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ON THE COVER



Ann Durant flashes a contagious smile while serving others.

Photo by Kenzie Luke.

CONTENTS

March 2016 • Volume 6, Issue 3



8

Tending to Others

At 72, Ann Durant stays active caring for senior citizens in many capacities.

16

Color and Character

At Home With Rick and Sharon Winters.

24

Wall of License Plates

Benefits of MaryLou VandeRiet's hobby include meeting people from all over the world.

30

Blooms When Planted

Spring up your yard with a gardening twist.



36 BusinessNOW

38 AroundTownNOW

40 FinanceNOW

44 CookingNOW

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Editor's Note

Hello, Weatherford Friends!

In March we celebrate Texas Independence Day and my personal favorite, the celebration of Jesus' resurrection. I love March weather, although in Texas, we never know how it will turn out. Cool or warm, peaceful or windy, and on rare occasions, we might catch a late snowfall. As I open windows and breathe deep, I relish the taste of spring. What a wonderful time of year!

Life is full of adventure if we look for it. We bump up against unforeseen circumstances, and some create incredible journeys we cherish. Others test the fortitude of our very soul. In the end, we choose how to face every situation. When we allow situations to affect us positively, it is fun to look back and see the internal growth brought about by the most difficult of times. Celebrate this month, regardless of what life throws your way.

Lisa

Lisa Bell
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Tending to Others

— By Lindsay Allen

Whatever the need is for the senior citizens of Parker County, Ann Durant is there to fill it. At 72 years of age, she isn't slowing down in her efforts to daily serve and care for the hundreds of seniors who pass through the doors of the Parker County Senior Center and even those who aren't able to enter.

For more than two years, Ann has been serving at the center in a number of ways and is always willing to go above and beyond. She can be found daily passing out

Ann Durant and her husband, Chubby.

drinks during lunchtime and serving trays to the handicapped. "I enjoy it, and the people here are appreciative and so sweet. I wouldn't want to spend my time any other way," Ann said.

The center is a place for seniors to meet and participate in a number of activities, including yoga, dancing, cards, potlucks and more. For many, it's also a resource when they aren't financially and/or physically able to care for themselves anymore. Ann noted that everyone is willing to pitch in, and those who are able, try to take care of the handicapped in attendance.

Ann and her husband, Chubby, visit daily and view the crowd at the center as their extended family. After volunteering every day, Ann stays to play cards and catch up with her friends.

Twice a week, you can find her delivering food with Meals on Wheels to Parker County seniors. Between her two different delivery routes, Ann provides food to almost 20 seniors every week through this program. One of her routes goes down the street she grew up on as a little girl. Delivering the meals isn't just a service project for Ann, though. She truly cares for and loves those on her routes. "I had one little lady who didn't have any food at all in her fridge, and it broke my heart. So I came back to the center and requested food from the pantry," Ann said. "I also have another lady on my route with a cat. I know that it can get expensive caring for an animal, so I always make sure she has cat food and groceries at her house."

"Ann gets very attached to those on her route," said Kathleen Haydon, business manager for the Parker County Committee on Aging. "There is a story for every one of her seniors."

The center sees 75-125 seniors pass through the doors every single day, on top of the 250 that Meals on Wheels provides for day-to-day. As one can imagine, volunteers are in high demand at the center. Ann serves alongside her friend, Don Huddleston, who has been visiting the center for more than 15 years. "Ann is such a good person and volunteers in so many capacities around here. It's a pleasure to serve with her," Don said.

Don is in charge of decorating the stage for each event and holiday and relies on Ann's assistance. Together, the two ensure the center is always festive and ready for celebrating. "It takes people like Ann and Don to get out there and be the ring leaders for our seniors. I rely on them to get everyone fired up, excited and talking about whatever event we have going on,"

Kathleen said. "They are great at spreading the positive news around here."

The center serves the growing population of those over 60 in Parker County. According to Kathleen, the majority of those benefiting from Meals on Wheels are not financially able to care for themselves.



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"Everyone needs help and, normally, help is needed in different ways. Most of the time at the center, friendship is the biggest need. I think the older you get, the more you need someone to check in on you and ask how things are going, and that's what the center does for so many," Don said.

For Ann, who served as a nurse for 18 years, checking in on people is second nature. She recalls people often comparing her to her dad and his kind heart. Her father, who was a former employee for the city, died when Ann was 2 years old. After quitting college to help her mother raise her younger brother, Ann enrolled at Texas





Christian University to complete her nursing degree. She later went on to be the director at various nursing homes, before switching careers and retiring as an adjuster. "I have always been crazy for older people, I think it is because I was so attached to my grandmother," Ann commented.

The senior citizens of Parker County have outgrown the center and are in the process of building a new one. Currently, the group has to move tables in the mornings to make room for dance classes and then move them back in time for lunch. The exciting part of the new center is the space and dedicated areas for dancing and other activities.





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"We are going to have a bigger kitchen and a bigger pantry to allow us to cook for more people and meet more needs. It's time for us to expand and move," Kathleen shared.

The center relies on over 125 volunteers and is always looking for more help. Meals on Wheels heavily depends on volunteers, as they serve all over the 950 square miles of Parker County. People like Ann not only serve, but they also set a great example that inspires others to offer their time to help. Live music, or any form of entertainment, is always welcome, and clothing and canned good donations are just a few ways people can get involved with or support the center. "When you get in here and volunteer once, it becomes an addiction. You won't want to leave!" Kathleen said.

That's exactly what happened for Ann and Chubby who feel right at home at the center. "It's good for my husband and me to interact with everyone here. Unfortunately, a lot of our old friends are not capable of hanging out anymore, and some have passed on, so this center provides another friend group for us and is good medicine for us both," Ann noted.

Having lived in Parker County since she was 2, Ann has never planned to leave because of the generosity and kindness of the people. Coincidentally, the same description could be given to Ann as she daily serves, giving of herself and her time to care for those around her. **NOW**

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Color and Character

AT HOME WITH RICK AND SHARON WINTERS

— By Amber D. Browne

After moving into a house in March 2006, the white walls of the new home became a fresh canvas for Sharon Winters. Her husband, Rick, enjoyed the clean look of the white walls. As a part-time artist and full-time art teacher, Sharon didn't have the time to paint, so they left them untouched. However, after about a week, her husband changed his mind about adding color to the walls. "He said, 'Nothing looks good on white walls,'" Sharon commented, grinning. She agreed and eagerly began adding a different color scheme to each room.

In the formal dining room, Sharon painted the walls a deep red. On the walls, she molded light tulips and added texture with mud and cheesecloth. A black glaze was added to enhance



the texture and tulips. Pottery and prayer boxes, which Sharon created, are displayed on the buffet. One of her paintings, framed and displayed in the dining room, resembles a table with a red bowl of flowers, based on a memory of her grandmother's enclosed porch. The table below the frame duplicates the painting. The dining room furniture was passed down from Rick's grandmother and offers plenty of seating for entertaining family and friends.



The color scheme of the neighboring office originated from a pair of turquoise, red and brown earrings. Sharon wanted to bring those colors to life in a room, so she mudded the walls to add texture, painted them turquoise and added a brown glaze. Deep red draperies have been added to the large window, and a corner bookshelf has been painted to coordinate with the room's colors. Sharon hand-painted most of the furniture and wall decor found in the home, including mirror frames, to add some of her own flare and design.

The master bedroom features warm shades of browns and golds. A heavy, wooden, king-sized bed commands the room and complements the dresser, armoire and nightstands. Accents of leopard print are found in several rooms throughout the home, including the chaise lounge in the master bedroom.

In many rooms, Sharon painted the ceiling to add depth. Most of the ceilings match the wall colors. The guest room boasts a muted yellow ceiling and walls. An accent wall and several framed pieces of artwork include verses from Scripture. "I like adding Scriptures as backgrounds to a lot of my paintings," Sharon explained. The guest room includes antique furniture and small, wooden rocking chairs enjoyed by her father-in-law during childhood.

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Rick's father had a stroke last year but has recovered. Rick says 2015 was a bad year for them. A car struck the Winters' white Schnauzer, Sam, as he ran across the street to greet a neighbor. They were forced to amputate Sam's front leg. "I



thought that was going to kill us," Rick shared. "It took him awhile, but he's finally back to where he was." Rick's mother has had health issues this year but now is recuperating at home.

Sharon's father recently checked into a



rehabilitation facility, and her mother now lives with them in a second guest room. It was once Sharon's "western room" but is being transformed into a peaceful retreat for her mother. "We say 2015 has been a hard year, but it's also been a good year," she said.

Rick worked at Jerry Durant Toyota in Weatherford but was transferred to the Granbury location last year. Sharon has been teaching in Weatherford for nearly 20 years. She shares her knowledge of pottery and painting with students at Hall Middle School and local residents through community education. She has always loved to paint but never expected to be an art teacher. Sharon grew up in Perrin



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and never graduated from high school. She got her GED at the age of 40. "I was determined to do that before my oldest daughter graduated," she said.

Sharon began taking classes at Weatherford College after her two daughters were grown. A scholarship she won for art paid her way through Weatherford College. Later, she received her degree in education from Tarleton State University. She now has a master's degree in educational administration but doesn't plan on leaving the classroom. For many years, she worked with several local interior decorators, putting her artistic skills to use in other ways. She tried out different painting techniques and created large murals for local homeowners. Sharon enjoyed painting large murals on big spaces. "It's really hard for me to stay small," she expressed. Some of her mural ideas have been transformed to canvas and displayed throughout her home. Her favorites are of landscapes, old barns and flowers. "I've painted a little bit of everything," she admitted.

An easel stakes its claim in the breakfast nook, which provides the best light for Sharon's artwork. A glass cabinet in the corner displays a letter passed down to Rick from his mother. The letter written by Ginger Rogers was in response to a letter written by his grandfather as a child. A mural of fresh vegetables and decorative glass containers has been painted on the tile backsplash above the stovetop in the kitchen. Canvas paintings of farm animals, such as pigs and cows, add humor on the kitchen walls and above the cabinets. Old magazines discovered in a box have been repurposed. She used Mod Podge to glue pages from Progressive Farmer

to a canvas and then painted a colorful rooster over the print. Other pages were rolled into small flowers and glued to the decorative canvas now displayed on the kitchen countertop.

Sharon enjoys spending time painting in the breakfast nook or whipping up delicious fare in the kitchen. Rick's favorite room in the house has been dubbed "Ricky's Room," where guests watch football. "You're not allowed in unless you have a pass or pay a \$20 cover charge," Rick joked.

Rick and Sharon met in Fort Worth and married in July 2005. Their families live in the area, including Sharon's two daughters and four grandchildren. The Winters entertain family and friends for holidays and birthday celebrations. Rick grills and smokes meat out back. He picked up the cooking talent from his father, who previously traveled and competed in barbecue cook-offs. Barbecued brisket is one of Rick's favorites, especially during warmer weather. They enjoy spending time outside, and the grandchildren often fish in the community pond. "It's a neat place for the kids to go," Sharon shared.



In their free time, Rick and Sharon enjoy evenings together at home with their pup, Sam, and the queen of the castle, a Yorkie named Lucy. "She's our little princess," Sharon said with a smile. Rick plays a little golf, and of course, Sharon uses her talent to create artwork in her downtime. Her knowledge and artistic skills add colorful character to their home. **NOW**

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Sitting at her kitchen table, MaryLou VandeRiet is in her element, as she looks at her walls lined with license plates she has collected over the years. She remembers the stories of every individual plate and the way she acquired each one. She not only knows the license plates on the walls by heart, but she can also recall all the others packed away in boxes. "Every one of the plates has a story, and I know exactly who sent them to me or how I came upon them," MaryLou said with excitement.

The Weatherford resident happened to stumble into the art of license plate collecting when she was at a friend's shop in town looking for Christmas gifts in 2000. She discovered a 1997 Missouri plate. MaryLou quickly asked what the plan was for the plate. After finding out it was going to be thrown out, she asked if she could have it. Thus began a new hobby and adventure for this Missouri native, who was now proud to own a plate from her home state.

LL ENSE ATES

— By Lindsay Allen

“From there, it just snowballed, and my brother started sending me plates every year for my birthday,” she explained. “Then word got out that I was collecting plates, and before I knew it, I had a sizable collection!”

Her collection focuses on plates from 1959 or earlier. She is especially keen on plates from 1939, her birth year. Since the newer ones are flat and not embossed, she prefers the older plates, but she is willing to make an exception for the new



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Texas rattlesnake plate introduced this year. MaryLou also limits her collection to plates from Wyoming, Missouri, Montana, Texas and New Mexico. Each of these states has some interest to her, with Wyoming being her favorite, as she grew up on Wyoming Street in Saint Louis, Missouri.

In fact, Wyoming was really where all the "magic" began regarding her plates. MaryLou joined the Wyoming License Plate Society and received a newsletter with an article about a license plate meeting in Douglas, Wyoming. The next thing she did was start packing her red truck with snacks to make the journey up Interstate 25 for the meeting. "You could have called me Meals on Wheels for that trip. I was in Douglas for two-and-a-half days," she said. "It was a wonderful and beautiful state. It was also an eye opener, as I saw other peoples' collections, and I realized how disorganized I was in collecting at the time. That is when I narrowed down my collection to specific years and states."

At the convention, MaryLou met the dealer, and within five minutes, she bought about \$300 worth of plates from him. He was so kind to her, as he told her not to worry about paying that day, but to mail a check after she returned home to Texas.

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"Most of the time, I wheel, deal and trade plates. I rarely sell and buy them," MaryLou explained. "I traded some fishing lures for my first Wyoming plates, and I traded two bags of Texas pecans for Northwest Territory plates and a Yukon plate."

MaryLou's youngest son gives her plates as gifts. He checks every time he comes over to visit to see if she traded the plate off or kept it. In fact, MaryLou has her plate collecting down to a science and only purchases plates from three different people — two in Wyoming and one in Colorado. The rest come from trades and as gifts.

"That's exactly how I got my Germany plates. I met a gentleman about six years ago on a forum for plate collectors. I have kept in touch with him as he has grown up, graduated college, started working and is now married. We ended up trading Texas and Germany plates with each other," MaryLou recalled.

She went on to say the plate-collecting community is a close circle of friends, and one learns very quickly who is an honest dealer and who is not. "It's been amazing to meet so many people through Facebook groups for the clubs I am in and develop friendships with these collectors," MaryLou added.

While plates have become a large decor item and are used to make birdhouses, signs and more, MaryLou is not interested in turning her plates into another form of art, as she believes they are perfect as is. "A friend in Australia sent me a plate from his Land Rover, and I have yet to clean the dirt off. I'm keeping it just the way it was sent to me," she said, smiling.



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While she has been retired for over 10 years now, MaryLou only knows how to stay busy and does so by assembling custom fishing rods with rattlesnake grips when she isn't working on her plate collection. "I taught myself after I became interested in bass fishing tournaments and wanted better equipment for myself. I went to Cabela's and bought a video about assembling custom fishing rods. Here I am making them for others now," MaryLou said.

Much like the interest in plates, which haphazardly fell into her lap, the custom fishing rods came about after she met a man who was applying rattlesnake grips to rods but, due to poor health, could no longer do so. He taught MaryLou, and 13 years later, she is still making the lightweight and unique rods. "It can take up to one year to get the snake skin for the rod. I will only use road kill or snakes that get too close for comfort," MaryLou admitted. "I have a trapper in Georgia who sends my Alabama contact the skin for tanning and taxidermy."

You won't see her pulled over at an antique store rummaging for plates or drumming up people for her fishing rods. She doesn't go out of her way for plates and allows word-of-mouth to bring her people who want her rods. Yet, MaryLou rarely has that so-called "free time" retirement often brings. She wouldn't have it any other way. "I don't let much grass grow under my feet," she shared, laughing. "If I don't have a challenge or a project, then I get grouchy. I enjoy creating and doing."

MaryLou enjoys the camaraderie and opportunities, and more importantly, the history and stories behind her plate collection. While there are too many to count, she knows which box each plate is in and how it came to be part of the collection. Seeing them on her wall every day brings her a great deal of happiness. **NOW**



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Blooms

When Planted

— By Melissa Swedoski

As spring unfurls its sunny beams across North Texas, many are ready to get back outside and get their hands in the dirt. Since most of the soils in the area are difficult to work with, raised box gardens offer a creative, as well as versatile, option for the backyard. From small, square boxes to large, rectangular vegetable gardens, the choices are limited only by your imagination.

Before building, determine the amount of useable room you have available. Consider how many plants, flowers or vegetables you want inside the raised garden and the square footage that can be allotted. Planter boxes, the self-contained version of garden boxes, can be placed on concrete or grass, while raised beds are best in the yard.

Material Requirements

As interest in home improvement projects has grown, so have the options. Raised beds can be made with lumber, stone, concrete blocks or almost any other material, even burlap sacks. The simplest way is to create a raised pile of soil, which gets the plants away from the not-so-good native soil and promotes good drainage. The real investment will be in the choice of soil, and in this area of Texas, ideal soil is a mix of minerals, sand, clay and organic matter, and can include a quality compost.

Pressure-treated wood or cedar are the top options for raised garden boxes, since both are easy to work with and durable against natural elements. There's also "construction heart" redwood that is exceedingly rot-resistant. Pine is a popular choice by the do-it-yourself



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crowd, but humidity and direct sun take their toll on any structure. Always pre-treat and seal the wood you select. Balance out durability with budget constraints to choose the right wood for you.

A word to the wise: You will need saws, drills, clamps, wood glue, measuring tape, paper, pencil, screws, wire cutters, shovel, staple gun, level, bird netting and/or row cover. Most raised beds are weekend DIY adventures, but stopping multiple times for a trip to the home improvement store could extend that. If you don't have large table saws, purchase pre-cut lumber that will only require sanding and sealing.

Construction

Using raised beds means growing more in less space with less work. Read seed packages to determine how much space is required for each plant, so you can lay out the garden correctly. Wider and deeper rows need less water and produce more, while more plants can be planted in a rectangular bed than in a long narrow



bed measuring the same square footage. For a garden of plants and/or flowers, best results will come with breaking up the sod, removing it to eliminate weeds, and tilling the soil, which especially helps clay soil.

Vegetables generally need eight hours of direct sunlight to have a good harvest, so make sure you pick a location in your yard that can supply that. Make it as level as possible, well drained and near a water source. Build the frame and mark the location. Move the lumber and dig 1-inch deep holes for posts. Put the lumber back in place, and attach it to the posts. Loosen the soil to about 12 inches deep, allowing for proper drainage.

Mix the topsoil with some humus, sand and manure inside the frame, then rake it until smooth. Choose your veggies, lay them in the box based on spacing requirements and dig a hole big enough for the root ball. Plant it, fill it with soil, and then water thoroughly. Use stakes, if there is a need, and add mulch to the base of the plants for an extra boost. For this part of Texas, tomatoes, green beans, squash, corn, peppers and cucumbers are common, but be sure that the last freeze has occurred and the soil is slightly warmed up before planting.



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In a more limited space, craft a waist-high planter box that measures 6 feet long, but only 22 inches deep and 12 inches wide. This also allows for adjustment in budget, since the frame can be made from pine wood, while only the box needs to be made out of cedar. You can have room for multiple kinds of vegetables, although in smaller quantities than with the raised-bed style.

If you prefer the full planter box style, fasten the boards using galvanized screws, since they are less likely to rust, in a rectangular shape. Put the bottom board inside the box and attach it. Create four or five drainage holes in the bottom of the box, add a layer of nylon or vinyl screen on the bottom to protect the wood, and then prime, paint or stain it. Add a thin layer of gravel to help with drainage, and then add the soil.

Flowers

If the garden is in the shade, consider using the very hardy Chinese Wild Ginger, or even the Begonia *semperflorens* Kaylen, which shares a lovely shade of burgundy. For smaller, less showy flowers, try *dianella tasmanica*, with wide spike-like leaves outlined in bright white.

When the full, hot Texas sun hits in the summer, several flowers can make your raised garden as beautiful as during the spring. From the Black-eyed Susan to the Victoria Blue Sage, colors abound. Lantana comes in a number of colors, while Dwarf Mexican Petunia brings in the lavender shade, and there's the always popular Autumn Sage as well as the Pink Skullcap.

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Friday: 8:10 a.m.-noon



Dr. Romack's winning smile and easygoing personality help patients enjoy a dental visit.

Beyond Drill and Fill

Dr. Romack and her team practice general dentistry and total wellness. — By Lisa Bell

When Dr. Deborah Romack joined Weatherford Cosmetic & Family Dentistry in 1998, Dr. McCarty already had a well-established, busy practice, operating for over 50 years. She worked for a dentist during high school and dreamed of becoming one. Being part of a military family, she didn't have the opportunity for dental school but got a teaching degree in biology and taught school for 13 years.

Every year, she experienced the nagging thought that she wasn't pursuing her dream. At the age of 36, Dr. Romack entered dental school at Baylor College of Dentistry, finished and started her new career at 40. While at Baylor, she met her second husband, who was into cutting horses. A friend at college, who previously worked as a dental assistant for Dr. McCarty, encouraged Deborah to contact him. They clicked

immediately, built the current location and brought on Dr. Mulkey in 2002.

Weatherford fit perfectly. It was close to the Metroplex, yet in the country and filled with wonderful people. She loved everything about the community, which quickly became home. Dr. Romack commits herself to helping people. That commitment and a love of science combined in dentistry, creating a passion for her work. Long ago, dentistry involved basic care for teeth. As times and technology changed, so did the role of dentistry to a total wellness approach.

"The mouth is the gateway to the body," Dr. Romack said. The practice treats families from 4-year-old children to grandparents with all types of general dentistry. Dr. Romack focused on orthodontics for about 15 years, practicing early

childhood appliance therapy and traditional braces. "That's my passion. I enjoy the intricacy and broad range of treatment in orthodontics," she said.

Her second passion, quickly becoming her primary focus, involves treating patients with obstructive sleep apnea, a serious medical condition. While Dr. Romack agrees that the CPAP is the gold standard for this underdiagnosed condition, many patients won't wear it. An oral device can provide hope. It helps prevent high blood pressure, strokes, heart attacks, Type 2 diabetes and even death. It can also improve memory and concentration. "Sleep rejuvenates the body and the brain," Dr. Romack said. Obstructive sleep apnea inhibits proper oxygenation and prevents a restful night of sleep.

Working closely with sleep specialists, Dr. Eden and Dr. Oseni, they reach the right diagnosis and proper method of treatment. Oral appliance therapy can be a treatment option for mild and moderate obstructive apnea and for patients who are intolerant of CPAP therapy. Her specialized staff members assist with treatment and billing of the device, even for Medicare patients.

Orthodontics and sleep apnea experience from a general dentist makes her unique in the area. She loves figuring out solutions. "It's almost like a puzzle," she said. "Each patient is different."

Dr. Romack encourages people to see their dentist for regular exams that include more than teeth. "Do the annual checkups. Bring your kids early for happy visits before problems occur," she said. The practice gives back to the community, supporting athletic teams, multiple charities and offering free programs to schools.

When not in the office, Deborah enjoys her husband, two daughters, grandson and granddaughter, two dogs, one cat, four longhorns and one horse. She also appreciates a nice round of golf.

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Jerry Carter entertains the Parker County Women and Newcomers at a monthly luncheon.



Kevin takes a break to play with kittens.



PCWNC Club presents scholarships to Jenni Pitts and Sonya Hollister. Congratulations to these deserving Weatherford College students.



Madison Whiteaker travels from Minnesota to Texas to ride the stagecoach.



Supporters of WCS enjoy the warmth of friends at an appreciation dinner.



Sally and George Martin, from Brock, shop for new boots on a chilly day.

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Rules and Requirements

To receive public service loan forgiveness:

- You must make 120 on-time monthly payments toward your eligible loan.
 - ♦ You cannot count periods of deferment.
 - ♦ All payments must have been made after October 1, 2007.
- You must work full-time for a qualifying public service organization while making the qualifying payments and at the time of applying for and receiving loan forgiveness.
- The loans must not be in default status.

Types of Eligible Loans

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- Federal Direct PLUS Loans.
- Federal Direct Consolidation Loans.

Other loans, such as Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program loans, Federal Perkins Loans and certain health professions or nursing loans can qualify if you consolidate them into a Direct Consolidation Loan.

How to Apply

If you meet the above requirements, you can submit an Employment Certification for Public Service Loan Forgiveness form, and the U.S. Department of Education will notify you of the amount of remaining qualifying payments you need to make. When you have made 120 payments, you will need to submit a PSLF application to receive forgiveness. **NOW**

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March 4

TCA Red Carpet Dinner and Auction: 6:00 p.m., Trinity Christian Academy, 4954 E I-20 Service Rd., Willow Park. Alex Kendrick, speaker, writer and actor, is the guest speaker. Proceeds go toward the purchase of buses. Individual tickets, \$40. Sponsored tables also available. Reservation form available at www.tcaeagles.org.

March 5

A Walk Through Time, WCS 2016 Gala: 6:30 p.m., New River Fellowship, Hudson Oaks. Annual gala benefitting Weatherford Christian School features Nicole C. Mullins as the keynote speaker/entertainer for the evening. For more information on tickets, tables, donations or volunteering, contact Leslie Chalmers directly. Email leslie.chalmers@wcsllions.org or call (817) 596-7807, ext. 327.

Indians of Texas, Exhibit Opening: 7:00-9:00 p.m., Museum of the Americas, 216 Fort Worth Hwy. Opening of A Look Back in Time, an overview of cultures from the stone age to the present. Wine and cheese served. Free admission. For more information, call (817) 341-8668.

March 8

Senior Circle Ninth Anniversary Celebration: 4:00 p.m.,

First United Methodist Church, 301 S. Main St. Men and women, age 50 or better, welcome to attend free, but tickets are required. Must be present to win door prizes. Contact Natalie Waskel at (682)582-1757 or email Natalie_Waskel@chs.net.

March 9

Allied Health Occupations Career Fair: 10:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Weatherford College, Doss Student Center Cafeteria. Job fair featuring occupations in the healthcare industry. Visit www.wc.edu or contact Linda Hutton at (817) 598-6498 or lhutton@wc.edu.

March 10

Shade Gardening Class: 6:00-7:30 p.m., Clark Gardens, 567 Maddux Rd. Carol Welch, Parker County Master Gardener, teaches adding visual interest and color to shady areas. Open to the public, regular admission fees apply. Free for Clark Gardens members, Clark Gardens Garden Club members and area Master Gardeners. Please bring proof of membership. Visit www.clarkgardens.org for more info.

March 11-27

Anatomy of Grey Live Play: **Friday** and **Saturday**, 8:00 p.m.; **Sunday**, 2:00 p.m., Theatre Off The Square, 114 N. Denton St. For tickets, call (817)341-8687 or visit www.theatreoffthesquare.org.

March 12

Organic Vegetable Gardening Class: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Clark Gardens, 567 Maddux Rd. The Farm Girls presenting the multiple topics. Class limited to 20. Fee includes lunch. \$20 Clark Gardens Members, \$30 for non-members. Register online at www.clarkgardens.org or call (940) 682-4856.

March 13

Kelly Miller Circus: 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., Bearcat Stadium, 1000 Bailey Ranch Rd, Aledo. Adults \$12, Children \$6. Advance tickets www.kellymillercircus.com.

March 19, 25, 26

The Passover Experience: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Capernaum 1st Century Village 10700 FM 920. \$17 Adults, \$14 Seniors, \$13 Children (4-11) 3 and under Free \$50 Family Pack (2 Adults, 2 Children.) Visit www.PassoverExperience.com.

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

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In the Kitchen With Heather Cleveland

— By Lisa Bell

Heather Cleveland grew up on her family's cattle ranch in Parker County. She helped in the kitchen at a young age and still enjoys cooking with her mother, who lives next door. Except for seven years at school and working, she always lived in Weatherford. In 1993, she opened The Pan Handle in Granbury and moved back to the family ranch in 1995.

Heather loves everything related to cooking. "It's a social thing," she said. She gets recipes from many sources and makes them her own. "Chef Jeff Blank once told me during a class, 'If you change at least three things in a recipe, you can officially claim it as yours,'" she said. Her hobbies include photography and wine appreciation, which led to her own vineyard. **NOW**

Wild Salmon Nicoise Salad

Serves 4-6.

2 6-oz. wild Alaskan Coho fillets

Marinade/Dressing:

3/4 cup, plus 2 Tbsp. olive oil
(divided use)

1 clove minced garlic

1/4 cup lemon juice

1 tsp. salt

1 tsp. pepper

Salad:

8 small (2- to 3-inch diameter)
red-skinned potatoes, steamed
and cooled

1/2 lb. petite green beans

1 Tbsp. capers

1/2 cup Nicoise olives

4 Tbsp. chopped parsley

6 cups Mesclun mix salad greens

1/2 pint organic cherry tomatoes

1. Preheat oven to 400 F, rinse and drain the salmon fillets, and then place on a plate.

2. For marinade/dressing: Mix 3/4 cup olive oil and remaining marinade/dressing ingredients in a glass measuring cup and pour about half of it over the filets; let marinate for about 20 minutes.

3. For salad: While salmon marinates, coat the bottom of a 9x13-inch baking pan with 2 Tbsp. of olive oil.

4. Cut potatoes in 1/4-inch slices; lay them in the pan and spread green beans over them. Place the salmon fillets on top and pour marinade over all.

5. Sprinkle capers, olives and parsley on top and bake 8-10 minutes until the center no longer looks raw.

6. Place salad greens on a platter. Break

salmon into pieces and scatter over the greens. Distribute potatoes, green beans and cherry tomatoes around the platter, then drizzle the remainder of marinade/dressing over the salad and serve.

Gorgonzola Tomato Tart With Balsamic Syrup

Serves 8.

Crust:

2 cups all-purpose flour

1 3/4 sticks unsalted butter

1 Tbsp. vegetable shortening

1/2 tsp. salt

Filling:

2 cups cherry tomatoes, halved

2 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil

Sea salt and black pepper, to taste

1/2 cup crumbled gorgonzola
blue cheese

Balsamic Syrup:

2 cups inexpensive balsamic vinegar

1/4 cup sweet soy sauce

2 cloves garlic

1. Preheat oven to 400 F.

2. For crust: Combine flour, butter, shortening and salt in a mixing bowl, and with your fingers, rub the flour with the other ingredients to form a coarse meal. Add a couple of Tbsp. water at a time and mix gently. Add enough water to moisten the dough. Form into a disk and wrap in plastic. Chill 15-30 minutes.

3. Roll dough on a well-floured board until the dough is about 12 inches in diameter. Place the crust on a sheet pan.

4. For filling: Toss cherry tomatoes with olive oil, sea salt and pepper. Spread on the dough. Sprinkle the cheese on top of the tomatoes. Bake in the oven until the crust is golden brown, about 25 minutes. Serve warm with a drizzle of syrup.

5. For syrup: Combine vinegar and soy sauce in a saucepan, and reduce mixture to about 1/2 cup. Add garlic and cook another minute or two. Reserve until ready to use.

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

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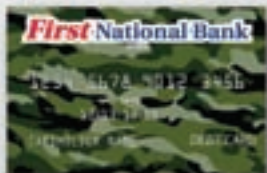
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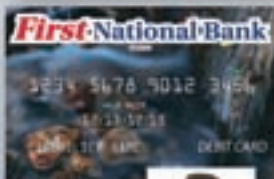
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