

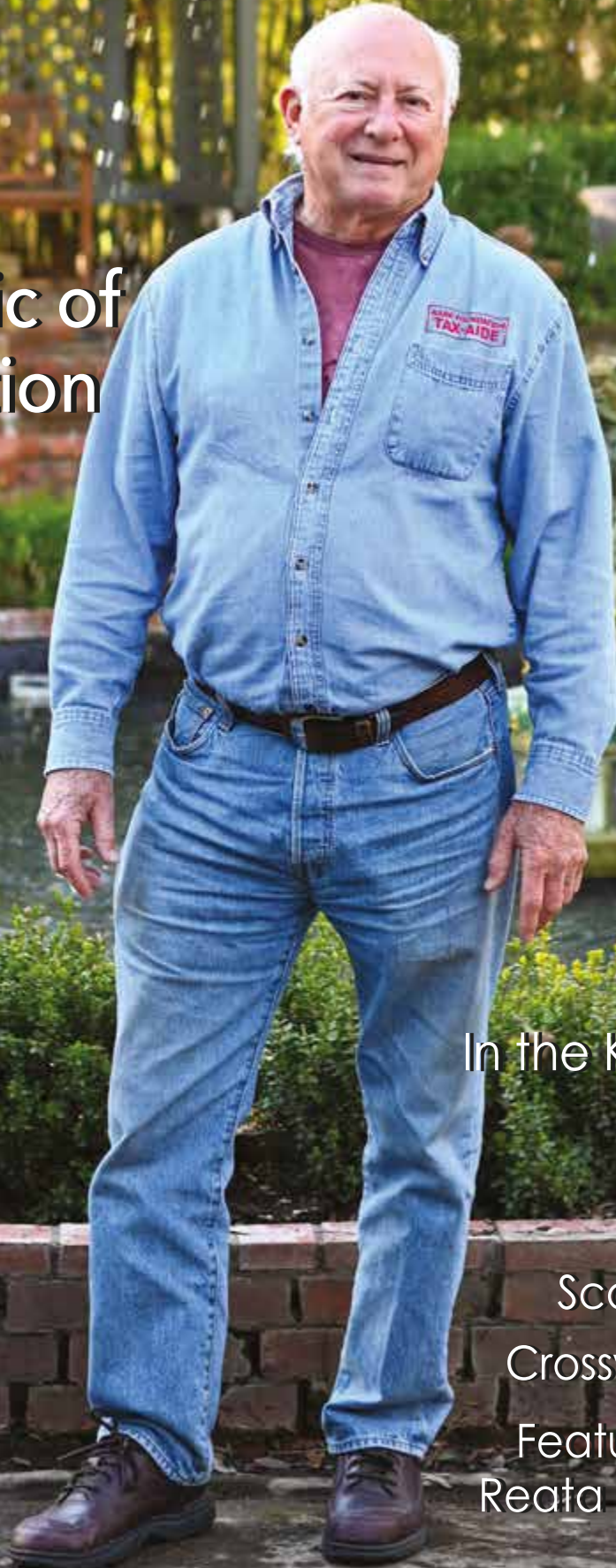
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ON THE COVER



Bill Warren protects the past for the future of others.

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Subscriptions are available at the rate of \$35 per year or \$3.50 per issue. Subscriptions should be sent to: NOW Magazines, P.O. Box 1071, Waxahachie, TX 75168. For advertising rates or editorial correspondence, call (817) 613-1533 or visit www.nowmagazines.com.

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Amber

Amber D. Browne
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It's May already?

The school year will come to a close for local districts this month. Where did the time go? It seems as though each year passes a little quicker causing me to analyze how I spend my time. As we move into summertime, I plan to spend my days prioritizing what is important.

Instead of focusing all of my energy on the tiny things that must be completed, I want to focus on the big ideas that my heart desires. Maybe we will finally plan that trip to Europe. We won't be traveling abroad this summer, but at least the trip might get noted on the calendar for some time in the near future. In the end, the must-dos will get done, but the one-day-I'll-do-it experiences will also be front and center for completion.

For those who want to experience local destinations, Parker County has many fun adventures to offer. Take a day trip to several of the hiking and biking trails in the local area including Quanah Hill or Parks of Aledo Trail. Fishing at Lake Weatherford or Holland Lake Park are also options. Explore Chandor Gardens or Clark Gardens Botanical Park in Weatherford or visit Downtown Weatherford or Downtown Aledo for a day of shopping and dining. Perusing the Doss Heritage and Culture Center and the Pioneer Cabin Park to learn more about the history of Parker County can be a fun afternoon for the family.

Whatever you choose to do, make the most of each experience. Live in the present and plan for the future because life moves quickly these days.

Enjoy yourselves!



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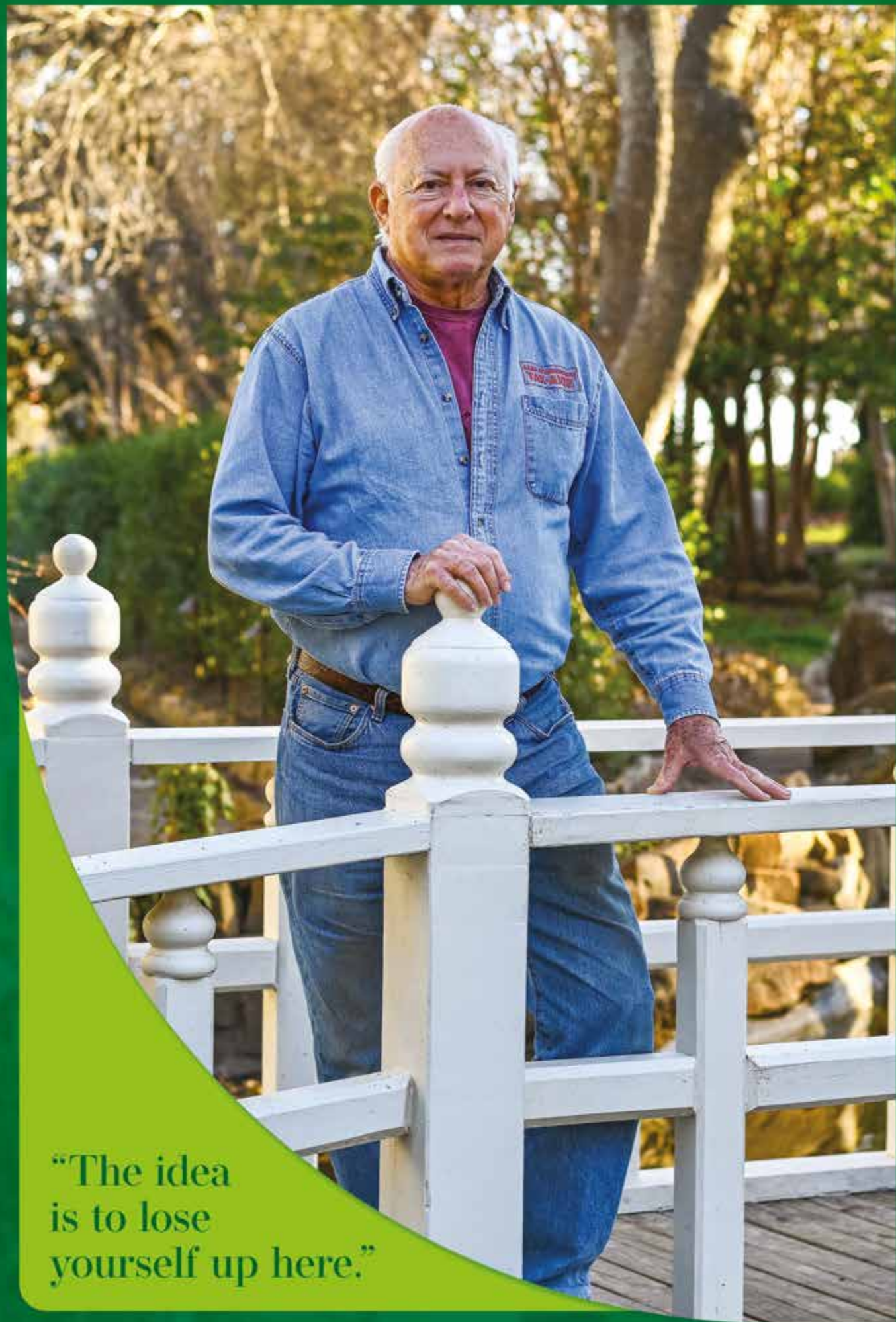
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“The idea
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yourself up here.”

The Magic of PRESERVATION

— By Amber D. Browne

The beauty of a hidden escape in the heart of Downtown Weatherford has appealed to visitors across the globe for more than 80 years. Once a cattle field, Chandor Gardens was transformed into a local treasure by the late Douglas Granville Chandor. His artistic vision led to the creation of a 3.5-acre oasis of various plant species, water features, a historic home that doubles as an event venue and so much more. Bill Warren, treasurer for the Chandor Gardens Foundation, has a passion for the gardens, as well as other historic sites across Parker County. And he is not afraid to share his passion for history with others.

Long before the Chandor Gardens Foundation — a 501 (c)(3) organization that works hand in hand with the city of Weatherford to operate and promote the venue — was founded in 2014, Bill shared with anyone listening about the beauty of the space. Bill is amazed by what Chandor, a portrait artist, was able to accomplish on the property. In 1936, Chandor blasted a caliche hillside with dynamite and transported in 6 feet of fill dirt for 3 acres of gardens. Stones from Parker County quarries created a waterfall and other stonework and water features across the property. “I find that fascinating that someone was so artistic and used his abilities in that way to bring such joy to people for years and years,” Bill shared. “I’m still surprised at the number of people who live not only in Weatherford but in Parker County who don’t know this place exists.”

Chandor Gardens, known as White Shadows until it was renamed by Chandor’s wife, Ina, following his death in 1953, provides a natural habitat for others to experience and enjoy. “The idea is to lose yourself up here,” Bill explained. Divided into several smaller gardens featuring Oriental and Latin influences, Chandor Gardens is connected by pathways and waterways. Folklore is said to have been part of Chandor’s design process. “Part of the Oriental culture is to stay out of the way of the Devil, you’re not supposed to have long straight lines anywhere,” Bill explained. “He meant for you not to be able to see the person in the garden next to you. You’ll hear a voice, but you won’t necessarily see the person. It’s the magic about it that I think fascinates people.”

Thanks in part to Ina’s marketing skills, in the 1950s, Chandor Gardens was the only garden west of the Mississippi River (except along the West Coast) included in national gardening books. “It’s like this oasis in the middle of North Texas. You do not expect this kind of greenery and plant architecture in the middle of Texas.” Visitors can tour the gardens year-round, and they travel from across the world to experience the site, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The historic home doubles as a wedding venue and features copies of portraits painted by Chandor.

“I’m impressed with what Douglas and Ina accomplished here,” Bill shared. He often walks the grounds and ponders how they accomplished such an extravagant feat, which is now part of history.

Bill is passionate about promoting and preserving heritage. He came by his love of history honestly. His mother, Betsy Warren, was an artist and illustrator of children’s history books, including *Young Pioneers in Texas*. “History teaches us how we should live today,” Bill shared. “I think it’s important to understand what our forebearers accomplished without the machinery and without the technology.”



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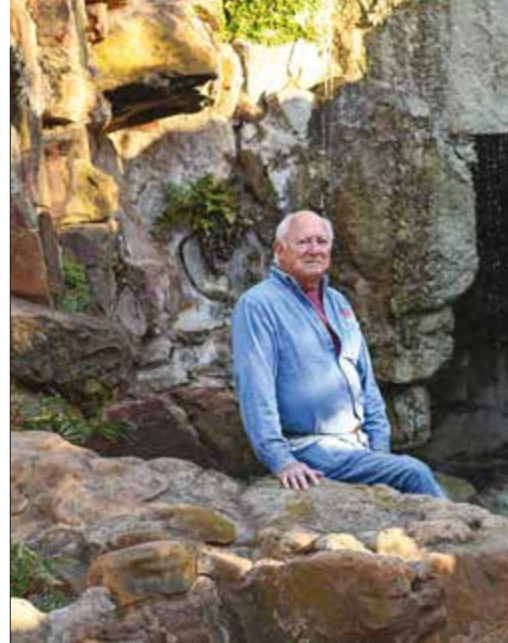
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Various historical projects across the local area are always at the top of Bill's to-do list. In addition to Chandor Gardens, he volunteers with the Parker County Heritage Society and the Parker County Historical Commission. He considers himself a preservationist and encourages others to appreciate the architecture of days past. "It's astounding to me the bravery, the courage, the faith in the future, what you can see when you go visit these places. That is what history attempts to try to tell us. Look around and soak up the beauty of it."

A new preservation project at the front of Bill's efforts with the Parker County Heritage Society is the Comte Paul de Bresson Stable, which is owned by Weatherford College. Previous projects include the addition of fencing around the perimeter of Old City Greenwood Cemetery, as well as the restoration of vandalized tombstones there.

With the Parker County Historical Commission, an arm of state government appointed by the Parker County Commissioners Court, Bill is working to preserve a truss bridge across the Brazos River. "It's the only truss bridge and the last of the historic bridges in Parker County. It's also on the National Register of Historic Places," he shared. "We've got to think of some way of preserving that bridge. It's a beautiful piece of work."

As president of the Abandoned Cemetery Association of Parker County, Bill and other volunteers care for nearly 80 abandoned cemeteries in the local area. Some of these cemeteries are upkept by property owners, while



volunteers mow, remove brush and repair fences at others.

At Chandor Gardens, Bill will continue to share his love of the property with those who are willing to listen and work with the city of Weatherford on future renovations. Plans are to add a parking lot and construct buildings on additional acreage that is part of the original 17-acre plot of land owned by the Chandors. Chandor took steps to bring his vision to life in 1936, and his vision still stands today, bringing joy to those who take the time to wander the winding paths. "What the man accomplished is phenomenal in the era and the place where he chose to do this. It's just fascinating to me." With the help of Bill and other local volunteers, Chandor Gardens and other historical sites across Parker County will continue to showcase the efforts of those long past. **NOW**



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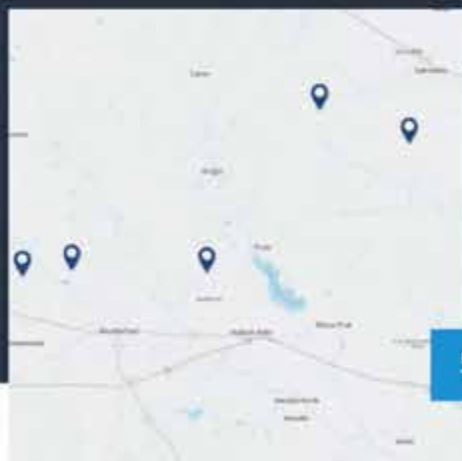


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— By Amber D. Browne



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Donnie Keller, owner of Reata Realty Group, has aided clients with their real estate needs since 2008. Over nearly two decades, Reata Realty Group has assisted buyers and sellers with farm and ranch, residential and commercial properties. At the age of 72, Donnie is now focusing on helping senior residents and their families with their new real estate needs. “God has really pointed me in this direction,” Donnie shared. “I thought I was retired, but I’m busier now than when I was working.”

Reata Realty Group is a full-service real estate brokerage, with Donnie at the helm as broker. He will continue to help buyers and sellers with all real estate needs, but working with clients ages 65 and older will be his primary focus. “A lot of times it’s widows or widowers, and they’re wanting to sell their property, or it’s kids of those who need to liquidate. It’s a little more complicated than just regular residential real estate. I think there is a real need for somebody who specializes in that.”

With Reata Realty Group’s Senior Real Estate Specialist designation, Donnie is better equipped to serve senior clients with their housing needs, whether that be selling a family home or finding a more ideal property during a time of change. “I’m one of them,” Donnie said. “I owe it to them to give them good advice.”

During the real estate process, Donnie educates his clients and sets expectations up front, so they are prepared. His services primarily cover Parker County and Fort Worth east to Arlington, and he works with local companies such as Capital Title of Texas in Weatherford and McKnight Title

for Fort Worth properties. A probate attorney is available for any legal questions, and Donnie can suggest a lending company for help with a loan.

If the seller's house is in need of renovations, plumbing or electrical work before being listed on the market, Donnie can help with that, too. "I'm trying to build a team of vendors because the house more than likely needs to be fixed up," he said. Donnie will discuss with his client the best options moving forward and review renovation costs versus return on investment to determine the best course of action. The property will be listed on Multiple Listing Service (MLS) and other unique property pages, as well as be promoted on social media. "There are lots of things that go on, and I have to stay on top of it and report to the client."

"A lot of times it's widows or widowers, and they're wanting to sell their property, or it's kids of those who need to liquidate. It's a little more complicated than just regular residential real estate. I think there is a real need for somebody who specializes in that."

Donnie started his real estate journey with farm and ranch properties while living in Fort Worth, and he was no stranger to the cattle business. He worked in a feed yard in Kansas as a teenager and later in sales within the cattle industry in multiple states across the country before moving to Texas. He and his wife, Diana, moved to Weatherford a couple of years ago. Although they miss the cattle and owning horses, Donnie's Bible study volunteerism, time spent together with their Blue Heeler, Earl, and their work keep them occupied.

Attention to detail and personalized service are the norms at Reata Realty Group, and with Donnie leading the way, clients can expect a beneficial outcome buying or selling property. With a renewed focus on assisting area seniors, Donnie is primed to deliver great service to clients in need. "My goal is to make this a less stressful experience for seniors and their families." **NOW**



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Photo courtesy of Randy Cutshall Photography.



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Congratulations 2025 ALEDOR SENIORS



Photos courtesy of Aledo ISD.





Congratulations **2025** **BROCK** **SENIORS**



Photos courtesy of the Brock High School Yearbook Staff



Congratulations **2025** **PEASTER P SENIORS**



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Zoomed In: Susan Farris

By Amber D. Browne

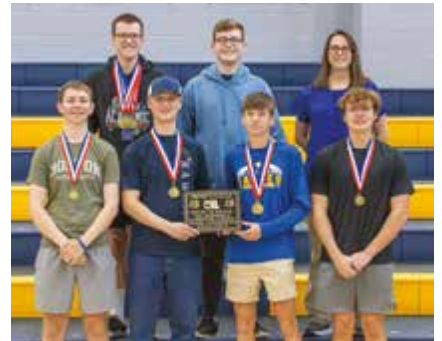
Susan Farris, president of Parker County Women's and Newcomers' Club, was honored as Outstanding Woman of the Year during the group's annual Women's Tea in March. "I felt quite humbled, actually. As I accepted the award, I could see a dozen women in the room who deserved the same honor."

Susan joined PCWNC in 2018 to discover new friends and make connections during retirement. "Women sometimes lose their friend connections as they navigate family and work responsibilities. Our club brings those connections back, along with lots of new activities to try. When a woman joins our club, she finds 200 instant friends."

The PCWNC is celebrating 50 years in 2025. Any Parker County woman is invited to join. The club meets at Weatherford College on the second Friday of each month.



Jackson and Christa Loos clean the Parks of Aledo Trail while volunteering with the Aledo chapter of Young Men's Service League.



Brock High School students are computer science team champions for UIL Academics District 6-4A.



Weatherford High School choir students compete at the Solo and Ensemble Competition with 22 advancing to the state competition.



David Crockett Elementary fifth-grade students are recognized as the winners of the Rotary Club's 69th Annual Pancake Supper pancake building contest, sponsored by Wallace Insurance Agency.



Attendees enjoy the fun of Fat Tuesday at the Weatherford College Mardi Gras Festival and Gumbo Contest.



The Weatherford Art Association's April Artist of the Month winners are 1st place - Carol Rogers, 2nd place - Alison Anderson and 3rd place - Debra Strandberg.




Ariana Storms, best of show winner at the Parker County Student Art Show sponsored by the Weatherford Art Association, smiles with her teacher Linda Greenwood of Aledo High School.



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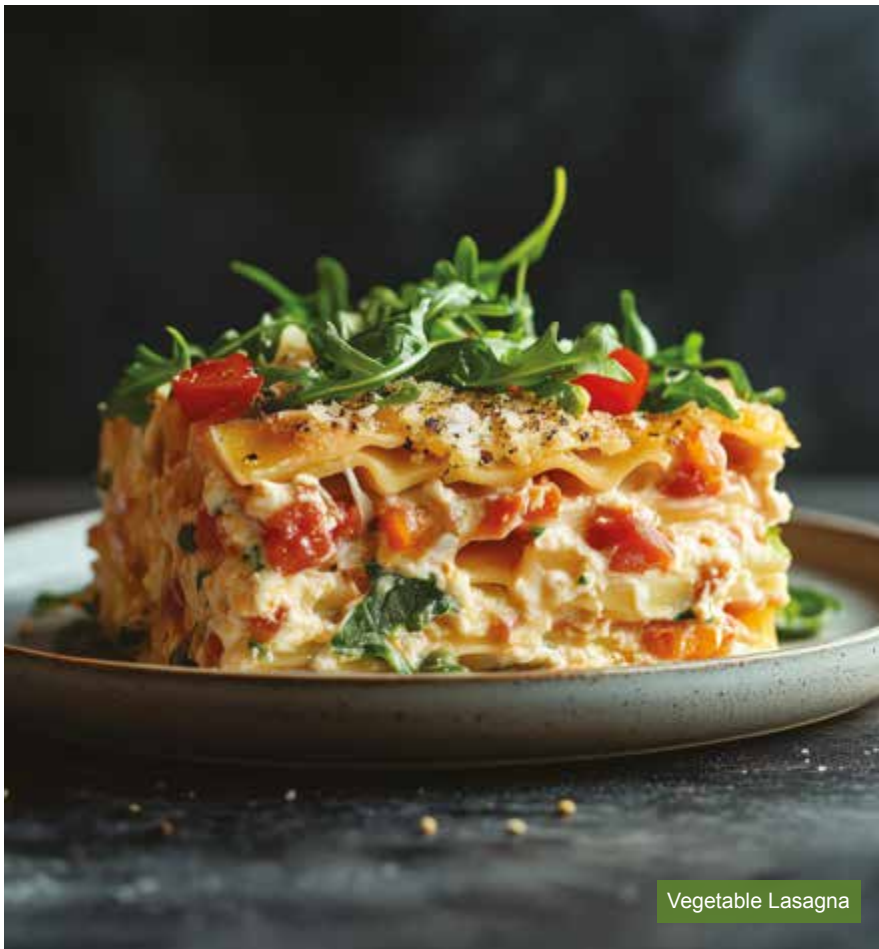
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Vegetable Lasagna

CookingNOW

IN THE KITCHEN WITH LINDA KLINE

— By Amber D. Browne



Sharing creative dishes with others is just one reason Linda Kline enjoys cooking. “To me, the best visiting happens around the table,” Linda said. With her mother’s help, Linda started baking at 12 and continued her culinary educational journey into adulthood following her adult daughter’s teenage diagnosis with celiac disease. “It made me so happy to be able to fix our daughter’s favorite foods and have her friends over, and they didn’t even realize they were eating gluten-free unless we talked about it.”

This longtime Weatherford resident, who serves on the Friends of the Weatherford Public Library board and as co-founder of the Parker County Bridal Fair, learns new recipes from cookbooks and gluten-free cooking classes. She now teaches her 5-year-old grandson a few new and inherited favorites. **NOW**

Chuck Wagon Cheeseburger Skillet With Gluten-Free Drop Biscuit Topping

Beef Mixture:

- 1 lb. lean ground beef**
- 3 Tbsp. onion, chopped (optional)**
- 3 Tbsp. oil**
- 2 1/2 cups frozen hash brown potatoes, thawed**
- 1 11-oz. can Green Giant Mexicorn, drained**
- 1 4-oz. can green chilies**
- 1/2 cup gluten-free Kraft Original Barbecue Sauce**
- 2 cups cheddar cheese, shredded**
- 1/4 tsp. salt (optional)**
- Pepper, to taste (optional)**

Biscuit Topping:

- 2 cups Pamela’s Pancake and Baking Mix**
- 1/4 cup shortening**
- 3/4 cup cold water**

- 1. For beef mixture:** Preheat the oven to 400 F. In a skillet on medium heat, brown the ground beef and onion, if desired, until the beef is thoroughly cooked. Drain; set aside.
- 2.** Heat the oil in a skillet on medium heat. Add the hash brown potatoes; cook until lightly browned, about 3-5 minutes. Add the cooked ground beef, Mexicorn and the next 3 ingredients. Add salt and pepper, if desired; mix well. Pour the mixture into a greased baking dish.
- 3. For biscuit topping:** In a medium bowl, add the Pamela’s Pancake and Baking Mix. Cut in the shortening until the baking mix is crumbly. Add the water; stir until combined. Drop by the spoonful on top of the casserole. Bake at 400 F for 16-24 minutes, or until desired brownness.

Vegetable Lasagna

Nonstick cooking spray

- 16 oz. 2% ricotta or cottage cheese**
- 1/2 cup Parmesan, grated**
- 1 cup spinach, chopped**
- 1 cup carrots, chopped**
- 1 cup zucchini squash, chopped**
- 1 cup bell pepper, deseeded and chopped**
- 9 gluten-free lasagna noodles, uncooked (divided use)**
- 3 cups gluten-free pasta sauce (divided use)**
- 8 oz. mozzarella cheese (divided use)**

- 1.** Preheat the oven to 350 F. Grease an 11x8-inch glass casserole dish. In a large bowl, combine the ricotta or cottage cheese and Parmesan.
- 2.** In a separate bowl, combine the spinach and the next 3 ingredients.
- 3.** In the greased casserole dish, place three uncooked noodles. Cover with 1 cup pasta

sauce, 1/3 of the cheese mixture, 1/3 of the vegetables and 1/3 of the mozzarella. Repeat the process two more times. Cover tightly with foil; bake for 1 hour.

Easy Gluten-Free Chocolate Mayonnaise Cake

Cake:
Nonstick cooking spray
2 cups gluten-free flour blend
1 cup sugar
1 1/2 tsp. baking soda
1 1/2 tsp. baking powder
4 Tbsp. cocoa
1 cup water
1 cup mayonnaise
2 tsp. vanilla

Chocolate Icing:
1 cup sugar
1/4 cup cocoa
1/4 cup milk
2 Tbsp. butter
1 tsp. vanilla

1. For cake: Preheat the oven to 350 F. Spray an 11x7-inch glass baking dish with nonstick cooking spray. In a large bowl, sift the flour blend and the next 4 ingredients. Add the remaining ingredients; beat until smooth. Pour the batter into the baking dish; bake for about 30 minutes, or until done. Set aside to cool.
2. For chocolate icing: In a saucepan on medium-high heat, add the sugar and the next 3 ingredients. Bring to a boil for 1 minute, stirring frequently. Remove from heat; stir in the vanilla. Beat until the icing is thick enough to spread. Quickly spread the icing onto the cake before it sets.



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JUNE 1, 2025

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1:00pm - 2:30pm 2:30pm - 4:00pm

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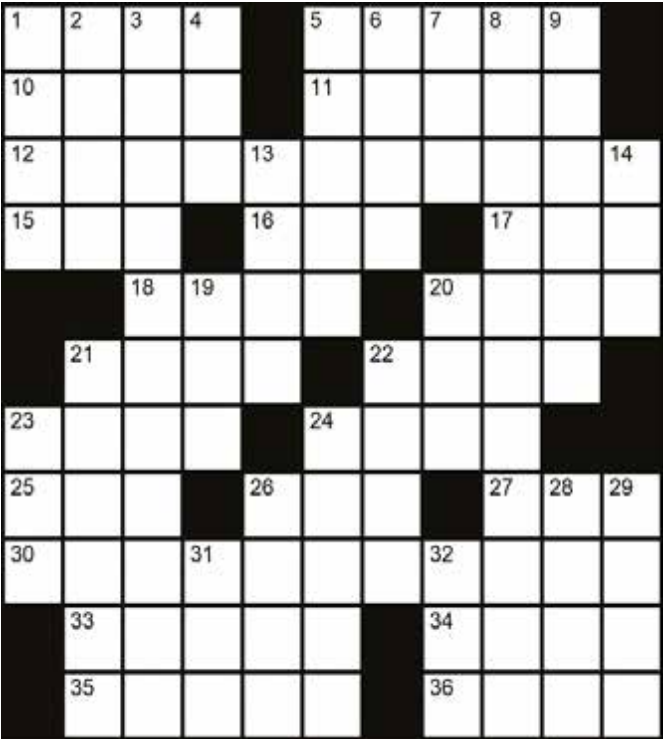
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Across

- 1 Wind-driven clouds
- 5 Facebook's home Park
- 10 Without accompaniment
- 11 Understand finer mess
- 12 Juice
- 15 A nickel short of a dollar
- 16 "I Guess --- Rather Be in Colorado" (John Denver)
- 17 It's about three-quarters of the Earth's surface
- 18 Had liabilities
- 20 Colorful-sounding name for a man?
- 21 Bud supporter
- 22 One-third of a 1970 Pearl Harbor movie

Down

- 23 Exact double
- 24 Anger
- 25 Old card game
- 26 Easy-going airport?
- 27 "More info later"
- 30 Owned apartment
- 33 Sao ---, Brazil
- 34 Jane Austen's meddling matchmaker
- 35 The Memorial --- Kettering Cancer Center
- 36 Citrus peel, particularly when grated
- 1 Citizen Kane's Rosebud, for example
- 2 Health menace E ---
- 3 Stoic
- 4 John Lennon was murdered in this month
- 5 Stuck fast
- 6 Geraint's wife in "Idylls of the King" (Tennyson)
- 7 Packers' group
- 8 Duty-free hours?
- 9 Salsa brand
- 13 Not us
- 14 Mocking cry
- 19 Skin Jump
- 20 Big bike
- 21 Pounces
- 22 Joni Mitchell's was big and yellow
- 23 Maintenance, perhaps
- 24 Manor reorganised a Spanish fellow
- 26 Barry Manilow's drunken showgirl
- 28 Mooches
- 29 "I --- a loss for words!"
- 31 Batman and Robin, for example
- 32 --- Percé (Northwest Native Americans)

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Easy

8							6	1
				6	8	9		
	7				3			2
	2			5				
			3			2	5	9
4						7		
	1							
	5	6					9	4
	3			8				

Medium

				7			4	
		1				8		
5		3						9
							6	
					8		9	5
		6	5			1		8
				9	1			
	9	5	7	4				
2	4							

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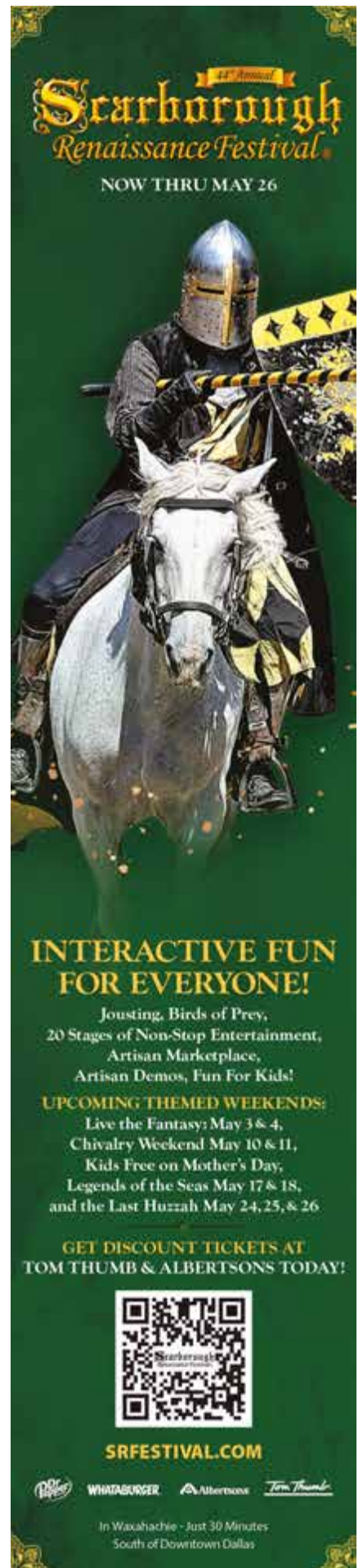
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MAY

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Check with individual organizations or your city or Chamber websites to verify dates and times.

5/2

Friends of the Weatherford Library Spring Luncheon:

Join for lunch to raise funds for the children's summer reading program. Author Dave Lieber will speak. Tickets: \$30. 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Northside Baptist Church, 910 N. Main St. For tickets, contact Kathy Ott at (817) 994-7360 or kathy.ott.casa@outlook.com.

5/3

Native Plant Sale:

Buy plants at the show from the Native Plant Society Cross Timbers Chapter. 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Heritage Park, 317 Santa Fe Dr. npsot.org.

Talking Tombstone Tour:

Take a walk-through tour to learn more about Parker County's history. Adults: \$15; children: \$10. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Old City Greenwood Cemetery, 300 Front St. parkercountyheritagesociety.com.

PCHD Citizen EMS Dollar Auction With a Twist:

Bring dollar bills and participate to win one of 20 special items. Cost: \$20; includes a drink and hors d'oeuvres. 4:00-8:00 p.m., Weatherford High School Cafeteria, 2121 Bethel Rd. (817) 597-4871 or citizenems.com.

GRS Annual Kentucky Derby Watch Party:

Join this fundraiser for raffles

and prizes for best hat and more. Free to attend. Buy a glass for \$25, and drinks are free. Must be 21-plus. 4:30-6:30 p.m., Golden Reward Sanctuary, 1201 Friendship Rd. goldenrewardssanctuary.com/events.

5/4

Sunset on the Square:

Enjoy exquisite cuisine, live music and more. Tickets: \$150. 5:00-8:30 p.m., 114 Austin Ave. d-winc.org/sunset-on-the-square.

5/6 and 5/20

Food Park Lounge Night:

Enjoy local eats and talented musicians. 6:00-9:00 p.m., Heritage Park Food Park, 317 Santa Fe Dr. experienceweatherford.com.

5/8

Go West Community Showcase:

Discover more than 50 local vendors and tasty food. 4:00-6:00 p.m., Morningstar, 128 Heather Wind Ln., Aledo. parkercountychamber.com.

5/9

Parker County Women's and Newcomers' Club Style Show and Basket Raffle:

Proceeds benefit Weatherford College women's scholarship fund. Social hour: 9:30 a.m.;

meeting: 10:30 a.m.; lunch: noon, Weatherford College Emerging Technologies and Workforce Solutions Building, 225 College Park Dr. pcwnc.org.

5/10

Danny Wright in Concert "From Stage to Screen":

Piano sensation Danny Wright will perform. Enjoy pre-concert wine and lite hors d'oeuvres. Tickets: \$55. 7:00 p.m., Chandor Gardens, 711 W. Lee Ave. chandorgardensfoundation.org.

Back in Black-Weatherford Concert Series:

Listen to Back in Black, an AC/DC tribute band, and enjoy local food and drink vendors. Free admission. 7:00-9:00 p.m., Heritage Park Amphitheater, 503 Santa Fe Dr. experienceweatherford.com.

5/16

Movies in the Park:

Join the free showing of *Mufasa-The Lion King*. Bring a blanket and food, or grab dinner from on-site vendors. 7:30-10:00 p.m., Heritage Park Amphitheater, 503 Santa Fe Dr. experienceweatherford.com.

5/26

Memorial Day Ceremony:

The ceremony, hosted by Parker County American Legion

Post 163, will include placing flags on 600 veterans' graves. 10:00-11:30 a.m., Memorial Gardens, 5600 Mineral Wells Hwy. Ron Chandler, (817) 223-8926.

Weekends Prior to First Mondays

Weatherford First Monday Trade Days:

Event is held Friday-Sunday prior to the first Monday of the month. Browse vendors offering unique gifts, antiques, pet supplies, tools and more, plus enjoy great festival food. 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., First Monday Trade Days Grounds, 317 Santa Fe Dr. experienceweatherford.com.

Tuesdays and Thursdays

Storytime at the Library:

Toddlers enjoy books and activities on Tuesdays and preschoolers on Thursdays. 10:30 a.m., Weatherford Public Library, 1014 Charles St. weatherfordtx.gov/142/library.

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



WeatherfordNOW Scavenger Hunt



Find 5 hidden
Birds

in 5 different ads in this issue
(not counting the one above).

Email the page numbers and
specific ads where they are
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Carrots were found on
pages 3, 5, 17, 22 & 28.



April winner is:
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