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ON THE COVER

A priceless gift, Willow Ensley depicts selfless love.

Photo by
Kenzie Luke.

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Lisa

Lisa Bell
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EDITOR'S NOTE

Hello, Weatherford Friends!

"Love is ..." I remember the little cartoon from back in the '70s. My sister cut out many of them from the newspaper and saved them. So many ideas about love, and a lot of them were excellent. I was just a kid — a teenager actually — and knew little about "love" from a romantic perspective. Sometimes, I still wonder if I know much about it. But unconditional love — I understand that. It's a precious gift, one we should never let go of, if we're fortunate enough to have it. February 14 is a reminder of love, which means many different things. Giving of myself is one of the least selfish ways I know of to express love.

One of our stories this month focuses on the results of loving a stranger. That's not always an easy thing to do. Loving friends and family? No big deal. But can we really love someone we don't even know?

Have a very happy Valentine's Day!

P.S. I'm always on the lookout for interesting homes to feature. The size doesn't matter — big or small, traditional or modern. If you know someone who might be interested, send the lead my way.

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- Married to Dr. Brandi Buckner since 1977
- Lived in Parker County since May of 1979
- Successful law office in Weatherford from May of 1979 until elected Judge, January 1, 2007
- Two grown children & five grandchildren
- Volunteer Enlistment in United States Navy with an Honorable Discharge
- 3rd Degree Black Belt
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You may have already had this diagnosed on an MRI and thought that there is little that can be done about it. That's a major problem: bad information, because in the right hands, a lot can be done for you.

To end the misery caused by Bulging DISCS, you must have the right information. Pay close attention because I'm going to destroy some important myths and give you the facts.

MYTH: Bulging DISC problems will just "go away" with some rest.

FACT: If you are dealing with back pain, buttock pain or leg pain, then you must seek help from a Bulging DISC specialist immediately. If left untreated, the problem can lead to permanent nerve damage - and lifelong pain.

MYTH: Pain is the only problem associated with Bulging DISC problems.

FACT: In severe cases, this problem can lead to the inability to control your bowels, bladder and sexual potency - leading to embarrassing situations.

MYTH: You must take pain medications to deal with Bulging DISCs.

FACT: Drugs like muscle relaxants, pain killers, narcotics, antidepressants, and anti-seizure medications have serious potential side-effects and do not cure Bulging DISCs.

MYTH: "I must have done something wrong to damage my DISC."

FACT: Physical work or simply sitting at a desk for long periods can lead to Bulging DISCs. Accidents and trauma can also be the culprits. Pregnancy can cause damage. DISC Bulges can happen to anyone - including super-fit celebrities like Tiger Woods, Sylvester Stallone, and British Olympic medalist Ian Wynne.

MYTH: Stop exercising and get several weeks of bed rest to let the Bulging DISC recover...

FACT: Staying active can help to relieve the pain and prevent the pain from getting worse. Staying inactive in bed could be the worst advice - based on a recent study in the Netherlands.

MYTH: DISC Bulges or herniations require surgery.

FACT: NO! There's been a huge breakthrough in the treatment of Bulging DISCs.

MYTH: "There's nothing anyone can really do. I'm just stuck with this for the rest of my life."

FACT: With the correct treatment from a healthcare professional who specializes in Bulging DISCs, you can find relief from the core cause - and the symptoms.

MYTH: Getting a Bulging DISC properly diagnosed is expensive.

FACT: Not true. Dr. Carl McAfee in Weatherford is currently offering an initial consultation with one of their specialists for just \$29.

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CONTAGIOUS HOPE

— By Lisa Bell

Big, brown eyes shine from a precious baby girl. Willow Ensley doesn't waste smiles, but her eyes twinkle, filled with life and love. A curious 1-year-old, she is a bit smaller and less developed than most babies her age. Under the circumstances, she's doing quite well.

Born on Thanksgiving Day 2016, Willow experienced mild jaundice — common in at least half of newborns. After 30 minutes of labor, Erin and Robert Ensley, plus their three children, greeted her as she entered the world. Her dad was, and is, on active duty in the Air Force. Early in Willow's life, they planned for an upcoming transfer to the Fort Worth area.

On May 16, 2017, life changed. Following a busy day at their Southern California home, Willow fussed while Erin cooked dinner. This was common enough, but Robert noticed her eyes looked a little yellow, as did her skin.

// While no parent wants hardship for their child, Willow's battle showcased her strength. //

"I just knew something was wrong," Erin said, so she and Robert took Willow to urgent care. The doctor on call demanded they get her to Los Angeles for immediate admittance, with no clue about what was wrong. By midnight, Willow was admitted to UCLA. At 5:00 a.m., Erin and Robert tried to hold themselves together and understand the diagnosis of acute liver failure. When the doctor left, they both broke down.





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Somehow, Willow had picked up a virus. The family had recently traveled within the United States, so she could have contracted a slight illness anywhere. Her body began creating antibodies to fight the relatively harmless illness, but they ended up attacking the infant's liver, as well.

Although in some cases partial liver transplants from a living donor work well, no one in Willow's family was a donor match. After a Facebook post, literally hundreds of people came forward offering pieces of their own livers and a multitude of prayers, yet the medical team found no viable solution. For many reasons, doctors normally prefer a deceased organ donor. Living transplants carry risks for both parties. Sometimes a donor willingly accepts the risks, but for Willow, this wasn't a possibility.

Doctors gave Willow a seven-to-10-day life expectancy. Nonetheless, she was placed on the national transplant list, and the medical team began the arduous task of finding a liver donor.

With organ donations, if a decedent already registered or indicated their preference, the family doesn't carry the burden of whether or not to



donate a loved one's organs. However, when a minor is the potential donor, the parents must make the decision. Beyond that, the medical team must take care of organs and confirm that the donor is, in fact, brain dead. According to www.organdonor.gov, this team must never be the same as the transplant team.

A series of matching ensues, including computer systems searching for possible recipients. Medical teams work to recover, transport and transplant organs from the donor to multiple recipients.

May 28, the Ensleys learned they had a potential donor liver for their daughter. "I couldn't thank them enough. Without them, she wouldn't be crawling around the floor," Erin said, regarding the family who chose to donate a loved one's organs. "Every month, my heart hurts for the family. They went through what I was about to go through."

While the transplant presents challenges of its own, the Ensley family is thankful for each day with Willow. Emily, Justin and Autumn adore their baby sister and are among the first to protect her from ordinary germs, as much as possible. While



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the siblings always got along well, they have a special bond following Willow's ordeal. Autumn, at 8, is Willow's favorite. While most of the family receives a goofy smile, Autumn scores a loud squeal when she gets home from school.

As a family, they have many serious conversations, and all of them agree on the importance of donating organs. They try not to sweat the small stuff life might throw their way, although they are still cautious. Erin created a license plate for Willow's stroller that states, "Organ transplant. Don't touch." While some people question the validity, some are curious and still others show genuine concern. It opens doors for conversations about the need and understanding of organ donation.

While no parent wants hardship for their child, Willow's battle showcased her strength. "She's got that sass," Erin said, admitting Willow became the queen of the fifth floor at UCLA. Now in Weatherford, she's a spunky little thing who enjoys walks outdoors and vocally making her presence known. She takes the medications and daily shots in stride, happy and active.

Erin and Robert chose Weatherford as their new home after they found a Realtor and fell in love with an online listing. The home's openness and the

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quiet neighborhood have been perfect for their family.

They still have a long road ahead, always aware of potential dangers from common viruses and bacteria. Willow's body could yet reject the new liver. But, the Ensley family continues with high hopes for its youngest member, Willow's tiny voice cheers encouragement for transplant recipients.

As they focus on Willow's body working properly, the Ensleys also dream of great things for her. Perhaps Willow will one day choose to become a pediatric intensive care unit nurse, or maybe, even a transplant doctor. Ultimately, she may have that opportunity because of the selfless act of grieving parents who said yes to organ donation.

Most people think of February 14 as a day of love, but it also happens to be National Organ Donor Day. Willow's story offers contagious hope for transplant recipients and inspiration for others to consider organ donation. **NOW**

Editor's Note: Visit www.organdonor.gov for more information. Follow Willow on Facebook – Willow.StrongJourney.

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Complete Ma

— By Lindsay L. Allen

AT HOME WITH

Jennifer Lundy's home looks like it was just styled and decorated for a photo shoot. The beautifully restored home now boasts a French Farm House design and offers the perfect blend of antiques and refinished furniture.

In 2016, when she bought the home, Jennifer had no intentions of remodeling the whole home, just the kitchen and one bathroom. "What I found out was as I changed one room, the other rooms didn't match it, and by the end of it all, I had restored all three bedrooms, three bathrooms, kitchen, two seating areas and added a half-bath," Jennifer said. "My mother, Roulene Wagonseller, is an antique consignor and stylist with a space in Antiques on the Square. With that being said, I can't take a lot of credit for the home because I relied heavily on her expertise and skill."

What resulted was a Gustavian style throughout the home, which is influenced by French design and is seen by the pastel gray, white and cream colors in the decor, painted furniture, simple linens, bleached woods and chandeliers. Jennifer's home is the perfect combination of elegance and rustic appeal, with



akeover

JENNIFER LUNDY

every piece perfectly matching the setting of the room. While she isn't sure how old the home is, she does have a picture of the home in 1948 that the previous owner stopped by and gave her, and county records show the home being here in 1880, as well. However, there had been changes to the home, even before Jennifer purchased it. The original structure was one living room, a dining room and kitchen and one bedroom with bath. Over the course of time, it has had additions.

One of the few things Jennifer didn't change was the paneled wood walls in the second living room. "I loved the real wood and look of it, but I did paint over it to match the neutral colors I have throughout," she said.



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This second living area shares an open space with the kitchen that Jennifer completely gutted and rebuilt. As the owner of a catering and bistro company, Short Chef Creations, it was only natural for Jennifer to desire a beautiful, top-of-the-line kitchen. “I came in and opened the space between the kitchen and second living area and added an oversized island with a six-burner stove top, double

oven, quartz countertops and new cabinets,” she said.

The view from the kitchen was important to Jennifer. “I love hosting people and wanted to be able to entertain company while cooking. So creating an open space from the kitchen to the sitting area was important to me,” she said. The sitting area she is referencing has French doors to the patio that she added, as



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well as a fireplace she enhanced with a different layer of rock on top of the existing rock, which creates a cozy feeling for any guests.

The dining room is again perfectly styled by Jennifer's mom, with a unique, oversized gold chandelier hanging above the farm table and an antique china cabinet with glass doors and sides. The whole home has custom wood paneled white covers for the windows that enhance the farmhouse look in each room.

"My favorite rooms are the kitchen and the guest room's bathroom. I love the claw foot tub and antique framed mirror. The bathroom was one of the first rooms we re-did, and I just love it," she noted.

When house shopping, she was hoping for two sitting areas and three bedrooms, and her Weatherford home offers just that. The first living room, which is the first room one enters when they come through the front door, has a bricked-in fireplace with a beautiful Russian oil painting hanging above it. Adjacent to that is an 18th century French cupboard that now replaces the old storage closet.



The master bathroom was completely gutted, and once the work began to redo it, Jennifer found that even the subfloor was sunken and beyond repair. In pristine condition now, the space has been enlarged, and the closet door is a sliding barn door opening to Jennifer's oversized closet.

The half-bath that she added to the house has a beautiful Sherle Wagner pink marbled sink and a window overlooking the backyard.

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"All of the three original bathrooms were connected to the bedrooms. I needed to add the half-bath for guests, so they wouldn't have to enter a bedroom to get to the restroom. That was one of the changes I knew I needed to make when I moved in, but that changed quickly after the move in, and every room has now been touched," she said with a laugh.

With tons of seating options throughout the house, Jennifer said it always depends on whom the company is as to where they end up hanging out. But with the various options, chairs, barstools, rocking chairs, benches and sofas, there is an option for seating at every turn, and they are all perfectly placed and styled to each room.

The outside of the home is now painted brick with a long driveway down the side of the home and a carport. A refinished storage area has the potential to be remodeled into guest quarters or an office space. "This home used to be just four rooms when it was originally built," she said, "and has been gradually added on to and is now the perfect size for me; my son, Riley; and there's space for my daughter, Sarah, when she visits from Stephens College in Missouri." **NOW**

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Protecting Lives that Save Lives

— By Lindsay L. Allen

“They do so much for us and ask for so little,” Nate King, founder of K9s of Valor, said. Having lots of volunteer and work experience with police departments, Nate has seen firsthand the work these K9s do not only for the officer, but also for the community. He also sees the need the K9s have.

“Sadly, most police units do not have funds for the K9 dogs, and the costs ultimately fall on the officer for food, veterinary services and life-saving equipment,” Nate said. “The majority of time, relief from these bills only comes when businesses and citizens donate their services and money.”

Because the need is so great, Nate never has to search far to find a K9 officer seeking help. In fact, he daily receives emails from units across the country. “The top two items requested are Naloxone, or Narcan, and trauma kits. Narcan is a nasal spray medication, costing \$70 per dose, and reverses the effects when officers and K9s come into contact with opioids. It can stop their possible fatal overdose. Unfortunately, we have seen a rise in opioid busts, and the need for Narcan is increasing daily,” he continued. “We used to provide these in containers for officers to carry in their cruiser, but oftentimes there isn’t enough time to run back to the vehicle and obtain the Narcan in these scenarios. When the effects of opioids hit, the officers and K9s need the medication immediately, so we have teamed up with a company to provide a NarCase, which the officer can wear on his belt.”

Another focus area for the nonprofit is to collect money for HotNPOps, which have two purposes. First, it notifies a K9 officer when the vehicle becomes too hot for the K9 if he isn’t able to go on a call, and activates a fan and other mechanisms to save the dog’s life. The second function includes a button on the officer’s belt that can be pushed

in order to open the vehicle for the dog to come save the officer from attack or help during a foot chase.

"K9s of Valor is all volunteer work and focused primarily in Ohio and Texas, as I lived in Ohio until late 2016 when I moved to Texas," Nate said. "I work overtime to support costs of running the nonprofit, so all donations go directly toward keeping more K9s and their officers safe."

After reading a story about a K9, named Jethro, in Canton, Ohio, who risked his life for his officer during a grocery store burglary and later died in the veterinarian's office in January 2016, Nate's passion and desire to form K9s of Valor really developed. It became a full-time focus for him, apart from his job and school. Nate currently attends TCC, majoring in criminal justice and is a police dispatcher. After the passing of K9 Jethro, Nate began meeting with officers that week about the needs of K9 units. He learned many don't even have trauma kits, amongst other lifesaving items for the K9s. He immediately bought a trauma kit for a local K9 and began developing his nonprofit.

Nate always had an interest in being a police officer, but now the desire is to be, more specifically, a K9 officer. "I had a German Shepherd, Zeus, that I rescued and shared a strong bond with, and even though he has passed, I understand the bond between officers and their K9s and hope we can continue to provide for them and support them in whatever capacity," Nate said. "It means so much to officers to receive these materials, and I love being able to tell those who need help that K9s of Valor will supply the materials. Every heroin bust reminds me why we raise money for Narcan." **NOW**

Editor's Note: To learn more about K9s of Valor visit www.k9sofvalor.org.

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CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With

MARCY BROOKS

— By Amber D. Browne



At the age of 89, Marcy Brooks has had decades in the kitchen to find recipes that entice family and friends to the table. “I excel in recipe plagiarism,” Marcy shared. “I take them, try them, alter them and make them my own.” Her cooking style is unique, but most of her recipes are simple and downhome.

Marcy grew up during the Great Depression, which has influenced her cooking. Food is a necessity in life, and that inspires Marcy in the kitchen. “Someone had to provide that food, and I am that someone. It was done with love.” When Marcy isn’t whipping up a delicious recipe, she enjoys spending time with her husband and playing cards with friends from the Parker County Women’s and Newcomers’ Club. **NOW**

Lemon Chicken

2 Tbsp. butter
2-3 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
Oregano, to taste
Garlic, to taste
1 .87-oz. pkg. chicken gravy dry mix
1 large or 2 small lemons

1. Melt butter in a skillet; add chicken breasts. Season with oregano and garlic.
2. Prepare chicken gravy according to directions on package; pour over chicken. Squeeze lemon over chicken; cover and cook over medium heat for 1 hour. Serve over rice or pasta.

Never-fail Pie Crust

3 1/2 cups very cold Crisco
3 cups flour
6 eggs, slightly beaten
6 Tbsp. ice water
1 tsp. white vinegar

1. Mix shortening and flour with fork until size of beans.
2. Mix together remaining ingredients and stir into flour with fork until moist.
3. Divide dough and roll into two pie crusts.

Marcy’s Original Recipe Quiche

5 slices bacon
1/4 to 1/2 cup onion, diced
1 cup Swiss cheese, shredded
1 9-inch pastry shell, baked for 5 minutes
3 eggs, beaten
1 1/2 cups whole milk
1 cup broccoli or spinach, cooked and drained
1/2 tsp. salt
1/8 tsp. pepper
1 cup canned mushrooms, drained

1. Fry bacon until crisp; tear or chop into small pieces. Sauté onions in bacon grease.

2. Sprinkle bacon, onion and cheese into pastry shell. Combine remaining ingredients in a bowl; pour into pastry shell. Bake at 325 F for 1 hour, or until inserted knife blade comes out clean.

Spaghetti Sauce

1 medium onion, chopped
1 green bell pepper, chopped
2 lbs. ground beef
Salt and pepper, to taste
Oregano, to taste
Garlic, to taste
Celery salt, to taste
1 10.5-oz. can cream of mushroom soup
1 10.75-oz. can tomato soup
1 12-oz. pkg. spaghetti, cooked

1. Sauté onion and green pepper; add ground beef and dry spices. Cook until beef is browned.
2. Add soups to beef and simmer about 30 minutes. Serve over spaghetti and with salad and French bread.

My Favorite 5-minute Fudge

2 Tbsp. butter or margarine
2/3 cup undiluted evaporated milk
1 2/3 cups sugar
1/2 tsp. salt
2 cups miniature marshmallows
1 1/2 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips

1 tsp. vanilla
1/2 cup nuts, chopped

1. Combine butter and next three ingredients in a saucepan over medium heat. Boil and stir constantly for 4-5 minutes until mixture reaches 134 F.
2. Remove from heat; add marshmallows and remaining ingredients.
3. Combine well and pour into 8-inch square pan. Once cool, cut into squares.

Banana Nut Bundt Cake

1/2 lb. margarine
3 cups sugar
4 eggs
4 cups flour
2 tsp. baking powder
1/4 tsp. salt
2 tsp. baking soda
1/2 cup buttermilk
6 bananas, smashed
2 tsp. vanilla
1/2 lb. pecans

1. Cream together margarine and sugar; add eggs.
2. In a separate bowl, sift together flour and next three ingredients; add to creamed mixture. Mix in buttermilk; add bananas and vanilla.
3. Add pecans; pour into greased or floured Bundt pan. Bake at 275 F for 2 hours.

Refrigerator Bran Muffins

2 cups ready-to-eat bran cereal
1 cup boiling water
4 eggs
2 cups sugar
1 cup canola oil
1 quart buttermilk
4 cups quick oats
5 tsp. baking soda
5 cups all-purpose flour

1. Stir together bran cereal and water. Set aside to cool.
2. Beat eggs in a large bowl. Stir in sugar and next three ingredients. Add baking soda and flour; stir until all ingredients are moist. Stir in cooled bran cereal mixture.
3. Spoon batter into greased muffin tins or paper cups until about 2/3 full. Bake at 400 F for 18 minutes.

To view recipes from current and previous issues, visit www.nowmagazines.com.

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— By Lisa Bell

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AlphaGraphics is a unique company. They are great at making signs, printing and creating graphic art, all with the expertise of helping small- to medium-size businesses promote themselves. The philosophy is simple. Get noticed. Get business. And the goal for this family-owned and -operated business is to do those two things really well.

Although the company itself isn't new, Toby and Beth Taylor became owners in November 2016. Prior to that, Toby served as general manager of his family's air conditioning business in Fort Worth for more than 20 years. While Beth's been a full-time mother for the past 11 years, she believes her work experience prepared her for this business. Toby and Beth

both hold architectural degrees from Texas A&M University. They met while studying abroad in Italy and married shortly after graduating.

With Toby's management experience, he handles business operations, including the financial and technical aspects of their company. Beth is more creative and loves interacting with people, so she handles sales and marketing. "Working together is great — as long as we stay out of each other's area," Beth said. Their first employee, Joey, is a gifted graphic artist who brings a creative element to the team. Bringing Robert on board with more than 20 years of experience in the print industry forms a strong, well-rounded team.

Their business offers traditional printing — flyers, brochures, booklets, business cards, forms, etc. They also create signs, banners, vehicle decals and magnets. Many local contractors turn to them to print construction and engineering drawings. AlphaGraphics also provides retractable banners and table


covers for trade shows. “We can print your company’s name on just about anything,” Toby said.

Their products aren’t what make AlphaGraphics unique — the consulting services they offer set them apart. With a marketing background, Beth can answer questions and make recommendations. She also has a strong eye for detail and knows what works well. An on-site graphic designer gives them an edge. From simple flyers to elaborate logo designs, AlphaGraphics offers creative services to promote every need. Having worked in both print- and web-based environments, they understand the nuances of each. What looks good online doesn’t always work well when printed. Steering customers to the best possible outcome makes all the difference.

Toby and Beth embrace unique requests. They recently created full-scale cutouts of all the football players for Brock High School. In addition, they agreed to be a “Hop Spot” for Weatherford ISD students who need Internet connections but don’t have them at home. They plan to put a few tables outside where students can work during good weather.


Both are quick to note they couldn’t run their business successfully without support from family. Their sons, Riley and Colby, spend several afternoons at the shop and enjoy helping with some of the work. And they have more than enough scrap materials to engage their creative minds. Grandparents take care of the boys often, but they also pitch in, helping on big jobs. “That’s been a real blessing,” Toby said.

They wanted a local business they could operate together, yet spend time with their sons. Both enjoy being involved with school and extracurricular activities. They are active in their church and support several local nonprofit organizations. Community is important to Toby and Beth. They work hard, overcoming any obstacles to a successful business that blesses their family and community. **NOW**




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TravelNOW Basecamp for Adventure

— By Lisa Branner

Nestled at 9,318 feet above sea level in Colorado's San Juan Mountains, Silverton is a picturesque former mining town steeped in Old West history. Established in 1874 as Baker's Park, the town was named a National Historic Landmark in 1961. Today Silverton has a population of 600, and has become a perfect basecamp for adventurous travelers of all stripes.

The San Juans boast some of the most rugged and beautiful terrain in the lower 48, and are home to 13 of Colorado's "Fourteeners," mountains so called because their peaks rise to over 14,000 feet. The range is dotted with alpine lakes and waterfalls, fields of wildflowers and historic ghost towns that are relics of a bygone era.

Train buffs can enjoy an unforgettable adventure on the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, traveling by

coal-fired, steam-powered locomotive on the same tracks that miners, cowboys and settlers took over a century ago. Climbing nearly 3,000 feet, the train winds through spectacular canyons and remote wilderness. Travelers disembark on Notorious Blair Street, whose wooden sidewalks were once lined with saloons, gambling halls and bordellos.

The Million Dollar Highway, built as a toll road in the late 1880s by railroad magnate Otto Mears, is one of the most spectacular drives in the USA. This journey weaves through the mountains, clinging to tight curves and topping out at an elevation of 11,017 feet on Red Mountain Pass before dropping into the town of Ouray. In autumn, the abundance of Aspen trees makes this ideal for leaf peepers.

For the adventurous, a jeep or OHV tour along the Alpine


Loop provides a full day of thrills. This 65-mile, four-wheel-drive byway connects Silverton, Lake City and Ouray, climbing over two 12,000-foot passes. Along the way, stop for a visit to Animas Forks, a well-preserved ghost town. In its heyday, this bustling mining hub had more than 30 structures including hotels, saloons, a post office and a general store. Today fewer than a dozen buildings remain, restored by the San Juan County Historical Society.

Silverton is a mecca for winter recreation, too, with two ski areas and boundless backcountry. Kendall Mountain offers affordable family fun, with 240 feet of vertical drop, four groomed trails and one double chair lift. Ice skating, sledding and snowshoeing are allowed any time. For fat bikes and Nordic skiers, the Town Loop offers 2.5 miles of groomed cross-country trails accessed right from town. For the advanced skier, Silverton Mountain is a challenging big mountain experience with expert-only terrain and heli-skiing. The extensive winter trails on Molas Pass can be explored on your own or with a local snowmobile outfitter like Ice Pirates. Be sure to bring a camera to capture the impressive views.

Summer visitors seeking tranquility will relish Molas Lake Campground, rated "Most Scenic Campground in Colorado" by AAA. Just six miles south of Silverton, atop Molas Pass, the well-maintained campground provides unforgettable scenery, starry skies, a stocked 25-acre lake and hiking access to the Colorado Trail.

For year-round accommodations with historic flair, the Grand Imperial Hotel provides an upscale lodging experience in the heart of downtown Silverton. Built in 1882, recent renovations have returned this 135-year-old landmark to its original grandeur.

For more information or to plan your trip to the heart of Colorado's high country, visit www.silvertoncolorado.com. **NOW**



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The Sweetest Valentine

— By Zachary R. Urquhart

There is no bad time to open your heart to a new family member, but some people use Valentine's Day as the perfect reason to bring a four-legged friend into their home. If you have been thinking about adopting a pet, maybe this month is the time to make it happen. Here are some tips for selecting an animal for your family to love.

Choosing an Animal

- *Give it some thought.* There are dog people, and there are cat people. Probably the first thing you should do, if you think your family is ready to adopt a pet, is get an idea of what type animal you want to adopt. You might even decide that a bunny, bird or fish is what your family needs. There are so many animals out there that need a home. If you head into a shelter without any thought, you might be overwhelmed. Before heading out, a little research regarding animals, their personalities and needs may make your decision easier.

- *Be flexible.* Even though you should go in with a plan, do not assume the exact color or breed of dog or cat you want

will be there waiting to be adopted. If you are really wanting something specific, call the local clinics and shelters to see if they have what you are seeking. Because the size and temperament of dogs is so widely varied, if you are leaning toward a canine, there are some things you need to decide. Think about the size each breed is as an adult, how well they will interact with children and how much yard or house space you have to spare.

- *Start sooner rather than later.* If you are really set on a Valentine's Day adoption, you will want to get yourself ready within the first few days of the month. The actual adoption process at a clinic or shelter is relatively simple, but if there is any specificity in what you are looking



to adopt, you should give yourself a few days to find the pet that is just what your family wants.

Choose an Organization

• *There are many options.* Probably the most well-known pet adoption agency is the SPCA. But in any given area, there are typically dozens of adoption locations. If you are specifically looking for a canine or feline, veterinary clinics and city pounds will sometimes have pets that face a short future if they are not adopted. Different agencies will have varying services, fees and requirements, so your willingness to welcome a pet with an unknown health history may be a major factor in where you adopt.



• *There are online options.* In the last decade or so, many Internet pet-finder services have begun helping people find the pet that fits their family. If you have specific needs, or if you are looking for a less common breed or type of pet, using an online search engine may be your best bet. If you do find an animal this way, though, be sure to contact the pet's current home before leaving. Some sites are third parties, so there could be a lag from animals being adopted to websites being updated.

Get Ready

• *Make living arrangements.* If you are bringing a dog or cat into your home, you will need to have a place for them. With the relative cold this time of year, plan on having them inside the house, even if that means they are sleeping in a laundry room or other extra space. Have a litter box for your cat or a piddle pad if you have chosen a puppy. While you do not

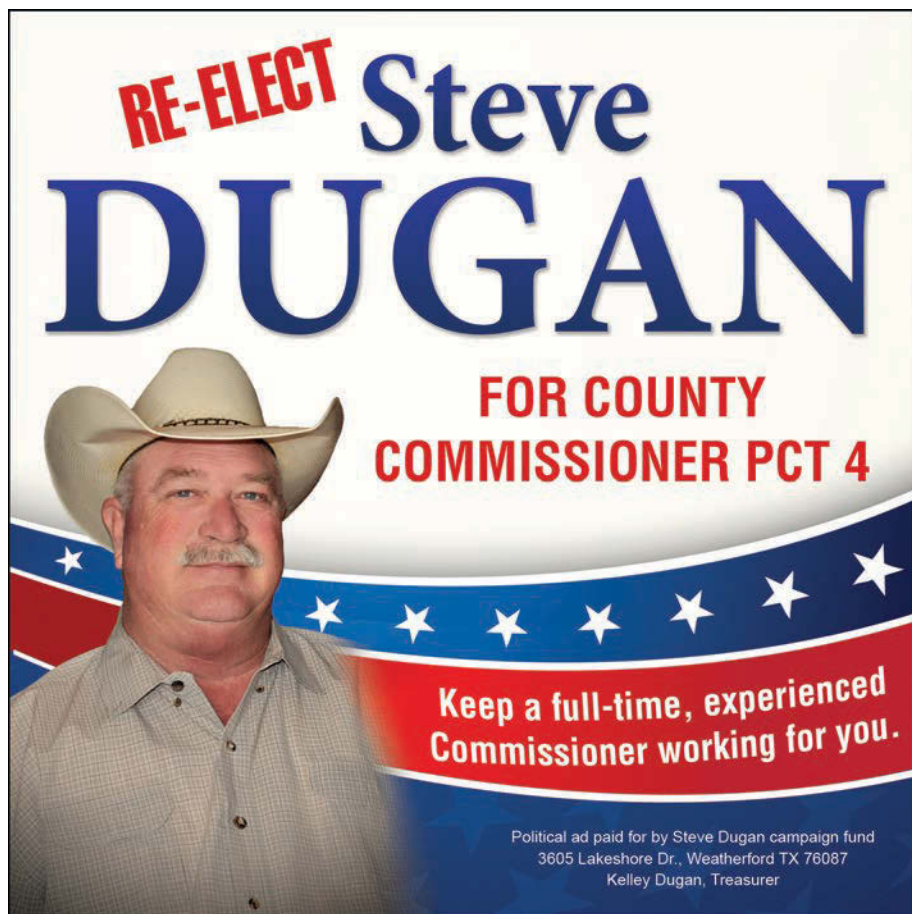


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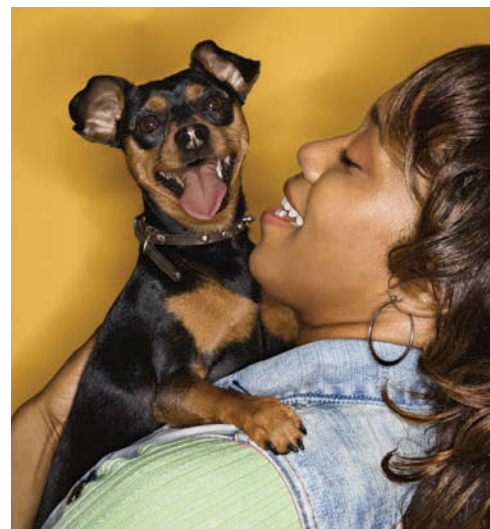
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need to safeguard your house the same way you would when bringing a baby into the home, you do want to put up anything a new pet could either hurt themselves with or anything that you do not want damaged. And if your pet is a more contained animal like a fish or reptile, be sure you have a safe spot for the bowl or terrarium that a young child would not easily knock over or break.



- *Buy supplies.* You should wait until you are sure of the exact breed of pet you are getting before buying food, in case the Chihuahua you think you want turns into a Golden Retriever that needs a heartier diet. Buying more neutral items — like a water bowl or chew toy — might help the rest of your family and any existing pets transition more easily.

- *Prep the paperwork.* For the most part, all you will need to complete the adoption will be a nominal fee and your ID. Before you head to the shelter, make sure there is nothing else required. While you are getting any pre-adoption paperwork in order, make sure you have identified a local veterinarian so that you have a plan for the first time your pet needs to go in.

Use Valentine's Day to make your pet adoption a big event. Bring your pet home to heart-shaped tags, or wrap your crate, kennel or carrier with a red bow. Whatever pet you are considering, February 14 is a special time to add to your family through adoption. **NOW**



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Zoomed In: Donna Motley

By Lisa Bell

Donna Motley represented the Quilters Guild of Parker County during a recent trip to the Houston area. She and her husband made the journey, working under Texas Baptist Men. At the Orange Villa Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Orange, Texas, Donna delivered 41 quilts to director, Joel Watts, and the residents of the center. Donna shared, "These residents were displaced twice during the floods. They moved them, and then the second location flooded, too."

Donna and fellow quilter, Jo Lynn O'Neal, (not pictured), delivered 217 quilts, made and donated by guild members, to Orange, La Porte, Baytown, Dickinson and Santa Fe, Texas, as well as Houston proper. "Compassion drives us to meet the needs of others," Donna said. "The flooded areas around Houston continue to recover."



WeatherfordNOW editor, Lisa Bell, poses with Ruth Buzzzi, who supports TOTS at a fundraising gala.



A Networking Luncheon with the East Parker County Chamber of Commerce was a big hit.



Phyllis Daily is looking beautiful at the salon.



The Anderson family enjoys an evening of fun in Aledo.



Catleen Thatcher shops for a frame to enhance a vintage horse poster.



Travis Resha, Chris Carden and Lauren McNamara are hard at work on a weekday afternoon.



Wise County Judge J.D. Clark swears in Dr. Robert Marlett as the newest member of the Weatherford College Board of Trustees.



Aledo Lion Rick Stoorza speaks with Burleson Lion Robert Russell about his memories made at The Texas Lions Camp in Kerrville.

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Calendar

February:

1

Hearts Afire – A Valentangle for Adults: 6:00-7:30 p.m., Weatherford Public Library. Two-hour class, learn five tangles and create a card for Valentine's Day. Free class requires registration. Contact Donna MJ Kinsey at (214) 763-9953 or donnamjkinsey.quilts@gmail.com.

Little Black Dress Fashion Show-United Way: 7:00-9:00 p.m., Springs Event Venue, 454 Thompson Rd. For more information, visit www.unitedwayofparkercounty.org or call (817) 596-5986.



1 - 28

Quilt Exhibit: Tuesday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Thursday until 8:00 p.m., Doss Cultural and Heritage Center, 1400 Texas Dr.

6, 7

Tools for Parenting: Tuesday, 9:30 a.m.; Wednesday 1:30 p.m., Parker County Agricultural Service Center, 604 N. Main St. Eight-hour parenting class broken into 2 days. Classes taught by Jim Morrow, Jessica McGee and Kathy Smith. Contact Kathy Smith (817) 598-6168 or kl-smith@tamu.eduparker.agrilife.org.

8

Walk to End Alzheimer's Volunteer Recruitment Party: 4:00-5:00 p.m., State Farm, 1916 Martin Dr., Suite 100. Reflecting on last year's walk

and begin planning 2018 Walk. Light refreshments served. For more details, visit www.act.alz.org.

9

Parker County Women's & Newcomers Club: 9:30 a.m., FUMC Family Life Center, 301 S. Main St. Romance author, Lori Wilde, will speak. All ladies in Parker County welcome. RSVP by **Sunday, February 4** to Donna (817) 613-9078 or Beth (817) 480-3263.

Will Douglas Classical Guitar Recital: all day, Allek Fine Arts Center, Weatherford College. Visit www.wc.edu for more information.

Spring Creek Musical: 6:00 p.m., Tabernacle located on Hwy 51 between Granbury and Weatherford. Free and open to the public. For questions or bands wanting to play, contact Lisa Walters (817) 386-6474.

12

Trivia Night: 7:00 p.m., Antebellum Ale House, 321 E. Oak St. Hosted by Weatherford Public Library. Come alone or as a team. Must register by 7:00 p.m.

14

Valentine's Dinner Theater Event: 6:30 p.m., Granbury Live Theater/Celebration Hall. Dinner catered by Farina's, with music and a dance area, followed by a performance of "Love Letters." Purchase tickets at www.thenewgranburylive.com.



15

Parker County Cruisers: 6:30 p.m., Harberger Hill Community Center, 701 Narrow St. The group for those interested in classic cars and specialty vehicles. Call (817) 994-0074 for details.

16

Quilter's Guild of Parker County: 6:30 p.m., Northside Baptist Church, 910 N. Main St. Phyllis Thornton presents "My Quilted Dreams a Mini-Madness Trunk Show." For more information visit www.quiltersguildofparkercounty.org.

17

WCPAAA 17th Annual Raffle Night with Casino Games: 6:00-10:00 p.m., Weatherford Senior Center, 1225 Holland Lake Dr. For details, contact Barbara Hummel, (817) 613-7692 or visit www.weatherfordcitizenpolice.org.

23, 24

Twin W Shuffle 42 Tournament: **Friday** night, 5:00 p.m. registration and warm-up; **Saturday**, 8:00 a.m. registration. For cost and details, visit www.dosscenter.org.

24

Kid's Wilderness Survival: 2:00-5:00 p.m., Mineral Wells State Park. A great program for your child's outdoor safety, where parents learn as much as the kids. Contact David Owens (940) 328-1171 ext. 222 or david.owens@tpwd.texas.gov. Or visit www.tpwd.texas.gov/calendar/lake-mineral-wells.

March:

10

PCCOA March for Meals 5K: 9:00 a.m., Weatherford Senior Center, 1225 Holland Lake Dr. Community

event, to raise awareness for Meals on Wheels of Parker County. For more information, contact Michelle, michelle.hernandez@pcco.org or (817) 596-4640.

Ongoing:

Second Wednesdays

The Twentieth Century Club: Noon, 321 S. Main St. Women's volunteer organization meets the second Wednesday of each month except in July and August. Begin with a potluck lunch, followed by a short program and business meeting. For more information, call Karren Lucas (817) 613-6697.

Thursdays

Doss After Dark: 6:00-8:00 p.m., Doss, 1400 Texas Dr. Doss After Dark strives to build relationships across generations through fun

programs that appeal to a broad audience. For more information, visit www.dosscenter.org.

First and Third Thursdays

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Family Support Group: 6:00 p.m., South Main Church of Christ, 201 S. Main St. The free support group will provide information and encouragement to families and friends of those suffering with PTSD. Call (817) 594-3030 to find out more.



Second Thursdays

Gardeners' Club of Parker County: 10:00 a.m., St. Francis Church, 117 Ranch House Rd., Willow Park. For more information, call (817) 919-6280.

Fridays

Hope: Yoga for Healing: 11:15 a.m., Indra's Grace, 131 W. Church St., Ste. 200. Indra's Grace partners with The Weatherford Breast Cancer Treatment Center and Careity Foundation offering cancer patients and caregivers the free class to help ease stress and pain. For more details, Visit www.indrasgrace.com or call (682) 241-5020.

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

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Time Is a Key Factor in Investing



With the arrival of another new year, many of us ponder the age-old question: “Who knows where the time goes?” That’s difficult to answer, but wherever it goes, time will affect your success as an investor.

For one thing, time is an essential element in building wealth. If you own quality investments with growth potential, and you give them years — in fact, decades — to increase in value, your perseverance may be rewarded.

Also, when trying to meet a goal with a specific time limit, such as sending your child to college, you’ll need to choose the appropriate investments. Finally, the element of time can affect your tolerance for risk. When you have decades to go until you retire, you can afford to take more risk with your investments, because you have time to overcome periods of market volatility. But when you’re on the verge of retiring, you may want to lower the risk level in your portfolio.

When you’re investing, always think about time. It’s the one asset you can’t replenish — so use it wisely. **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. Member SIPC.

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