Weatherford **JULY 2022** A Call to Action In the Kitchen With Kerrington Johnston Volunteer firefighters are ready to assist when Also inside: the alarm sounds Scavenger Hunt Crossword 2022 Peach Festival **Shopping Guide** Featured Business: Ranch & Lake Tiny Homes & Cottages Postal Customer COMECHM28 EDDW

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Volunteer firefighters stay prepared to serve.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Remember when ...

Fear had no place in our lives. We tried anything, never considering the possibility of failure. Mud pies became a scrumptious offering some unsuspecting guest pretended to nibble and love. Our real chocolate pies fell apart, and the accidental omission of sugar left such a bitter taste, we refused a slice or plop. When making that first dress, I overlooked the crooked seams and less than perfect darts. With time, I never grew to perfection, but I learned well enough to make wedding gowns for all four of my daughters. In the process, I discovered hydrogen peroxide removes blood from white fabric, as I was always poking my finger and bleeding on my handiwork!

Failure happens. Thomas Edison said, "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." Far beyond the incandescent light bulb, the phonograph and the motion picture, his attitude provided a lifetime of major achievements that changed the world. He didn't know the words, "I can't." Neither should we. Somewhere in our past, we determined failure left us inadequate to do the thing we so desired, and we stopped trying. A sad statement, don't you think?

In today's world, we have countless opportunities to gather knowledge, whether through other people, classes or watching online videos. I even built a website and fixed an issue. We won't talk about the number of hours I spent or headaches I cured with acetaminophen. The point — I didn't quit, although the temptation played heavily on my brain. And, yes, I have someone who offered to help maintain that site for me. Whew! I'm relieved.

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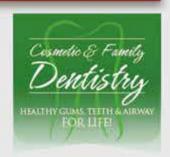
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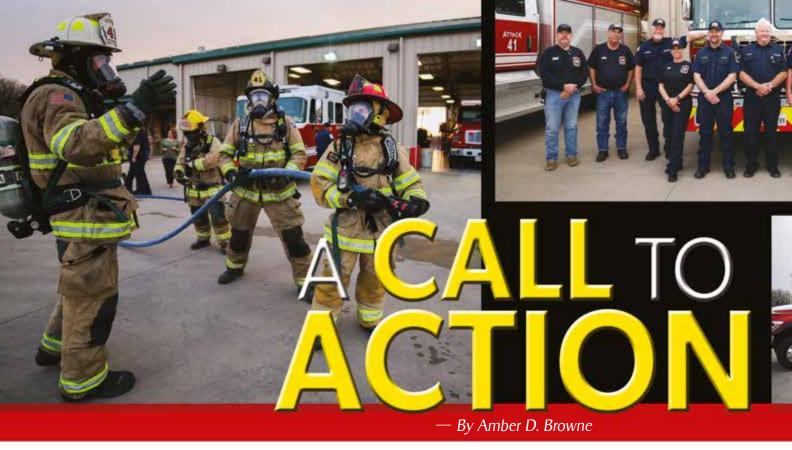
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Running into a burning building. Extracting an injured driver from a totaled vehicle. Extinguishing a grass fire. Saving a dog accidentally locked inside a car. These are typical calls on any given day for the volunteers of the Greenwood Rural Volunteer Fire Department in Weatherford.

In 2021, about two dozen volunteers and weekday paid, part-time staff assisted in nearly 800 calls. A typical year might bring an average of 500 calls for fire, vehicle crashes and other Emergency Medical System (EMS) assists. This past year, a group of nine volunteers, who made more than 100 calls each, with one making more than 200 calls, kept the fire department running and the community safe.

"That's nine people covering a lot of calls and a lot of different hours. If we had more people, we could spread that out. It's very hard," shared volunteer Adam Duckworth, who works full time at Lockheed Martin.

"I always wanted to join the fire department," Adam said, but his busy military schedule in the National Guard would not allow it. After retiring from the military and moving to Weatherford in 2012, he found the time. He enjoys the camaraderie of the crew. "We all get along very well together," Adam said. "Really, it is just helping people out, too."

Greenwood is always looking for volunteers who can commit time to provide a necessary service to the community. "Just come knock on the door and get an application," said Assistant Chief Greg Garcia, a retired Federal Aviation Administration controller. He has been with the department

since 2011 and is paid part time but also volunteers.

"I don't want to sound like a 10-year-old boy, but I don't know how anybody cannot like getting in the truck, driving with the lights and siren on, putting your air pack on, getting out, grabbing the fire hose and running into a burning building!" Greg shared.

Volunteer Dion Dragoo joined the department in 2019 and is a certified firefighter I and ECA. He assisted in 202 calls last year in addition to his full-time job at Pilot Thomas Logistics and time spent with family. "I came out here and met everybody, and I was like, 'Yeah, I can do this.'" It is difficult work, but Dion said it is worth it. "You're going there on that person's worst day, and you're going out and doing everything you can to make it better."

Shannon Macy has been a volunteer with Greenwood for the past two years and went on 191 calls in 2021. "It takes dedication, perseverance, compassion and lots of hard work," she said. As a homeschooling mother of four, Macy finds it challenging at times. "It is always a balancing act between my home and family and my volunteer time."

Volunteers can expect three training sessions each month on Personal Protection Equipment, working with ladders and hoses and other skills. In addition to on-the-job training, new volunteers must take online classes for the first six months of probation and periodically thereafter. "The Texas Forest Service has a grant system, so any training we can go to, they pay for," Greg said.

It is not an easy job. The volunteers are on-call primarily evening, overnight and weekend hours, and alarms appear to be a constant call to action. "We do it for the community and to give back," Greg said.

Calls can be physically and emotionally draining. "We go do everything we can, but sometimes when you get there, there's





nothing you can do. So, you just don't focus on those. You focus on the good things," Dion said.

Adam, who assisted on more than 100 calls last year, encourages drivers to slow down when they come across emergency vehicles and first responders at an accident scene. "We're trying to work, trying to watch for traffic, so we don't get hit. It's really dangerous."

Fire safety tips are numerous, but the primary advice is to think before acting. "Just pay attention to what you're doing." Dion said.

The Greenwood Rural Volunteer Fire Department, which was founded in 1966, is contracted by Emergency Services District Number 7. The ESD pays the bills for the fire station on Greenwood Cut Off Road, which provides fire suppression, EMS and rescue services to nearly 6,000 residents in western Parker County. The goal is to eventually have the station staffed 24/7.

This October, Greenwood will continue its community appreciation event after a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19 to provide food, fire safety demonstrations and giveaways to residents. NOW

Editor's Note: To learn more or find a volunteer application online, visit greenwoodvfd.org.





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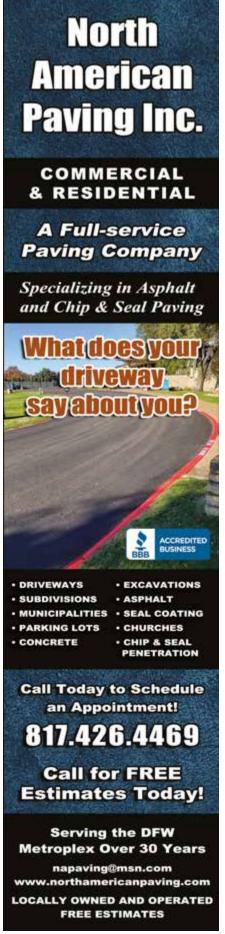
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Ranch & Lake Tiny Homes & Cottages

— By Lisa Bell

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Hours: Monday-Saturday: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. **Closed Sundays**

When David and Bonnie Palmer noticed tiny homes replacing RVs surrounding their lake property, they looked at the option. "We couldn't find anything west of Dallas," David divulged. Driving to East Texas, they waited in line to view available models. Seeing an opportunity to help people close to home, David launched Ranch & Lake Tiny Homes & Cottages in January 2021.

As the owner of North American Paving, David built a reputation in the Weatherford area for integrity, fairness in pricing and quality. Those same values transferred to RL Tiny Homes. Although he had some experience selling manufactured homes with his brother, David said, "We had to teach ourselves this business. A new adventure, we had a learning curve." Bonnie handles all the title work, administration and insurance needs.

Not long into the venture, David brought Glen Blankenship onboard, who comes from a real estate background. "As a whole, we enjoy helping people. No pressure. We're here to answer questions," he shared. "We want to help. That's why we provide a non-pressured sales environment."

Another team member, Amber Howard, brings expertise in real estate, including her license. She can assist customers with locating and purchasing land if necessary. "I came looking to supplement my income," she said. "Now it's my main thing. I still love the tiny homes."

RL Tiny Homes has a service department on-site available for warranty work and beyond. They have about 12 homes on display, offering an affordable option for individuals and families. With tiny homes under 399 square feet, cottages ranging from 600-800 square feet, and single- or double-wide manufactured homes up to 1,500 square feet, they can meet most needs.

Tiny homes and cottages work well for ranchers, mother-in-law suites or college students. As housing prices soar, the team strives to offer an option for young couples and individuals who have the dream of owning a place. In most cases, they can provide an option equal to or less than rent. With material and labor shortages, some developers look to them for possibilities. "We see a lot of communities opening up for tiny homes in the future," David predicted.

The manufacturers they use, Champion, Meridian Homes and Stone Canyon, create high-quality products that appreciate in value. As a bonus, tiny homes do not typically incur property taxes because of their RV classification, but they do not require annual registrations. Although not intended for constant movement, movers can relocate tiny homes with special equipment. RL Tiny Homes includes free delivery and setup within a 50-mile radius for all homes. Cottages become a permanent structure, as do the manufactured houses, and they are subject to local property taxes.

Unlike other tiny home distributors, the team allows customers to take self-guided tours. Once checked in at the office, the team lets visitors wander in and out of homes, discussing what they like or don't like. Shawn Keeler, the service manager, keeps the displayed homes clean and well-maintained, so customers can enjoy their experience. When finished browsing, they return to the office with questions. RL Tiny Homes wants to treat everyone like family and never employ high pressure. Whether curious or seriously looking for a smaller home, enjoy some time at Ranch & Lake Tiny Homes & Cottages. NOW

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Around Town



Joyce Tarter (Lovie) of Lovie's Bistro located in Westside Antique Marketplace in Aledo prepares her incredible homemade cupcakes for the afternoon antique customers.



Cub master for Pack 375, Heff Maxwell spends the weekend camping with his pack at Holland Camp.

Zoomed In: Anne Buse

A creator of Native American beadwork, Anne Buse enjoys teaching classes to those who want to learn the art. In response to national tragedies, she creates special pieces. "I made these earrings in response to the shooting at Uvalde," she said. Anne delights in sharing heritage, and she also finds it important to raise awareness of the struggles Native Americans have experienced through the generations.

For those interested, she tells stories many never heard. Among Anne's favorite places to take her Whitefawn Creations, Native American Pow Wows top her list. Coming together with indigenous Americans, she takes part in opportunities to display an important part of this country's history, demonstrating the ways of life of those whose ancestors originally inhabited North America.



First Texas Bank celebrates the opening of its new location in Willow Park.



The Johnson family enjoys an afternoon of bass fishing and catching turtles.

By Lisa Bell



Mother and daughter, Suzanne Michael and Sara Hajj, dress up for a day out.



Tammy Lane welcomes all who came to celebrate Capernaum Studios' Weatherford Chamber ribbon cutting.



Weatherford College Coyotes play baseball on a Saturday afternoon.



Weatherford Police Chief Lance Arnold presents Kim Chilcutt with the Volunteer of the Year Award at the Weatherford Texas Police Foundation Police & Fire Awards Banquet.





"I started cooking in kindergarten when my mother and I enrolled in 4-H," Kerrington explained. Parker County AgriLife Extension Agent Kayla Neill runs the 4-H and Youth Development programs. "Mrs. Kayla runs a fantastic Food & Nutrition Program that encourages kids to try different foods and make creative recipes."

Kerrington's Nana is also a fantastic baker. During the summers, she spent time with her, and they enjoyed coming up with new recipes and perfecting them. "Baking is by far my favorite. It's more of a science than a delicacy. For it to turn out exactly the way you imagined, you must have all your ingredients precisely measured. One wrong move and the recipe can be an epic fail," Kerrington mentioned. "My family created a binder of incredible recipes, which we add to whenever a new dish is worthy." Now

Texas-style Roasted Brussels Sprouts

- 1 1/2 lbs. Brussels sprouts, ends removed and cut in half
- 3 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 1/2 tsp. chili powder

- 1/2 tsp. cumin
- 1/2 tsp. paprika
- 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper

1. Preheat the oven to 400 F. In a medium bowl, add the Brussels sprouts, olive oil, chili

powder, cumin, paprika, garlic powder, salt and black pepper. Mix until well coated. **2.** Line a baking sheet with parchment paper; add the Brussels sprouts, spreading out in an even layer. Bake for 20 minutes, tossing halfway through.

G's Stuffed Tex-Mex Pasta Shells

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 12-oz. jar salsa
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 8-oz. can tomato sauce
- 1 4-oz. can green chilies
- 1 cup Monterey Jack cheese, shredded (divided use)
- 1 can French-fried onions (divided use) 12 pasta shells, cooked and drained
- **I.** In a pan, brown the ground beef; drain the excess oil.
- **2.** In a bowl, mix the salsa, water and tomato sauce together. Add 1/2 cup of the salsa mixture to the ground beef.

- **3.** Add the green chilies to the beef mixture. Stir 1/2 cup cheese and 1/2 can fried onions into the beef mixture.
- **4.** Stuff the cooked pasta shells with the beef mixture. Pour the remaining beef mixture into the bottom of an 8x12-inch baking dish. Arrange the shells in the dish evenly on top of the beef mixture.
- **5.** Pour the salsa mixture over the shells. Bake at 350 F for 30 minutes. Top with the remaining cheese and fried onions. Bake for 5 more minutes.

Strawberry Poke Cake

Brady's favorite.

- I box white cake mix
- 1 3-oz. pkg. strawberry Jell-O
- I cup boiling water
- 1 8-oz. container Cool Whip, thawed Fresh sliced strawberries, for garnish (optional)
- **1.** Bake the cake according to box directions. Poke holes all over the top of the baked cake.
- 2. Dissolve the Jell-O mix into boiling water; pour all over the top of the cake. Refrigerate until completely cooled, at least 1 hour.
- **3.** Spread the Cool Whip evenly over the top of the cake. Garnish with freshly sliced strawberries.
- 4. Variation: Add a Fourth of July flare by garnishing with both strawberries and blueberries in an American flag pattern.

MeMaw's Pickle Dip

- I clove garlic
- 6 dill pickle spears, diced into very small pieces
- 1 8-oz. block cream cheese, room temperature
- 1 tsp. mayonnaise Fritos, to taste
- 1. Press and rub a glass dip bowl with the garlic; discard the garlic. Add pickles and cream cheese to the garlic-rubbed bowl. Add the mayonnaise; stir until well blended. Serve with Fritos.

Peach Cobbler Cupcakes

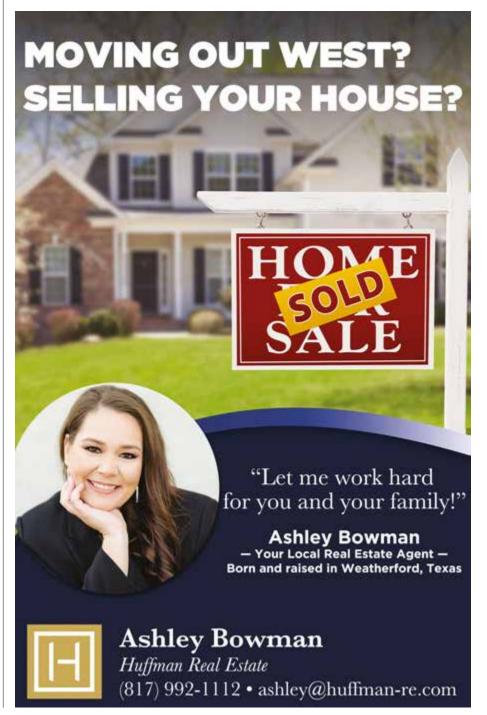
Peach Compote Filling and Topping:

- 4 cups peeled and sliced peaches, fresh or frozen
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 Tbsp. cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp. salt

Cupcakes:

- I box yellow cake mix
- I stick butter, melted
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 3 eggs







Pie Crumbs:

I cup granulated sugar

 $1 \, 1/2$ cups flour

2 sticks butter, softened and sliced

Frosting:

2 sticks butter, room temperature

4 oz. cream cheese, softened

I cup brown sugar

2 Tbsp. water

1 Tbsp. meringue powder

4 cups powdered sugar

Whipped Topping:

I cup heavy cream 1/2 cup powdered sugar 1 1/2 Tbsp. meringue powder Ground cinnamon, to taste

1. For peach compote filling and topping: Combine all ingredients in a large frying pan. Cook on medium-high heat to boil. Reduce heat; simmer for 4 minutes. Cover; allow to cool in the refrigerator for 3 to 4 hours.

2. For cupcakes: Preheat the oven to 350 F; line cupcake tins. Combine the cake mix, butter and buttermilk; mix for about 30 seconds. Add the eggs, one at a time, mixing well between additions and scraping down the bowl as needed. Fill the cupcake liners with about 1/4 cup batter.

3. Bake 18-20 minutes, or until a toothpick comes out clean. Allow the cupcakes to cool in the pan for about 3 minutes; move to rack to cool completely. Use the cooling period to make your pie crumbs.

4. For pie crumbs: Raise the oven temperature to 450 F. Whisk together the sugar and flour. Using a fork, combine the butter slices and dry ingredients until the mixture forms a sand-like crumble. Spread the crumble across a baking sheet; bake for 8 minutes. Remove from the oven. Break up; stir the crumbs around with a spatula. Repeat until the crumbs are golden brown; set aside to cool. The crumbs harden as they cool.

5. For frosting: Cream the butter and cream cheese until fluffy. Add the brown sugar; mix until well-combined.

6. Add the water to the meringue powder until it dissolves; place in a mixing bowl with I cup powdered sugar. Mix until well-

combined. Add the remaining powdered sugar, a little at a time. Scrape the sides of your bowl when needed. Whisk on high for I minute until fluffy.

7. For assembling cupcakes: Use a knife to carefully remove the center of each cupcake. Stuff the center with peaches from the compote, but save syrup for the topping.

8. Put the frosting in a piping bag fitted with a circular pastry tip. Make a single layer of frosting on each cupcake. Top each frosted cupcake with pie crumbs. Spoon a tsp. of peach compote on top. Set cupcakes aside in preparation for the whip.

9. For whipped topping: Using a beater, whip the heavy cream on medium-high speed until it thickens. Add the powdered sugar and meringue powder. Whip on high speed until stiff peaks form. Add the whip to the top of each cupcake. Drizzle with syrup; sprinkle cinnamon on top.





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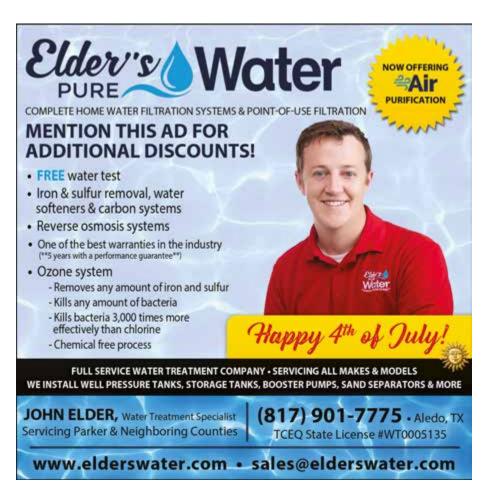
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- 1 "Let's get goin'!"
- 5 Barflies
- 10 Recently deceased
- 11 As a matter ---, ...
- 13 Pine
- 14 Graven image
- 15 Drops
- 17 Joshes
- 18 Omen
- 21 Devour
- 22 Ottawa chief
- 24 Malt beverage
- 26 Capricorn
- 29 Ocho ---, Jamaican resort
- 31 Mecca man, for example
- 32 To an extent
- 35 Walked
- 36 California racetrack
- 37 Bring on board
- 38 Thin
- 39 Top guns

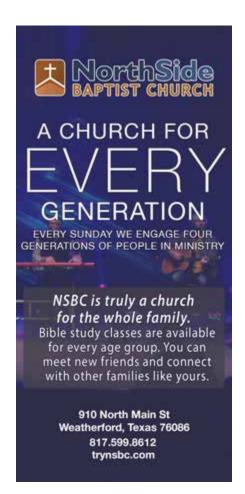
Down

- 1 Embrace
- 2 Rambo-like
- 3 Hell is ---, (Jean-Paul Sartre)
- 4 Must
- 5 "Maydayl"
- 6 Many times
- 7 At a distance
- 8 Has hosted TV shows on all the Big Three networks
- 9 Diving gear
- 12 Dry run
- 16 Mailed
- 19 Ultimate degree
- 20 Even scores
- 23 An aunt of Bertie Wooster
- 24 Desiccated
- 25 Challenge for a shortstop
- 27 Worship
- 28 Beach cleaners?
- 30 Identical
- 33 Wicked
- 34 Endeavor

Online versions and solutions available at www.nowmagazines.com. Click on the See All button to view solutions.













JULY

7/2

Independence Day Freedom Fest:

Learn history in a new way.
Freedom Fest: 9:00 a.m.5:00 p.m.; Independence
Trail: 10:00 a.m.-4:45 p.m.
(15-minute slots); Washington's
Armor Movie Screening: 5:30
p.m., Capernaum Studios, 10700
FM 920, Poolville 76487.
Details and tickets,
www.capernaumstudios.com.

7/4

Spark in the Park:

Massive show is one of the largest fireworks displays in

North Texas. Light up your night with the city of Weatherford. 6:00-10:00 p.m., 317 Santa Fe Dr. www.experienceweatherford. com/events.

7/5-7/8, 7/11-7/14, 7/18-7/21, 7/25-7/28

Art Camp:

Two groups of students (limit of 10/group), ages 5-7 and 8-10, in this weeklong camp hosted by Weatherford Art Association. \$60/student includes supplies. 10:00 a.m.-noon, Central Christian Church, Cuppett Hall,

1602 S. Main St. For more information, visit www.weatherfordart.com.

7/9

Parker County Peach Festival:

37th annual festival offers over 200 quality arts & crafts, produce, activities and food vendors will line historic downtown. 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Downtown Weatherford. www.peachfestivaltx.com.

7/24

"Howdy Party"
Scholarship Fundraiser:

Parker County Aggie Moms'
Club presents an evening with
a catered dinner, live and silent
auctions, plus more. \$25. 6:0010:00 p.m., Shep's, 202 Fort
Worth Hwy. Tickets online,
www.parkercomoms.aggienetwork.com.

7/29-8/7

The Stinky Cheese Man ...:
Annual children's production.
7:30 p.m., Theatre Off the
Square, 114 N. Denton.
www.theatreoffthesquare.org.

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











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