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## ON THE COVER



Alta Wolfenberger enjoys spending time in her garden.

Photo by Vanessa Polozola.

# CONTENTS

November 2012 • Volume 2, Issue 11



## 8 Changing Lives

Adchara Peterson makes sacrifices, with joy, for her daughter.



## 14 Pitching In

At Home With Alta Wolfenberger.



## 26 A Weaver's Imagination

Using a loom and yarn, Sherri Coffey brings her visions to reality.

37 AroundTownNOW

38 BusinessNOW

40 FinanceNOW

44 CookingNOW

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## Editor's Note

*Hello Friends,*

Do you consider yourself an extrovert or an introvert? Simply put, introverts prefer solitary activities over social ones, while extroverts receive a dose of energy just by being around other people. I've taken my share of personality profiles over the years, and I have been identified as an extrovert. True, it is great fun to get out and about, interrogating people everywhere I go. There comes a point, however, when I need to stop and write — and I find special pleasures in this solitary activity.

I'm blessed to work for NOW Magazines, which makes good use of my chameleon-like abilities. In existence since 2004, our company launched its 10th magazine last month. We are happy to welcome *GranburyNOW Magazine* into our family! We distribute over 240,000 magazines each month and have a readership of over 600,000 across the 10 markets. To be part of this growth is amazing! This year more than any other I can, in all things, give thanks.

Happy Thanksgiving!

*Melissa*

Melissa Rawlins

*WeatherfordNOW* Editor

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# CHANGIN

By Melissa Rawlins

*Adchara Peterson holds herself to high standards. Knowing her daughter, niece and nephew are watching, she wants to give them a good example. That's what she told Becky Tripp and the committee of ladies from Parker County Women's and Newcomer's Club, who provided her with a full scholarship to Weatherford College. "You can tell your children all you want, but unless they see how hard you work they're not going to listen," Adchara said. "I try to show them how hard I work, and that as a result I will get good grades."*

Reared in Bangkok, Thailand, Adchara has a Bachelor of Arts in social sciences, political science and history from a government university in Thailand. "Asian kids are all about school. They don't have other responsibilities outside of their school work," said Adchara, who came to America to further her studies and eventually met her husband, William, while attending North Texas State, now University of North Texas.

Throughout her years as a housewife, Adchara chose to mix Asian and American





# G Lives

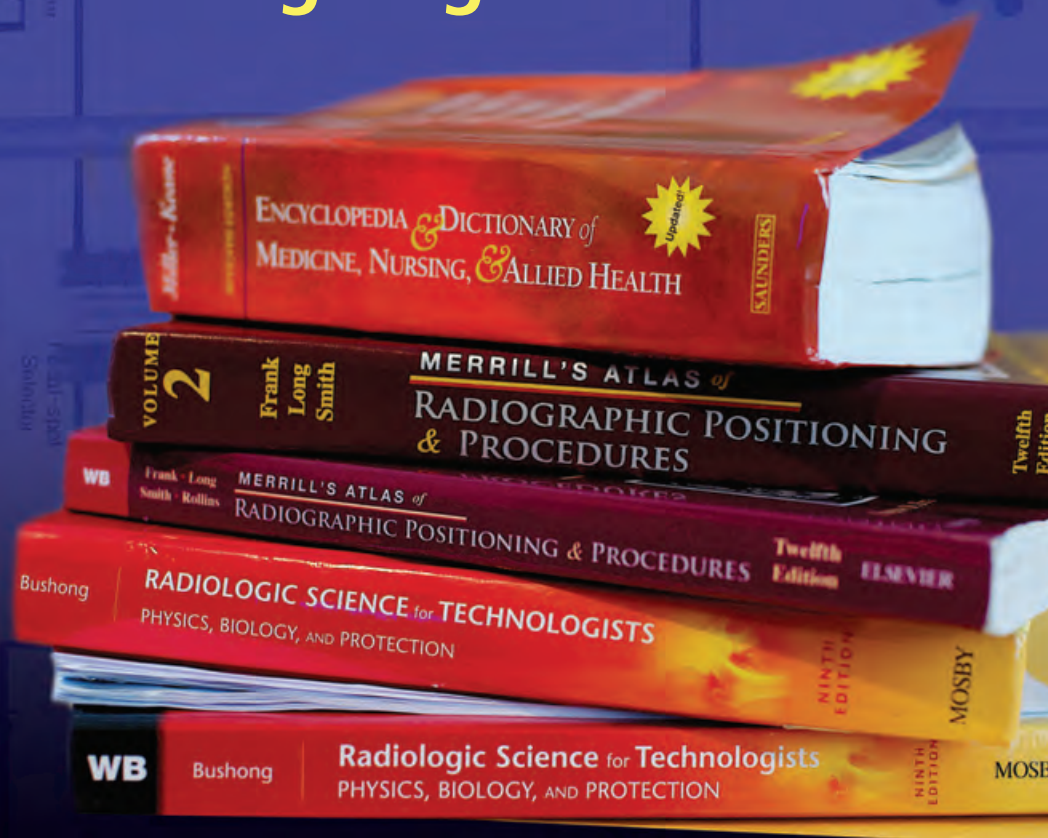
standards for her daughter, Jessica, who is now 12. "It's a good thing to have chores besides study. Plus, it's good to get outside and get fresh air and play outdoor sports rather than stay indoors and work on the Internet all day," Adchara said. "As a family, we sometimes go outside to take a walk, or we swim. We eat well and healthy, because we don't want to get sick."

Running a household and going to school is Adchara's more-than-full-time job, a choice she made so Jessica can one day attend college — possibly to study in the field of medicine. "I wouldn't have dreamed of going back to school at my age, but Jessica's education is my motivation," Adchara said. "I think she's smart enough to do whatever she wants to do. It's not going to be cheap, and that's not going to be easy."

After May, 2013, with an associate degree in radiologic technology, Adchara's day to day schedule will be less strenuous. Her goal is to work in diagnostic radiology and other modalities, such as CAT scans, MRI, nuclear medicine and ultrasound, so that she'll be eligible for a variety of jobs after graduation. "I'm thinking I might continue studying at Midwestern University, so I can complete my Bachelor of Science in the radiology field and be able in the future to teach or become an administrator," Adchara said. "Overall, it's not as much about money as about job availability."

Her family is quite willing to help when she is studying for exams. "They are so sweet! If I have a test in the


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morning, they will bring me breakfast," Adchara said, "or they will help with dinner and clean up after themselves."

The family conducts a concerted and unified effort on weekends to plan the next week's meals, shop and cook so leftovers are available all week long. They also maintain a strict routine of housekeeping throughout the week, by cleaning bathrooms, doing laundry, vacuuming and dusting. "The priority is to keep up with schoolwork before they can move on to their activities." Everyone enjoys their free time together more when they know their work is done and done well.

In order to do well in her own classes, Adchara improvises throughout each day, balancing her homework with her main priority, which is her family. In her radiologic technology program at Weatherford Community College, the clinical experience is weighted as heavily as the classroom work. Although she approached her first anatomy and physiology classes with trepidation, since science had never been her forte, Adchara found she was quite good at the natural sciences and even was asked to help the other students in the class. "I was tutoring anatomy and physiology







class for one semester while waiting to get into the radiologic technology program. I enjoyed helping those students," she said, "and found tutoring helped me go back and study it again for myself."

Three days per week, Adchara drives to her clinicals in a Stephenville hospital. "I have to be there at 7:30 a.m., and then I leave by 4:00 p.m. It could be after 5:00 p.m. before I am able to pick up my daughter," Adchara said, "and if she has piano lessons or other activities I will drive her and read in the car during her lesson." She is always studying after classes, while eating lunch,



after she has prepared and served dinner to her family and then again after they are in bed. Yet Adchara strives to find the happy medium between just enough and too much study.

"Sometimes, I cannot read longer than 3-4 hours. Long study sessions are my bad habit," she said. "You need to take a break after one or two hours, because your brain gets overloaded." She has little choice, though, since family is first priority. Additionally, it takes her more work than most of the other 18 students in her class.

"As a foreigner it's not always easy to study in a different language. Also, I'm older and can't remember as quickly as those younger students in my class," she stated matter-of-factly. Adchara

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compensates by planning and prioritizing her study goals, re-reading and repeating to help her remember more and researching each topic to increase her comprehension. "I don't know if my classmates do that, but I have to. I do triple the work, also, because some words are really hard to understand." Some of her textbooks have English medical terms that Adchara is not familiar with, so she searches the Internet to find explanations from medical dictionaries. "I have to translate the English to English!" she laughed.

Along with 15 native students, Adchara goes to class with three other foreign students. "We are all good students, and everyone in this program studies very hard. We have to, because this is a tough field to be in," she said. "In 2011, we started with 24 students and are now down to 19 in the class."

Tuition and books for this two-year program were provided for Adchara by a scholarship from the Parker County Women's and Newcomer's Club. "I'm very proud of that, because they have a lot of applicants," Adchara said. "During the interviews, six wonderful ladies asked me questions, and my answers were as honest as I could provide. Just that they called me was generous. I said, 'Thank you for the opportunity!' before I left. I never dreamed I would get something or someone to help me!"

As a mother and a wife, Adchara has already transformed her loved ones' lives. Now, Adchara is dreaming even bigger: "This makes me feel I need to do something else for somebody else," she said. "When I get to the point of having a job, I'm totally going to plan to help change other people's lives." **NOW**





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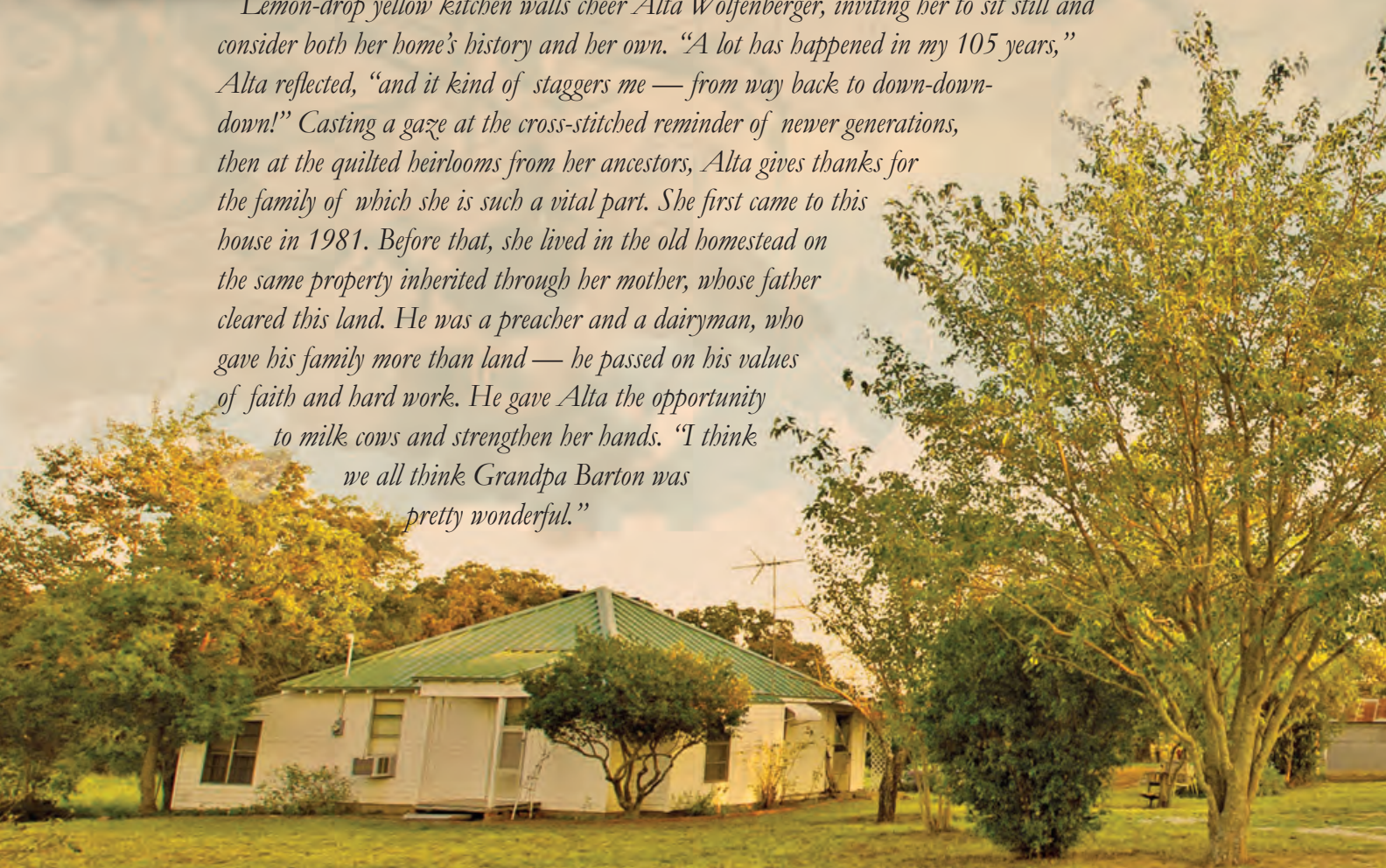




"Our family's getting to be so big now, we usually gather at Lavada's big dining table — she's the mother of the clan now, I reckon."

— By Melissa Rawlins

*Lemon-drop yellow kitchen walls cheer Alta Wolfenberger, inviting her to sit still and consider both her home's history and her own. "A lot has happened in my 105 years," Alta reflected, "and it kind of staggers me — from way back to down-down-down!" Casting a gaze at the cross-stitched reminder of newer generations, then at the quilted heirlooms from her ancestors, Alta gives thanks for the family of which she is such a vital part. She first came to this house in 1981. Before that, she lived in the old homestead on the same property inherited through her mother, whose father cleared this land. He was a preacher and a dairyman, who gave his family more than land — he passed on his values of faith and hard work. He gave Alta the opportunity to milk cows and strengthen her hands. "I think we all think Grandpa Barton was pretty wonderful."*





Four generations continue to work a small garden plot on the land. Together with her son, Bob Wolfenberger, his daughter, Lea Penny, and her daughter, Hannah, Alta keeps her hands dirty and her heart healthy. This fall, they have all been enjoying homegrown tomatoes, greens, squash and beans from the garden behind Alta's house. Alta planned it, Lea plowed it, and together they planted it. Bob and Hannah have helped Alta and Lea to weed and to harvest. "Last summer, it was too hot to have a garden, yet we had a nice early garden that Lea and I took care of," said Alta, who is teaching Lea the secrets of bringing life from the earth.

"I am a teacher by experience. I let them see my life, the way I do," Alta said. "But you know it's altogether different now. This old world is getting in a mess. You try to garden now, and everything you can think of goes against you — the weather, the bugs, the deer. It wasn't that way in the past. Later on it got that way, and I was young enough to fight it and work it. Now, I leave it to Lea."

Inside her home on the living room couch, a pillow cross-stitched with *One who sows a Garden reaps Happiness* attests to Alta's love for growing things. Above it is a Colorado landscape, painted by Bob's



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eldest daughter, Allyson. Other friends and family members painted flowers, a windmill and a scene of Grandmother Boecker's homestead in Nebraska. Alta's father, Gus Boecker, was known as a hardworking handyman and carpenter. "He could do most anything, and the people around the country would say, 'If it can be fixed, Gus Boecker will fix it.' And he never charged 'em a dime for fixing anything."



"Neither would Alta," chimed in her daughter, Lavada, who lives on the property. Gus built the homestead in 1946 with help from Alta. Alta had moved in with her two children after her husband left her. While the children were in school, Alta was up on the roof nailing down shingles. She also worked at places like the long-gone Hillcrest Motel; the Peaster schools, where she cooked for the children; and Wilhite's pillow factory, from which she retired.

In 1960, Gus moved an older barn-like building onto the property, so Lavada could have a home. He and Lavada and Alta's brother, Roy, renovated the home. "Back in those days, Grandpa built the cabinets and created the kitchen," Lavada said. "He added a closet and a bathroom, and later, added another bedroom." For 20 years, the expanded building housed many different members of Alta's family. In 1981, it became her residence.

The rocking chair, in which Alta's

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parents rocked her and her brother, graces the master bedroom, where she displays an antique oval photograph of the Barton family. If you look really close, you can see Grandpa Barton's handlebar moustache. Alta's mother made the bed covering, a complicated quilt made from men's shirts. A handmade shelf full of Bibles and reference books on one side of the bed testifies to Alta's love of reading. Now that macular degeneration has visited, Alta, Bob and Lea often read to her.

She has a book on reflexology, a health practice Alta uses regularly. "Our body is wonderfully and fearfully made — it's true. You can press right under your nose, like putting on a moustache, and it takes away leg cramps every time," Alta said. "I massage the knuckles on the palm of my left hand to help my heart going. And the good Lord — I think He's the best to keep me going!"

Alta has outfitted her guest room with reminders of life's joys. For five generations, all the women have sewn on the century-old treadle sewing machine. "I remember when Mother and Dad bought it. A man came through the country selling them, and demonstrated it in front of our yard. Dad gave him a cow for that machine." The dresser was part of Alta's parents' bedroom set, and it holds a complete set of *McGuffey Eclectic Readers* just like those Alta's mother grew up with. On the other side of the doorway hangs a plaque that says: *The kiss of the sun for pardon, the song of the birds for mirth, one is nearer God's heart in a garden than anywhere else on earth.*

On the little back porch beyond the guest room, Alta tends to a variety of happy, potted plants. She loves to sit





on the little sewing chair that belonged to her mother and contemplate her bougainvillea and Wandering Jews. She digs with her little trowel as necessary. "You stir up the dirt and soil," Alta explained. "It brings the bottom moisture up to the roots and the air down to the roots."

Alta celebrates her family's roots while looking forward to the future when 30 people will gather for Thanksgiving with Alta. "Our family's getting to be so big now, we usually gather at Lavada's big dining table — she's the mother of the clan now, I reckon," Alta said. To get all 30 at the holiday meal, they'll meet at the Zion Hill Clubhouse. "Any time of year when we come together, we always give each other a hug and a kiss! Everybody loves to eat and brings something, so we always have oodles of food. Our home is full of praying, oh my. That's what I credit my long life to: knowing the Lord."

And these days, Alta's grateful for her family of helpful men and women. As she helped her own parents, Alta's children and grandchildren and their spouses are always ready to help. Because they pitch in regularly to maintain her house, it is comfortable for Alta. "I've had a real good life," she said, "and I am so thankful I can stay in my little home." **NOW**

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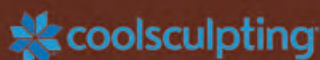
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# A Weaver's Imagination

— By Amber D. Browne

*Sitting at the loom in her window-filled home studio, Sherri Coffey creates beautifully colored rugs. Each handcrafted piece is unique, straight out of Sherri's imagination. Each piece is also woven from yarn, dyed at Sherri's fingertips.*

Her passion for colors and textiles spread into more indigenous weaving.





Sherri first sat at the loom in the 1980s when she began weaving fabric. “Growing up, my mother made all our clothes. So, there was always an interest in cloth and textiles,” Sherri explained. “I had this little vision that I would sew it into something, but, I didn’t want to go any further with it. I didn’t want to cut into it.”

Her passion for colors and textiles spread into more indigenous weaving. Sherri decided to weave a striped saddle blanket for her late father, Herman Woodard. He used the blanket as a member of the Parker County Sheriff’s Posse. “I dyed all the yarn with the only



colors I knew how to make — indigo and cochineal. He liked it, and I liked the weaving, so I just went on from there. This is all I do now,” she explained.

Sherri started out with a small loom and moved on to larger sizes. She now weaves rugs, which are mostly hung on walls as tapestries. “I love it,” Sherri admitted. She is self-taught and has read many books over her career to learn the art of weaving.

“The hardest part about learning to weave for me was just the vocabulary,” she said. Sherri had to learn correct terms for each part of the loom, the yarn and the various steps of the weaving process. The colored yarn is called the weft, which she pulls through the warp. Pushing the treadle with her feet tightens the strand of weft across the warp, making one of hundreds of small rows of yarn that will ultimately combine to complete the rug.

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She attaches 30 yards of warp about once a year. Each warp must be individually attached and tied onto the loom. Sherri has learned over the years to measure how much warp is used for each piece she makes. "It's really bad to run out of warp before you get finished with your weaving, because then you have to start all over again," she explained.

Learning by book was probably not the easiest way to pick up the art form, but it gave Sherri insight on a passion she wanted to follow. "Once I decided that this was the kind of weaving I wanted to do," she confessed, "I did go take some lessons."

She uses many bright colors in her pieces and dyes her own yarn. She buys undyed wool yarn from a company in New York. "Dying is all based on the weight of the goods," she explained.





Sherri uses two threads together when she weaves, so she dyes two rolls, or skeins, of yarn for each color she wants to use in the piece. She must weigh the yarn and the dye, which she then mixes with citric acid and simmers in a pot. The dye-yarn mixture is checked every 30 minutes until all the dye has been absorbed. The propane burners are turned off, and the dyed yarn sits overnight. Sherri washes the yarn the next day, and then uses a wooden umbrella swift to roll it into balls. "You can get different effects by using different colors," she said. Sherri also dyes patterns, including the ikat technique into yarn, which leaves a design in the piece while it is being woven.

The large loom takes up most of Sherri's sun-filled studio, which also has other various pieces of weaving equipment scattered about. Balls of colorful yarn are lined up along the floor, each tagged with a specific dye formula. Unfinished pieces are rolled up, peeking out of a basket along the front wall. Her studio is inviting,

and Sherri does not mind spending time doing what she loves because of the satisfaction she feels once a piece is finished. She also uses that time to listen to audio books. Other times, she transcends into a meditative state while sitting for hours at the loom.

Although Sherri may enjoy her alone time while weaving, she also appreciates camaraderie of other local weavers. "We have a really active Weavers Guild in Fort Worth," she said. After first joining the organization, Sherri volunteered for a committee with the guild to meet other locals who loved the craft. "It's just a fun group of people," she said. Several Parker County residents have joined the guild, which includes monthly meetings, workshops and a mentor program. "After you've started weaving, there are people who will help you with whatever issue

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you might have," she said. Sherri no longer heads the committee, but she now helps with its Web site.

Sherri has also learned to take advantage of technology in her studio. "I usually draw my design on graph paper," she said. "I can scan my design and play around with colors on Photoshop." Previously, Sherri would use colored pencils on the graph paper design to match the colors of the piece she had envisioned. "If I didn't like it, I would have to start over again. So technology is really helpful in that way." Sherri has met other weavers from across the country through online groups and made lifelong friends.

Besides her passion for weaving, Sherri enjoys those special moments with her family. Sherri was born in Corpus Christi, but grew up in Weatherford. She is one of five children, including three sisters and a brother. Her brother passed away

**"She uses many  
bright colors in her  
pieces and dyes her  
own yarn."**

several years ago, but her sisters live in Weatherford and Arlington. Her father passed away a couple of years ago. Dannie Woodard, Sherri's 85-year-old mother, is a writer, and Sherri often helps her with computer-related issues and her writing groups.

Sherri's two children do not live locally, but they do visit from time to time. Her son, Chad, lives in Flagstaff, Arizona, and her daughter, Megan, lives in Charlotte, North Carolina. Megan's two young sons made a trip to Texas this summer. Sherri often tries to teach the boys a little about weaving when they visit. "One of the best pictures I have is of the boys at Christmastime in their pajamas weaving on this little bitty loom I have," she remembered.

Although it takes time to finish a piece, Sherri plans to continue weaving and sharing her artwork at the Weavers Guild's annual show. She hopes others will get involved in the craft by joining a local weavers group and educating themselves about the interesting art. **NOW**



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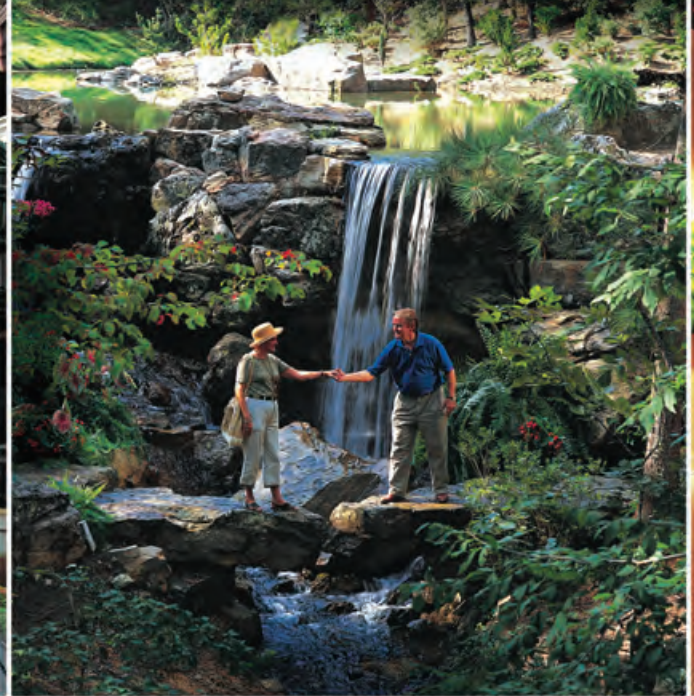
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Hot Springs is also the proud hometown of our nation's 42nd president, former President Bill Clinton. President Clinton credits the world-famous resort city as being responsible for the early educational experiences that led him to a career in public service, first as Arkansas Attorney General, then Governor of Arkansas and ultimately, the 42nd president of the United States. In commemoration of President Bill Clinton, Hot Springs Advertising and Promotion Commission issued a series of very popular Clinton trading cards, which became collector's items due to the fact they are limited in quantity. While Clinton was a student at St. John's Catholic School, the nuns predicted he would one day be president. In high school, he was active as a student politician.

#### *Other Tourist Attractions in Hot Springs*

Are you shopping for unique antiques and collectibles, fine art or souvenir gifts? Arkansas antique shops, rock shops, boutiques and malls are additional reasons Hot Springs is such a popular vacation destination.

Looking for restaurants in Hot Springs? When you dine in one of the many restaurants inside Victorian buildings in the Historic Downtown District, you'll enjoy more than good food and friendly service. You'll be treated to intriguing glimpses into the city's colorful past. Friendly servers will be happy to point out the secret passages and one-way mirrors left over from the

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Historic downtown is not the only popular eating spot in town. Dine by the lake, on a riverboat, near the horse track or mall, on a main thoroughfare or on a mountain lane. Hot Springs restaurants offer a wide variety of excellent dining choices and cuisines —from cafés to gourmet cabarets.

#### *Ouachita Mountain Wonders — Outdoor Fun*

Some say one of the area's best features is its location in the Diamond Lakes Region of the scenic Ouachita Mountains, providing a variety of things to do. Looking for a vacation destination where you can enjoy Arkansas sports and outdoors? The Ouachita Mountains are truly a paradise for outdoor recreation. The beautiful Diamond Lakes region features tournament-quality bass and trout fishing and year-round water sports. Arkansas' State and National Parks offer camping, hiking, biking, horseback riding and birding along scenic mountain trails. World-class Arkansas golf courses in the Hot Springs area provide challenging play on lovely courses. When you go hunting for quartz crystals, you can keep all the natural treasures you find.

Crystal hunting, fishing, water sports, hiking, golf, camping, sightseeing and horseback riding provide year-round opportunity for outdoor recreation. Tucked inside a mystical valley in these gentle mountains, Hot Springs offers visitors many exciting outdoor sports activities.

#### *Action and Adventure*

You'll find the perfect combination of relaxing activities and kick-out-all-the-stops attractions in the Spa City. The new state-of-the-art concert and sports arena, Hot Springs Convention Center and meeting facilities, interesting interactive museums, 210-acre botanical gardens, Oaklawn Park for thoroughbred horse racing and fun family attractions make Hot Springs a popular group travel destination. Oaklawn Park thoroughbred horse racing track and Garvan Woodland Gardens, the new 4 1/2-mile lake-side botanical masterpiece, are just two of the many exciting activities you'll find waiting for you in the Arkansas outdoors. **NOW**

*Copy and photos courtesy of Visit Hot Springs.*





*City of Weatherford is busily working.*



*Tison Middle School thanks Best Buy and Wal-Mart for their recent donations of iPad cases and screen protectors.*



*Lady GaGa GaGa GaGa, otherwise known as Rachel, joins her mother, Lisa, on a tour of Myra Hall's and Cynda Ewing's booth at the quilt show.*



*Weatherford ISD payroll coordinator LaDawna Raper wears her husband, Jerry's, Roo Blue 1965 WHS letterman sweater.*



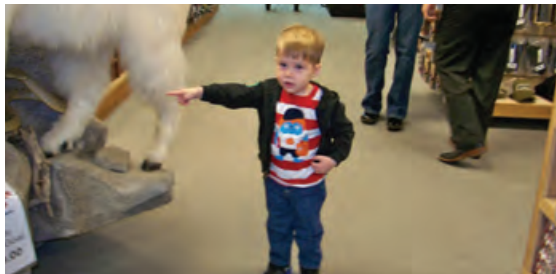
*The newly elected 2012-2013 Parker County Women's and Newcomers Club Officers: Kathryn Linde, Sherry Magee, Dottie Young, Virginia Presnell, Jackie Dixon, President Linda Lawson, Debbie Cockrell and Sue Coleman.*



*Brennan and her brother, Dereck Scott, take their kids Nikki, Rylee, Jax, and Logan out for a treat at Long John Silver's.*



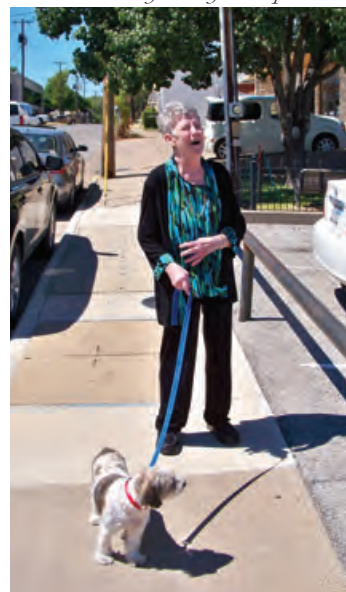
*Parker County Master Gardeners point out some of the native and adaptive plants during a seminar at the Demonstration Gardens located at the AgriLife Extension Services Facility.*



*Jacob Shorter found a large rattlesnake hiding under a mountain goat while he shops with his mom at Bargain Hunters Outdoors.*



*The employees at Walmart Super Center are always ready to help.*



*Mary Lou gets caught by the NOW paparazzi as she lets Dasie walk her around town.*



*Lane and his mom, Melissa Bragan, are up early to workout at Fit Now.*





### The Arbor Store

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When James Fleming is not building outdoor patios for families in the Weatherford area, he crafts furniture from his workshop in Burleson.



# TEXAS-STYLE RELAXATION

*The artisans at The Arbor Store consider your budget while crafting your dreams. — By Melissa Rawlins*

James Fleming and his artistic craftsmen can build an arbor at any time of year. As winter approaches, the trio at The Arbor Store are gearing up to build outdoor patios that can be enjoyed throughout our mild cold season and, of course, next year's warmer months. James' artistic eye enables him to envision the outdoor spaces people describe to him in their early consultations.

Whether people want an outdoor kitchen or just an arbor with a stream and a fire pit, James can design and craft the backyard transformation they desire. "I'm out to help the customer. I try to modify their dreams to give them the most for their money," he said, "if necessary suggesting a fire pit instead of a fireplace, for instance, to keep their project affordable."

James' Web site offers tips to help make all the decisions

necessary in order to build an outdoor project, including choosing the types of wood. Visitors can browse about 75 photos of arbors, outdoor patios and kitchens, outside fireplaces and the handcrafted hardwood mantels many people choose as adornment. James creates these mantels from mesquite, black walnut and aspen.

"I like to use mesquite, which is a very stable wood, yet is a little more forgiving," said James, adding: "It's one of the prettiest woods that is naturally beautiful, and I'm just releasing what it looks like." Ranchers often allow James to cut a tree off their property and make them something, whether a cutting board or a cross, while he crafts a table, credenza or bed out of the larger portions of the mesquite.

To look at projects James and his craftsmen have created,



## Business **NOW**

customers often come to his showroom, which is his own home and those of a few of his neighbors. Five projects — from an open-themed patio to an arbor to an outdoor kitchen surrounding James' house show how The Arbor Store projects weather over the years. "Out in the barn, I'm building a two-story, 20x30-foot showroom of all mesquite furniture," James said. "People could come here and look at beds, couches, nothing but furniture, and they can pretty much pick it and go."

Formerly working as a carpenter inside homes, James has been in business about 20 years. "I started doing arbors and decks, and then patios," James said. "It spilled over into whole backyard renovations, including outdoor kitchens, rivers and ponds, even outdoor lighting." After James designs a project, he works with Brandon Talkington and James Rawdon at their shop, prebuilding and detailing the structure. The craftsmanship on the end pieces takes more time, since the rafter tails are cut and routed. Customers do not experience two or

**"I'm out to help the customer. I try to modify their dreams to give them the most for their money."**

three days of dust and early-morning sounds of sawing and sanding, since most of the work is done at the shop.

"All the boards are notched, and instead of just stacking boards on top, everything is fit together like Lincoln logs. It's more stable that way," James explained. When the clean-cut, personable team from The Arbor Store brings the finished project pieces to the client's house, they build it like a kit. The men only need one day to put an arbor up. When the customer comes home at the end of a day, they find their arbor finished. Now that is relaxation, Texas-style! **NOW**

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## Are You a “Hands-on” Investor?

The investment world can be complex — so you may not want to navigate it alone. But when it comes to getting professional advice, you certainly have an abundance of choices. How can you know which approach is right for you?

The answer depends, to a large extent, on how you choose to work with a qualified financial advisor — someone with the training and experience to help you work toward your financial goals. When you work with a financial advisor, he or she will analyze your financial situation — your income, current assets, family status and short- and long-term investment goals, such as helping pay for your children’s (or grandchildren’s) college education and attaining a comfortable retirement.

You can choose different ways of working with a financial advisor — and a deciding factor may be how “hands on” you want to be with your investment strategy. To illustrate this concept, let’s look at two common ways investors interact with financial advisors:

- *Taking recommendations and making choices* — After evaluating your financial situation, goals, risk tolerance and time horizon, your financial advisor can recommend appropriate investments. Over time, your financial advisor will communicate with you regularly to keep track of changes in your life and to suggest any changes you may need to make in your portfolio. Of course, you have the final say in accepting or rejecting these recommendations, which is why this method is considered a hands-on way to invest.
- *Investing through a managed account* — In this situation, your financial advisor will help you create, implement and refine your long-term financial strategy, but the

money managers will make the daily investment decisions, relying on a variety of criteria pertaining to your situation. For example, if your portfolio has become overweighted in a specific asset class, such as stocks or bonds, and is no longer aligned with your goals, it may automatically be brought back into balance.

So which method of investing is better for you? There’s really no one right answer for everyone. If you’re the sort of person who likes to make all your own decisions, then you might be better off following the hands-on approach with your financial advisor. On the other hand, if you are particularly busy and just don’t feel you have the time to be actively involved with day-to-day investment decisions, you might want to consider a managed account.

In any case, you’ll want to be comfortable with the method of investing that you’ve chosen. So do your homework beforehand. Whether you’re interested in a hands-on relationship or a hands-off approach, you still need to interview several financial advisors to find one who has worked with people in your situation and who seems genuinely interested in helping you. During these interviews, make sure you understand everything related to working with a financial advisor — the fees involved, the way decisions will be communicated to you if you choose a managed account, and so on. Deciding how you want to invest is your first step in working toward your financial goals, so make the choice that’s right for you. **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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### November 7

Thanksgiving Food Drive: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Center of Hope/East Parker County, 9901 E. Bankhead Hwy., Suites C and D, Aledo. Area residents are encouraged to drop off items for Thanksgiving food baskets that will be given to needy families. Go to [www.centerofhopetx.com](http://www.centerofhopetx.com) or call (817) 441-2442 for more information.

### November 10

Home and Holiday Expo: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Northside Baptist Church, 910 N. Main St. This free event, hosted by Parker County Connections, features gifts, home décor and wellness products. You can get more information by calling Misty Engel at (817) 304-1135.

Girls Night Out: 5:30-8:00 p.m., historic downtown Granbury square. Drawing for \$100 downtown dollars, drinks and food for ladies who come to shop in the boutiques and galleries surrounding the courthouse. For more information, call (817) 573-5299.

### November 17

FBC Home for the Holidays Fair: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., First Baptist Church of Weatherford,

259 W. Church St. The fair full of vendors offers great gift ideas for Christmas and a few door prizes along the way. You can find more information at (817) 594-5457 or visit [www.fbcweatherford.org](http://www.fbcweatherford.org).

### December 1

Christmas on the Square: Noon-5:00 p.m., historic downtown Weatherford square. The Annual Christmas Parade begins at 10:00 a.m. with plenty of holiday gifts available for purchase at the festivities that afternoon. Call (817) 596-3801 or visit [www.weatherford-chamber.com](http://www.weatherford-chamber.com) for more information.

Christmas Tyme in Aledo: 5:00-9:00 p.m., Aledo Community Center, 104 Robinson Ct., Aledo. The fun-filled family event will feature live music, horse-drawn wagon rides and holiday treats. For more information, call (817) 441-7016 or visit [www.aledo-texas.com](http://www.aledo-texas.com).

Aledo Arts and Crafts Fair: 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m., Aledo Community Center, 104 Robinson Ct., Aledo. Come stock up on some holiday gifts from some local artisans and vendors. For more

information, call (817) 441-7016 or visit [www.aledo-texas.com](http://www.aledo-texas.com).

### December 3

Messiah Concert: 7:30 p.m., Weatherford College, Alkek Fine Arts Center, 225 College Park Dr. Kick off the holiday season with this annual concert presented by the Parker County Community Choir. For more information, visit [www.wc.edu](http://www.wc.edu) or call Sheila Kinkead at (817) 598-6458.

### Sundays through December

Annetta Valley Farmers Market: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. or until the farmers sell out of their fresh produce, 2655 W. FM 5, Annetta. Bring the children to enjoy some fresh air and fresh produce out at the farm. Contact Lynne Carpenter at (817) 992-5691 for more information.

*Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your event details to [Amber.Browne@nowmagazines.com](mailto:Amber.Browne@nowmagazines.com).*

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## In the Kitchen with Lisa Geron

— By *Melissa Rawlins*

For as long as she can remember, Weatherford native, Lisa Geron, has cooked — first with joy, followed soon with skill. As a small girl she helped her mother by peeling potatoes, making salad or preparing spaghetti and garlic bread to go with dinner for their family of seven. Her Nana and Grammy were great influences as she developed her passion for cooking, often without a recipe. Now, she cooks not only for family and friends, but also as the sous chef at a small bistro on Weatherford's square. Last summer, Lisa's mission trip took her to Nairobi, Kenya. The family she stayed with taught her to cook some traditional Kenyan foods. She returned the favor, teaching their children how to make baked potatoes. **NOW**

### **Sukuma Wiki**

Serves 2

- 2 Tbsp. oil
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 1 Roma tomato
- 2 beef bouillon cubes (optional)
- 1 bunch *sukuma* (any leafy green vegetable, such as kale, collard greens or spinach), shredded or chopped
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/4 tsp. salt (or to taste)

1. Heat oil in a pot and add onions. Sauté briefly.
2. Add tomato and beef bouillon cubes (optional); then sauté.
3. Add *sukuma*; sauté briefly.
4. Add water and salt to taste. Simmer until the *sukuma* has reached a desired tenderness. (Incidentally, *sukuma wiki* means “to push the week,” implying that *sukuma wiki* is a food used to stretch the meals to last for the week.)
5. Serve with *ugali* or *chapati*.

### **Ugali**

Serves 4

- 4 cups water
- 3-4 cups maize meal

1. Boil water in a pot. Add maize meal; stir to prevent lumps.
2. Add more meal (as necessary) to thicken porridge. Stir until maize meal is well-cooked.
3. Tip out onto a plate. The *ugali* should hold its shape. Best served hot with *sukuma wiki*.

### **Chapati**

Makes 4 chapatis

- 2 cups white flour
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. sugar
- 2 Tbsp. oil (divided use)
- 4 Tbsp. warm water

1. Mix dry ingredients well.
2. Add 1 Tbsp. of oil to flour mixture; mix with your hands until flour feels a little bit like sand.
3. Add enough water to form elastic dough.
4. Divide the dough into 4 equal parts.
5. Roll 1 ball into a circle; spread 1/2 teaspoon oil over it. Roll circle up, like a jelly roll, then roll again to resemble a snail shell. Do the same for the other three balls.
6. Let the dough rest 20 minutes (can rest up to 8 hours).
7. Roll each dough ball into a circle 10- to 12-inches in diameter.
8. Heat a cast iron pan large enough to cook the *chapati*. Place *chapati* on hot pan and let bubble. Flip and oil lightly. Flip again and oil other side. Cook until *chapati* is browned on both sides.
9. Serve this unleavened flat bread (a staple among the Swahili-speaking people of East Africa) with foods like *sukuma wiki* and other vegetables. Pieces of *chapatti* are used to pick up other foods.

### **Green Gram Soup**

Serves 2

- 1 cup green grams (lentils), rinsed
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 tomato, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, finely chopped
- 1/2 bunch cilantro
- 1 green bell pepper, chopped

1. Cook lentils with salt in a pressure cooker until the beans are tender, about 45 minutes.
2. Sauté onion, tomato and garlic in a pot.
3. Add beans. Simmer for a few minutes.
4. Stir in cilantro and green bell pepper.
5. Serve with *chapatis* or over rice.

### **Chai**

Serves 2

- 1 cup water
- 1 1/2 tsp. tea leaves or 1 tea bag
- 1 cup milk
- Sugar, to taste
- 1 tsp. tea masala (optional)

1. Heat water and tea together in a 3 to 4 quart saucepan. Boil 10 minutes.
2. Add milk, stirring while heating to near boiling.
3. Add sugar, to taste, and tea masala for spice.



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*Nathan Clark of Brookshire's help Zan check out*

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