

# Weatherford NOW

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FEBRUARY 2011

## Educating With a Smile

Dr. Deborah Cron serves children and her community with a smile on her face.

## Helping Songwriters Be Heard

### Also Inside

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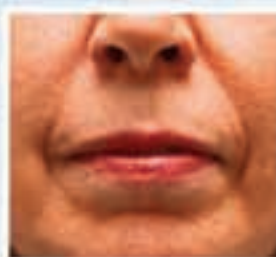
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## On The Cover



The Jones family invites you to take a look inside the home they love.

*Photo by Jay Lamar.*

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# Editor's Note

*Hello Weatherford!*

I used to wonder why the radio only played songs about guys and gals, falling in love, breaking up and making up. My father used to tell me it was because, "Love makes the world go 'round." Well, I've gone round and round a few times, and found out Daddy was mostly right!

When you want to read about people who love their families, friends and neighbors, just turn to your new community magazine, *WeatherfordNOW*. You are holding in your hands the premier issue of *WeatherfordNOW*, the newest addition to a growing publication group known as NOW Magazines. In this full-color magazine, which will be mailed monthly, free of charge, to each physical address in Weatherford, you will find good stories about good people: your friends, your neighbors, maybe even yourself! We are proud to be a part of your community. We are 100 percent supported by our advertisers, and to them, we say, "Thank you." We, in turn, encourage our readers to support our advertisers.

NOW Magazines is an independently owned company started in Corsicana by Publisher Connie Poirier. Under her strong leadership and vision, it has grown to include nine magazines: Corsicana, Weatherford, Burleson, Ennis, Mansfield, Red Oak, Waxahachie and Southwest (which includes Cedar Hill, DeSoto and Duncanville).

We hope you enjoy flipping through these pages and learning more about your community. In this issue, we have featured some of the "movers and shakers" in town, as well as some neighbors you may not yet know. I am excited to learn more about the heart of Weatherford and look forward to meeting you. Feel free to e-mail me or call me — I welcome your feedback and story ideas.



## Melissa

Melissa Rawlins  
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A woman with short brown hair, wearing a beige blazer, a red and orange patterned scarf, and dark pants, is sitting on a wooden rocking bench. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. The bench has a small red apple and some colorful blocks on it. The background features a large quilted wall hanging with a blue and white pattern, and several framed pictures on the wall to the left.

“I loved teaching  
and thought I  
would do it  
*forever.*”

# Educating With *a* Smile

— By Carolyn Wills

*Dr. Deborah Cron approaches her day with the energy of a 6-year-old, or more accurately, a classroom of 6-year-olds. “I left the house this morning at 5:30,” she smiled, “for a 7:00 a.m. meeting in Dallas and was back in Weatherford in time for a meeting with our school principals.” After 40 years as an educator, Weatherford Independent School District’s (WISD) superintendent shows no signs of slowing down and only the strongest motivation to make a difference in the lives of children and the community she serves.*

“It’s important to look at the needs of our children, understand how to fulfill those needs and examine

our progress,” Deborah said. “Our school district has adopted a program based on the Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence, which is a comprehensive plan toward continuous improvement across an organization.” She also participates in the Quality Texas Foundation, which helps Texas businesses and associations improve performance. “I have been asked to serve on the Quality Texas Foundation board, and I am thrilled to be part of such an important organization.” The Baldrige program encourages a focus on quality and improvement. “It is easy to get caught up in the blowin’ and goin’ of everyday tasks,” Deborah explained, “and this data-driven study enables us to monitor our performance. We have scorecards and ‘secret shoppers’ who regularly measure our attitudes, service and appearance so we can get better. Recently, we learned that we have become so busy we are forgetting to smile, and we are working on that!”

According to Deborah, the biggest issue facing education in Texas is a potential shortfall of \$25 billion in state





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funding over the next two years. “We are blessed because our community has approved a shift in tax money toward maintenance,” she said. “We’re well within our capacity for serving students, but have a need to maintain our facilities. This forward thinking has helped to ease concerns.”

The newest challenge for Texas schools, according to Deborah, will arrive this fall in the form of a new accountability system. The State of Texas



Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) is significantly more rigorous than previous tests and will measure a child’s performance, as well as academic growth. “This is not a bad thing,” Deborah explained, “but it is a challenge. We want every child to be successful, and transferring to a new system will involve a lot of planning and training.”

Deborah sees her relationships to the school principals as central to her job. “Every six weeks I visit schools, talk with each principal and visit classrooms. This





allows me to stay in touch with the most important thing we do, which is to teach.”

Deborah was born in Hamlin, Texas, just outside of Abilene. Her family eventually settled in Garland, which became her home from the fourth grade through high school and, ultimately, through a 29-year career with the Garland Independent School District. “I graduated from the University of North Texas in Denton, and taught high school English in Garland for nine years,” she said. “I loved teaching

“I am so fortunate to work in a job that I love, to live in an active community like Weatherford and to be part of such a great family.”

and thought I would do it forever. Back then, administration was focused mostly on discipline, and I didn’t see anything interesting about that.”

While it may have seemed her path was decided, and she would forever be a teacher, Deborah was destined to move beyond the classroom. Her abilities and commitment led her through a series of accomplishments, connections and

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opportunities. She earned a master's degree, and then a doctorate degree. With each step in her career, she also acquired the necessary accreditations. After teaching in Garland for nine years, she became an instructional administrator and an assistant principal. Then, for three years, she served as the Garland ISD director of communications, and ultimately, the assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction. "That



was my dream job for 15 years," she said, "and although I was encouraged to apply toward becoming a superintendent, I loved being involved with the classroom and felt it suited my skill set."

Once more, though, destiny prevailed. By the time Weatherford announced an opening for a new superintendent, Deborah was ready. Her parents had retired and moved to Mineral Wells. By taking a position in Parker County, she would be closer to them, and importantly, she was qualified and ready for the new challenge. "Weatherford has been a blessing to me," she said. "We have a strong board and a caring staff, and I love being part of the team." Coming from a much larger district, she was quickly impressed by how supportive the Weatherford community is. "Garland has multiple high schools and over 60 school principals," she explained. "We are a one-high-school town with seven elementary schools, two middle schools and one ninth-grade center. With 11 principals, we can sit around a table and talk."



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Deborah and her husband, Bill, made the decision to move to Weatherford in 2001, knowing that his position at Southern Methodist University in Dallas would involve a long commute. "The superintendent is required to live in the school district," Deborah explained, "so we purchased a home in Lake Weatherford." Thankfully, Bill's commute lasted only one semester before he was asked to join the Neely School of Business at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth as the associate dean for graduate programs.

Deborah and Bill have parented three children, all of whom are now educators. "Our son, Christopher, is an English teacher in Switzerland," she said. "He and his wife wanted to teach and see the world. So far, they've taught in schools in Portugal, Morocco and Switzerland. Our grandson is 20 months old and he was born in Morocco." Deborah and Bill's daughters are also teachers. "Jennifer is a health teacher and head volleyball coach at Plano Senior High School, and Jessica is an assistant principal in Aledo." The couple has three grandchildren. While Switzerland is a little far to visit that one, the other two often spend weekends with the Crons.

"I am so fortunate," Deborah said, "to work in a job that I love, to live in an active community like Weatherford and to be part of such a great family." When she is not at work or spending time with a grandchild, Deborah loves to garden; meet with her Mahjonn



group and book club; play with their 10-month-old Bichon Frise, Baxter; watch hummingbirds in the spring; and work out with Bill three mornings a week. "It isn't that I *like* to exercise," she smiled, "but it is something we have done together for 10 years. We work with a trainer at a gym. We start the mornings together, and it sets up the day!" **NOW**

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# Where Playfulness and Peace Abound

— By Melissa Rawlins

At Home With  
Wayne and Leigh Anne Jones







*Super Bowl Sunday at the Jones home is no small festival, but its free spirit is nothing out of the ordinary for this family with a gift for hospitality. Last month, Wayne and Leigh Anne Jones celebrated their 12th anniversary with a party in the home they built two years ago. That same weekend, they hosted Leigh Anne's parents' 50th anniversary. And last summer, nearly 100 people visited for the Jones Family reunion. Such gatherings were the couple's focus as they dreamed of their home, which they built on 50 acres near Brock. After winding through a large rock entrance gate down a 600-yard-driveway bordered by unique, stamped lay-down curbs, guests must lift their heads high to look above the door at the wrought-iron*

*grille, gently decorated with Wayne's brand and, above that, the cross. Leigh Anne initially gleaned ideas from the pages of a magazine, but the warmth of the Joneses' 7,000-square-foot home was inspired by their children, their faith and their devotion to community.*

Twenty-three-year-old Brittany, who is studying physical therapy at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center of Dallas, comes home some weekends to relax with family. Tripp and Cash, the couple's 10- and 8-year-old boys, play football, basketball and baseball and have the only collections in the house: walls in their lofts full of trophies from winning games. The boys enjoy a lot of friends. "I've always told our kids that no matter how many of their friends they bring, I want them here," Wayne said. Their home gives the Joneses an area large enough to serve large groups of people, whether small group Bible studies or baseball teams.

In their serene natural setting, surrounded by Wayne's beloved





live oaks, post oaks and pecans, the family often sees turkeys, deer, bobcats, owls, hawks, red foxes and grey foxes. The backyard is perfect for hosting friends and family, even in the winter. At New Year's, they positioned a fire pit close to the outdoor kitchen so people could stand all around it while Wayne cooked the brats and burgers. The nearby pool provides Tripp, Cash and all their friends a great deal of fun throughout the warmer seasons.

Whether it is hot or cold outside, the basement of the house invites young and old alike to play. "It's got a hidden

door that goes down there, so to me it's cool — giving an effect like the mystery of a castle," said Wayne, who admitted to being the biggest kid in the house. While the women chat upstairs, the boys and their fathers have fun in the basement, playing baseball and full-contact football. "You've heard people use the term *bouncing off the walls*? We do bounce off the walls," Wayne said, with a laugh.

"We should have put padding on the walls," Leigh Anne chimed in. "They're really taking a hit! The big thing is, the basement stays cool and the adults upstairs in the kitchen cannot hear the

kids playing loudly." As guests congregate around the bar or in the living room, they relax and talk about their lives. Surrounding the 25-foot-tall fireplace with its custom-made mantel, the Joneses have placed comfortable leather furniture. Leigh Anne prefers zero clutter, and the minimalist decor demonstrates the point that she and her husband live for peace.

For this reason, Leigh Anne keeps the expansive windows free of material that would block her view of the patio fountain and the trees. "I love to watch the seasons change," she said. From her



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master bed, she can open her eyes to witness miniscule differences between yesterday's falling leaves, today's starkness and tomorrow's new growth. "When we first looked at our property, we loved the trees and saw it as a place where we could get away from the problems of the world and be rejuvenated," Wayne added.

The feeling in the Joneses' home is casual rather than formal. "We wanted it comfortable, livable, where we can relax. The concrete floors are important because at any given time, I can throw balls to any kid that's over here," Wayne said, pointing to the ochre-colored dining room wall at a dent caused by a baseball thrown during an indoor pick-up game. "We didn't pick a wall texture or flooring or piece of furniture that we would worry about."

Designers at Lighthouse Furniture helped Leigh Anne find the subtle features that she envisioned, from the upstairs shutters salvaged from other homes to the spicy green and orange bed coverings to the downstairs light fixtures that cast romantic shadows in the arched hallway. The sectional couches in the media room and the foosball and pool tables in the game room were each specially chosen to promote coziness and family fun. "To have wholesome, quality family time is what we want," Leigh Ann remarked.

When they are not alone, the Joneses might be joined by 20 families, upwards of 60 people, for afternoons of fellowship. So Wayne and Leigh Ann drew up an exaggerated kitchen bar that turns out to be the hub of their gatherings. Whether Leigh Ann, the children and women in the extended family are baking holiday cookies



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together, or an entire baseball team plus their fathers and mothers are doctoring their hamburgers, the kitchen bar provides space for socializing.

Usually while the meal is being prepared, and then while everyone is eating, guests gather all around the kitchen bar without feeling isolated from the people in the living room and the dining room. "When you're comfortable, you relax, and when you relax, you are yourself. We want to know people for who they really are," Wayne said. "When you come over, you get to see me, like it or not, for who I really am."

The couple believes in helping people to be more real with each other. They consider the entertaining they do a form of home fellowship. The family worships at The Gathering in nearby Brock, yet focus on relationships more than church traditions. "If we had more time to open up in social environments, we'd have more ability to minister," said Wayne, who keeps on his office bookshelf Bibles, different Christian reference manuals and books like Stormie Omartian's *The*



*Power of a Praying Husband* and *The Power of a Praying Wife*. "Ministering to folks is actually my full-time job — it's just that concrete takes about 70 hours per week."

Their boys' athletic interests also require a lot of time, even on Sundays. Still, the family makes quality time to go as a family to a spot out in the trees to read Scriptures and pray. "God is head of our family," Leigh Anne said. Maybe that is what makes visitors feel at ease in the Joneses' home, where playfulness and peace abound. **NOW**

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A woman with short brown hair, smiling, stands on a paved path. She is wearing a white zip-up jacket with black stripes on the sleeves, light blue shorts with blue trim, and white athletic shoes. Her hands are on her hips. The background shows a dry, grassy field, some trees, and distant hills under a clear sky. A large, semi-transparent title 'Family Transfer' is overlaid on the right side of the image.

# Family Transfer

*The summer between graduating from high school and starting college changed Gwen Chick's life. She was preparing to take a basketball scholarship at Texas Wesleyan University and had a chance to talk with some of the older players on the team. They thoughtfully warned her to start preparing then for the mile she would have to run before each practice. "I'd never run a mile in my life at that point," Gwen said. "I started running that summer and haven't stopped running since. Come to find out, it was just a joke."*



# Information

— By Sydni Thomas

Gwen finds time to run no matter how busy things get. To keep her body from injury after all of these years of running, Gwen is in the pool three days a week. “I run because it keeps my body in shape, first and foremost,” Gwen admitted. “Second, it allows me to chill out and de-stress. I always look forward to running no matter what is going on. It is a great outlet.”

Dan Chick, Gwen’s husband, used to be her running partner until a knee injury. In 1994, the couple ran in the New York City Marathon alongside 35,000 runners. After their daughter, Jordan, was born, they would put her in a stroller and run together. “For the first four years of her life, we’d push Jordan in a baby jogger,” Gwen said. “She was such an early riser, and Dan and I used to run together. I think that’s what messed up his knees.”

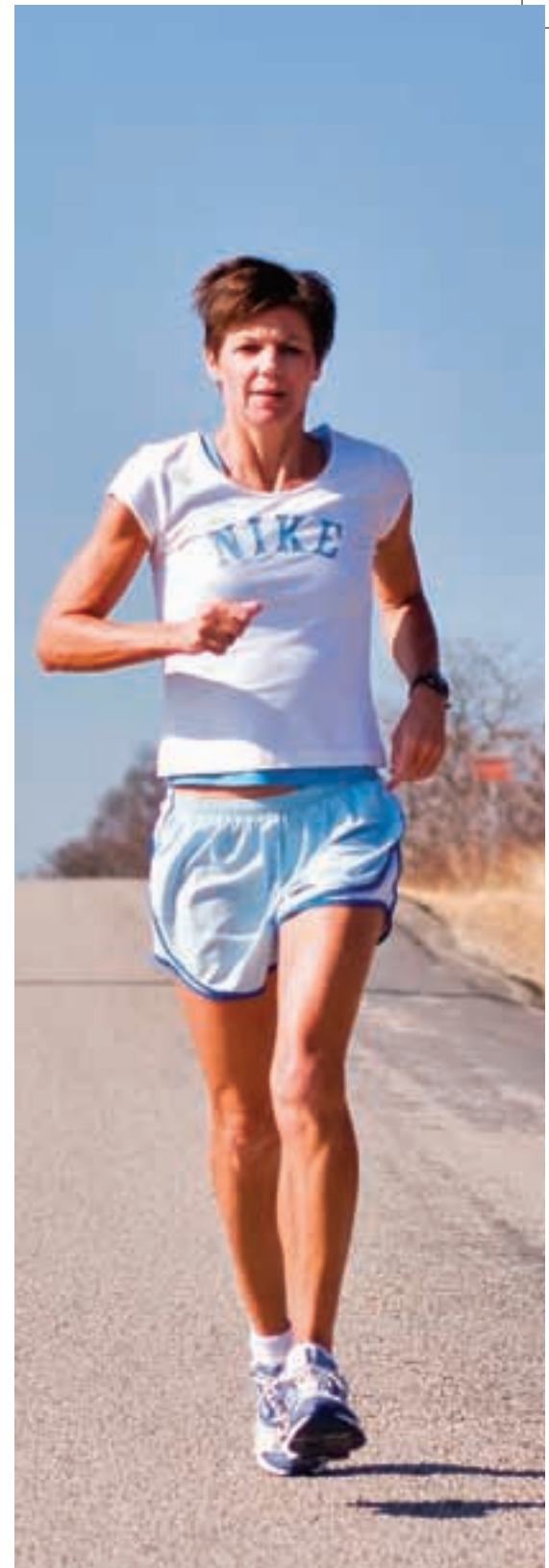
Gwen has since traded Dan in for a pack of dogs. Chelsey and Jessie are her current running partners. Sometimes, she has run with up to four dogs at a time. “They don’t run with me the whole way,” Gwen said. “We’ll run part of the way together, and then I will take them back. One of them is a small dog and can’t do

the seven miles. I used to have a dog that ran with me the whole way without a leash, but he recently passed away.”

Four out of five weekdays, Gwen can be seen running down Airport Road with her dogs. Rain or shine, Gwen does not let the elements stop her from being outside. “Only running four days of the week, I have flexibility,” Gwen said. “With the Texas weather you never know. I just enjoy being outside. I can’t run inside on the treadmill. Even when it’s really cold, I just bundle up and go outside.”

Gwen moved to Weatherford in 1989 after becoming the Chief Financial Officer at Texas Bank. She continued working there for the next 11 years, until Jordan was old enough to tell her not to go to work anymore. From that point on she became a stay-at-home mom for Jordan, now 13, and her son, Shawn, now 24. “I do not miss working,” Gwen said. “I love my life. I have more time to be with my family and to help others.”

When Jordan was in the fourth grade, Gwen began coaching basketball for Jordan and some of her friends. But that came to a halt when Jordan entered middle school. Gwen’s love for the game



**“I started running that summer and haven’t stopped running since.”**



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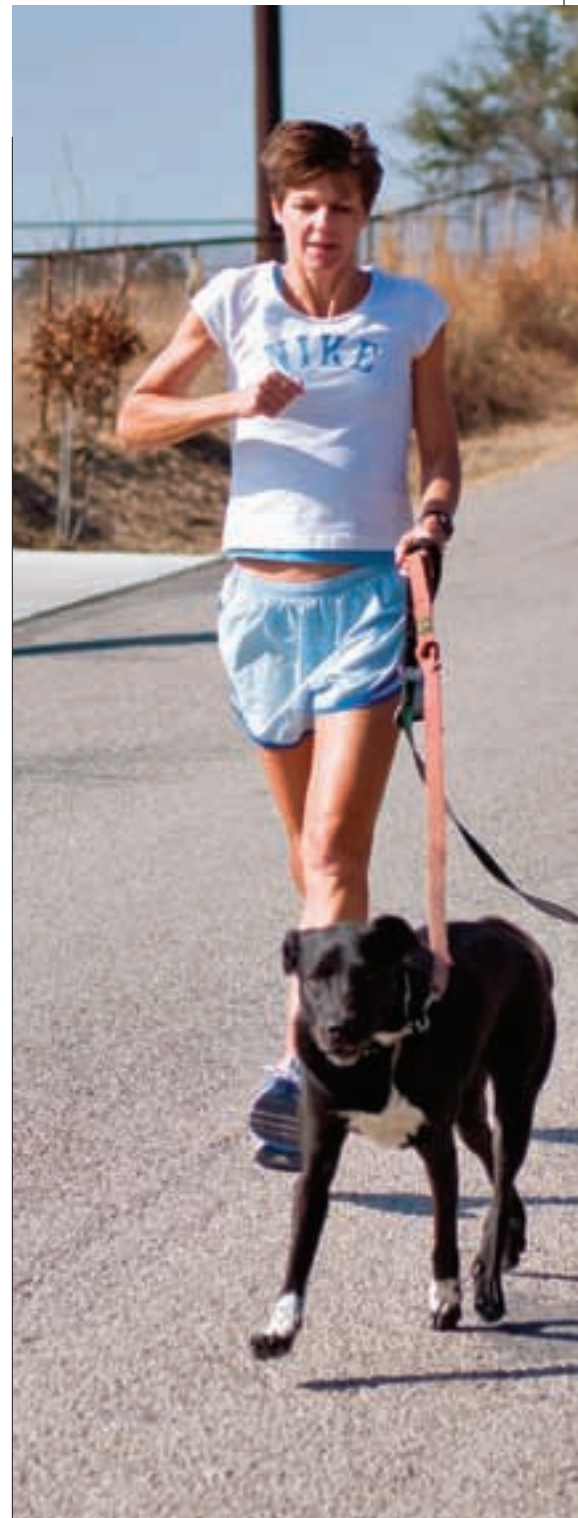
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found a new outlet through a ministry of their church. The family attends Christ Chapel in Fort Worth. One of the church's ministries is partnering with Como, a low-income community in Ft. Worth. Church members tutor, do maintenance work and provide life-skills training for those in the community. Gwen's ministry included coaching for the Como community. "I went to Como and worked with the principal and counselor," Gwen said. "They sent out a message to the fourth grade girls telling them we were starting a team. I had 10



**“We’ll run part of the way together, and then I will take them back.”**

girls sign up and, for the most part, they are all still there. A few new ones joined this year.”

They practice twice a week at Como Elementary, and Gwen has become involved with the school. If the teachers have a problem with the students, they will e-mail Gwen because they do not get a lot of support from the families. When her players do not have the resources to finish school projects or other tools they need, Gwen and Dan step in. It is not uncommon for some of the girls to spend the night every other week to get

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help with schoolwork. "We've come a long way as a team," Gwen said. "When we started two years ago, none of the girls knew a thing about playing basketball. There were so many discipline issues that had to be dealt with in the beginning."

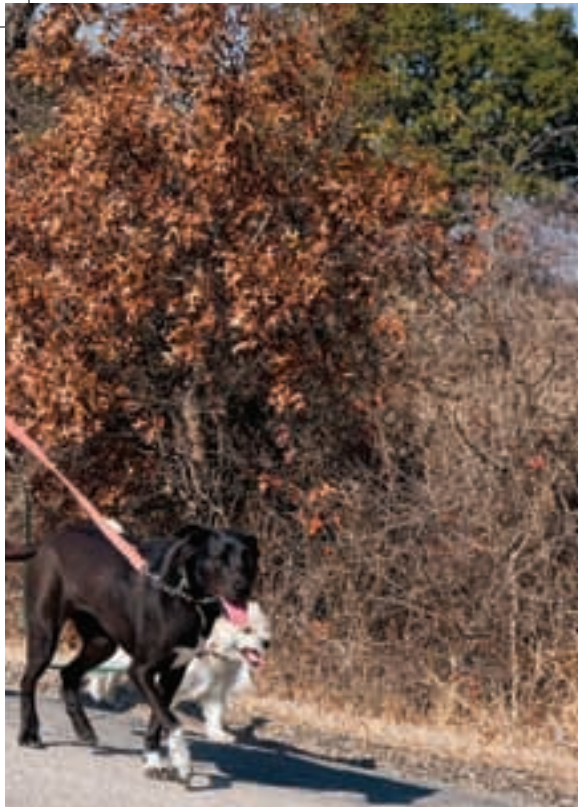
After working with the girls, Gwen realized that education was not always a top priority. She then altered her role to not only be their basketball coach, but to be a life coach. The girls learn valuable life skills throughout the season and even after. To participate in practice the girls must prove they have been keeping up with their schoolwork, as well as checking



Gwen resting with her dogs, Chelsey and Jessie.

out books from the school library. "One of the moms was going to take her daughter off of the basketball team because she was failing," Gwen said. "I didn't think that was the best approach. Her mom couldn't help her because she





hadn't finished school, so I stepped in. That started the tutoring. This girl has done an about-face. Her teacher was on maternity leave last year when I started tutoring her, and when she got back she couldn't believe the change."

January and February are the Chick family's busiest months. On Saturdays the Como girls have games, and on Sundays Jordan's select basketball team plays. While Gwen is busy coaching, Dan is there to lend his support. Dan provides the team with shorts and shoes, and the couple takes the teams' clothes home after each game to wash them. At the end of the season, the girls on the team keep it all. "Dan is such a big help to the team," Gwen said. "He does a lot behind the scenes for them. The other day, he helped one of the families cover up their pipes for the cold weather."

What started out as a way to keep coaching quickly transformed each member of the Chick family. They were quick to share their blessings and time with children who needed a chance. Dan drove the team back and forth, Jordan sat on the bench each game, and Gwen showed them how to love a sport. "It is a big part of our life right now," Gwen said. "It's not just me, but each member of the family. I wasn't planning on sticking with the same set of girls each year, but it kind of worked out that way. I don't know what I will do next year when they move on to middle school." **NOW**

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— Joakim Soederbaum, NAIA Men's Soccer Scholar-Athlete, Texas Wesleyan BA '10



# Helping Songwriters Be Heard

— By Sydni Thomas

*With hands barely big enough to stretch across the strings, 3-year-old Rusty Crownover would sit in his father's lap with a ukulele and learn to play chords. There has not been a moment in his life since when he has not played an instrument. As he got older his mother enrolled him in piano lessons, but he drove his teacher crazy with his own ideas of how the music should sound. He got his first guitar at the age of 10 and made an easy transition over from the ukulele.*





Rusty married his high school sweetheart, Linda, and moved to Austin in 1974, where he worked for a while as a singing waiter before getting a “real” job. In 1986, Rusty received a job offer in Weatherford and decided it was time to move the family. They joined Grace First Presbyterian Church of Weatherford, where he became fast friends with fellow choir member Dave Deison. They started with duets at church and were soon invited to perform at other churches, civic events and parties. Rusty and Dave began traveling under the name of Ebenezer. “I’ve always been interested in the word Ebenezer,” Rusty said. “It’s a Hebrew word that translates to ‘by God’s help.’ It comes from 1 Samuel 7:12, and



we picked it to show that we are here and inspired to write and perform music.”

One evening at a Bible study in 2004, Rusty struck up a conversation with Geoff Ice. The conversation turned to music, and Rusty learned that Geoff played the harmonica and had a large collection of them. He invited Geoff to sit in with the longtime duo, and they became a trio. Shortly after, Bob Gerardy and Lane Lively, former band mates from his Austin days moved into the area and were the next ones to join the group. In 2008, Ron Yates joined the band playing the Electronic Wind Instrument. Once they realized they needed a higher voice, Katherine Grimm joined the group. “We don’t book ourselves every weekend,” Rusty said. “We play at least two to three gigs a month, mostly at other churches and coffee houses. This past year we recorded our first CD and are hoping to do a second in 2011.”

Rusty started writing music when he was in high school. The music comes first for Rusty, and the lyrics follow. He has written around 50 songs since he started. Some took him years to finish

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and others less than the time it took to fly from Dallas to Houston. "As I got older I started writing more Christian music," Rusty said. "My spirituality grew the older I got, and it was reflected in my music. Dave and I would do some co-writing of spiritual songs when we first got together. My job was to write the music, and Dave's job was to harmonize it. He'd pitch in when I'd get stuck lyrically."

Rusty finds it hard to categorize his music, but finally settles on eclectic with hints of jazz and folk. The band does not perform many of Rusty's secular written scores because of their limited amount of practice and performance times. "All my life I've kept my original songs to myself," Rusty said. "Most of my songs were not written with an audience in mind, therefore, I lacked the confidence needed and thought if I just threw my music out there and promoted it, it might be misunderstood."

In 2008, John Hershenberg, a DFW church worship leader, and Stephanie Valderrama wanted to find a way for Christian songwriters to have more opportunities to promote, record and perform their original music outside their own church walls. John began getting people together who were also interested in finding a way to promote their music, learn from each other's musical knowledge and lead workshops for new writers. Their first meeting was in someone's home, and that is where the Texas Christian Songwriters Association (TCSA) was born.

The next step for the TCSA was securing an agreement with a venue. Seekers Coffee had begun in Ohio as a faith-based business with a vision to create a wholesome atmosphere for its customers. One of the ways they achieved this was by playing Christian music and offering a place for Christian musicians to come perform. "John was able to secure an agreement with the

Seekers shop in North Richland Hills, may it rest in peace," Rusty said. "One section of the shop was like a huge living room with a stage and enormous sound system. It was great for performing and John naturally gravitated toward it as a venue for TCSA. Not only was it a great place to promote music, but it was also a great place to find musicians."

Not long after John and Stephanie began the TCSA, Rusty received a phone call from his cousin who told him about Seekers Coffee. When Rusty called Seekers, the owner told him about the fledgling TCSA and invited Rusty to an event TCSA was hosting at the coffee shop. Little convincing was needed for Rusty and his band to get involved. "TCSA was only about two or three months old when I'd heard about it," Rusty said. "I wanted to get involved with TCSA because I'd never been any good at promoting my own music. Joining the group would give me the discipline I sorely needed and help in the mechanics of music. I would find out if my music was worthwhile and able to promote."

Rusty and Lane were invited to be on the board of directors shortly after becoming active in the TCSA. They have recently changed their name to American Christian Songwriters Association (ACSA). The DFW chapter is the largest in the association. Smaller chapters can be found in Houston, El Paso, Longview, Austin and San Antonio. Each month, the DFW ACSA meets on a Saturday at The Ballpark in Arlington. "John's vision has always been national," Rusty said. "That finally came to pass in the fall of 2010. Chapters were started in Nashville, Denver and Phoenix. Plans for 2011 are to expand to Florida, New York, Illinois and Georgia."

Rusty has big plans for his music and songwriting, but right now, what he is most looking forward to is the opportunity to play guitar alongside his son, Drew, at a wedding this summer. "We've only played together a handful of times," Rusty said. "It will be nice just the two of us, because it's something we haven't really done. That's a regret that I have, not playing more with my dad. Now that he's gone I can't." **NOW**

To listen to Ebenezer's music, visit [www.ebenezerband.com](http://www.ebenezerband.com). To learn more about the ACSA and their Internet-based radio station, visit [www.americancsa.com](http://www.americancsa.com).



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**Above:** President and CEO Lin Bearden holds original bank charter.

**Group Photo:** Evon Markum, SVP; Fred Werner, SVP; Greg Edwards, SVP; Bill Baker, EVP; David Long VP; and Diane Johnson, EVP.

# Preserving Our Local Heritage

*The people who work at First National Bank of Weatherford have made the bank,  
and the community, what it is today. — By Melissa Rawlins*

Every town needs a bank to help it thrive, and First National Bank of Weatherford (FNBW) has supported this city's growth for more than 130 years. Lin Bearden, president and CEO of the oldest nationally chartered bank in the state of Texas, contemplated the privilege of his responsibility as he looked at the bank's original charter. "When this bank was chartered in 1880, the challenges as we know them were very different than they are today. Mud and horses were in the 'parking lot,' and your biggest concern was keeping the wood floors clean when people tracked in the mud. A man's word was his bond, and banking still is all about that bond," Lin said. "A long line of owners and presidents have gone before me, getting us to the point we are now. On my watch, we're going to do the best job we can."

Such a job focuses as much on community as on customers. Certainly, people who walk in to borrow money for new cars or to establish new businesses will receive that friendly FNBW handshake, as will deposit banking customers in need of anything from certificates of deposits to notary services. As the eastern edge of Weatherford increases in population, people are driving over to the west side of the courthouse just to experience the kind and professional service for which all the FNBW employees are famous.

The folks who approve your loans and deposit your money also volunteer to serve you at the Parker County Peach Festival and the Parker County Sheriff's Posse Rodeo. Both of these fun events have put Weatherford on the map for travelers from the DFW Metroplex exploring their nearby western frontier.



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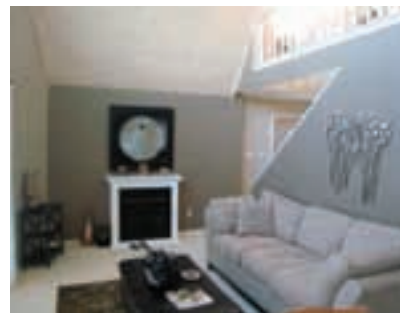
"We're one of the major sponsors of the Sheriff's Posse Rodeo in June, which is one of the most successful and well-run rodeos in Texas and highlights our heritage here," Lin said. This independent community bank is also title sponsor of The Parker County Peach Festival. On July 9, Palo Pinto is blocked off from the bank to the courthouse, and folks are offered one full day of peach-related food, drinks and crafts. "That's a time when our community shows off the heart of the community, down around the courthouse."

The heart of FNBW is to support organizations in Parker County that help people improve their lives. "One of the groups, just for instance, is Center of Hope," Lin said. "They're not just a food ministry where people can go when they are desperate. Center of Hope is trying to teach these people a skill

**"A long line of owners and presidents have gone before me, getting us to the point we are now. On my watch, we're going to do the best job we can."**

or give some assistance with writing a résumé — whatever they need that allows them to be more marketable — because ultimately, when you get people in that position, the biggest need they have is self-esteem."

First National Bank of Weatherford may not be the largest bank in this community, nor the biggest money-maker, but they invest dollar after dollar after dollar into groups they see as the lifeblood of the community. "We invest our money into these groups to raise the overall value of living in Weatherford and Parker County," Lin said. "It doesn't matter that the last two years have been tough for banking. The blessing out of this financial crisis, which has been hard on all of us, is that the public recognizes they have a choice, and they are choosing to be part of a community bank where the business philosophy is to be a successful part of the community." **NOW**



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*Anna Jefferson, Tiana Sardinea, Paige Allen and London Williams, celebrate the fact that they are a living part of the dream shared by Martin Luther King Jr.*



*Sam Henson and his dog, Ringo, hit the concrete waves.*



*Jesse Pletcher and her 19-month-old daughter, Juliette, make a quick stop at Target.*



*Diana Sterrett and Abna Delgado hit the streets to promote Liberty Tax Service's grand opening.*



*Bryce Simpson and CarolAnn Roe take their dog, Evie, toy shopping before her grooming appointment at PetSmart.*



*Anthony Robertson, Zach Lade, Lisa Robertson, Logan Robertson, Kim Davis and Peyton Robertson enjoy lunch together at Chick-Fil-A.*





*Girl Scouts Mica Brown, Shannon Mays and Megan Wells sell Girl Scout cookies that benefit American overseas troops to Harlee Keller.*



*Tennis coach, Rocky Walker, discusses technique with Adam Weger.*



*Lana and Michael Hennech enjoy lunch at La Playa Maya.*



*Women of Grace First Presbyterian enjoy a meal and fellowship before their study and discussion of the Book of Revelation.*



*Judy Rawlins reunites with her former student, Faith Booker, at the 19th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration at Shirley Hall Middle School.*



*Debby Ellony and Johnnie Thomas enjoy lunch at Cracker Barrel.*





## Oncologists Mark National Cervical Health Awareness Month

— By Jessica Hals, D.O.

Once the leading cause of death among women, cervical cancer deaths have declined over the last several decades due in large part to prevention and early detection through routine Pap tests. Cervical cancer is a disease in which cancer cells form in the cervix. If discovered and treated in its earliest stages, the survival rate is 92 percent after five years. In spite of greater awareness, an estimated 1,219 women in Texas were diagnosed with the disease in 2010. Therefore, it is critical that women see their doctor yearly for their annual Pap screening test.

One of the main causes of cervical cancer is the human papillomavirus (HPV), which is a common sexually transmitted infection. Women who have had many sexual partners, or began having intercourse at a young age, face an increased risk for HPV infection and, therefore, should be screened regularly for cervical cancer. It is important to note, however, that not all women with the HPV infection will develop cancer.

In addition to HPV, women with HIV and other immunosuppressant diseases have a higher-than-average risk of developing cervical cancer. And, women who smoke double their risk of cervical cancer compared to nonsmokers.

The early changes related to cervical cancer may not come with warning signs; however, women may notice symptoms and pain as the disease worsens. If any of the following symptoms or signs are present, women are encouraged to consult their physician for proper testing:

- Abnormal vaginal bleeding

- Unusual vaginal discharge
- Painful intercourse
- Post-menopausal bleeding
- Pain in the pelvic area

The Pap test is the most effective screening tool for cervical cancer. Women should have a Pap test every year beginning at age 21 or no later than three years after first having sexual intercourse, whichever comes first, regardless of whether they have received the HPV vaccine. Women in their 30s with three consecutive normal Pap tests may limit screenings to every two or three years. Physicians may recommend that women have more frequent screening if certain risk factors are present.

Young women may also receive vaccinations to prevent the types of HPV infections that cause cancer. Two vaccines have been approved for use in females age 9-26 by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The vaccines may reduce a woman's risk of cervical cancer, but it is important to remember that HPV vaccines cannot eliminate an existing infection.

Researchers continue to make advances in the fight against cervical cancer. However, until a cure is discovered, regular screenings, awareness and healthy lifestyle choices, such as eating well and exercising regularly are among the best tools a woman has to reduce her risk for this cancer. **NOW**

*Dr. Jessica Hals is a medical oncologist at Texas Oncology—Weatherford  
911 Foster Lane • Weatherford, Texas.*



# Gastroenterology

## Adil M. Choudhary, M.D.



Award-winning gastroenterologist Adil M. Choudhary, M.D., has a practice at Huguley Memorial Medical Center. Board certified in both internal medicine and gastroenterology, Dr. Choudhary treats inpatients and outpatients for conditions of the liver and digestive tract.

Dr. Choudhary has extensive training in gastroenterological and biliary endoscopic procedures. He is one of only 277 Fellows of the American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy. The American College of Gastroenterology and the American Medical Association, among other organizations, have honored Dr. Choudhary with many awards and recognitions.

Dr. Choudhary completed his residency in internal medicine at Bellevue Hospital Center and New York University Medical Center in Manhattan. He did a three-year fellowship in gastroenterology and hepatology at Yale University Gastroenterology Program in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and he received advanced training in therapeutic gastrointestinal endoscopy at Tulane University Medical Center in New Orleans.

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## Health Care Reform Basics for 2011: Employer-sponsored Group Medical Plans

— By Gary Hayden

The following summary gives you the basics of what you should know for 2011 regarding the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) and Employer-sponsored Group Medical Plans. Some of these changes went into effect in 2010; more updates and changes are on the table for the next several years. Further updates on PPACA are available at [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov). For specific information regarding employee benefits under your employer-sponsored group medical plan, contact your insurance agent or carrier.

### • Your Dependents

If your employer-sponsored group medical plan includes dependent coverage, dependents up to age 26, are eligible for coverage — provided they meet the usual eligibility requirements.

A dependent whose coverage or benefits ended because they reached a prior age limit, must be given written notice that coverage is available and informed of their 30-day enrollment or re-enrollment opportunity.

### • Preexisting Conditions

Children under age 19 cannot be denied coverage because of a preexisting condition. (Prohibition of preexisting condition exclusions for adults, as applied to medical plans, takes effect in 2014.)

### • Lifetime and Annual Limits

Effective on or after September 23, 2010, there will be no lifetime or annual dollar limits on “essential services.” However, other non-dollar limits on essential benefits, such as the number of allowable visits may apply. “Grandfathered Plans” may not receive this benefit until the next scheduled renewal date. Check with your insurance carrier for specific details.

### • Mental Health Coverage

Beginning July 1, 2010, mental health and substance abuse treatment claims will be covered at the same benefit level as medical claims. Certain types of mental health and substance abuse treatment may require prenotification and authorization.

### • Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs)

Effective January 1, 2011, you will no longer be able to use your health care flexible spending account (FSA) to pay for over-the-counter (OTC) medications without a prescription from your doctor. While insulin continues to be a covered medication, the final definition of other OTC medications, subject to this new law, has yet to be fully defined by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Resources.

### • Health Savings Accounts (HSAs)

Effective January 1, 2011, you will no longer be able to use your health care flexible spending account (HSA) dollars to pay for OTC medications without a prescription from your doctor. You will be able to use HSA dollars for prescription medicines, including insulin, if those are eligible expenses under your employer-sponsored group medical plan. Check with your insurance carrier for specific pharmacy benefits. If you have prescriptions for OTC medicines and pay for them with your HSA dollars, you must keep copies of your prescription and receipts for the purchase with your tax records.

Beginning January 1, 2011, if your HSA is used to pay for items or services that are not qualified medical expenses, the IRS penalty will increase from 10 percent to 20 percent of the HSA dollars used. **NOW**

Gary Hayden  
Hayden Financial Partners



# Calendar

## FEBRUARY 2011

### Through April 30

Special Exhibit: NCHA "Where It All Began" – The history of the National Cutting Horse Association: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Doss Heritage & Culture Center, 1400 Texas Drive, Weatherford, TX. Contact (817) 599-6168 for more details.

### February 3-5

Weatherford High School Musical: *Pirates of Penzance* (rescheduled from January). For more information, contact Weatherford High School at (817) 598-2858.

### February 4-6

First Monday Trade Days: Friday-Sunday 7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Among the oldest markets in Texas for collectibles, antiques, farm and ranch items, crafts, specialty products with 325 outdoor vendor spaces. South 3 blocks from Santa Fe Drive and Hwy. 180. For more information, call (817) 598-4124.

### February 7-17

Weatherford ISD's elementary school clinics will be hosting free sixth grade vaccination clinics beginning February 7 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. The free vaccinations are provided by the Parker County Hospital District. Parents are invited to be present when the vaccinations are administered, but they are not required to be there. However, vaccination permits must be completed and signed before any vaccination will be given. **Feb. 7:** Curtis Elementary; **Feb. 8:** Wright Elementary; **Feb. 9:** Austin Elementary; **Feb. 10:** Seguin Elementary; **Feb. 15:** Mary Martin Elementary; **Feb. 16:** Ikard Elementary; **Feb. 17:** Crockett Elementary.

### February 11

Sweet on Business Progressive Luncheon: 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Doss Heritage & Culture Center, 1400 Texas Drive, Weatherford, TX. Individual Tickets: \$20 for Chamber of Commerce members. Sponsorships: \$260 per table for 8, includes name on table, name engraved on business card holders passed out at the event and recognition during program. Reservations required. For more information, call (817) 596-3801.

Annual Valentine Dance: 7:00-9:00 p.m., Chandor Gardens, 711 West Lee Ave., Weatherford, TX. Families are welcome and ages 0-12 must be accompanied

by a parent. Family-friendly tunes and light refreshments. Limited to 80 tickets. City residents: \$10/person; non-city residents: \$13/person. Driver's license and Weatherford Municipal Utility bill required to prove residency. Sunday dress.

Dentistry From the Heart: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., the office of Thomas J. Novak, D.D.S., 326 S. Waco St., Weatherford, TX. Our goal is to help at least 50 people with their dentistry needs, and hopefully, many more. We will begin handing out tickets for free dentistry the morning of the event. Service will be first come, first served. Participants will have a choice of a free cleaning, extraction or filling. For more information, call (817) 594-7302.

### February 14

Low-cost Spay/Neuter Clinic sponsored by Parker Paws and Weatherford/Parker County Animal Shelter: By appointment only. Call (940) 682-4970 and ask about the Parker Paws special. Low-cost pet vaccinations will be performed from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (no appointment needed).

### February 22

All-You-Can-Eat 55th Annual Rotary Pancake Supper: 5:00-7:30 p.m., Weatherford High School. Community is invited. Advance tickets: \$5 from any Rotarian or at the Chamber of Commerce Office; tickets at the door are \$7. A great meal and silent auction to benefit Weatherford High School and Weatherford College students, as well as various other Weatherford charities. Contact (817) 846-5866 for more information.

### February 26

Parker County Health Foundation Charity Ball (formerly known as Cuttin' Capital Charity Ball): 6:00 p.m., Omni Fort Worth Hotel. Benefits Parker County Health Foundation projects providing services to enhance the health and well-being of Parker County families. For more information, call (817) 594-1990.

### March 4

Senior Circle Monthly Meeting/Birthday Celebration/Bingo: Noon at the Education Pavilion across from the hospital. Bring a dish to share and a bingo prize. Enjoy lunch, fellowship and bingo. Prize for birthday members. Not a member yet? No

problem. RSVP to (817) 599-1672.

### March 5

Bunco Tournament: 6:30 p.m., Chandor Gardens. Join a fun night out with the ladies. Only 60 tickets will be sold. Rules will be given with ticket purchase. Tickets are \$5 per person and may be purchased at Weatherford Parks and Recreation on Palo Pinto. Please call (817) 598-4124 for more information.

### March 10

Senior Circle – Four Year Anniversary Party: 4:00-6:00 p.m. Public is invited to join in the fun. There will be entertainment, food and tons of door prizes. See what Senior Circle is all about. Membership is not required but RSVP is. Call (817) 599-1672.

### March 26

Weatherford Blooms Home & Garden Show: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. in the historic downtown square. Vendors, education stations, entertainment, clinics, food and fun. For more information, contact (817) 598-4034.

### Second and Fourth Tuesdays

City Council meeting: 6:30 p.m., 303 Palo Pinto Street, Weatherford, TX.

### Wednesdays

Toddler Time: 10:30 a.m., Weatherford Public Library, 1014 Charles Street, Weatherford, TX. Please join us for music, movement and stories especially for toddlers ages 6 months – 36 months. This is an interactive program, so come prepared to have a great time with your child. For more information, call (817) 598-4150.

Preschool Story Time: 10:30 a.m., Weatherford Public Library, 1014 Charles Street, Weatherford, TX. Stories, finger plays and crafts for ages 2-5 years. For more information, call (817) 598-4150.

### Second Thursdays

Board Meeting for Weatherford ISD: 7:00 p.m. (unless otherwise designated), 1100 Longhorn Drive. Call (817) 598-2800 for more information or visit [www.weatherfordisd.com](http://www.weatherfordisd.com).

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





## In The Kitchen With Jean Dumont

— By Carolyn Wills

Jean Dumont grew up in Arkansas in a family of great cooks, down-home cooking and her mother's famous ham dressing. When she is not at her desk at the Chamber of Commerce, she is often in her kitchen. "Cooking is a creative outlet," she said. "I enjoy adding my own twist to recipes." Her version of ham dressing is now the holiday hit with her husband's family in Minnesota. Her favorite seasonings are sea salt and pepper, spices she only finds in Rogers, Minnesota, and a good dose of fun. "Cooking and baking make me feel good," she said. "When my husband and I eat out, I will often make the same dish at home with my own spin. I haven't killed him yet, so that's a good thing!" **NOW**

### Fried Chicken

**Peanut oil to fill a deep frying pan halfway**

**Whole chicken (cut up) or one that is already cut up**

**2 eggs**

**1/4 cup water**

**1/2 cup Louisiana Hot Sauce**

**2 cups self-rising flour**

**2 tsp. seasoning salt**

**2 tsp. pepper**

1. Fill a large frying pot halfway with peanut oil (the oil will expand when frying.) Heat the oil to 350 F.
2. Remove skin from all the chicken pieces.
3. Make an egg wash by mixing the eggs with the water in a bowl.
4. Pour the Louisiana Hot Sauce in a small bowl.
5. In a large plastic storage bag, mix the flour, seasoning salt and pepper.
6. Coat the chicken pieces in the egg wash, hot sauce and the flour mixture, close the bag and shake. Take chicken out of the bag; repeat for a second coating.
7. Fry the white pieces for 15 minutes and

the dark pieces for 20 minutes. Chicken will float when it is done. Makes the best crispy chicken I've ever had, and the hot sauce gives it a nice bite!

### Almond Lace Cookies

**1 cup uncooked oats**

**1 cup sugar**

**2 Tbsp. all-purpose flour**

**1/2 tsp. salt**

**1/4 tsp. baking powder**

**1 egg, lightly beaten**

**1/2 cup unsalted Land O' Lakes sweet butter**

**1 tsp. vanilla extract**

**1 cup sliced almonds**

1. Heat oven to 325 F.
2. In a large bowl, combine oats, sugar, flour, salt and baking powder.
3. In a separate bowl whisk egg, melted butter and vanilla until smooth.
4. Add egg mixture to dry ingredients; add the almonds. Stir until evenly distributed.
5. Line a cookie sheet with foil, spray lightly with nonstick cooking spray. Drop level teaspoonfuls of dough 3 inches apart on

prepared sheet; flatten slightly.

6. Repeat with remaining dough. Bake for 9-11 minutes, until light brown.

### Hawaiian Chicken Wings

**1 cup water**

**1 cup sugar**

**1 cup soy sauce**

**1/4 cup vegetable oil**

**1/4 cup pineapple juice**

**1/2 tsp. ginger**

**1/2 tsp. garlic powder**

**1 large pkg. of chicken wings**

1. Mix everything together in a bowl except the chicken wings.
2. Place chicken wings in a large bowl or bag. Pour mixture over the wings and marinate overnight.
3. Preheat oven to 325 F.
4. Take wings out of mixture. Bake for 2 to 3 hours.

### Chicken Vegetable Soup

**2 cups chicken broth**

**1 cup fresh or frozen corn**

**1 small celery rib, chopped**

**1 small carrot, chopped**

**1 small onion, chopped**

**1 cup cooked chicken, cubed**

**1/2 cup canned, diced tomatoes**

**Salt and pepper, to taste**

1. In a saucepan, combine the first five ingredients; bring to a boil.
2. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 25-30 minutes or until vegetables are tender.
3. Stir in the chicken, tomatoes, salt and pepper; heat through. Great served with corn bread.

### Sweet Potato Pie

**1 1/2 cups mashed sweet potatoes**

**1 stick unsalted Land O' Lakes sweet butter, melted**

**1 1/2 cups sugar**

**3 tsp. flour**

**1 tsp. lemon extract**

**1 tsp. vanilla**

**2 eggs**

**2/3 cup evaporated milk**

1. Combine all ingredients by hand; pour into one deep pan unbaked pie shell.
2. Bake at 375 F for about 45 minutes.
3. Test with a silver knife; when it comes out clean, it is done.



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# Weatherford NOW

M A G A Z I N E

FEBRUARY 2011

## Educating With a Smile

Dr. Deborah Cron serves children and her community with a smile on her face.

## Helping Songwriters Be Heard

### Also Inside

Preserving Our  
Local Heritage

In the Kitchen  
With Jean Dumont

## Family Transformation

Where Playfulness  
and Peace Abound  
At Home With Wayne  
& Leigh Anne Jones



## February Is Rose Time

— By *Nancy Fenton*

Think of Valentine's Day, and getting roses for a special friend comes to mind. Roses are a sentimental favorite as well as a beautiful flower. A garden full of roses is truly a thing of beauty. You can have a rose garden that will grow, bloom and possibly outlive you, if you plan a bit and do the proper preparation. Ninety-nine percent of roses adore full sun, so when planning, look for a well-drained, sunny spot away from walls and fences. If the spot is not as well-drained as you would like, build it up. Compost and expanded shale will help, as will a soil test if you have not had one on the bed area in a while.

EarthKind roses have been tested all over the nation and found to be sturdy, as well as beautiful. Knock Out, one of the first EarthKind roses, has been cultivated to include pink, yellow, rainbow and blushing white varieties. Plan your color scheme and look around. Hybrids can be great roses, but they usually bloom only once a year whereas EarthKind roses bloom all season. An attractive bed could include Sea Foam roses crawling over the edges and then a bed built with varying sizes and colors. With the white edging, an apricot yellow small shrub like Perle d'Or or a lilac pink one like Caldwell Pink would begin to show off the multi-color beauty. Depending on the size of the bed, medium and large roses of many colors can be added. They all require sun, careful watering and mulching. Turn your lawn sprinklers away or off, and go to drip- or hand-watering for this bed.

EarthKind roses can be found at local nurseries. Buy small and leave extra room between plants for the air to get through after they mature. Damp leaves and poor air circulation are the primary causes of black spot and other rose diseases.

Any roses already in your beds should be cut back now. Any canes that cross should be evaluated and one of them cut severely. My two roses that struggle in the shade are cut back to 6-inch canes and come on like gangbusters until the trees leaf out!

For a brochure on EarthKind roses and hints for growing, call the AgriLife office at (972) 825-5175. **NOW**

*Nancy Fenton is a Master Gardener.*







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