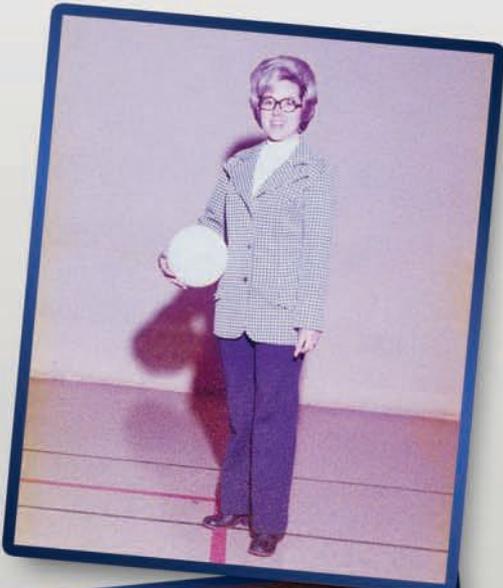
After high school graduation, Prissy attended Weatherford College. Although there weren't many girls' sports in those days, Prissy played basketball at the college for one of her mentors, Betty Jo Crumm Graber. "It was when if you just wanted to play, you got to play. It was a blast!" Prissy laughed. "It's really changed a lot since then."

Prissy transferred to East Texas State University (now Texas A&M University-Commerce), where she graduated with a degree in education. "I graduated on a Thursday, and on Monday, I started to work for the Weatherford Independent School District."

As a teacher, Prissy was able to share her love of athletics with students as coach of several sports. She began her career teaching physical education at two elementary schools and athletics at the high school. At first, she thought the high school students were just having a little fun playing with the volleyball. "No one really told me that I was going to be a volleyball coach," Prissy smiled. Another of her mentors, Alice Holtsclaw, informed her she was to lead the charge and reestablish the volleyball program at the high school. She coached girls' volleyball for 13 years, in addition to short stints coaching boys' golf and girls'



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basketball. Prissy also served as the cheerleading coach for 13 years. For team events, she transported her students by bus. "I was just glad my legs were long enough to reach the pedals!" she joked. Administrators wanted to initiate a girls' track program, so they called on Prissy to head up the sport in 1975. She worked closely with the boys' track coach to develop the team, and in its first year, a high jumper and 100-yard dash participant advanced to regionals. "We were really excited about that!"

Prissy continued coaching at Weatherford High School until 1983 and taught health for a couple of years afterward. She and her husband, Leo Neely, gave birth to a daughter, so Prissy put her love of education and coaching on the back burner to raise her new love, Brittney. She volunteered at Brittney's school, Austin Elementary, and was recognized for her volunteerism with a lifetime membership to the PTA. "I really appreciated that," she said. She later went back to work with Weatherford ISD and retired in 2006.

Since her retirement, Prissy's volunteer work hasn't slowed. She loves to plan and see things come to fruition. "It's just who I am. I like to do things for people," she shared. Her goal during her time as president of the Parker County Committee on Aging was to begin the building process of a new senior center.



There was a setback with costs last year, but Prissy hopes construction on the new building will happen in the near future. Jerry Durant gifted the committee just over 35 acres on Vine Street, which is where the new Parker County Senior Center will be located. “We’ve made progress,” Prissy shared, “and the city is working with us.” She no longer serves as committee president but has been a member for about five years. Prissy’s involvement with the Parker County Committee on Aging began with the Meals on Wheels program. “Meals on Wheels is very important to me,” she said, “and it has been a wonderful experience to serve on the board. You just feel a part of the whole center. It’s a place where people come and enjoy it so much.” Seniors can participate in quilting, garage sales, bingo and fellowship. Plans for the new location include an updated kitchen, entertainment area and offices. The new center is also scheduled to include a large venue with seating for up to nearly 500 people.

The Parker County Committee on Aging is only a small portion of Prissy’s volunteerism in Weatherford. She has served on the Manna Storehouse of Weatherford’s board for more than 10 years. “I just felt like it was another way I could serve. It’s been very rewarding, too,” Prissy shared. “The number of people served by Manna is outstanding. It’s a very eye-opening experience.”

Although Prissy has branched out into other organizations, education and athletics are still close to her heart. She has served on the committee for the Weatherford High School Athletic Hall of Fame since its inception in 2004 and

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as chairman for the past six years. The committee seeks out athletes, coaches, trainers and teams that have excelled at the school. A double trophy case displays the current year's winners' photographs and team photos from current and previous years. Prissy enjoys seeing the teammates come back together for the award ceremony, which coincides with homecoming in the fall. "Seeing all of them get together for a couple of days is really a neat experience," she said. Prissy was elected to the Hall of Fame in 2008, one year after she won a Distinguished Alumni Award.

"I'm just one of those lucky ones who got to do what I always wanted to do," she shared. "I feel very fortunate." Prissy's daughter, Brittny, has followed in her footsteps and will begin her sixth year teaching second grade in Mineral Wells this fall. Brittny married Jeremy Glidewell in June, adding another exciting event to Prissy's busy schedule.

Prissy's husband of 44 years supports her endeavors. "Leo is as busy in his activities as I am," she said. Leo serves on the Freedom House board and is on the building committee for Central Christian Church. He retired from the Texas Highway Department but now runs their business, North Main Climate Control Storage, and works with Galbreath-Pickard Funeral Chapel.

When the two of them have free time, they enjoy visiting with friends and attending local sporting events. "Being active in the community and being active in any school issue are very dear to my heart," she confessed. "I'll do almost anything I can to help them. I'm just a Roo fan at heart." **NOW**



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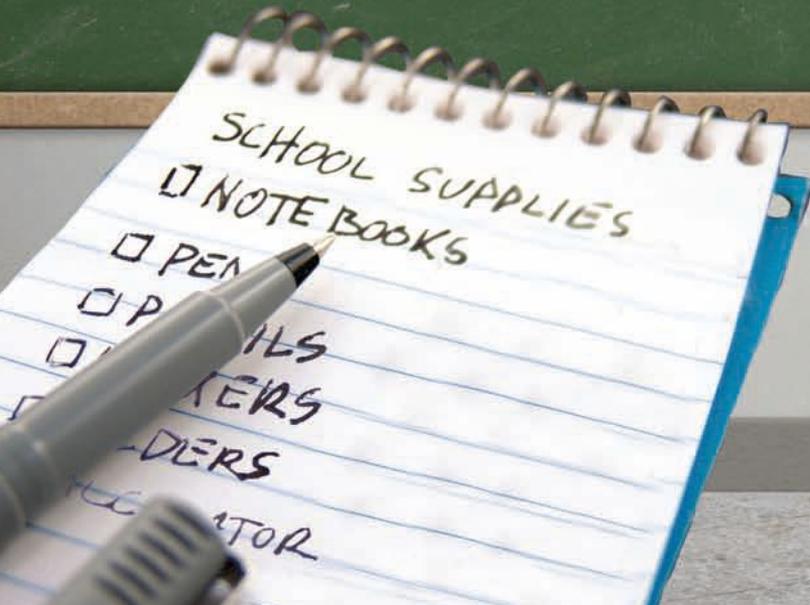
— By Melissa Swedoski

Summertime in Texas means outdoor fun, vacation or camps. It also means back-to-school time, right in the dog days of August. From new outfits and haircuts to new schedules and freedom never before had, there are plenty of challenges to be handled. While you remember the true investment of education, it's best to prepare ahead for both expenses and changes.

Shopping Season Helpful Hints

The long-standing tradition of back-to-school shopping means new clothes and shoes, braces and glasses, pencils and paper. Whether there's one student in the family or many, budgeting for expenses is imperative, and research is necessary when purchases are technology-related. According to the National Retail Federation, families spent approximately \$670 on back-to-school items in 2014. This year's numbers will likely increase, as electronic items continue to be part of the supply list.

Summer style will still be in before fall fashion takes over, but as most parents are aware, today's students live in the digital age, so they will be watching retailer websites and social media to see what's trending, what's out of style and what's fresh this fall.





Tips for back-to-school shopping:

- **Start early and pace yourself.** Since certain items will always be on the list, parents can buy over time and spend less.
- **Use shopping apps and websites.** Most retailers, both large and small, have websites or are on social media, and they send out notifications when they have sales. Using retail and coupon apps can help parents stay abreast of the sales.
- **Shop locally.** Many small businesses in your town carry all the items you need with amazing customer service and more diversity.
- **Consider specialty shops.** In addition to discount and department stores, check out the electronic and/or clothing stores around. Some students may prefer western wear, and there are specialty stores catering to that. Other students may prefer dressier school clothes over casual, and there are wonderful boutiques available. Almost every local store and national retailer also knows to have uniform pieces in stock.
- **Remember drug stores.** These stores may be overlooked, but when it comes to makeup, hair care, personal grooming items and more, drug stores can provide some great finds.



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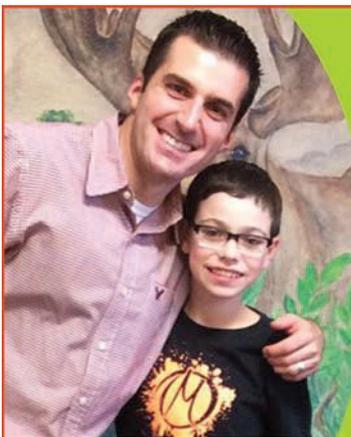


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- **Physicals.** If a student is going to be involved in any sports activity, the school district will require an approval from a physician, to verify the student passed the physical. Several districts offer free physicals, so check with your school to see if this is offered and for the date and time.



- **Vaccinations.** Although age determines what vaccinations your child will need, all students must be up-to-date on their shots, with complete records filed at the school.
- **Vision and dental.** The beginning of school is a good time to have students' eyes checked, in case they might need glasses or a new prescription, while dental checkups for growing young people are important to overall health.
- **Hair care.** Whether or not your district has a specific dress code notation for hair, the beginning of a school year is a good time to decide if a student needs a trim, a new style or perhaps a change in shampoo and conditioner.



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- **Makeup.** Some young ladies will begin using makeup, depending on their grade level and family rules. It never hurts to go by a beauty counter in a local store for a makeover and/or instructional session.

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- 8GB or higher flash drive
- AA batteries
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- Cellphone or smartphone



Mark your calendar for tax-free weekend from August 7-9. As in previous years, clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks priced under \$100 are exempt from sales taxes for the weekend. This also includes items bought online, by telephone or by mail. Shoppers can even use layaway plans to take advantage of the sales tax holiday.

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devices for their coursework, as well as notebooks and pens. Keep in mind that supply needs will change as the school year progresses.

Clothing based on the location of the college is important, so keep in mind if the weather will be warmer or colder than the student may be accustomed to at home, and plenty of fashionable, casual clothing is the norm for college students.

There's also the need to have dorm furniture to make living a little more comfortable, as well as personal grooming items, since many students will likely be sharing bathroom space for the first time. Try not to fall into the temptation of taking too many keepsakes from home, since there will be a limit on the amount of storage available, as well as display space.

Finally, some students may be considering getting their first credit/debit card or parents may be providing them with an emergency credit card. Parents should be sure to have a healthy conversation with them about spending habits and what constitutes a moment of real need, which would necessitate its use.

From transitioning grade levels to new schedules and time management, going back to school presents many new challenges. Be sure to talk about handling emotions that come with tougher coursework, along with changes in friendships and relationships. Finding new bus routes or walking to school can be intimidating for young children, so parental support is paramount. Be involved with your child's decisions, and he or she will be more willing to share the journey with you. **NOW**

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Sunday: Closed



For more than 30 years, Better Health Market has offered customers vitamins, health foods and more.

Benefit to Your Well-being

Better Health Market in Weatherford offers consumers a variety of natural remedies and organic foods.

— By Amber D. Browne

As a stay-at-home mom with children in high school, Donna McQuay began searching for something to keep her busy. She registered for computer classes at Weatherford College, but a higher power had other plans for her. While driving around town after class, she pulled into the College Park Shopping Center and parked in front of a vacant store. “I could picture a sign over the store saying Health Food Store. Even to this day, I can only say a force greater than anything I had encountered before was guiding me,” Donna explained.

With her husband, Howard McQuay, on board with the idea, Better Health Market opened its doors nearly 33 years ago. It was a learning experience for Donna, but over the years, the Weatherford

store has continually expanded and is now located on Santa Fe Drive. The McQuays own a second location in Granbury.

Better Health Market offers a variety of natural and organic products — vitamins, minerals, gluten-free products, essential oils and digestive enzymes. “Customer service is our main goal. We greet the customers and make sure they feel comfortable. We don’t hover, but we are more than happy to help them,” said Rosalind Lamb, manager at the Weatherford location.

Most customers have an idea of what they are looking for when they enter Better Health Market. The store offers a reference section of books for research, tips and recipes. “We don’t prescribe, and we won’t diagnose,” Rosalind said. “We don’t want

to lead them in the wrong direction, but we'll help find a suitable solution."

Many customers are looking for natural remedies or vitamins, herbs and minerals to supplement medications and help with side effects. Thyroid and weight-loss products are popular. "Usually, it's 'Dr. Oz says,'" Rosalind smiled. Vitamin brands including Nature's Plus, Bluebonnet, Barlean's and Solaray stock the shelves. "I favor the liquids because they're more absorbable," Rosalind shared. A section of the store also includes essential oils.

Better Health Market sells a variety of organic food and drinks. Gluten-free products, such as bread and chips, are offered. Cold and frozen foods are available for purchase, including Ezekiel bread, Vegemaise and nitrate-free turkey bacon. "We keep more to the non-GMO foods. Most drinks are sugar-free," Rosalind explained. Several local businesses have products on the shelves, including honey from Bee Wrangler Farms, natural bug spray from Remedy Oils and soap from MJV Soapworks. If a product isn't on the shelves, Better Health Market can find a comparable product or order it for the customer, if it's available.

"Our pricing is comparable to any competitor," Rosalind explained. At Better Health Market, 20-percent off super sales are held the first Monday and third Saturday of the month. Sales representatives from various companies often hold product demonstrations during the market's sale days. Adults 65 years and older get a 10-percent discount on products.

Working with Better Health Market for nearly 15 years, Rosalind enjoys her job and helping the customers. "There is so much to learn," she shared. "It's a very interesting type of business to be in, and I love the people."

Better Health Market's mission has been to educate the community, share a smile and provide a clean, healthy and happy work environment. "Every day, we thank the Lord for our blessings, our customers, our employees and managers. With them, our stores have grown over the past 33 years," Donna said. "Every day is a new day, and we thank God for everything." **NOW**

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After an incredible season, the Aledo Ladycats win the 5A Softball UIL State Championship.



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Children of all ages frolic in the snow at Aledo United Methodist Church's vacation Bible school.



Bentley Conger spends the afternoon cooling off at Splash Kingdom Waterpark in Hudson Oaks.



Kiwanian Vice President Melinda Gibbins awards Jamie Dorsett with the Tom DeBeauford Memorial Scholarship presented annually by the Kiwanis Club of Weatherford.



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A credit union is a nonprofit, member-owned cooperative that provides financial services to its members. Credit unions focus on saving and borrowing, but they may offer other common banking services.

Credit union membership is based on a certain field. These membership fields can be occupational, associational or geographical. If you qualify, your first deposit also counts as your

first purchased share. This makes you a member and partial owner of the credit union.

You might choose a credit union if:

- You or a family member qualifies for the field of membership.
- The rates and fees are better for your budget.
- Your financial needs are relatively basic. Not all credit unions offer advanced financial planning or online financial tools.

What Is a Bank?

A bank is a commercial entity that offers deposits, withdrawals, savings and loans. Banks generally have bigger budgets, as they are for-profit entities. This allows banks to offer more conveniences, such as multiple ATM locations. Banks do not require membership, though some require a minimum balance to have an account.

You might choose a bank if:

- You prefer mobile and online banking. These services are not always available through credit unions.
- Your financial needs are complex. For example, if active investing is your passion, a credit union may not have the resources you need. **NOW**

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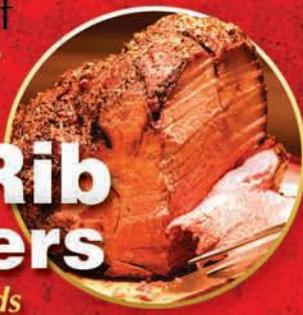
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August 1

Belk Kidsfest, 1:00-4:00 p.m., Belk, 205 Adams Dr. Come out and enjoy a fashion show and plenty of fun activities for the children inside the department store. Please call (817) 594-2295 for additional information.

August 4 and 11

Family Film Festival: 10:00 a.m., City Lights Theatre, 1000 Cinema Dr., Hudson Oaks. Families can watch a kid-friendly movie for \$.50 per person. The movie festival benefits CASA. For more information, visit www.citylightstheatres.com.

August 4 and 18

History Alive: 10:30-11:30 a.m., Doss Heritage and Culture Center, 1400 Texas Dr. On **August 4**, area children can learn about dinosaurs. On **August 18**, a Back to School Party will be held. The events are free. Please visit www.dosscenter.org for additional information.

August 7

First Fridays Summer Concert Series: 6:00-10:00 p.m., Downtown Aledo. Families are invited to attend the event, which will include the Summer Fun Festival with entertainment

for all ages. For more information, call (817) 441-7016 or visit www.aledo-texas.com.

August 14

Parker County Women's and Newcomers' Club monthly meeting: 9:30 a.m., First United Methodist Church, Family Life Center, 301 S. Main St. Cost is \$10 per person. Call (817) 757-7034 or email jrmcca@gmail.com to make a lunch reservation.

August 15

Kiwanis Club Children's Magic Festival: 6:00-8:30 p.m., Weatherford High School, 2121 Bethel Rd. Come enjoy a spectacular magic show with entertainment for all ages. Funds raised benefit local charities through Kiwanis of Weatherford. Call (817) 613-1914 after 5:00 p.m. for more information.

August 20

Quilter's Guild of Parker County meeting: 6:30 p.m., Grace First Presbyterian Church, 606 Mockingbird Ln. Judy Howard of Buckboard Quilts will present a program and trunk show relating to quilts from the 1800s and early 1900s. Visit www.quiltersguildofparkercounty.org or call (817) 597-0322 for more.

August 21

Bag Lady Luncheon: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Parker County Sheriff's Posse, 2251 Mineral Wells Hwy. Cheryl Rogers Barnett, daughter of Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, will speak at the event. Proceeds will benefit the Parker County Committee on Aging. Please call (817) 596-4640 for additional information.

Outdoor Expo 2015: 6:30 p.m., Willow Park Baptist Church, 129 S. Ranch House Rd., Aledo. Attendees can bid on various auction items. Proceeds benefit A Place For Grace Children's Home. Cost is \$10 per person and includes a barbecue meal. Call (817) 441-1596 for more information.

August 22

End of Summer Splash: 7:00-10:00 p.m., Splash Kingdom Wild West Family Waterpark, 1001 Cinema Dr., Hudson Oaks. Community members are invited to attend the event to honor veterans. Proceeds benefit Center of Hope Parker County and Aledo Children's AdvoCats. Call (817) 781-1454 or email stacey.bartell@n2pub.com for more information.

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



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In the Kitchen With Kathy Smith

— By Amber D. Browne

Kathy Smith's busy work schedule doesn't allow her the opportunity to cook daily, but when she does, she prepares her favorites. "I also tend to choose recipes that are fairly simple and quick," Kathy shared.

At the age of 12, Kathy joined Springtown 4-H, and a nutrition project spurred her interest in cooking. Over the years, Kathy has acquired cooking tips from her mother, Charlsta Smith, and aunt, Dorothy Reynolds. She's added to that knowledge during her 31-year career with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

As a county extension agent of family and consumer science, Kathy has taught a number of cooking and food safety classes, including Cooking with Kids and Kitchen Boot Camps. "My goal is to teach them to be successful in preparing foods and having fun." **NOW**

Black-eyed Pea Salad

- 3 15-oz. cans black-eyed peas
- 1 green bell pepper, chopped
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 4-oz. jar pimentos
- 1/4 cup canola oil
- 1/4 cup vinegar
- 2 drops Tabasco sauce
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 tsp. garlic salt
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. pepper

1. Stir together first 4 ingredients in an air-tight container.
2. Combine remaining ingredients in a separate bowl. Pour over black-eyed pea mixture and coat well. Refrigerate overnight.

Cranberry Salad

- 1 lb. cranberries, frozen
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 13-oz. cans crushed pineapple, drained
- 1 cup pecans, finely chopped
- 1 16-oz. pkg. miniature marshmallows
- 1 16-oz. tub whipped topping

1. Grind cranberries. Mix in sugar and let stand for 2 hours.
2. Add remaining ingredients. Cover and chill for 2 hours before serving.

Ham and Cheese Quiche

- 1 9-inch premade pie crust
- 1 1/2 cups ham, diced

- 2 slices bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 1 cup Swiss cheese
- 1 Tbsp. green onions, chopped
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup half-and-half
- 1 Tbsp. mustard
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper

1. Roll pie crust onto round baking dish. Sprinkle next 4 ingredients onto crust.
2. Blend together eggs and next 4 ingredients; pour into pie dish. Bake at 350 F for 45-50 minutes.

Krispy Oven Chicken

- 1 cup margarine
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 3/4 tsp. paprika
- 1 tsp. garlic powder
- 4-6 chicken breasts, skinned
- 2 cups Rice Krispies, crushed

1. Melt margarine; add next 4 ingredients. Dip each chicken breast in margarine mixture and roll in crushed Rice Krispies. Place in a greased baking dish. Bake at 350 F for 1 hour, or until done.

Can't Stop Eating Cookies

- 2 cups margarine
- 2 cups sugar
- 3 cups flour
- 2 tsp. baking soda
- 2 tsp. cream of tartar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 6 cups cornflakes, crushed
- 1 1/2 cups pecans, chopped

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. In a mixing bowl, cream together first 2 ingredients. Mix in next 4 ingredients. Fold in cornflakes and pecans.
2. Drop by the teaspoonful onto a greased cookie sheet. Bake 15-20 minutes.

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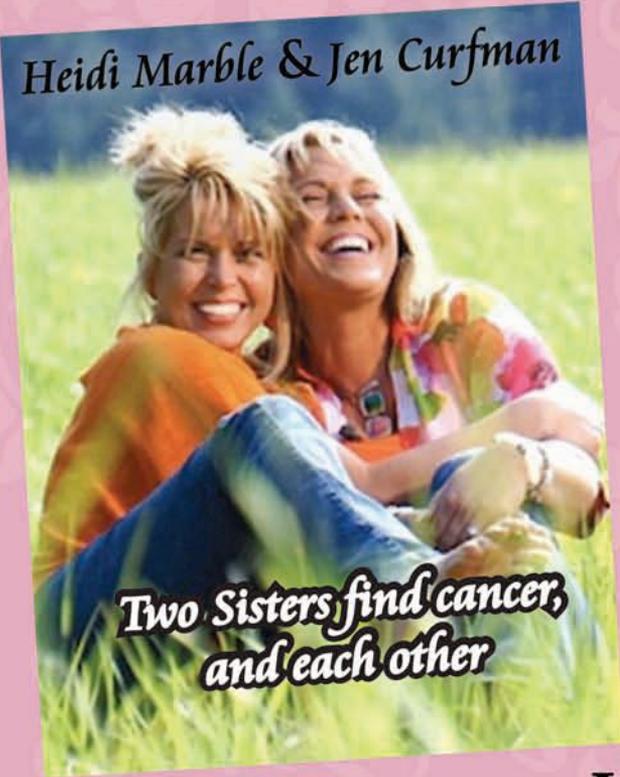
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