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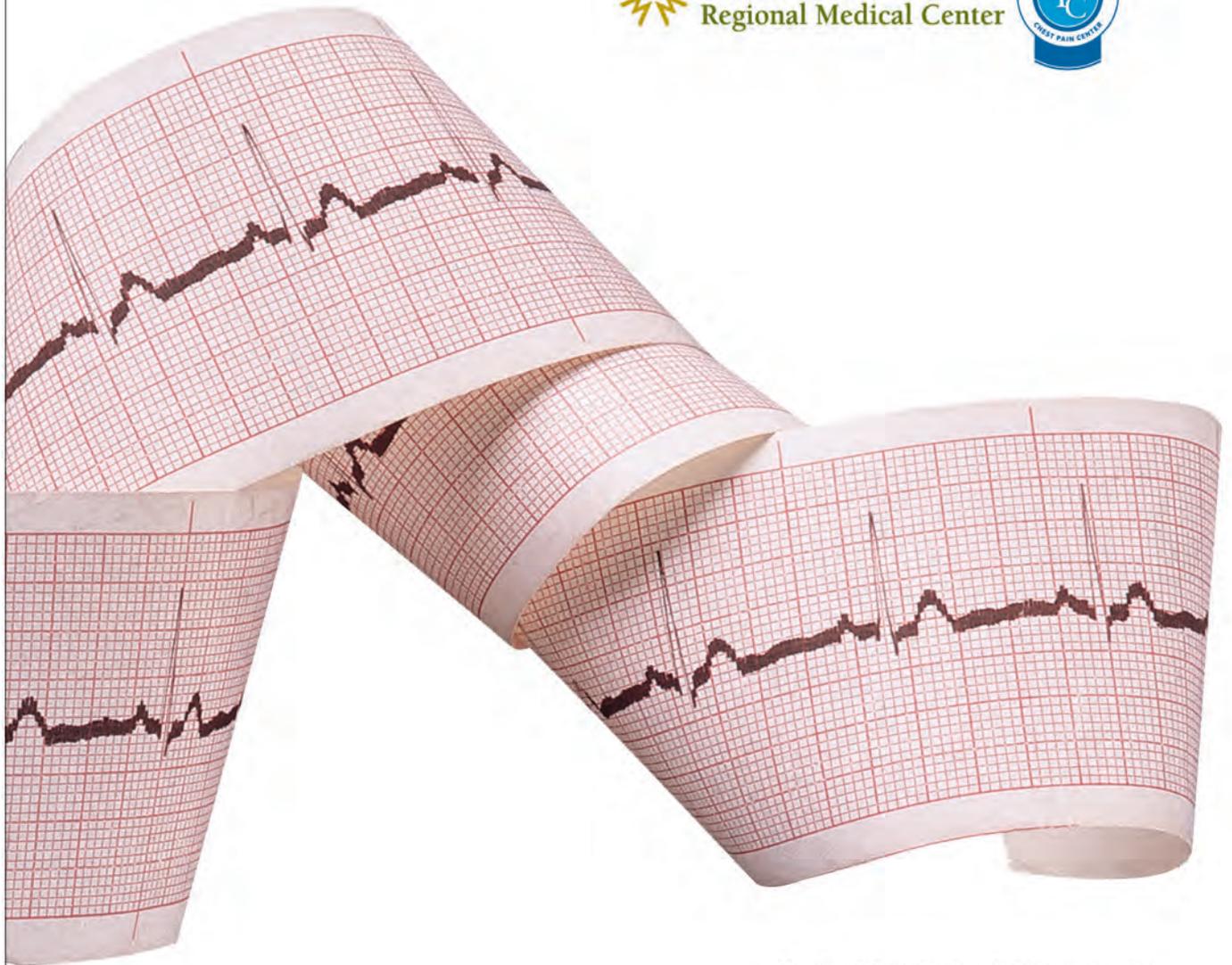
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### ON THE COVER



Eye-catching paintings dot the walls of the Harder home.

Photo by Vanessa Polozola.

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## Editor's Note

*Greetings, Weatherford!*

Spring is not quite officially here yet, but I'm sure many of you are ready to get back in the garden or simply enjoy warmer weather. Trees will soon be budding and flowers blooming, as shades of green brighten the landscape.

This is the time of year our family hangs up the hammock between two Mesquite trees to enjoy the gentle breeze of spring. Our children can finally wear their shorts and play in the sunshine. They will also be out hunting colorful eggs since Easter falls

on March 31.

Spring is a time of rebirth, so why not reach out and help a family who has faced a devastating tragedy start over? March is National Preparedness Month, put on by the American Red Cross, and the nonprofit will gladly accept donations to help families with recovery efforts at (800) RED CROSS or RedCross.org.

Happy spring!

# Amber

Amber D. Browne  
WeatherfordNOW Editor  
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# THE MISSING LINK

*By Lisa Bell*



*The Weatherford Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association doesn't generally lock the historical cemetery. However, one night, Chris and Barbara Hummel did. As she watched her husband locking the gate, Barbara observed several kids sneak in.*

"Didn't you hear those kids behind you?" she asked when he got in the car.

"No," Chris answered.

They drove down a road, shining a flashlight. When the beam landed on a car, multiple hands flew out of the window. Chris, armed with a two-way radio, called in the incident, trying not to laugh. As trained citizens, they didn't intend to approach the car, but the teenagers didn't know that.

"They think we're officers. They aren't moving, and neither are



we. We've just got a flashlight on them," Barbara said into the radio. Twenty seconds later, squad cars appeared. "Those kids about had a stroke," Barbara recounted.

Not everything the Weatherford Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association (WCPAAA) does ends light-heartedly. Membership in this nonprofit organization is no joke. Chris, president of the WCPAAA, and his wife, Barbara, who serves as treasurer, love what they do. On call 24/7, the couple takes the responsibility for leading the 30-member group extremely serious.

Police Sergeant Dennis Whitford praises the organization. "We'd have a very difficult time doing what we do in this city without that group," he said. "There's a lot we do that doesn't require a gun and a badge. Directing traffic is one of them. The WCPAAA deploys, sustaining major intersections for hours during events, accidents and even power outages."





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The group takes on far more than patrolling neighborhoods and directing traffic. They serve as an extension of the Weatherford Police Department, enabling them to do a better job. Made up entirely of volunteers, members show up all over town whenever needed, promoting a positive image of law enforcement and working to protect officers. A model for other citizen police groups, the members form a tight bond.

“We are a family, and the police department is our family,” Chris stated. “We do it because we love it.”

A citizen of Weatherford since 1980, Chris knows many officers. He watched some grow up and met others through his business, Weatherford Battery and Electric. He became involved with WCPAAA after seeing the capability of the group. Since their inception in 1993, the association has learned, grown and won respect at home and throughout the state. As liaison/coordinator, Sgt. Whitford receives calls from many police departments wanting input for organizations starting in their communities. Many departments have bigger support organizations, but both Chris and Sgt. Whitford agree — the Weatherford association can stand against any of them.

People in the community see members at parades and citywide events, or fingerprinting kids and think that is all they do. The public doesn't see the collective 3,000 hours the group contributes — all without recognition or compensation. Chris and Barbara personally spend 250-300 hours annually, encouraging every member to contribute at least 25 hours each year. The time they volunteer saves the city an estimated



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\$70,000 to \$80,000 annually. The figure, derived from volunteer hours, doesn't include the cost of overtime. With only 80 officers, WCPAAA makes a big difference.

Always ready, the group is called out for different reasons. Major accidents require directing traffic. The Citizen Police take over that function, allowing officers to do their job, yet remain safe. The group also works events like movies in the park. Two or three police officers team up with a dozen or more volunteers. WCPAAA teams scatter, looking for potential problems. If they see anything, they radio the officers who follow up. Together, they maintain a safe atmosphere for families.

The group also provides food for officers working holidays or when a situation requires extended hours. They deliver water, especially in the summer months when the Texas sun turns pavement into an iron skillet. They may sit with a child whose parents are missing, comfort families, rescue stranded motorists or participate in grid searches for missing people or evidence to solve a crime. They protect crime scenes, directing curious onlookers away from the area while the police finish their work. Some members cannot physically get out and do all of these activities, so they spend time helping in the office.

The biggest and best decision the group made came 12-13 years ago when they acquired a McGruff the Crime Dog. His appearances keep WCPAAA members busy, requiring a handler for every event to protect him while allowing children to get close. Parents and grandparents connect, remembering him from childhood. McGruff's assignments

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Chris and Barbara once learned of a McGruff costume for sale online, which is illegal. They drove to Fort Worth, prepared to purchase the suit if necessary to get it off the street. The scenario concerned Barbara. "They offered it as a Halloween costume. What child wouldn't go with McGruff?" she asked.

Most members range between the ages of 45 and 70. For those who want to belong, there is always something to do. "If they can't find something, they aren't looking hard enough," Chris stated.

The nonprofit acquires funds through the annual Casino Night, held each February, one other fundraiser, \$12 annual membership dues, donations and grants. They use all of the money for group needs, such as specially-made vests and gloves. They purchase equipment for the police force when possible, but also help other community organizations. The Senior Center is one community group they help each year with a heater drive. "There are people who would be cold this winter without this group," Sgt. Whitford stated.

Sgt. Whitford has two goals for the organization. First, always keep them safe. All volunteers are taught to keep a safe distance and to let the police handle the situation. Second, make it fun. Police officers love volunteering time to teach classes for the group.

Recruiting provides the most challenge for Chris. They always need more people. Anyone who joins must be at least 21 years old, with no felonies and must complete classes, plus a six-month probationary period. Those lasting past probation usually stay around long-term. Chris tells prospects to pick one organization they want to be there for and stick to the cause.

WCPAAA members provide a missing link between Weatherford police and citizens. Anyone with the right mindset can be part of putting the chain together. "The more we can make our community safe for us, the safer it will be for everybody else, too," Chris said. "That's what it's all about." **NOW**

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

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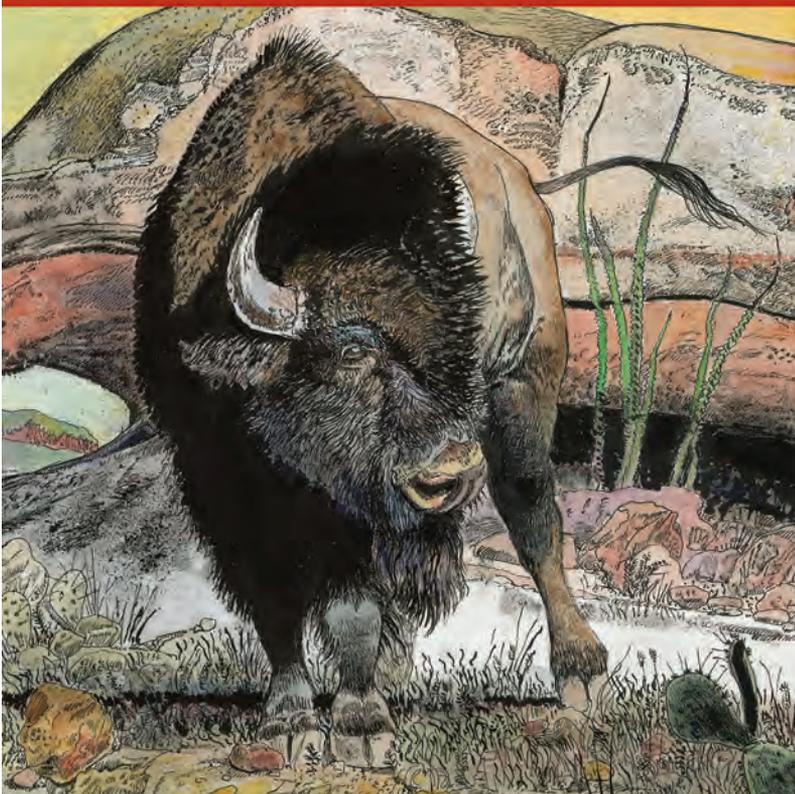
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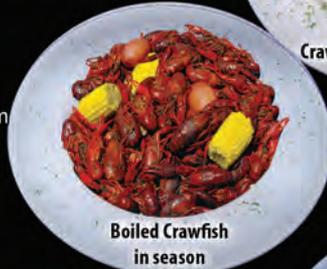
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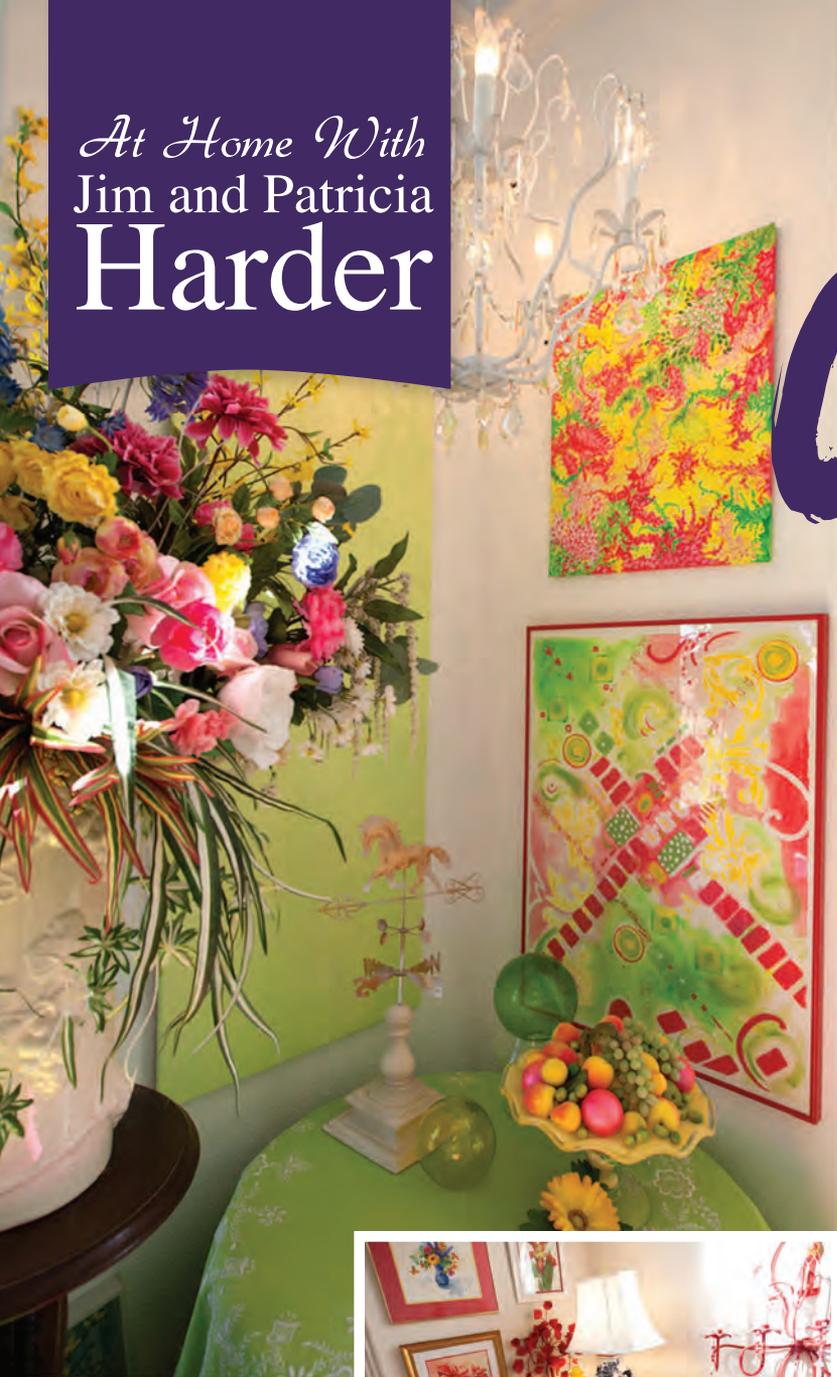
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# Bright Colors Happy Life

— By Amber D. Browne

*Color can brighten a bad day and change a person's mood at any given moment. Different shades of the color wheel can instantly magnify the joy someone feels or boost someone's confidence as they get dressed to head out the door. In Patricia Harder's home, any given room boasts vibrant colors.*

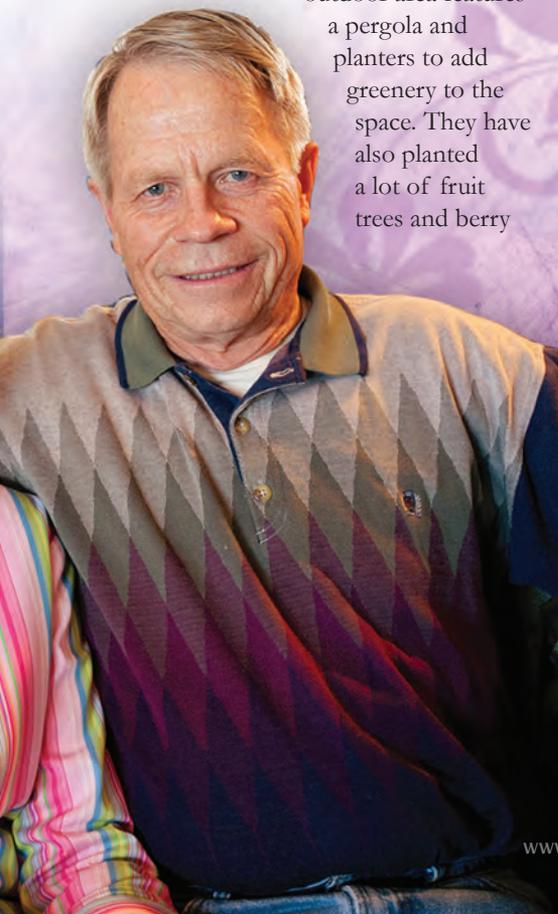
From her paintings to her furniture, Patricia knows how to use color to invoke a feeling. To the left of the foyer in the living room, Patricia displays multiple paintings she has created. Most of her water colors feature intricate, vibrant

flowers. Her white wicker furniture is covered with blue, yellow and red fabric, grounded by a bright red rug. When it comes to color, Patricia chooses her favorites, because they are uplifting. "They're happy. Color affects me. I think it affects everyone, but some people more than others," Patricia said.

Patricia and her husband, Jim, met in California, married and moved around the country a lot for work. Now they live in Aledo in a four-bedroom house on one acre on a quiet cul-de-sac. When Jim retired six years ago from his position as chief executive officer of Garland Power and Light the Harders decided to move from Garland to be near their engineer son, Chris, and his family. "Their first baby had just been born, and we wanted to be close."

They wanted a home with a large dining area and enough space to accommodate family and entertain guests. "We can seat 25," she said. In the den, cozy couches and chairs give ample room for their Bible study group. Both Patricia and Jim are heavily involved at First Baptist Church of Willow Park.

A large window in the den brightens up the space and gives a beautiful view of the new patio they added to the backyard. "We had the sidewalks and patio poured, and the landscaping added," she said. The outdoor area features a pergola and planters to add greenery to the space. They have also planted a lot of fruit trees and berry




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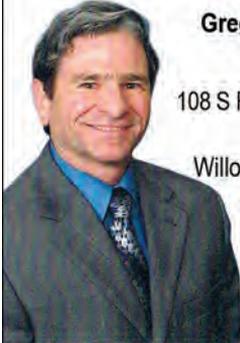
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bushes, and Jim grows tomatoes, cantaloupe, garlic and okra.

Along with the patio addition, they extended their home to include an art studio where Patricia spends a lot of time. "I needed a place to put my paints down and leave them out until I could finish the painting," she explained. The studio has a big closet and a full bathroom. "With watercolors, I need water, of course." One wall is painted a soft yellow green, and the ceiling is light blue. The studio has French doors and a large window that allows the light in. "I just love it. It's just so bright and happy," she said. Many of her pieces are stacked against the walls, waiting for a new home



in one of her rooms or to be sold in local galleries.

Just down the hallway sits the master bedroom. Patricia designed the lime green and pink quilt that covers the bed. Her paintings and some from other artists brighten up the walls in the master bedroom. She also takes advantage of a couple of seating areas to catch up on reading.

Back through the den, the kitchen and breakfast nook can be found. The kitchen features granite counter tops, an island and plenty of cabinet space. "We have two pantries, which is wonderful. I certainly make good use of them," she said.

Blue Willow, Danish, and Wedgwood blue and white plates are displayed throughout the home. "I don't like just any Wedgwood. I like the blue



Jasperware," Patricia explained. "It comes in multiple blue and white combinations." Mirrors are also one of Patricia's favorite pieces. "They reflect the light." Little lamps also brighten up nooks and crannies throughout the home.

The hallway leading to the other bedrooms has built-in shelves where Patricia keeps her books. Jim is a book collector, but his prized possessions line the shelves in the library down the hall. He began collecting about two decades ago because of his interest in reading history and exploration books. Mounted deer, ducks, geese and pheasants are on display on the library walls.

Patricia refers to one of the guest rooms as the girls' room. It gives her grandchildren a place to curl up for a good night's sleep. The Harder's other son, Nate, a police chief, his wife and

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four girls live in Minnesota. The girls' room has a couple of twin beds, and they get the goldilocks beds from the garage when they come in town. The room's bright yellow, red and white decor make it a cheery place for the children.

Black and gold dominate another guest bedroom with a neighboring



Jack-and-Jill bath. For the bathroom, Patricia assembled a decorative vase with painted garlic heads from the garden. "I don't do crafts, but I do all my floral arrangements," she explained.



"It's so much more fun than just going out and buying something." She makes arrangements for her children and daughters-in-law. Her daughter, Cherie

Harder, works as president of a nonprofit organization in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia. Her youngest daughter, Mindy Brick, is a flight attendant based out of Kansas City, Missouri.

Patricia has loved to decorate since she was in high school. "I worked on my mother's house. I got a lot of personal satisfaction out of doing that," she said. As an interior design consultant, Patricia uses that expertise in her home. "When I have a painting, I like to mimic what's in the painting." To complement one painting in a bathroom, she displays fruit on a shelf below the artwork.

She tries to incorporate color effectively. "Color will furnish a room for you faster and cheaper than anything," she explained. Patricia also encourages homeowners to bring in plants, lights and mirrors.

When it comes to her own home, Patricia does not have a favorite room. "I always decorate my house so that I have a winter room and a summer room. It just meets a need, I think. Some rooms are more comfortable



in the summer because of the colors and the furniture. Some rooms are more comfortable in the winter."

The library is Jim's favorite room. "I like the den, too," he said. "You can relax there. That's where the TV is, too." Jim is enjoying his retirement with his books, teaching, fishing, backpacking and bicycling. And, Patricia stays busy with painting, gardening, babysitting and Bible studies. "If you can keep active, it's great," Jim said. When they can find the free time, the couple enjoys traveling to visit their children and grandchildren. **NOW**

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# THE FUEL TO HER FIRE

— By Joy Brooks

*From Africa to Weatherford, Dana Blankenship always knew there was a right and wrong to everything in life. She is a woman who spends her time in service of others. “Very early on in life I was already a social worker,” Dana shared. Her zeal to help others started around the age of 10 when she met an elderly man in need of food. She knew something had to be done. So Dana wrote a letter to the mayor of Weatherford asking him to help this older gentleman. She was delighted to get a letter back from the mayor responding to her concerns.*

Dana attributes much of her success to couples who invested in her life as she grew up at Northside Baptist Church. They gave her a deeper desire to help others and showed her what it meant to have a sense of obligation to the world. Her church was always a place of refuge in her life, giving her a sense of safety. “My faith and my church have been very important to me,” she confessed. When Dana was in middle school, she went on her first mission trip to Mexico. From that point on she knew she wanted to travel the world helping people.



She graduated from Tarleton State University and met her husband, Bill Blankenship. One of their first conversations was about going overseas to aid others. In 1994 with their first child in tow, they moved to Africa where they spent the next 15 years in missions.

In Madagascar, Bill worked on water catchment systems in the bush of remote villages surrounded in cactus. "He would have to helicopter into the village to get there," Dana explained. The women would have to walk 15 miles to get water. Bill built systems where water would run off the roof into water catchment areas.

While Bill was working on agricultural issues, Dana mentored the women. She began a program called Living Water to teach women how to quilt and make different crafts to support their families. "We would give them business management classes with the initial money to start their business," she said.

During the seven-and-a-half years they spent in Botswana, Dana worked with college and high school students. Botswana has the second highest rate of HIV in the world. In response to

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*"To me, it just shows not to take for granted every moment we have. If we're doing what we know we're called to do, it will all pan out."*

this staggering fact, Dana assisted in the development of a program called Face the Nation. In the program, college students were trained and sent to high schools to educate others about HIV. The program was so successful the national government still continues it.

A few years ago, after returning to the states, Dana connected with a woman she had mentored 12 years earlier. The woman was married and worked with Wycliffe Bible translators. She told Dana she had been the most influential person in her life, and the girl's husband couldn't wait to meet her. Humbly, she remembered her time in Botswana.

Dana thought her time there had been insignificant, but after being reunited with this girl, she realized her sacrifice had changed lives. "Often what we think is insignificant is what God uses to change people," she said. "To me, it just shows not to take for granted every moment we have. If we're doing what we know we're called to do, it will all pan out."

In June of 2011, Dana, Bill and their three children moved to Weatherford. Dana soon began her tenure as the executive director of Grace House Ministries where she continues to mentor

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young women today. Dana's passion for mentoring is something she makes sure to share with her staff at Grace House. "Investing in others," she said, "is what fuels my fire."

Grace House has an options clinic that provides sonograms for young girls who are pregnant. They also operate the Pregnancy Center with the Baby Grace boutique, a place offering expectant mothers many things to care for their baby including parenting classes, English as a Second Language, nutrition and soon to be added classes for expectant fathers.

When a girl comes to Grace House they are educated about all their options. "We want them to walk out fully informed about the choices available to them," Dana added.

Dana has a full plate. She manages the clinic, the pregnancy center and Pure Truth. Pure Truth is a training program for teaching sexual education in schools. When schools get to their sexual education curriculum, Grace House Ministries offers to teach a medically based curriculum free of charge. Twelve instructors from the community teach the program. One of the instructors is a young woman who was helped by Grace House Ministries a year ago. She took a year of parenting classes, finished high school and has a healthy baby boy. She is a great example of the help Grace House is able to offer those in need. "She is a superstar," Dana said. "She is just one of our many success stories."

A new program started in January offers a \$1,000 scholarship to one

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graduating senior high school student in Parker County. The student has to be a significant influence for good on their peers. "You can find academic scholarships all over the place, but who gives a scholarship for character?" Dana asked.

One of the reasons Dana chose to work with Grace House Ministries is because it fits who she is, what she loves to do and has already done. When she left Africa she prayed, "God, please don't send me to a regular everyday job. Let me work with young women and in ministry." For Dana, her work at Grace House is an answer to that prayer. She loves working with the girls and investing in their lives. She has great vision for Grace House, and her passion to help young people reaches beyond into the community.

Since Dana became the ministries' executive director, they have performed 791 free pregnancy tests, provided medical facts to girls ages 13 to 24, had over 1,800 people visit the center and have provided training in 10 schools. When Dana talked about her life in Africa, she said, "I couldn't have asked for a better life. For my kids, Africa is home to them. The experiences they got to have most kids never do."

Dana's life is nothing less than extraordinary, and her passion to mentor and help young women is contagious, yet through it all she doesn't take credit. She gives credit to the people who mentored her from Northside Baptist Church and to God for helping her push people along in the right direction. It's clear that Dana's life continues to make a significant difference in the lives of women in Weatherford, as well as those still in Africa. **NOW**

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— By Amber D. Bronne

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John and Joyce Thompson started Thompson Tree and Exterminating in 1978. At that time, the company provided pest control and tree trimming. The Thompsons sold the pest control and lawn and ornamental side of the business to their daughter, Jamie Bevis, and her late husband, Randy, in 2004. The business then became Fort Worth Tree and Pest Specialists.

With the loss of Jamie's husband, Randy, from a heart attack

last August, she has taken over the reins. Randy handled all of the customer bids, estimations and some of the pest control, while Jamie took care of the marketing and office work. Her parents have now stepped back in to help out. The three Bevis children, Chris, Megan and Shelby, are also involved with the business.

Jamie continues her marketing role as an East Parker County Chamber ambassador while keeping up the office work. She often gets calls about insect or disease problems. "Sometimes you can help them over the telephone. But sometimes, you have to go out to see what's going on," Jamie explained. "Every once in a while, stuff just stumps you. We have to get

in there and do our research.” They may also call the Texas A&M Forest Service for help identifying the problem.

“Every year the weather is different, so insect and disease problems are always changing. It’s like a box of chocolates every year,” Jamie said. “You never know what you’re going to get!”

“No matter what the weather turns out to be, it’s always a good year for something,” John said. “You have to be specific about the insect and the treatment.” However, occasionally there might not be a known treatment. “Sometimes you can help it, but usually you are just trying to keep it from being catastrophic.” From walking sticks and scorpions to fleas and army worms, Fort Worth Tree and Pest will try to find an answer to the problem.

Jamie enjoys researching the insects’ cycles. “I’m just intrigued by it,” she said. “I know if one person calls about an insect or disease problem, another person will call about the same problem. I want to be able to tell them right then and there on the phone what it is.” For the family business, it is about educating the customer.

A common problem in Parker County is oak wilt, a deadly fungal disease in red oaks and live oaks. “We were actually working with A&M when they were trying to develop a chemical and treatment that would be most effective,” John explained. Some homeowners do not think treating oak wilt will work. “It does, if it’s done right.”

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That philosophy has stuck with the family business. “I’d much rather put you on my call-back list [for] when it’s the appropriate time for a particular treatment,” Jamie said. “It’s a very high priority for us to be honest with everybody,” she said. “I think people appreciate and respect us for that.” **NOW**

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Kittye Seedig, Heather Sabo and Blake Bedinger grab a bite at Big Burger on Super Bowl Sunday.



Jeff Brazzell is honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his 19-year service as Weatherford-Parker County NAACP President.



Paul and BJ Cox join two of the 50 blind children they helped at the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo.



Raspberry Lane holds a ribbon cutting ceremony with the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce to mark its big opening.



Elizabeth Gould, Joyce Klein, Anna Hicks and Judy McKenna at Yesterday's Sandwich Shop.



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The Rotary Club of Weatherford and Crossroads Youth Ministries of Parker County collect flags that were on display for MLK Day.



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As an investor, how can you avoid making mistakes? It's not always easy, because investing can be full of potential pitfalls. But if you know what the most common mistakes are at different stages of an investor's life, you may have a better chance of avoiding these costly errors.

Let's take a look at some investment mistakes you'll want to avoid when you're young, when you're in mid-career, when you're nearing retirement and when you've just retired.

### When you're young ...

*Mistake: Investing too conservatively (or not at all)* — If you're just entering the working world, you may not have a lot of money with which to invest. But don't wait until your income grows. Putting away even a small amount each month can prove quite helpful. Additionally, don't make the mistake of investing primarily in short-term vehicles that may preserve your principal but offer little in the way of growth potential. Instead, position your portfolio for growth. Of course, stock prices will always fluctuate, but you potentially have decades to overcome these short-term declines. Since this money is for retirement, your focus should be on the long term — and it's impossible to reach long-term goals with short-term, highly conservative investments.

### When you're in mid-career ...

*Mistake: Putting insufficient funds into your retirement accounts* — At this stage of your life, your earning power may well have increased substantially. As a result, you should have more money available to invest for the future — specifically, you may now be able to "max out" on your IRA and still boost your contributions to your employer-sponsored retirement plan, such as your 401(k), 403(b) or 457(b). These retirement accounts offer tax advantages that you may not receive in ordinary savings and investment accounts. Try to put more money into these

retirement accounts every time your salary goes up.

### When you're nearing retirement ...

*Mistake: Not having balance in your investment portfolio* — When they're within just a few years of retirement, some people may go to extremes, either investing too aggressively to try to make up for lost time or too conservatively in an attempt to avoid potential declines. Both these strategies could be risky. So as you near retirement, seek to balance your portfolio. This could mean shifting some of your investment dollars into fixed-income vehicles to provide for your current income needs while still owning stocks that provide the growth potential to help keep up with inflation in your retirement years.

### When you've just retired ...

*Mistake: Failing to determine an appropriate withdrawal rate* — Upon reaching retirement, you will need to carefully manage the money you've accumulated in your IRA, 401(k) and all other investment accounts. Obviously, your chief concern is outliving your money, so you'll need to determine how much you can withdraw each year. To arrive at this figure, take into account your current age, your projected longevity, the amount of money you've saved and the estimated rate of return you're getting from your investments. This type of calculation is complex, so you may want to consult with a financial professional.

By avoiding these errors, you can help ensure that, at each stage of your life, you're doing what you can to keep making progress toward your financial goals. **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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50th Anniversary Celebration: 2:00-4:00 p.m., First National Bank, 220 Palo Pinto St. A community wide celebration will honor Fred "Freddy" Werner, who is celebrating 50 years with the bank. You can call (817) 598-4900 for more information.

### March 8

Gardeners Club of Parker County Meeting: 10:00 a.m., St. Francis Church, 117 Ranch House Rd., Willow Park. Call Anita Beckman at (817) 919-6280 for more information.

### March 16

Belk Kidsfest, 12:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m., Belk, 205 Adams Dr. Children can enjoy fun activities, face painting, healthy snacks and prizes. A children's fashion show will also entertain. Please call (817) 594-2295 for additional information on the event and about how to register your child for the fashion show.

### March 20

Parker Paws Fundraiser: 11:00 a.m.-10:00

p.m., On the Border, 114 E. Interstate 20. Visit On the Border for lunch or dinner on this date and 10 percent of your purchase will be donated to Parker Paws to help homeless animals in the area. Visit [www.parkerpaws.org](http://www.parkerpaws.org) to find out more.

### March 23, 24, 29, 30

Capernaum Passover Experience: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Capernaum First Century Village, 10700 FM 920. Organizers call it Texas' most authentic Easter event. Visitors will tour a replica first century village, with more than 50 hired actors bringing the story of Easter to life. Contact Tammy Lane Productions at 1 (800) 489-1950 or visit [www.tammylaneproductions.com](http://www.tammylaneproductions.com) for more information.

### March 25

Drug and Addiction Awareness/Prevention Rally: 7:00-9:00 p.m., Texas Opry Theater, 319 York Ave. The Individual, Family and Community Wellness Coalition is hosting the free event to raise public awareness about afflictions that affect daily lives. Visit

[www.IFCWellness.com](http://www.IFCWellness.com) or call Darren Donaldson at (817) 565-9299 for more information.

### March 28

Meals On Wheels Benefit BBQ: 6:00-8:30 p.m., Parker County Sheriff's Posse Building, 2251 Mineral Wells Hwy. A super silent auction will help raise funds to benefit Meals On Wheels. Call (817) 596-4640 or visit [www.parkercountyseniorcenter.com](http://www.parkercountyseniorcenter.com) for more information.

### March 30

Easter Egg Hunt: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., The Home Depot, 220 W. Interstate 20. There will be plenty of fun for the children to enjoy along with an Easter egg hunt for candy-filled eggs. Don't forget to check out the Parker Paws tent and meet McGruff the Crime Dog while you're there. You can call (817) 599-0811 to get more information about the event.

*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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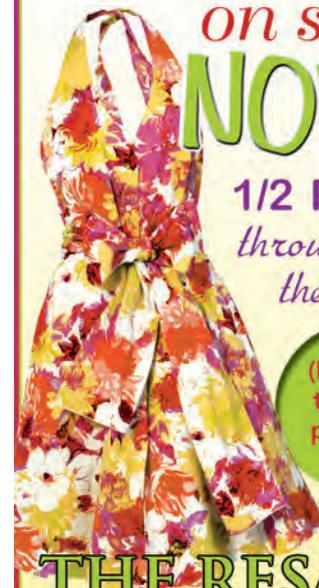
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## In The Kitchen With Kim Elder

— By Amber D. Browne

Kim Elder has enjoyed being in the kitchen from a young age. She grew up on a ranch in eastern New Mexico, and her love for cooking and baking came from helping her mother prepare meals for hungry cowboys. “I was her sidekick,” Kim explained.

Her secret ingredient when baking is sweet cream butter. Kim believes it can transform a recipe from ordinary to extraordinary. “That’s why my cooking motto is: Peace, Love and Butter!” In middle school, Kim entered 4-H baking contests and was disappointed when a judge said her cake had too much buttercream icing. “I didn’t know that was possible!” Kim enjoys baking sweet treats and often makes goodies for her friends and neighbors. “It warms my heart to brighten someone’s day with a homemade treat.” **NOW**

### Billingsley Brownies

- 2 cups sugar**
- 1 cup Crisco**
- 1/4 cup baking cocoa**
- 3/4 cup flour**
- 4 eggs**
- 1 tsp. Mexican vanilla**

- 1.** Mix all the ingredients until they are well blended.
- 2.** Pour mixture into 9x13-inch pan; bake at 350 F for 45 minutes.

### Ranch Diva Cookies

- 2 1/2 cups Karo syrup**
- 2 1/2 cups sugar**
- 2 1/2 tsp. Mexican vanilla**
- 2 1/2 cups peanut butter**
- 15 cups corn flakes**

- 1.** Combine syrup and sugar; stir over

medium heat until the mixture reaches a boil. Add vanilla and peanut butter; mix well. Add the mixture to the corn flakes. Drop by spoonfuls onto waxed paper; cool.

### Grandma Punk’s Pork Chops

- 4 pork chops**
- 1 cup instant rice, uncooked**
- 1 cup beef bouillon soup**
- 1 bell pepper, seeded**
- 1 tomato**
- 1 onion**

- 1.** Brown the pork chops.
- 2.** Pour rice and bouillon into a 13x9-inch pan. Place the pork chops on top of the rice and soup mixture.
- 3.** Slice the bell pepper, tomato and onion. Place one slice of each on each pork chop. Cover pan with foil. Bake at 350 F for 1 hour. If you like the rice well done, bake to your taste.

### Tasty Salad

- 5 strips of bacon**
- 8 cups salad greens, torn**
- 2 eggs, hard boiled and chopped**
- 2 green onions, sliced**
- 1/2 cup sugar**
- 1/2 cup vinegar**
- 1/2 tsp. seasoned salt**
- 1/2 tsp. garlic powder**
- 1/4 tsp. ground mustard**

- 1.** Cook bacon until crispy. Remove and crumble bacon. Reserve 1/4 cup of the bacon drippings in a bowl.
- 2.** In a large bowl, combine the bacon, greens, eggs and onions.
- 3.** Add the remaining ingredients to reserved bacon drippings; bring to boil.
- 4.** Drizzle bacon dripping mixture over the salad and toss to coat. Serve immediately.

### Nanny’s Layered Pea Salad

- 8 slices of bacon**
- 1 head iceberg lettuce, chopped into 1 1/2-inch pieces**
- 1 cup celery, chopped**
- 1 cup red bell pepper, chopped**
- 8 green onions, chopped (white part only)**
- 10-oz. package frozen peas, thawed and drained**
- 1 cup mayonnaise**
- 1 Tbsp. fresh parsley, minced**
- 1 Tbsp. sugar**
- 1/2 cup sharp cheddar cheese, shredded**

- 1.** Cook the bacon. Remove, cool and crumble bacon; set aside.
- 2.** In a large clear bowl, add the lettuce; top with the celery, red bell pepper, green onion and peas.
- 3.** In a small bowl, combine the mayonnaise, parsley and sugar. Spread the mayonnaise mixture over the vegetable mixture. Sprinkle with cheese; top with the bacon. Cover and chill.

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



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