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MAY 2017



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ON THE COVER



Posse members and former sweethearts look forward to June events.

Photo by Kenzie Luke.

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Editor's Note

Hello, Weatherford Friends!

Although I don't spend an enormous amount of time on Facebook, I catch posts from my daughters and some of their friends. They have babies of their own, a reminder of my former life with sleepless nights, sometimes because of a baby who wanted to play at 2:00 a.m. I'm truly thankful that isn't me now. My mother always said, "God knew what He was doing when He gave babies to young women." These days, I agree. I'm not sure I have the stamina for an infant or toddler.

Many grandparents do raise or help raise their grandbabies, though, and I lift my hat to you. To young mothers reading these words, take heart. Eventually, they will sleep through the night. And someday they won't wake up before 7:00 a.m. — maybe. Be encouraged and utter repeatedly, "Children are a blessing from the Lord." One day, believe it or not, you will sit in solitude and miss them. And that time comes much faster than we imagine.

Happy Mother's Day!

Lisa

Lisa Bell
WeatherfordNOW Editor
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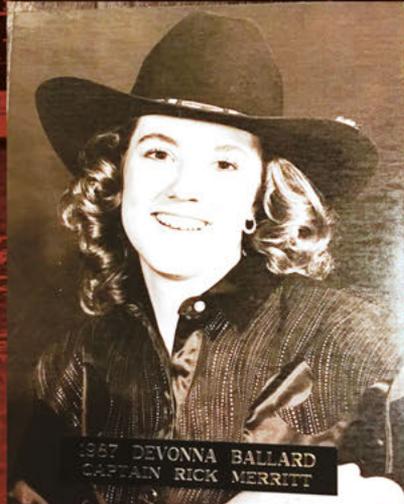
POSSE AND PRINCESSES



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1987 DEVONNA BALLARD
CAPTAIN RICK MERRITT



In 1947, 13 ranchers in Parker County joined forces to maintain the western heritage they loved. The men created the first Parker County Sheriff's Posse. Now, 70 years later, the Posse still exists, growing from the original 13 to a maximum of 150 men. In addition to ranchers, the group now includes businessmen and other individuals.

— By Lisa Bell

POSSE

“Kinda difficult to get in the Posse,” Bill Ward said. “I just wanted to be a part of this organization.” He was the first in his family to be part of the PCSP. He grew up on ranches and joined in 2005.

Doug Leeper agreed. The organization has high standards for members, some of whom are 60-year members. Doug performed printing services for PCSP for many years, and the invitation to join caught him off-guard. Even with the honor of an invitation, 80 percent of the members still had to approve him. Doug's wife is from Weatherford, and they always loved the street dance and rodeo. He became a member in July 2015.

We see these men around town, in parades, rodeos and at other events. They travel to other communities like Abilene, Cheyenne, Jacksboro and Fort Worth for parades and rodeos, too. A sense of pride and feeling of safety surrounds the members of this organization. But what exactly is the Parker County Sheriff's Posse?

You might or might not know the sheriff actually deputizes these men. And he can call them out when needed. In dealing with the KKK during the 1950s, they received a call. When a teen girl went missing four or five years ago, the sheriff sought help from PCSP. While they willingly serve when required, the organization still maintains western heritage as their primary purpose. They also have the



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PCSP Building as their headquarters, with an on-site caretaker. Available to the public, they rent the building for weddings, Chamber luncheons and other events, and those funds support the PCSP. The rodeo in June provides their main revenue to improve the 80-acre grounds and provide for expenses. They're currently building a new home for the caretaker. PCSP represents the state of Texas. They also donate to area organizations, such as CASA, breast cancer research, high schools and Weatherford College.

While the men sit tall in the saddle, the pretty side of the organization rides beside them as the annual sweetheart. Devonna Ballard Cowdrey, Rissa Thomas Cook and Dorisan Carr Thomas are three women who have served as sweethearts. They look forward to the reunion of 70 years of sweethearts. In 1947, they actually had two, but in the following years, only one sweetheart each year represented the PCSP.

When the daughters of members turn 16, their fathers can nominate them for the prestigious position. The entire membership votes on the winner. If more than one daughter turns 16 the same year, the competition feels fierce. Even today, being a PCSP sweetheart is an honor.

Devonna, Rissa and Dorisan all grew up in Weatherford and have great memories of the annual events, swinging on the gate and watching. From the parade to the street dance and on to the end of the rodeo, they enjoy sharing their experiences.

Dorisan was only 14 in 1958, and shocked when she won. "They treat you like royalty," she said. All three ladies agreed they acquired multiple daddies the year they served as sweethearts. Rissa, elected in 1984 at 16 years old, became the

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second half of the first mother/daughter sweethearts. Both of them married members of PCSP as well.

Devonna dreamed of being a sweetheart. In 1987, her dreams came true and with the position, she was the first to receive a saddle. "I still have mine. And it doesn't stay in the tack room. It stays in the house," she shared with a chuckle.

All three of these women rode and did barrel racing in rodeos. As the membership changes to include non-ranchers, the new sweethearts don't necessarily come in with the ability to ride. But they learn. The position requires a special horse — a reliable mount, one that doesn't get skittish in crowds or with loud noises. And during the one-year term, they stay very busy. The sweetheart accompanies the PCSP to 10-12 parades and rodeos. She also leads the trail ride from Weatherford to Mineral Wells.

The sweetheart and captain of the year normally form a special bond, but all of the men still treat the young girls as princesses. Dorisan recalled her first experience. "The guys lined up. All protective."

The responsibility of representing 150 men at 16 impacted Devonna. "The last thing I wanted to do was disappoint them." She looked forward to and hoped for the position for a long time. She wanted to do everything.

Rissa shared, "Dad worked a lot. I got to spend a lot more time with him and enjoy relationship at a new level."

Dorisan talked about the differences between 1958 and now. The sweethearts don't have to speak much nowadays. In her time, the western clothes were specially made with elaborate yokes. Her dad got her a new horse that year. "A dream come true for me," she said. She had lots of fun. Still grateful for her year as sweetheart, she enjoys sharing in the organization.

Devonna stays involved with the organization and is also married to a

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Doug Leeper and Bill Ward proudly display 50 years worth of Posse members.

member. She keeps history alive and organizes events. "She does a lot of work," Dorisan said.

The PCSP still holds family nights. Once a member, a man rarely leaves the tight-knit group. Their families join with 150 other families, creating one big entity that loves western heritage and all that goes with it.

Having grown up in Weatherford, these three women talked about the street dance. It started on the square. Later it moved to a parking lot, and the community all came out. It was the event of the year. Not everyone loved the stock show and rodeo, but taking place in June, everyone wanted to make it to the dance.

At some point in the 1990s, the street dance changed. Now, big name bands and entertainers play during the rodeo. At the end of the night, as the band plays, a dance starts up in the dirt. Still a big event, many people enjoy the events in June.

The Posse men still love their sweethearts, honor and protect them. They impact these teens. Like Dorisan, Devonna and Rissa, the young ladies still receive royalty treatment and learn they are valuable, and their decisions affect many people — great things from a group of men riding horses. **NOW**

Editor's Note: This year's 70th anniversary PCSP events will run from June 6-June 10. For more information, visit www.parkercountysheriffsposse.com.

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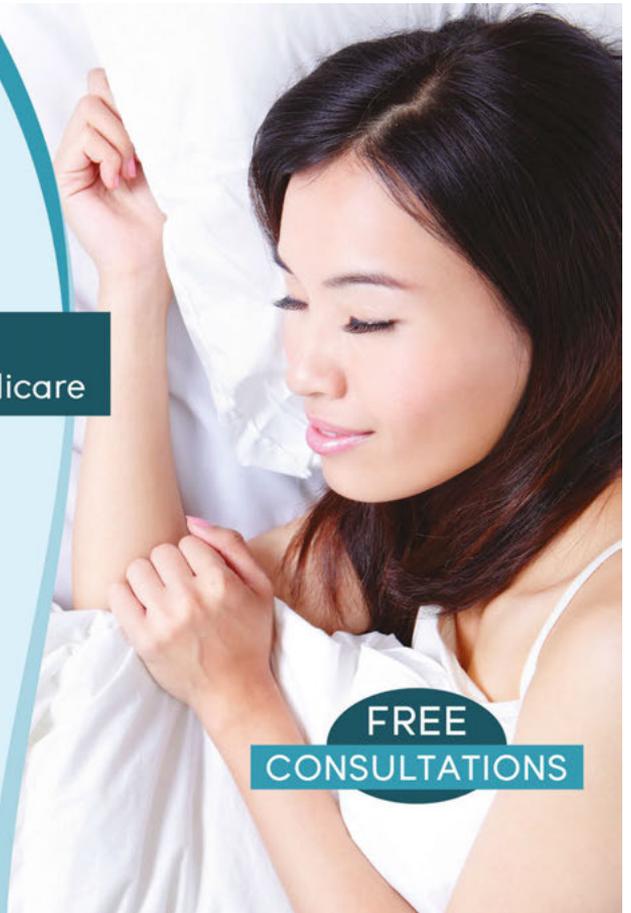


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At Home With Wayne



Hidden in a grove of mature oak trees in Weatherford stands an architectural wonder that intrigues visitors and passersby. The geodesic dome — a dome-shaped structure of interlocking triangles — is shared by Wayne and Bonnie Fitch. According to the Buckminster Fuller Institute, R. Buckminster Fuller popularized the idea of the geodesic dome in the U.S. in the 1940s to create a stronger, more energy-efficient housing option for families.

Wayne entertained the idea of building a geodesic dome since learning about the concept while in a philosophy class at college. When he and his wife of 45 years decided to transition their lives from Benbrook to Weatherford in the

ARTSY — By Amber D. Bronne ARCHITECTURE



and Bonnie Fitch

mid-1980s, they moved forward with his plan. They purchased just over 2 acres of land, contacted a contractor and decided on a basic blueprint for the dome. They personalized the floor plan, which includes some rectangular walls that bump out for the living room, dining room and garage. The contractor provided a crew, and Wayne and two others, including his late friend, John Marcellus, and Jerry Beall, erected the home.

“Every bolt hole lined up,” Wayne explained. “We did it in one day — all 90 triangles.” The contractor’s crew built the super structure. They contracted out the remaining build, but Wayne, Bonnie and their crews of helpers did most of the painting and cleanup. Wayne and John also installed the downstairs tile and finished most of the interior work. Skylights that were recently replaced brighten the dome during the day and give a glimpse of the stars at night. The five-eighths sphere sits above ground on a 2-foot wall base, which ensures framed photographs and artwork hang flat along the interior walls. “We have a lot of artwork. We’re art connoisseurs,” Bonnie shared.

Wayne and Bonnie’s artistic sides are apparent throughout their dome home. Wayne enjoys woodworking in his free time. Now that he’s retired after 46 years in law enforcement, he looks forward to spending more time on the hobby. He has shaped dozens of pieces including toy

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tops. "I started out with miniatures," he said. Wayne's father and grandfather may have helped develop his interest in the hobby. "In high school, my dad would come home and do different projects. I enjoyed helping him on those projects." Wayne recently built a second shop out back to house his woodworking tools, such as a table saw and lathes, which hold and spin the wood for shaping. Many of

his woodworking creations, along with glass pieces Bonnie has made and work from other artists, are displayed in glass curio cabinets in their living room for visitors to enjoy.

Wooden spheres Wayne turned are showcased in a bowl on the kitchen countertop. "Everyone wants to play with them," Bonnie said. "They're tactile." The spheres add to the modern feel of the kitchen, which features gray cabinets and stainless steel appliances. Small, magnetic jars labeled and filled with Bonnie's go-to spices hang on a metal board in the kitchen. A large island in the center of the room provides space for chitchat. Bonnie alternates decor on the quaint kitchen table to match holidays and seasons.



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The master bedroom is also on the first floor of the dome. Bonnie appreciates royal colors, so the master consists of lavender walls, deep purple bedding and decor from Wayne's alma mater, Texas Christian University. Stained glass lamps, handcrafted by the Fitches, and framed artwork brighten the room. Wayne and Bonnie were unable to find bedroom furniture that fit the angles of the dome, so they substituted black kitchen furniture as an extra-long dresser and built-in armoire. Bonnie used glass tiles to create an intricate design on top of the dresser. Mirrors in the master bathroom were cut to fit the angles. Bonnie and a family friend curved the lighting track by hand to fit the ceiling. An antique ceiling fan provides circulation in the bathroom.

The downstairs half-bathroom is the center of the dome — an ideal place to hunker down if a tornado passes through the area. "The thing with these domes is if there is a tornado, it will just go right over it," Wayne explained. "They're rated for 200-mile-an-hour winds."

Two bedrooms and a full bathroom are housed upstairs. "We don't have a lot of rooms, but the rooms are all very large," Bonnie stated. Their son's former room is now used as the guestroom. Bonnie sewed the aqua and turquoise bedding. She now prefers upholstering furniture and sewing pillows to hemming pants. "I don't like to make clothes much anymore," she confessed.

The second story bedrooms don't have ceilings. There are positives and negatives to this attribute of the geodesic dome. "You get the efficiency of the air," she explained. However, noise travels through the home. Bonnie's former sewing room off the guestroom now serves as the bedroom for their grandchildren, Emily and Derek, when they visit. The





grandchildren can't sleep with the noise, so Bonnie hung a sage green, blackout curtain from a rod above the doorway. It's the perfect space for the tiny tots. One part of the small room houses workspace for Bonnie's one-of-a-kind, fine silver jewelry making.

Wayne is a member of the Old Woodworking Machines (OWWM), which is a group that rescues and refurbishes old machines and tools. One of his projects hangs from the ceiling in their living room. He cut a metal pipe and methodically hung from it a ceiling fan, which is more than 100 years old. Wayne appreciates the nostalgia of the items he's refurbished. "These are from a time that is long gone," he said. A high-efficiency stove warms the dome during the winter months. A pipe extends to the ceiling. It gained a distressed look when their son, Shawn, was younger. The pipe had been wrapped in plastic, while the interior walls were being painted, and Shawn lit a fire inside the stove. It was nerve-racking at the time, but the melted plastic created a vintage look.

Bonnie retired from Texas Oncology about four years ago and spends her free time making jewelry and glass pieces. She's also a member of the Parker County Women's and Newcomers' Club. "I've made a lot of really good friends," she said. She's involved in several groups with the club and often hosts members for games of mahjong. Bonnie takes yoga and tai chi classes and enjoys spending time outdoors.

The high school sweethearts enjoy traveling to visit Shawn and his family near Houston and taking an occasional trip to Hawaii. They also attend workshops at the Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in Tennessee, whenever possible, to continue to hone their crafts — the products of which add artistic flair to their geodesic dome. **NOW**

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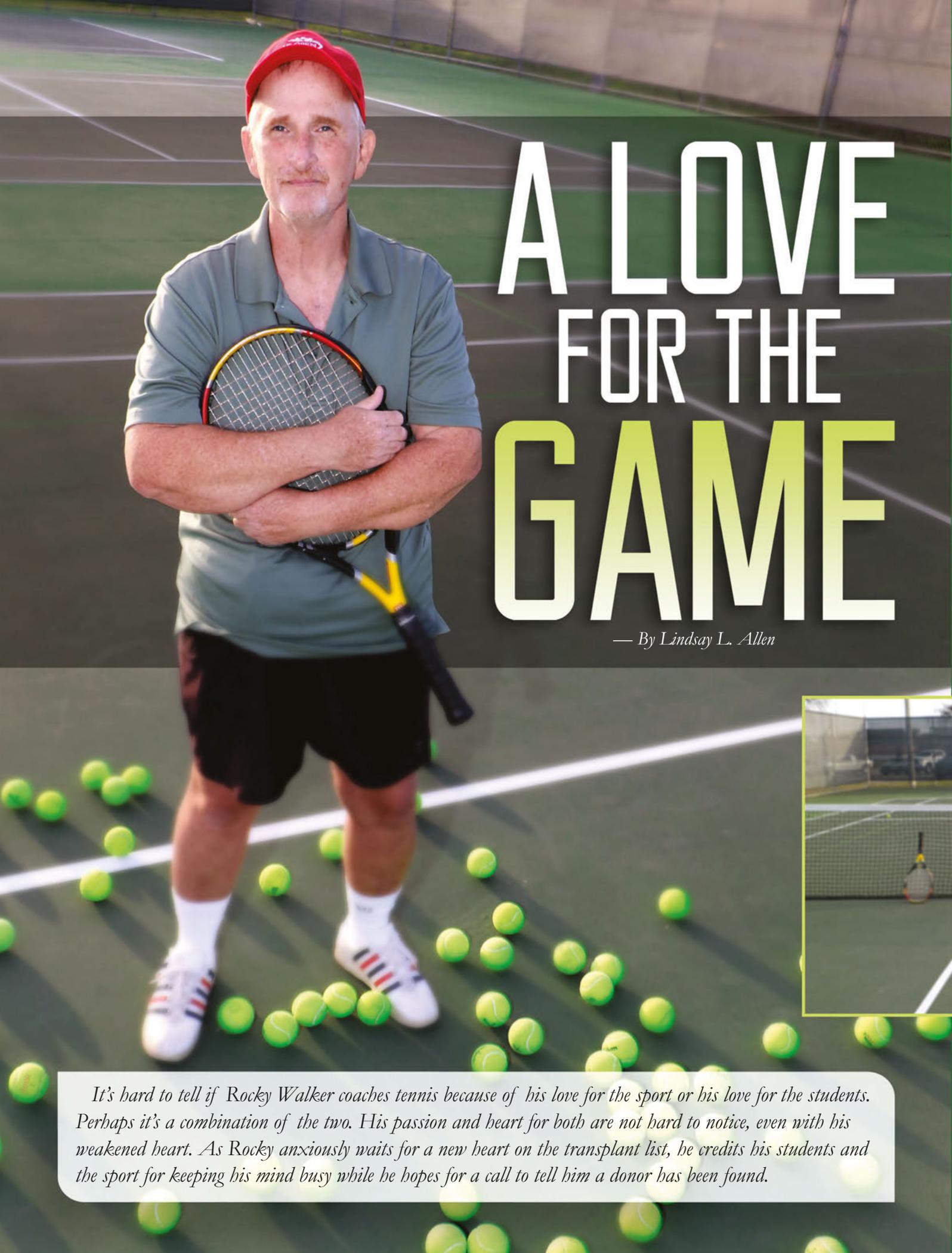


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A LOVE FOR THE GAME

— By *Lindsay L. Allen*



It's hard to tell if Rocky Walker coaches tennis because of his love for the sport or his love for the students. Perhaps it's a combination of the two. His passion and heart for both are not hard to notice, even with his weakened heart. As Rocky anxiously waits for a new heart on the transplant list, he credits his students and the sport for keeping his mind busy while he hopes for a call to tell him a donor has been found.

Although his health has slowed down his ability to compete and play at the level he is capable of, Rocky's ability to coach and shape his students has only been magnified. While it's a difficult task to pinpoint just how many lives he has touched through his mentorship and coaching, it's clear to see his adoration and pride for each of his students.

"They are all my family. I am so proud of each of my students, and they just adopt me into their own families and vice versa," Rocky said. "I have taught three generations for some, and as much as I hate for my students to see me sick, I love that they come visit me in the hospital."

Rocky's interest in tennis started when he was a freshman at Weatherford High School, and the school announcements asked those interested in the sport to report to the courts after school. "I just remember beating people, and I had no idea why. I couldn't even keep score," he recalled. "I loved baseball and thought that would be my niche, but when I was a teenager, I became hooked on tennis as a pure beginner. You learn it is just a big game of keep away." Very few in Rocky's family played the sport — it's a passion he developed on his own.



With a true love for the game, Rocky notes that he always enjoyed playing for pizza with his friends. "The loser always bought the pizza, and thankfully, I never went hungry," he smiled. He added that while he does occasionally experience a loss on the court, he doesn't often lose twice to the same person.



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After completing a successful high school tennis career, Rocky played at Weatherford College, and about 28 years ago, he transitioned from player only to player and coach. "People started asking me to hit with them and then to teach their kids, and the Weatherford ISD Community Education needed someone to teach classes. It snowballed into my full-time career," he recalled.

For Rocky, staying in Weatherford for his whole career was an easy decision, as he loves the town he grew up in and loves the people he has met even more. "Their success is my success," Rocky said of his students. "I love watching them grow up and become better at the sport."

While the age range in his students is vast, from 2 years of age to someone in



their 70s, the common denominator is that the majority initially start with Rocky as beginners. From there, he helps them get to the level they want, be it casual hitters, competitive leagues, high school team or college. "I want to get these kids to where they want to be, and I tell them they can do it. If they want to go on to play in tournaments or at college, let's get them there! We all want to do that, so let's dream with them!" Rocky said.

Don Quy was one of Rocky's high school coaches and is now a lifelong friend, who remembers how dedicated and kind he was as a student. "He has the skill to teach beginners and provide them with the foundation they need to play the sport," Don said. "The kids have always been drawn to him and vice versa. You can't imagine the friendships that he has formed through his association with tennis and his love for being on the court."

"People just find me. When I used to teach the community education classes, I would have 10-15 in a class, and it never failed that about a third of those students would want to meet for private lessons. I teach a lot of parents and kids and, sometimes, grandparents of those same families, too!" Rocky said.

One of his favorite memories took place during his service as a school clinician with the United States Tennis Association. He and a partner traveled to elementary schools in Weatherford to teach students the fundamentals of the sport. "I think I have been to every

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school in the county, just about,” he said. “I still smile when I remember my mom telling me she was at a yard sale and overheard the young boy who lived there explaining to his mom, ‘A man came to the school today and actually busted a tennis ball in our class.’” Rocky’s mom knew exactly the man he was referring to when she heard the story.

While tennis has played a huge role in his life, Rocky admits that it is not part of the big picture of life, something that his heart condition has made even clearer to him. “I care about my students succeeding at being people of character and being known for their goodness,” he said. “I want my students to have fun on the court and to know that we all have limitations, but we embrace those limitations and conquer them first on the court and then move to other techniques.” In fact, one thing that is not allowed on the courts with him is the word *can't*. “I don’t let any of my students use that word on the court. I don’t believe in that word, and I don’t believe that they can’t do something,” he said. Avoiding the word *can't* became a philosophy Rocky had to put in practice in his own life when the doctors told him he wouldn’t be able to play or coach anymore due to his failing heart. He refused to accept that.

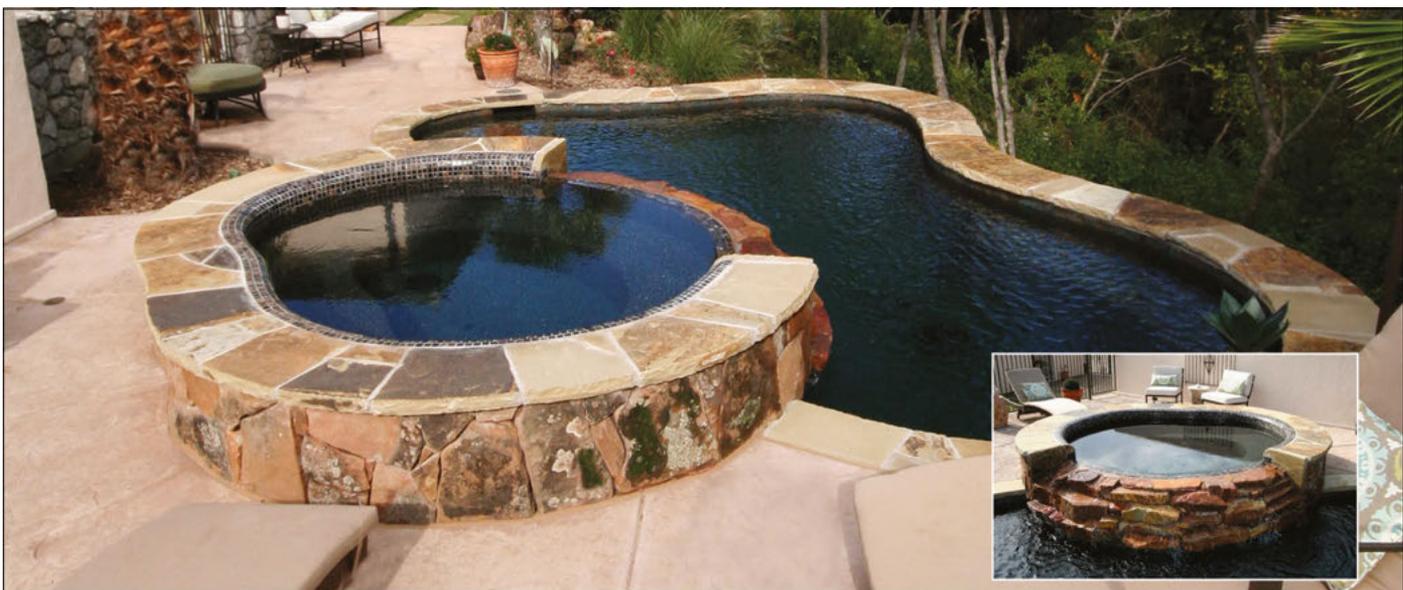
His heart for the game has not diminished, but the game and his students have provided the perfect distraction to his needs for a physical heart. Rocky urges everyone to sign up to be an organ and blood donor and make a difference in someone else’s life. “I hope people will think further down the road,” he said, “and think about the contribution they can make on and off the court with blood and organ donation.” **NOW**



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Summertime

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— By Zachary R Urquhart



Every year, kids excitedly await the last school bell before vacation begins. And every year, a week after school is out, kids all around can be heard saying parents' least favorite two words, "I'm bored." But using this helpful guide, you can fill your summer with new, fun and, sometimes, free activities.

Sign up for camps!

- *Dance around town.* Every summer, there are dozens of local dance, cheer and art studios that offer one-week camps. These camps often double as a trial for prospective new patrons, so they are a great way to spend a week



and, at the same time, to see if there is long-term interest. Ask your friends what weeks they are signing up for, so your child will know some people when they arrive the first day.

• *Be a good sport.* Most high schools offer sports camps for youth up through middle school. These camps are a good way for high school coaches to meet future athletes, but they are also great for kids to learn fundamental skills,



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technique and strategy. While seeing kids that may eventually play for them is a bonus, schools do not limit attendance to those in their zones, so you can get football speed training from recent state champion coaches, or technical work from some of the most esteemed soccer coaches in the state.

- *Check dates.* With the number of studios, schools and private entities offering camps for all different ages and skill levels, you will want to spend some time looking for the right fit. Whatever else you do, though, make sure you know when the registration deadlines are. While some might extend registration with an added payment up until the day of the camp, staffing and equipment considerations may make others hold to a solid deadline, so do not let missing a postmark date keep your kid from the camp they want.



VBS, by many names.

- *Look for schedules.* With so many churches offering vacation Bible schools to the public, the first step needs to be looking for a calendar of the offerings. While you will not always find one codex with every option, you might call your city hall to see if they have something consolidated. You can also reach out on social media. There are Facebook pages where people throughout the area post their church's activities. VBS may be in the morning, afternoon or evening and, generally, goes for four to five days, with some churches using the following Sunday service as a grand finale.

- *Ask your friends.* There are literally hundreds of programs offered by local

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churches throughout the summer. It is not difficult to schedule a different vacation Bible school every week for a few months, if you are so inclined. Ask friends which ones they have tried, and find out what types of activities each one offers. Some churches do simple activities in the park, and you can show up for just a few days. Others, though, will require registration ahead of time, as they have professional instructors in various fields come to make the activity portion as great as possible.

- *Figure out the code.* These days, different churches take different philosophies when it comes to VBS. VBX typically means the kids will have one specific activity that takes a lot of their time. Kids' Camp denotes more of a camp atmosphere, with varied activities mixed with the study portions. VBS in the Park is often an outreach seeking to bring in guests from nearby areas throughout the week. And traditional VBS normally blends Bible stories with songs, crafts and large group games.

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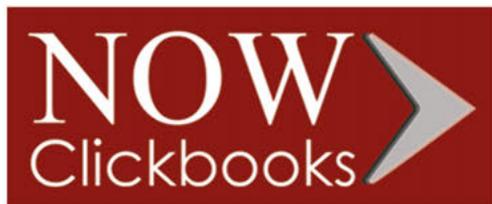
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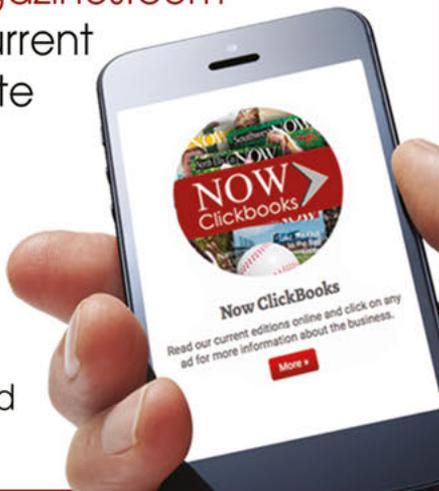
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cities often run special movie days and nights throughout the summer, sometimes in local parks or at other outdoor venues. Most local libraries show movies as often as once a week in the afternoons. Because these city events are planned well in advance, they are advertised weeks before showings, so a quick check of your city's website will give you all the details you need.

• *Libraries have more than just books.*

In addition to family-friendly movie showings, most public libraries ramp up a full slate of summer activities. From bringing in magicians and other performers, to presenting informational sessions on a variety of topics, your local library is probably a great spot for free family fun, while you get out of the sweltering Texas heat. If nothing else, you can grab a summer reading log and have your kids earn treats and prizes for opening books during their months off from school.

• *Free events with memberships.* If you have passes for local zoos, botanical gardens or museums, be sure and check out their catalogue of events. While they always offer exciting exhibits, most places add a few seasonal specials to entice new families. If you are not a member yet, it may be worth spending \$100 or so for a yearlong membership that lets your entire family have access to special activities, concerts and, usually, even gets you passes to bring friends along for a visit.

The summer can be a great, relaxing time to break from the routine of school and work, but it can sometimes turn into an exhausting endeavor trying to keep your kids from the doldrums of too much free time. With trips to these great local spots, you can be sure your summer is one to remember. **NOW**



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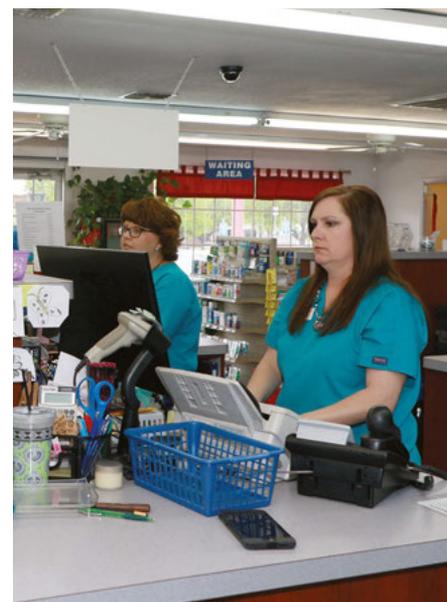


Best Value Hometown Pharmacy

1702 Santa Fe Dr.
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(817) 594-3435
www.bestvaluepharmacies.com

Hours:

Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Saturday: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Sunday: Closed. "See ya in church."



Staff members do all they can to provide the best service in town.

Pharmacy for Friends

At Best Value Hometown Pharmacy, everyone endeavors to create friendships with customers. — By Lisa Bell

The Best Value Pharmacy family was started 47 years ago by Ron Cheyne in Granbury. He expanded to other small towns, opening Weatherford's Hometown Pharmacy June 1, 1999. Although Weatherford has grown immensely, having a pharmacy that retains the small-town feeling helps keep customers loyal.

Stacey Smith, business development, stated, "We treat you like family. We want to be there for you and your family."

Alicia Olson, the pharmacist, agreed. "Even if we're not your pharmacy yet, call or come by. Consultations are free." She knows customers by name.

In addition to normal pharmacy items and prescriptions, Hometown Pharmacy also offers blood pressure checks, immunizations, injection training, B12, testosterone and other

injections. They take back unused or expired medications, except for controlled substances, and urge people not to flush unused pills. Their compound pharmacy, Custom Meds, can work closely with doctors to adjust strength of medication or dosage form.

Best Value Hometown Pharmacy also carries some durable medical equipment and offers citywide delivery. If they don't have an over-the-counter medicine, they like to order or help customers find it somewhere else. The pharmacy also stocks some unique items, such as JC Honeybee Honey, made locally, and Morenci Candles.

The Sync Program allows staff to fill all of a customer's prescriptions at the same time. They pride themselves on the ability to fill most prescriptions within 10 minutes, and they have

a drive-thru window. The employees willingly add other items for customers using the window. That means when someone picks up a prescription, he or she can also get cough drops, pain/fever reducer and even a thermometer at the same time — extra important when you feel awful or have a sick child in the back seat.

Although Best Value Hometown Pharmacy belongs to a group of sister pharmacies, they are local and independent. Nevertheless, they work to make their services competitive with any chain store. According to Stacey, their prices run about the same, sometimes lower. In this store, they serve patients, not customers. With personal relationships, often people come in and ask the pharmacist questions they might never ask their doctor.

“There is a need to maintain doctor/pharmacist relationships in order to provide complete patient care,” Stacey said. At Hometown Pharmacy, Alicia strives to maintain good relationships with area doctors. She wants them to feel comfortable following up on patients. Both women love helping people. They embrace taking care of the elderly, making sure they understand instructions and do their best to help manage medicines. Hearing a mom who’s been up for 48 hours with a sick baby say thank you means the world to these two. “I like having time to talk with customers,” Alicia added.

While they accept most insurance plans, customers can verify acceptance of their brand at no charge — one more way the small pharmacy helps people. They also support the community by donating to several organizations. The Lions Club, Weatherford schools, Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, Stars and Strides, Carter BloodCare, Girl Scouts and others benefit from Hometown Pharmacy. “Just ask,” Stacey said. “If a pharmacist or I feel passionate about the cause, we’ll do our best in supporting it.”

Best Value pharmacies have a motto. “We treat you like family.” Stacey and Alicia hold fast to the motto. “We adopt them,” Stacey admitted. And perhaps the customers adopt them, too. **NOW**

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Meet your Best Value Hometown Pharmacist, Alicia Olson!

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- Alicia is married to Tad and they have 1 daughter and are expecting their second child in May.
 - Alicia is a TCPA member.
- Alicia enjoys having a relationship with her patients, and treats them like family.

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Beautiful ladies enjoy the annual PCWNC tea.

Teach Your Children Well ... About Finances and Investing

High debt levels ... lack of savings ... the inability to budget — these problems all have several causes, but one of them is almost certainly financial illiteracy. Too many of us just never developed the money management skills necessary to cope with our complicated — and expensive — world. But if you have young children, you can teach them some money-smart lessons — and who knows? You could use the opportunity to give yourself a few valuable reminders, too.

Here are some suggestions for a financial “curriculum.”

- *Save for a goal.* In our highly commercialized culture, it’s almost inevitable that your children will eventually become somewhat acquisitive. Obviously, it’s important to teach them that they can’t have everything, and they certainly can’t have everything right now. So, once they are old enough to receive an allowance or to earn money in some fashion, encourage them to set a goal for something they want, such as a toy or video game, and to put money aside every week for that goal. It’s also an excellent idea to model this behavior yourself. So if you are considering making a major purchase in the not-too-distant future, such as a car, show your children how you are setting aside money regularly for this purpose, rather than borrowing as much as you can or putting the entire purchase on a credit card.
- *Establish a budget.* It can be challenging to create a household budget and just as difficult to stick to it. But for most people, it’s worth the effort. You’ll be doing your children a favor by showing them how you have a certain amount of income and where it goes — mortgage, utilities, groceries, retirement accounts, etc. — each month. Explain to your kids that by staying within your budget,

you can help avoid problems, such as debt and extra fees tacked onto bills for late payments. You might also want to point out that, as your income rises, you can gain greater flexibility in budgeting. Here’s the key point: Living within your means pays off in the long run.

- *Have fun with investing.* It might surprise you, but even young children enjoy learning about the investment process, especially if you explain to them that they can be an owner of a company that makes a product or service they like. You might want to pick such a company and, along with your child, chart its course over time. You could give your child a pretend \$100 bill to “invest” in this company, and then see how its value changes, explaining along the way that various factors — such as the popularity of the company’s products, the skill of its managers and so on — will affect the stock’s price. At some point, you may even wish to purchase real stocks for your child and place them within a custodial account. And you might also want to show your child how your own stocks and other investments are performing. The investment world can be fascinating, and by sharing your enthusiasm for it with your children, you can encourage them to invest throughout their lives.

Knowledge is power. And the more knowledge about finances and investing that you can impart to your children now, the more empowered they will be to make smart financial moves in the future. **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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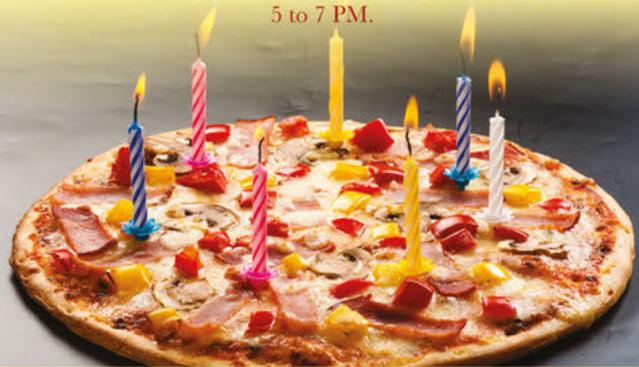
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In the Kitchen With Sandy Owens

— By Lisa Bell

From growing up on a farm in the small West Texas town of Vernon, Sandy Owens carried family tradition with her through the years. Her grandfather always had a vegetable garden. Her mother and grandmother taught her about canning and putting away vegetables for the winter. “I carried that tradition on through the ’70s,” Sandy said.

She learned to cook early because of her mother’s illness. Now she’s raising her two granddaughters, and trying to teach them to cook. “My worst meal was for my father’s coaching friends. I put too much salt in the mashed potatoes. You could not eat them.” Sandy enjoys down-home cooking most, although she sometimes sneaks special hidden seasonings into soup and pasta. Her favorite dish is pot roast with carrots and potatoes, and the smell of it when coming home from church. **NOW**

Date Nut Cake

- 1 long, plus 1 small pkg. dates (or 3 small)**
- 2 tsp. baking soda**
- 2 cups hot water**
- 1 1/4 cups butter (or 2 sticks margarine)**
- 2 cups sugar**
- 2 eggs**
- 2 2/3 cups flour**
- 1 tsp. vanilla**
- 3 cups pecans (or 1 quart)**
- 2 Tbsp. flour**

- 1.** Cut up dates into a bowl and sprinkle with soda.
- 2.** Pour hot water over dates. Using potato masher, mash until water is absorbed.
- 3.** In a separate bowl, cream butter and sugar together. Add eggs one at a time and beat well.
- 4.** Alternately add the date mixture and flour to the butter mixture. Mix well.

- 5.** Add vanilla to pecans and sprinkle with 2 Tbsp. flour. Add to mixture.
- 6.** Bake at 300 F for 2 1/2 hours. *Note:* Line your baking pan with greased and floured waxed paper.

Roast Beef

Serve with Yorkshire Pudding.

Beef roast

- 1 tsp. salt per lb. of meat**
- Fresh onion, pepper or garlic (optional)**
- Bacon or salt pork (optional)**

- 1.** Rub meat with a damp cloth, but do not wash.
- 2.** Rub salt on the meat. Rub onion, pepper or garlic if desired.
- 3.** Place meat fat side up on rack of pan.
- 4.** If meat has little or no fat, place strips of bacon or salt pork over it. (This bastes the roast, and no other basting is needed.)

- 5.** Do not add water or cover pan. Cook in oven at 300 F until thickest part of cut reaches 160-170 F on a meat thermometer.

Yorkshire Pudding

- 1 cup sifted flour**
- 1/2 tsp. salt**
- 1 cup milk**
- 2 eggs**
- Drippings from roast pan**

- 1.** Mix flour and salt.
- 2.** In a separate bowl, combine milk and eggs.
- 3.** Add to flour, and beat well with a rotary egg beater until smooth.
- 4.** Pour hot drippings into a heated, shallow pan to a depth of 1 inch.
- 5.** Pour in mixture quickly and bake in hot 400 F oven for 1/2 hour. *Note:* If using a rack for the roast, you may cook the pudding under the rack.

Homemade Cornbread

- Bacon, enough to cover bottom of cast-iron skillet**
- 1 cup flour**
- 1 cup yellow corn meal**
- 4 tsp. baking powder**
- 2 Tbsp. sugar**
- Dash of salt**
- 2 eggs**
- 1 cup milk (or more to reach desired consistency)**
- Chopped cheese, to taste (optional)**
- Onions, chopped, to taste (optional)**
- Small can whole kernel corn, drained (optional)**

- 1.** Fry bacon in a cast-iron skillet. Remove bacon, but leave the grease.
- 2.** Mix flour, corn meal, baking powder, sugar, salt and eggs.
- 3.** Add milk starting with 1 cup. Mix well and add more milk until moist.
- 4.** If desired, add cheese, onions and corn.
- 5.** Pour mixture into hot cast-iron skillet and bake at 425 F until brown.

To view recipes from current and previous issues, visit www.nowmagazines.com.

May 1 — July 29

Pottery of Mexico-Cultural Identities in Clay:
Monday-Friday: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; **Saturday:** 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Museum of the Americas, 216 Fort Worth Hwy. Free admission.
 Visit www.museumoftheamericas.com.

May 5

31st Annual Spring Luncheon: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Doss Center, 1400 Texas Dr. Hosted by Friends of the WFD Public Library. Carole Peterson, (817) 594-8033.

May 6

Iron Skillet Country Craft Show: 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., 2001 Santa Fe Dr. All proceeds benefit Sanctified Hope Home for Women. www.sanctifiedhope.org.

The Taming of the Shrew: 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., Weatherford Heritage Park Amphitheater. Performed by Theatre Off the Square. One day only.

Annual Jazz Swing Dance: 6:30 p.m., Stillwater Meadow Event Center, 9842 E. Bankhead Hwy., Aledo. Information and tickets at www.aledobandboosters.com.

May 6, 7

The Lion of Texas — An Evening with Sam

Houston: **Saturday:** 5:00-8:00 p.m.; **Sunday:** 2:00-4:00 p.m., 1400 Texas Dr. Benefits the Doss operating funds. Tickets and event packages at www.dosscenter.com or call (817) 599-6168.

May 11

Native Plant Society of Texas, Cross Timbers Chapter: 6:30-8:30 p.m., Cherry Park Community Center, 313 W. Davis St. For more information, visit www.npsot.org/wp/crosstimbers.

May 12

PCWNC Monthly Luncheon: 9:30 a.m., FUMC Family Life Center, 301 S. Main St. \$20 luncheon and style show provide funds for WC scholarship. RSVP for lunch by **May 8**. Donna (817) 613-9078 or Beth (817) 480-3263.

Spring Creek Musical: 6:00 p.m., 102 Spring Creek Rd. Bands have been providing Country Bluegrass and Christian music for more than 75 years. New bands needed. Free admission. For more information, call (817) 386-6474.

May 12, 13

Old Cars-Swap Meet and Show-N-Shine: 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m., Jackie Collins Ranch, 4501 FM 920. Sponsored by Parker County Cruisers. Call (817) 597-1572 for more information.

Weatherford Public Library Book Sale: 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Weatherford Public Library Auditorium. Learn more at www.ci.weatherford.tx.us/142/Library.

May 18

Quilters' Guild of Parker County May meeting: 6:30 p.m., Northside Baptist Church, 910 N. Main St. Details at www.quiltersguildofparkercounty.org.

May 20

3rd Annual Splash and Dash: 7:45 a.m. registration, Splash Kingdom, 1001 Cinema Dr., Hudson Oaks. For details, call (817) 598-0777 or (682) 582-1757 or email Natalie_Waskel@chs.net.

May 26 — June 11

Dilemmas With Dinner: **Fridays and Saturdays:** 8:00 p.m.; **Sundays:** 2:00 p.m., Theatre Off The Square, 114 N. Denton St. Call (817) 341-8687 or visit www.theatreoffthesquare.org.

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

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Jarrold Dickey

I am excited about the growth here in Parker County. First National Bank's focus is on it's local families and local businesses. I am proud to join a bank with a solid reputation and family values. Parker County has the exciting growth of a bustling city without losing the hometown feel.

Kim Kaddatz



Photo by Michael's Studio

Lin Bearden, *President & CEO*

Doug Beard

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