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## ON THE COVER

*Peggy Hutton looks forward  
to the annual Peach Festival.*

#### **Photo by**

*Aleksandr Grechanyuk - Dreamstime.com.*

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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](http://www.nowmagazines.com).*



# RARE STEAKS *Well Done*

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To grill a steak both rare and well done is impossible, but there is a new butcher shop in town that manages to do both in another way. They don't do the grilling, but they offer hard to find premium beef, and their customers will tell you that the results are a job well done.

White Stone Premium Meats is that butcher shop. A fast-growing number of residents in Weatherford and far beyond are making it their "go to" place to buy top quality meat. The business opened their doors this February and they're located at 1808 Santa Fe Drive in Weatherford.

The store features a wide variety of premium meats, including their own signature branded Prime Angus and Wagyu beef which is raised on their two White Stone ranches, proudly located right here in Texas.

When you walk in, you will be warmly greeted and given the kind of customer service you deserve. The staff is knowledgeable and happy to share information or just give advice. If you want a steak thicker or thinner, it will be custom cut on the spot. If you need a large order for pick-up later, they will have it ready when you come back.

One look at the store's main meat case full of fresh and hand cut steaks, roasts, ribs, chops and ground beef tells you that their Prime Angus truly means Prime. It will tell you that Wagyu beef marbling really is amazing, and it's also healthier fat. You'll see 6-inch Gourmet Hamburger patties available in plain, bacon cheddar or diced jalapeño cheddar. These special hamburger patties are made in-store from a grind of only Prime and Wagyu. There are fresh, oversized hamburger buns available, too.

The list goes on; link sausages to choose from such as Boudin, Andouille, Smoked Jalapeño Cheddar, Cracked Pepper sausage and many more. There is thick cut hand sliced smoked bacon, specialty cheeses like Veldhuizen Redneck Cheddar, Bosque Blue Cheese and Veldhuizen Jalapeño Cheddar. Sauces, spices, rubs and sweet or spicy jellies are available.

In other display cases there are delicious appetizers and side dishes, hand crafted in-store, including skewered and bacon wrapped quail, stuffed quail, skewered beef and chicken kabobs, bacon wrapped bunches of tender asparagus, 5-inch Portabella Mushrooms with artichoke/spinach filling, topped with Parmesan and stuffed Jalapeño Poppers also wrapped in bacon.

The folks at White Stone believe a great dinner isn't complete without a little dessert, so there's a selection of fresh baked mini cakes and pies, cobblers and cookies available.

Coming in the near future is Mangalitsa pork, a breed originating in Hungary but now available in the U.S. Having superior flavor and tenderness to domestic pork, its commonly called the "Wagyu of Pork". They, too, are being raised on the Whitestone ranches. To top everything off, there will soon be a selection of premium wines from some of the finest family-owned vineyards in North America.

So yes, a custom butcher shop like White Stone Premium Meats is both rare and well done. Stop in soon, and see for yourself.

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# EDITOR'S NOTE



*Lisa*

Lisa Bell  
WeatherfordNOW Editor  
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*Freedom's just another word ...*

Or is it? I love words — their meanings, connotations and power. Freedom falls in that category of powerful words. It evokes more emotions than anyone wants to admit. What is freedom? More importantly, what does freedom mean to you? After all, we celebrate America's Independence this month, so maybe we should think about the meaning. It doesn't stop with the general meaning of not living in bondage or imprisonment, although that's a good starting place.

Think of small freedoms — choices we make every day. I have the freedom to wear whatever I want. That doesn't mean I will. Some clothing needs to remain private or never be worn at all, and I'm certain most of you thank me for that. Seriously, we have innumerable options daily, and while many of them make insignificant differences, others become life-altering decisions. Freedom. A beautiful thing that always comes with a cost.

Will I choose to free my heart through forgiveness of others and myself? Perhaps I decide to continue down my present path, or instead, I take a road less traveled, challenging and changing my life forever. Either way, liberty allows those decisions. When I wake tomorrow morning, the exquisiteness of freedom assures me I can forget the past and press forward to the future I choose. True, I can't control everything, but I can choose what I do with life's circumstances. Decide what freedom means to you, and walk in choices that celebrate your liberty.

*Have a safe and happy Fourth of July!*

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Photo courtesy of Felts Photography.

The largest event in Parker County provides a day to get out of the house and see amazing arts and crafts in the largest festival in the area.



# MORE THAN FRUIT

— By Lisa Bell





*For more than three decades, Parker County has welcomed the annual Peach Festival. While 2020's pandemic relegated the community to only activities during Peach Week, the 36th annual event returns with its expected excitement. Peggy Hutton, Weatherford Chamber of Commerce director of development, shared, "The Peach Festival is not only about food. It's really an arts and crafts festival." This year, the city plans for the return of the beloved festival on July 10, 2021. To think, it all started at College Park with two industrious women organizing the event, but the annual appearance of peaches and more didn't stay small for long.*

Peggy explained how the event started in 1984. Jo Worthington worked at Weatherford National Bank, where her husband, Walter, served as president. She talked Helen Brogden, then bank director, into organizing an event she believed could bring customers into the bank. The first Peach Festival took over the park. They soon outgrew the park and moved to Weatherford High School Ninth Grade Center, which was the full high school at the time. Before long, with so many visitors and vendors, they moved again — this time to the square in the historic downtown area.



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 **On Staff**



When TXDOT said they couldn't shut down two major highways, they shifted the festival to the west side of the courthouse. In 2019, the event brought over 60,000 visitors to Weatherford, a long way from its early beginnings.

Although Gloria Martinez, Weatherford Chamber director of community relations, and President Tammy Gazzola organize the event now, Peggy joins the two ladies and about 1,000 volunteers. "It's a long day for us," Peggy admitted. "We all work it."

The festival itself features more arts and crafts than produce. In fact, other than food vendors and a few select booths selling hats, shades and such, 75 percent of items offered must be homemade goods. Peggy enjoys that part of the festival — seeing the many amazing things people create by hand.

Many think the festival is about the peaches, but she quickly pointed out, "You can buy peaches all summer long. The farmers' market sells local peaches throughout the season." Peggy's husband, Gary, belongs to a family who has grown peaches for 41 years (Hutton Farms), and she admits local peaches taste best. Contrary to what some might think, the February freeze benefited them. According to Peggy, peaches need "chilling" hours. Otherwise, the trees come out of dormancy too early and risk a later freeze.

"The best peaches are the ones so juicy they run to your elbow when you take a bite," she said with a smile. To grow peaches, plant in November or February, so they establish themselves while dormant. Keep them pruned to a bowl shape for best results. Of course, you must have at least two trees to produce fruit. Some grow several varieties that peak from May all the way through the summer.

Peggy also admitted to loving the food at the Peach Festival. "The hospital always makes peach juleps," she said. "Wild Bills becomes a keepsake with a Peach Festival commemorative cup."

Although this year may look slightly different from previous years, Peggy



believes the event will be an immense success. With an expanded footprint, they plan more space between vendors. They won't require masks, but they will provide a multitude of hand sanitizer stations. Festival goers must purchase tickets online, eliminating cash ticket sales. Vendors choose whether to accept credit cards or cash. "We're doing our part for safety," Peggy said.

In another change for 2021, they plan to use school buses for shuttling visitors. All have air conditioning, and if they need to add buses because of crowds, they can easily do so. Weatherford College and the Ninth Grade Center will again serve as pickup and drop-off points for the shuttles. The children's area will offer different activities than usual, although the train ride will run because the owner installed plexiglass and cleans between runs. The Rotary will run golf carts to nearby parking lots.



Of course, the food contest and live music will still be part of the festival. "We offer free water and misting tents. Take advantage of them," Peggy advised. "Come early. Use shuttles, and visit the charming downtown stores. Take the opportunity to visit the wonderful downtown businesses." Her best tip is to stay hydrated. "Hydrate, hydrate, hydrate," she insisted. "Start three days prior to make it easier." They also recommend leaving pets at home to save their paws from hot pavement.

For those new to Parker County or those who have never attended the festival, don't miss the opportunity to try it. The largest event in Parker County provides a day to get out of the house and see amazing arts and crafts in the largest festival in the area. It's an unforgettable experience, and when you see Peggy, Gloria and Tammy or the many volunteers, thank them for a job well done. **NOW**

*Photos, unless otherwise noted, courtesy of Hutton Farms and the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce.*



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## Zoomed In: Kathy Afhmore and Kasen

By Lisa Bell

Sometimes known as Mimi, Kathy Afhmore spent an evening with her great-grandson, Kasen. The talkative 7-year-old shared, “Mimi is my favorite person. My sister is my other favorite person.”

Kathy admitted, “He’ll talk your ear off.” The two ventured downtown to walk around and then enjoy a street dance in the evening, where they both planned on moving to the music. The mother of two children, nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren recently lost her husband to a heart attack, which Kasen witnessed. Kasen coughed and bent over, using actions alongside his words to explain what he saw. “This is our first outing since,” Kathy said with a smile. “We’re celebrating what would have been our 37th anniversary. Kasen loves to dance, and we will dance tonight.”



Marilyn Sikes hikes the Pacific Crest Trail again, proving age won’t stop her.



Torrye Tyler graduates from Weatherford College the same week she takes the class 3A state high school track title.



The Clear Fork Assisted Living and Memory Care staff dresses in favorite story book character costumes as part of themed Fridays.



Parker County Women’s and Newcomers’ Club donates to the WC Foundation.





The Courtroul family enjoys dinner and darts at Lenny's Local.



Rowdy Decker warms up for the 2021 PCSP Street Dance.



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BusinessNOW

# Chapman's Carpentry

— By Lisa Bell

## Chapman's Carpentry

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As a young boy, Robert Chapman became interested in working with wood. From the time he could hold a hammer, he started building things. In school, he took woodworking classes. By the time he got to high school, cars caught his eye, and he took time off to learn all about them. Calling his abilities for working with wood a God-given talent, not even cars stole his interest in picking up a hammer and making something new.

Much of what Robert knows about carpentry came from trial



and error. But with many years of practice on top of natural skill, he offers a finished product he takes pride in. From 1983 until 1991, Robert toyed with carpentry, picking up a little extra money here and there. "I learned a lot by grace," he said. "The more you do it, the better you get. Then you just buy more toys."

As an adult, Robert became a firefighter and pursued that career until 2010 when he retired — or rather semi-retired. He still works part time as a firefighter. With two children and five grandchildren, Robert wanted to supplement that income, so in 1991, he grew serious about the carpentry business.

Chapman's Carpentry does repairs, remodels and basic carpentry work, servicing Azle, Lake Worth, Weatherford and other nearby areas. He leaves plumbing and electrical work to people or businesses licensed in those fields — exactly the right call for a man not licensed in either. Using an impressive network, Robert can recommend companies to help with a job. He also has a person who understands and



can assist with repairs and remodels in manufactured housing — not something everyone can handle.

“No job is too small,” he said. Robert understands that a little income from a minor job today may result in a bigger job later. If it doesn’t, he still creates a good working relationship with the customer.

Robert sees a lot of repeat business, and many of his referrals come from his customers. He strives to satisfy every customer. “If I like the work, the homeowner will be happy with it. If I don’t like it, they usually won’t either,” he said. He relies on three areas — honesty, dependability and quality — to reach the level of satisfaction he expects of himself. “I like to sleep at night,” he admitted. “I’m not out there taking advantage of people.”

MUCH OF WHAT ROBERT KNOWS ABOUT CARPENTRY CAME FROM TRIAL AND ERROR. BUT WITH MANY YEARS OF PRACTICE ON TOP OF NATURAL SKILL, HE OFFERS A FINISHED PRODUCT HE TAKES PRIDE IN.

As an active firefighter, Robert makes sure he treats people with respect and integrity. “I represent my station everywhere I go,” he said. While that serves to help keep his character in check, he also has his own standard to uphold. Referrals and repeat business prove he does that well.

When considering a remodel or repair, Robert suggests knowing what you want, as well as the amount you can and will spend. At the very least, have a good idea of the outcome. He also recommends checking a contractor’s background. Asking questions and requesting references provides peace of mind when hiring someone for any size job. He doesn’t hesitate to give references when asked. From fixing a dragging door to building a covered patio or finishing a complete remodel, Robert aims to make sure both his customers and he walk away with a positive experience. **NOW**

**Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!**



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*- Virginia Woolf*



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## CookingNOW

### *In the Kitchen With*

### BEJE HOTT

— By Virginia Riddle

Weatherford native Beje Hott learned to cook from her mother and from an admitted Food Network obsession. She cooks what she thinks her kids will eat. However, sometimes they surprise her. “The kids keep me on my toes,” she stated. “I try to keep meals interesting, while meeting the dietary needs of everyone.” She cooks for family, including Mimi and Pop, and for friends.

“We’re a scouting family,” she added. Daughter, Karisma, is a Cub Scout. Son, Xavier, has been in Scouts since first grade. Beje serves as an adult leader. “Xavier likes to bake,” Beje said.

Southern comfort food and desserts are Beje’s go-to foods. She explained, “Cooking’s a way I show love to the people I care about the most. There’s nothing more comforting than a hot, home-cooked meal.” **NOW**

#### Xavier’s Biscuits

*These are a fun take on Cheddar Bay Biscuits.*

**12 Tbsp. chilled, unsalted butter**  
(divided use)

**2 cloves garlic, minced**

**2 1/2 tsp. kosher salt**

**1 tsp. ground black pepper**

**1 3/4 tsp. baking powder**

**1/2 tsp. baking soda**

**1 1/4 tsp. granulated sugar**

**2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour**

**1/2 cup sharp cheddar cheese, shredded**

**1 1/4 cups sour cream**

**1.** Preheat the oven to 425 F; line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

**2.** In a pan, melt 2 Tbsp. of the butter. Mix

in the garlic; set aside.

**3.** In a large bowl, whisk the salt, pepper, baking powder, baking soda, sugar and flour. Cut the remaining butter into small cubes; using your hands, smash the butter cubes into the flour mixture, making thin shards. Continue the process until the mixture resembles pea-size bits; mix in the cheddar cheese.

**4.** Create a well in the flour mixture’s center; add the sour cream into the well. Using a fork, swirl the sour cream into the flour mixture until shaggy clumps form; fold the dough over.

**5.** On a floured surface, knead the dough. Add any loose bits to the center; continue kneading.

**6.** Pat the dough into an 8x4-inch rectangle about 1 inch thick. Working from a short side, fold the dough into thirds, like a letter. Pat it down into the 8x4-inch rectangle again; repeat the process 2 more times.

**7.** Cut the dough into 8-inch squares; transfer the squares to the lined baking sheet. Brush the tops with the melted butter mixture;



sprinkle with kosher salt. Bake for 18-22 minutes, or until golden brown.

## Butch's Favorite Strawberry Jell-O Cake

**Cake:**

- 1 cup water (divided use)
- 1 3-oz. box Strawberry Jell-O
- 1 box strawberry cake mix
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 2 eggs

**Glaze:**

- 1 cup water
- 1 cup sugar

1. *For cake:* Preheat the oven to 350 F. In a small pan, bring 1/2 cup water to a boil. Add the strawberry Jell-O; stir until the Jell-O dissolves.
2. Add 1/2 cup cold water to the Jell-O mixture; mix well.
3. In a bowl, combine the cake mix, vegetable oil and eggs. Add the Jell-O mixture; stir well.
4. Pour the batter into a greased Bundt pan; bake for 45 minutes. A toothpick stuck into the center of the cake should come out clean.
5. *For glaze:* In a small saucepan, bring the water to a boil. Mix in the sugar; stir until the sugar dissolves.
6. Pour the glaze over the cake in the Bundt pan; let the cake cool completely before turning it out onto a plate.

## Xavier's Cookies

- 1 box Swiss chocolate cake mix
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup Andes Crème de Menthe Baking Chips, or to taste

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F. In a large bowl, mix all the ingredients; chill the dough in the refrigerator for 30 minutes.
2. Using an ice cream scoop, put scoop-sized mounds on a cookie sheet; bake for 8 minutes.

## Chicken and Dumplings

- 2 Tbsp. butter
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 whole chicken, cut into pieces
- Salt, to taste
- Pepper, to taste
- 1/2 cup celery, diced
- 1/2 cup carrots, diced
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 1/2 tsp. ground thyme



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Xavier's Biscuits

- 1/4 tsp. ground turmeric
- 6 cups water
- 1/8 cup Knorr Chicken Bouillon
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 2 Tbsp. flour
- 1 7.5-oz. can buttermilk biscuits, quartered
- 2 Tbsp. parsley flakes

1. In a large pot set over medium-high heat, melt the butter with the olive oil; season the chicken pieces on both sides with salt and pepper.
2. In two batches, brown the chicken on both sides; place on a clean plate to drain.
3. In the same pot, mix the celery, carrots and onions; cook for 3-4 minutes over medium-high heat.
4. Stir in the thyme and turmeric; add the water and chicken bouillon, stirring well. Add

the chicken. Cover; simmer for 20 minutes.

5. Remove the chicken; set it aside on a plate to drain and cool. Shred the chicken with 2 forks; add the meat back to the pot. Discard the bones.
6. In a bowl, mix the heavy cream and flour; stir it into the chicken mixture.
7. Add the raw biscuit quarters; sprinkle with parsley flakes. Cover; simmer for 15 minutes.
8. Remove cover; remove pot from the heat. Let it sit for 10 minutes before serving.

### White Wine Sangria

- 1 bottle Riesling white wine
- 1 bottle white grape juice
- 2 cups peach schnapps
- 5 peaches, peeled and sliced

1. In a large beverage dispenser, mix the liquid ingredients; add the peaches.
2. Chill the sangria for 1 hour in the refrigerator; serve in wine glasses with peach slices that act as a decorative garnish in the dispenser and each glass.

### Ranch Dressing

- 2/3 cup buttermilk
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 tsp. onion flakes
- 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 Tbsp. chives, chopped
- 1 Tbsp. dill, chopped
- 1 Tbsp. parsley, chopped
- Salt, to taste
- Pepper, to taste

1. Mix first 8 ingredients together; add salt and pepper.

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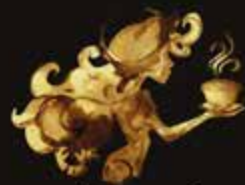
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# Happy Independence Day ★

Due to COVID-19, some events may have been cancelled or rescheduled while we were at press. Check with individual organizations or your city or Chamber websites to verify dates and times.

## JULY

6/10-7/17

**Peach Festival Art Show:**  
Annual event presented by the Weatherford Art Association.

**Tuesday-Saturday:** 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; **Thursday:** 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m., Doss Center, 1400 Texas Dr. [www.dosscenter.org](http://www.dosscenter.org)

7/4

**Spark in the Park:**

Free event with two bands followed by one of the largest fireworks displays in North Texas. 6:00-10:00 p.m., Heritage Park, 317 Santa Fe Drive. [www.experienceweatherford.com/events](http://www.experienceweatherford.com/events).

7/10

**Peach Pedal Bike Ride 2021:**

33rd annual event benefits nonprofits in the community. 7:00-11:00 a.m. Check website for location and details. [www.peachpedal.com](http://www.peachpedal.com).

**Parker County Peach Festival:**

Back for the 36th annual festival of arts, crafts and peaches. Shuttles available. 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Historic Downtown Weatherford. For more information, visit [www.parkercountypeachfestival.org/](http://www.parkercountypeachfestival.org/).

7/23-8/1

**The Rainbow Fish Musical:**  
TOTS live theater youth production.

**Fridays and Saturdays:** 7:30 p.m.; **Sundays:** 2:00 p.m., Theatre Off the Square, 114 N. Denton St. [www.theatreoffthesquare.org](http://www.theatreoffthesquare.org) or (817) 341-8687.

7/26

**American Red Cross Blood Drive:**

Visit the library and save a life. 11:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Weatherford Public Library. Schedule time at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org).

8/2-8/30

**A Matter of Balance:**

(Every Monday and Wednesday.) AgriLife Extension free eight-session class. Limited space. Register early online. 10:00-a.m.-noon, Parker County Extension Office, 604 North Main St. [www.nctcog.org/aging-services/classes](http://www.nctcog.org/aging-services/classes).

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to [lisa.bell@nowmagazines.com](mailto:lisa.bell@nowmagazines.com).

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### Sanctified Hope

Sanctified Hope empowers and guides formerly incarcerated women through a Christ-based ministry to inspire lifelong changes and become successful citizens of the community. This group partners with Center of Hope and Christ Chapel Bible Church. [www.sanctifiedhope.org](http://www.sanctifiedhope.org), (817) 901-5446.

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