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### ON THE COVER



Hunter Robinson is educating himself for a future in music.

Photo by Amanda Rooney.

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# Drumming to His Own Beat

Hunter Robinson is dedicated and determined to have a future behind the drums.







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# Editor's Note

Hello WeatherfordNOW readers!

Happy spring! As the month of April gets underway, many of you will be outside enjoying the warmer weather. And, Parker County has plenty of outdoor space to get some fresh air and have some fun. You can catch a brisk walk at the Town Creek Hike and Bike Trail in Weatherford or share an afternoon with your children at Bearcat Park in Aledo.

While you're planning some fun in the sun, why not do a little good for the environment at the same time? April 22 marks the 43rd anniversary of Earth

Day. More than one billion people participated in Earth Day events across the globe last year. You can join them by simply picking up trash in the neighborhood or planting a tree in your own backyard. Check out www.earthday.org/2013 to find a scheduled event or organize your own Earth Day community event.

Amber,

Amber D. Browne *WeatherfordNOW* Editor amber.browne@nowmagazines.com







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By Amber D. Browne

Immersed in the music scene most of his life, Hunter Robinson has envisioned a future in the industry. He has great plans for himself and the drive and determination to follow through with them. He wants to make music his career. 'I want to be in a band. I want to produce. I want to own a studio. And, I want to travel and play with different artists," Hunter said.

Hunter is currently a freshman at Weatherford College. He does not play with the band at school but is currently taking lessons there. He is pursuing a major in music performance with a minor in business, and he knows what he wants. "Tve always loved music. When I'm down, when I'm happy, when I'm mad — music is always just there."

The 19-year-old grew up listening to music his entire life. "The weekend was always cleaning day at my house. My dad would always have on the surround sound. He would have the house shaking," Hunter remembered. Now, Hunter enjoys almost any type of music, from rap and rock to heavy metal.

At the young age of 4, Hunter was fated with his first drum set. Also around that age, he got his first behind-the-scenes look at the music industry. His aunt, Lisa Umbarger, was the bass player for The Toadies. Hunter and his grandparents went on tour with the band including shows in Austin, San Antonio and Dallas. For Hunter, touring with the band was a lot of fun. He remembers one incident clearly. "My aunt bought me a little toy electric guitar," he recalled. "We were always back stage with them, and I walked out on stage while they were playing 'Possum Kingdom' in front of 30 to 40,000 people," Hunter said. "I was just playing on stage with them. It was just fun."

He began participating in the school band program in seventh grade and continued through high school. Hunter graduated from Aledo High School in May 2012. "Aledo was probably the best thing that ever happened to me," he confessed. Before attending Aledo High School, Hunter attended Western Hills High School in Fort Worth his freshman year and Brewer High School his sophomore year. During his sophomore year, the Aledo drum line won a prestigious competition. "My parents knew drum line was a big deal to me, so they decided to take me to that school," Hunter said. His parents thought Aledo would be a better fit in academics and the music program, plus it didn't hurt that they were big football fans. He walked on the drum line and later made the snare line.

Hunter's parents, Tony and Tara Robinson, have always been supportive of his interests. "My dad has always been a realist," Hunter said about his father, who is a retired Marine. "I was just brought up as, it is what it is." And, his parents knew drumming was one of his main interests, so they have backed him in his musical journey. "They always said, 'If you want to do it then do it, but you've got to keep your grades up. Practice, get better and you have to actually be serious about it."

Learning to play the drums takes a lot of passion and dedication. "Drumming was something I was always able to hear." Growing up, Hunter would often listen to music and then We were always back stage with them, and I walked out on stage while they were playing 'Possum Kingdom' in front of 30 to 40,000 people," Hunter said. "I was just playing on stage with them. It was just fun.



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play it. It can get frustrating at times, but he tries to break down what other drummers play to learn the notes. There can be six notes within one beat, and the drummer plays each of those six notes on a different head of the drum set. "You have to break it up between these two hands and your feet," he said. "I was always good at it, but I still had to practice." A drummer also has to want to be taught, because if you don't fix a problem, the form could be off. "If I write with my right hand, it will be a lot stronger, so you have to get them on the same level. You have to hold the stick the same way, so it sounds the same when you hit the drum." The quality of the wood also makes the stick sound better when it impacts the drum.

The sound of the drums draws Hunter to them. "All the different pieces it has. You can make it as big as you want," he explained. A drum set includes one kick or more, one or more bass drums, toms, cymbals and snares. He usually plays with a five-piece standard drum set that includes toms, a floor tom and snares. When it comes to a drum set, the drummer is playing the same line with one foot and different lines with each hand and the other foot.

Marching band is a little different. "With the snare drum in marching, I got to where I had to keep the beat, the quarter note with my feet, while playing



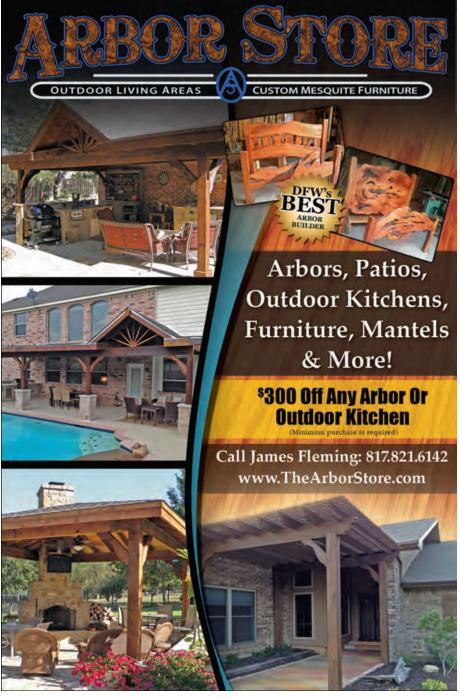
The sound of the DRUMS draws Hunter to them.

those two different rhythms with each hand." The drum line would play as many as 200 to 300,000 notes for one show. Performing for the first time in marching band as a freshman at Western Hills was an incredible experience for Hunter. "It's unlike any feeling you've ever felt. Just having all eyes on you," he said. "When I got to Aledo and got to play at the Cowboys Stadium with so many more thousands of people watching me, it was just unreal."

When he was in marching band at school and living at home, he would spend up to 20 hours practicing each week. Living in the dorms at Weatherford College has forced him to cut back on practice time, but he wants to take more lessons at the college. He's also a cheerleader there and likes going to competitions.

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Hunter enjoys being out on his own. "I love it. I'm away from my parents for the first time. I'm still getting used to it." His younger sister, Jade, is a senior at Aledo. She wants to pursue a degree in architecture at The University of Texas at Austin. Hunter is looking at Texas State University-San Marcos as an option. That would get him a little closer to his sister and to the outlet mall, where he could continue his love of shopping for those designer brands.

His first school choice, however, is Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee. Hunter is constantly working to improve his talent and wants to play in a band with other musicians who are as talented as he is in music. "I want to find people as serious as I am about it. I want to actually go somewhere with it." NOW

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# Where





- By Erin McEndree

and Laughter



ove

When Gerry Olson comes home from a long day as a sheriff's deputy with Parker County Sheriff's Office, he is greeted with love and laughter by Candice and their two children, McKenzi, 6, and Haidyn, 3 — not to mention the family dog. Tux is a black poodle, Bichon Frise mix, who runs and jumps around as he says his greetings. Gerry and Candice have created a home full of funny moments and lively predicaments. Family is important, and their home is filled with colorful family mementos and memories. They continually create their own day by day.

Gerry grew up on a farm and ranch in Avoca, Texas. He drove tractors and worked in the field. He checked on the cows using a four-wheeler. Candice admits she is a city girl and had to ask Gerry what the white stuff was on the plants. After explaining the white stuff was cotton, Gerry told Candice they were going to go see his dad on the stripper. Candice's eyes got big. "I don't want to see your dad stripping," she announced. Gerry has a contagious laugh. Funny



stories like this make laughter erupt from everyone, and then they think of yet another one to tell.

Social media played a role in how the couple met. "I saw his picture on Facebook in 2008, and was interested," Candice said. "We finally met at the rodeo in Weatherford. My dad works for the sheriff's office, and he watched Gerry closely." Gerry worked in Abilene as a dispatcher and jailor. He spoke to Candice's dad and put some applications



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out in Weatherford. When he was hired as a dispatcher, he decided to call Weatherford home.

The first year was hard for Gerry. He went through the police academy during the day and worked the graveyard shift as a dispatcher at night. "Candice always had my uniform pressed for me," Gerry said. He graduated in 2010 and became a deputy in November 2011. "I like to go out and help people, and I have fun."

Candice took classes in criminal justice law enforcement at Weatherford College. Now, she is taking a break from school to rear the children. When both children are in school, she would like to further her education in social work and counseling. In the meantime, she keeps the house tidy and enjoys being a mom. "I am always running around doing something," Candice said. "My mom says I need to get a hobby. I have a million books, but can't sit still long enough to read them."

Drawers beside the couch hold word puzzles, coloring books, glue, paint and all types

of craft materials that Candice and McKenzi can do together. "I like to do word puzzles, and McKenzi loves to draw and color. She is a crafty girl," Candice said. Haidyn likes Hot Wheels, trains and remote control cars.

The children decided to share a room so they could have a playroom together without a bed taking up space. McKenzi has books and Barbie houses. Haidyn has a Lego table. There are pictures of tractors on the wall in their shared room.

McKenzi is in first grade and has a wall of bows for her hair. "My hobby is my iPad," she said as she held it up. "But I have to share with my brother." The children also share a computer in the corner of the living room on which they play games. McKenzi wants some posters of Justin Bieber and Tate Stevens for her room. McKenzi also likes to draw, and she will draw a take-home, personal picture for anyone who comes to the house.



Haidyn is independent and has beautiful, bright red hair. He loves his cop cars and trucks. He likes Thomas the Train and always asks when the train behind his house is coming back. "The kids are the biggest braggers on their dad," Candice said. When they see a cop





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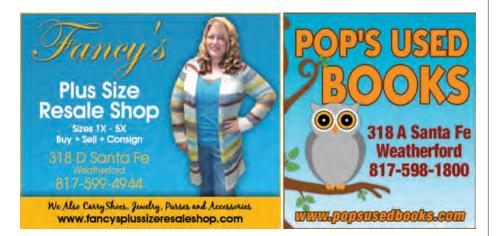
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car, they excitedly point it out. McKenzi even gives her gently used stuffed animals to her dad, so he can give them to scared children. She gets excited when he tells her he gave away a stuffed animal to a



child who needed it. When he comes home, she often asks if he got a bad man.

The children enjoy their two turtles in an aquarium in the living room. They go by several names because there is still a debate about what to call them. McKenzi and Haidyn like to take them outside so they can crawl around on the ground. A cabinet full of movies is on another wall. Gerry enjoys watching movies, while Candice admits she can't sit still long enough even to watch a movie. Gerry



also enjoys hunting, shooting and fishing, but admits he does not get to participate in his hobbies much because he is so

busy. The family often goes to the park to fish and feed ducks.

"Our room is the last to be decorated," Candice said. "I want to finish our room with crosses and continue [accessorizing]



the house." Candice loves crosses. She wants some crosses from Teen Challenge and likes supporting the kids who make them. The living room walls are covered in iron crosses and family pictures. Stenciled on the wall is Family is Forever and pictures of the kids are around the words. Above the TV in wispy lettering is Bless Our House and All Who Enter. "Believe and Faith are the other words I want to put on the wall," Candice said. "I also want to decorate the bathroom in crosses." She has some crosses tucked away just waiting for an

honored spot on the walls of their home. Gerry remembers the room with

nothing but windows for walls. It was his grandmother's painting room. Gerry has several of her paintings of deer and old windmills on the wall in their kitchen.



He is proud to display them. Paintings by Candice's grandmother are also scattered around the house. Gerry and Candice's grandmothers painted outdoor scenes on cabinets and crates that are exhibited on the top of the kitchen cabinets. Several deer paintings are in the kitchen, and the cabinet the TV sits on has a forest scene with deer.

A common interest in law enforcement and the Internet may have brought this family together, but love and laughter bind them together as a family that will continue to grow closer as the years go by. Their home is a happy place to visit, and those who enter are truly blessed. **NOW** 





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DISCOVER

"Craig is a very energetic, warm and sincere Christian minister, who wants to accomplish as much good as he possibly can in this city."

# PERFECT

#### – By Sarah Anderson

When Pastor Craig Beaman first laid eyes on Bethel Baptist Church in Weatherford, he knew he was in the right place. The quaint country church nestled alongside a fenced pasture complete with grazing cattle, stood out against the blue summer sky with its slender, white steeple and sprawling, green lawn. He became a part of the Bethel Church family almost six years ago when the director of missions for the Parker Baptist Association, John Thielepape, called to tell him the church needed a minister.

"It's been a fun ride," Craig said. "It started out as a fill-in thing, turned into an interim thing, until one day they asked me if I would stay." Craig's wife, Amy Beaman, and his two children have all enjoyed being a part of Bethel's congregation.

"Bethel is a wonderful, spirit-filled church with people who have embraced our family," Amy said. "The people are excited to hear what God has to say next, and they are ready and willing to follow Him wherever He leads."

The Beamans believe wholeheartedly it was God who led them to Bethel Church. Craig had been out of the ministry for 13-and-a-half years when he received John's call. Having felt God nudging him during a spiritual retreat in late June 2007, he recognized the intuitive tug of his original calling. "I remember saying, 'OK, God, here's what I think it's supposed to look like. Give it to me the way You think it's supposed to look like,' and the next Sunday I was here. So if that's not a God thing, I don't know what is," Craig said chuckling. Shortly after Craig accepted his new position with Bethel, he joined the Weatherford Ministerial Alliance, where he met Kirk Zehnder, the pastor of Fellowship at Weatherford. Kirk was responsible for the annual Parker County National Day of Prayer. Craig immediately jumped in to help, and a few years later, the two teamed up and started coordinating the event together.

This year Kirk needed to focus on other responsibilities, so Craig is heading up the 2013 event himself. Meanwhile, he is also running his four-year-old Web design company, All-in Web Services, and pastoring his church. "Craig is a wonderful pastor who really has a heart for the city and a heart for the community," Kirk said. "He is a very caring man. He is bi-vocational like I am, so he pastors a church and also holds down a job, which is both challenging and admirable."

Craig also met Father Scott Wilson with All Saints Episcopal Church through the Weatherford Ministerial Alliance. They have known each other for at least five years. "Craig is a very energetic, warm and sincere Christian minister, who wants to accomplish as much good as he possibly can in this city," Father Scott said. "He is doing a wonderful job with the National Day of Prayer. He is bringing people from all over the city and county together, and it's a blessing to the entire community."





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The National Day of Prayer is always the first Thursday of May. Last year, 150 people packed the main meeting room of Weatherford's Doss Heritage Center. This year, the Day of Prayer will be held on May 2, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Craig has arranged for the Parker County observance to be held at the Weatherford Independent School District Ninth Grade Center. The gathering typically lasts a little over an hour and includes patriotic praise and worship music along with encouragement from civic leaders and local pastors.

### **"The National** Day of Prayer

is an opportunity for Christians to come together under one heading, instead of our different labels, for one purpose — to pray for revival ... and a return to the values of our founding fathers."

But Craig's main focus is on prayer itself. People from all denominations come together to pray for guidance in seven main areas - local and national





government, education, military, media, business, church and family. "The National Day of Prayer is an opportunity for Christians to come together under one heading, instead of our different labels, for one purpose — to pray for revival ... and a return to the values of our founding fathers," Craig said.

The 2013 national theme is Pray for America. According to the National Day of Prayer Web site, they have chosen Matthew 12:21 as the Scripture to highlight this year's theme. It reads, "In His name the nations will put their hope."



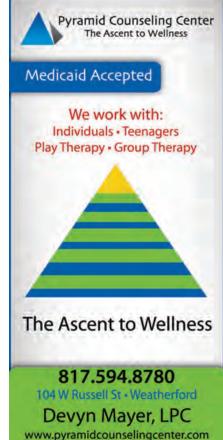
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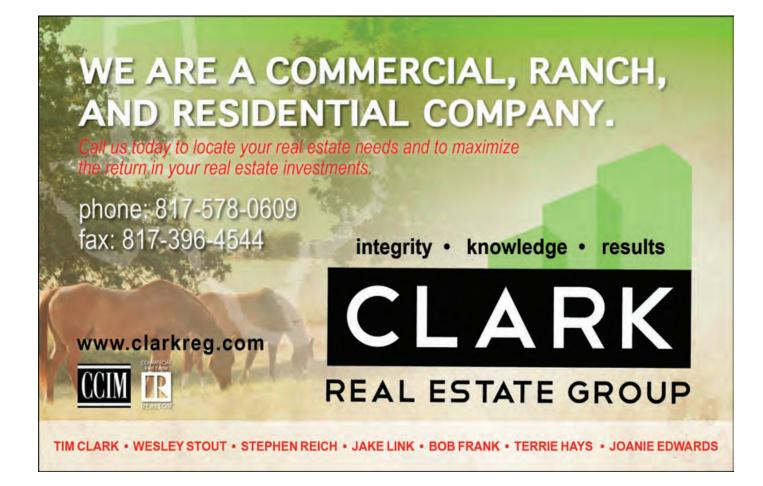
Kirk and Craig would love to see more people in the community participate. A lot of pastors and some congregations respond every year, but they would like to see more awareness and even more Parker County churches encourage their members to attend. "It's such an important time for all of us to unite in prayer for our nation. It brings us together for a greater purpose than our own individual purposes," Kirk added.

Amy said the National Day of Prayer is another chance for the people of Parker County to stand unified across lines of faith, race and beliefs. "There is so much darkness in the world today that competes for our focus," she said. "Our Father is filled with hope and peace, and this is a way for us to stand with believers all over the nation to pray for the hope and peace that our country needs."

Craig and Amy will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary this year. They married the day after Craig graduated from Fort Worth's Southwestern Seminary in 1988. Their two children, Rebekah and Micah, live with them in Saginaw where Amy is a Title I Reading Coach for the Eagle Mountain-Saginaw school district. Rebekah is a gifted dancer studying physical therapy at Texas Woman's University, and Micah is a talented tuba player in the 10th grade.

All four of them love spending their Sundays at Bethel Church. "We were so excited for Craig when they called," Amy said. "He had held to the calling we believed God put on his life so many years ago, and it was coming to pass."

For Craig pastoring Bethel has been a perfect fit. "Between the church's needs and my strengths and the church's strengths and my needs, it's been a great combination." **NOW** 



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Beyond Faith nurses and therapists provide a helping hand to homebound patients.

# **SERVING** Seniors

BeyondFaith Homecare and Rehab offers a variety of home healthcare services to local Medicare beneficiaries. — By Amber D. Browne

Home healthcare is often a necessary service for homebound seniors. BeyondFaith Homecare and Rehab provides skilled nursing and therapy services in the privacy of a senior's home, under a physician's order. Whether it is a temporary setback from knee or hip surgery or a chronic disease process that needs to be managed, licensed nurses and therapists with BeyondFaith are here to serve seniors.

Homebound seniors exhibit different needs including physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy. "Physical therapy deals more with endurance and strengthening," said Don Webster, director of marketing with BeyondFaith. "Occupational therapy has to do more with activities of daily living like dressing, cooking and feeding oneself." Some seniors have limited occupational situations, and the therapist helps them learn energy-conservation techniques, such as, how to arrange the kitchen, so they don't spend as much energy just trying to function throughout the day. That allows them to have more energy for a better quality of life. The Medicare-certified, state-licensed home health agency cannot provide overnight care, but it provides home health aides to help seniors with bathing, light meal preparation and some household chores. A social worker is also available to connect patients with community resources, state programs and medication assistance. All employees are licensed, as required, and have undergone a background check.

BeyondFaith Homecare and Rehab home health nurses care

# Business NOW

for patients within a certain mile radius, so it allows them to effectively provide the best care possible. The patient can call the nurse at any time to check on pain or other issues. In the case of an emergency, patients are urged to call 911. "But when it's a non-life-threatening situation, such as the patient having a question about medications or for instance, if he/she is experiencing a little more pain, and they just want to be reassured that they're OK, we encourage them to call," Don said.

BeyondFaith invests in services and tools that provide better outcomes for patients. They offer a pill box with 28 slots that alarms and calls BeyondFaith

"Sometimes we're as much an *encouragement* and an advocate for a patient as we are a provider."

if a patient skips a dose. "We make this available to all our patients who need help with remembering to take their meds," Don explained.

For patients who need to weigh every day or take their blood pressure, a Web Nurse at Home is available. Alerts are sent to BeyondFaith when something is abnormal. "Our goal is to intervene before a flare-up gets to the point where they need to go to the hospital." For patients at high risk for falls, a Personal Emergency Response Device is available, which can be set up to call anyone: first responder, neighbor or a family member.

The Aledo agency opened in March 2011 and serves hundreds of patients each year. "Medicare covers home health 100 percent, so there is no cost for what we do for a traditional Medicare beneficiary," Don explained. BeyondFaith receives referrals from physicians, family members, churches and the community.

"Sometimes we're as much an encouragement and an advocate for a patient as we are a provider," Don said. "Our goal is to get people independent and stay independent, so they can age in place." MILLWOOD HOSPITAL We Believe in People Weatherford Access Center

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# Around Town NOW



Community members and city leaders gather for a ribbon cutting at the new event center at First Monday Trade Days.



Fifth-grade McCall Student Council members represent Aledo at a leadership retreat at Sky Ranch.



Aledo FEA students Ty Davis and Riley Sadler bring home scholarships from the Heifer Superintendent's Beef Challenge.





Collins, who serves as president of Parker

County Cruisers.

Teen Challenge of Texas members from Azle enjoy dinner at the Rotary Club of Weatherford's Pancake Supper.



Steve Randle, WeatherfordNOW advertising representative, wins Ambassador of the Year at the East Parker County Chamber awards banquet.



Sharon Huber presents Pat Gordon with a prize at the Gardens of Weatherford's first anniversary celebration.



Dorlene and Larry Butler enjoy lunch at Clear Fork Station.



More than 75 Parker County women educate themselves about breast and cervical cancer at the Friend to Friend-Staying Healthy Together party.



Laura Cooper gets dolled up for the Parker County Health Foundation Charity Gala by Leslie Lambert at the Rock House Salon in Aledo.



# Finance NOW

# Be Aware of the Risks of Not Investing

You've no doubt heard about the risks associated with investing. This investment carries this type of risk, while that investment carries another one. And it is certainly true that all investments do involve some form of risk. But what about *not* investing? Isn't there some risk associated with that, too?

In fact, by staying on the investment sidelines, or at least by avoiding longterm, growth-oriented investments, you may incur several risks. Here are some to consider:

• You might not keep up with inflation. If you put all your money under the proverbial "mattress" or, more realistically, keep it all in cash instruments and very short-term investments, you might think you are playing it safe. After all, you might reason, your principal is protected, so even if you don't really make any money, you're not losing it either. But that's not strictly true, because if your money is in investment vehicles that don't even keep up with inflation, you can lose ground. In fact, even at a relatively mild 3-percent annual inflation rate, your purchasing power will decline by about half in just 25 years.

• You might outlive your money. For a 65-year-old couple, there's a 50-percent chance that one spouse will live past age 90, according to the Society of Actuaries. This statistic suggests that you may need your investments to help provide enough income to sustain you for two or even three decades in retirement.

• You might not be able to maintain your financial independence. Even if you don't totally run out of money, you could end up scrimping by, or even worse, you

could become somewhat dependent on your grown children for financial assistance. For most people, this prospect is unacceptable. Consequently, you'll want to make appropriate financial decisions to help maintain your financial independence.

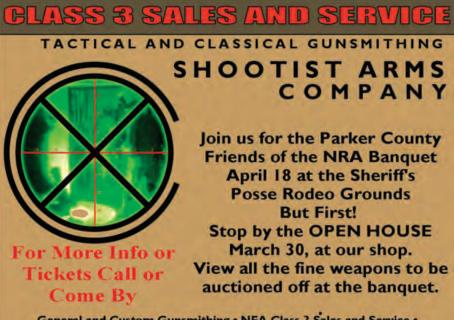
• You might not be able to retire on your terms. You would probably like to decide when you retire and how you'll retire — that is, what sort of lifestyle you'll pursue during retirement. But both these choices may be taken out of your hands if you haven't invested enough to retire on your own terms.

• You might not be able to leave the type of legacy you desire. Like most people, you would probably like to be able to leave something behind to your family and to those charitable organizations you support. You can help create this type of legacy through the appropriate legal vehicles — i.e., a will, a living trust and so on — but you'll still need to fund these mechanisms somehow. That means you'll need to draw on all your financial assets, including your investments.

Work with your financial advisor to determine the mixture of growth and income investments you need during your working years, and as you move toward retirement, to help you meet your retirement goals. However you do it, get into the habit of investing, and never lose it — because the risks of not investing are just too great.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Gregg Davis is an Edward Jones representative based in Willow Park.





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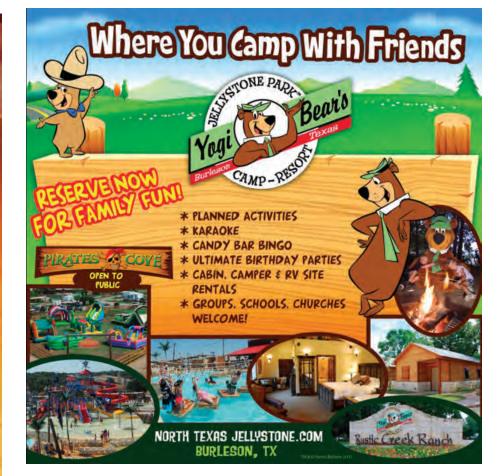




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Calendar

#### April 5

Friends of the Weatherford Library Annual Luncheon: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Doss Heritage and Culture Center, 1400 Texas Dr. The luncheon raises funds for the Weatherford Public Library. Call Gail Greenfield at (817) 594-4473 for ticket information.

### April 6 — 7

Spring Fling: Saturday 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.; Sunday 12:00-4:00 p.m., Chandor Gardens, 711 W. Lee Ave. Come out and enjoy the garden, music, food and crafts. Visit www.chandorgardens.com for more information.

#### April 13

12th Annual Ms. Senior Parker County Pageant: 7:00-9:00 p.m., Alkek Auditorium, Weatherford College, 225 College Park Dr. Contestants ages 60-plus will compete in a talent competition, evening wear and an interview. Proceeds benefit Meals-on-Wheels. Call (817) 594-7419 for more information.

#### April 13 — 14

Spring Festival: Saturday 10:00 a.m.-6:00

p.m.; Sunday 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Clark Gardens, 567 Maddux Rd. Call (940) 682-4856 or visit www.clarkgardens. org for more information.

#### April 16

Parker County Cruisers Meeting: 6:30 p.m., 220 Fort Worth Hwy, Ste. 750. Call (817) 597-1572 to get more information.

#### April 18

Quilter's Guild of Parker County's Annual Auction: 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall of the Grace First Presbyterian Church, 606 Mockingbird Ln. For more information, visit www.quiltersguildofparkercounty.org.

#### April 19

Crossroads Youth Ministries Golf Tournament and Evening Dinner and Concert: 1:00-10:00 p.m., Canyon West Golf Course, 160 Clubhouse Dr. For more information call (817) 223-2624 or visit www.crossroads-wfd.org.

#### April 20

Moritz Ride for Heroes: 8:30 a.m., Aledo High School, 1000 Bailey Ranch Rd., Aledo. Find out more details at www.rideforheroes.org.

#### April 23

2013 Spring Fling: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Couts United Methodist Church, 802 N. Elm. Proceeds benefit Parker County 4-H Scholarships and Extension Education programs. Get more information at (817) 598-6168.

#### April 27

Weatherford Blooms Home and Garden Festival: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., historic downtown Weatherford. Call (817) 598-4034 for more information.

#### May 2

Parker County National Day of Prayer: 7:00 p.m., Weatherford ISD Ninth Grade Center, 1007 S. Main St. Visit www.ndpparkercounty.org to find out more.

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

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### APRIL 2013

# Cooking **NOW**



# In The Kitchen With Lara Sanders

### - By Amber D. Browne

Lara Sanders learned many of her recipes from family members. She grew up in Lebanon and now enjoys cooking for her own family including recipes from the Middle East and France. "I love trying it all!" Lara makes traditional grilled cheese sandwiches and her great grandmother's mac and cheese for her children, but she is inspired by ethnic and gourmet cooking.

"I make just about everything from scratch," explained Lara, who grows vegetables in her backyard. "They taste so much better fresh, and the kids love eating things they have helped grow." She passes on her experience in the kitchen to her own children and to her kindergarten students. "It's a great way to teach math, science and culture at the same time!" **NOW** 

### Crème Brûlée French Toast

1/2 cup unsalted butter
1 cup brown sugar, packed
2 Tbsp. corn syrup
1 French baguette, sliced into

1 1/2-inch thick pieces

5 large eggs
3/4 cup heavy cream
3/4 cup milk
1 tsp. vanilla
1/4 tsp. salt
2 tsp. Grand Marnier or Cointreau
Powdered sugar (optional)

**I.** Preheat oven to 350 F. Butter a 9x13-inch baking dish. Stir first 3 ingredients in small pot until sugar is completely melted. Pour mixture into baking dish.

**2.** Place single layer of bread slices on top of the melted mixture.

**3.** Whisk eggs and next 5 ingredients; pour over bread. Cover with plastic wrap; refrigerate at least 8 hours.

**4.** Let stand at room temperature for 20 minutes. Bake for 30-40 minutes until toast is golden and puffed. Serve hot with drunken strawberries (recipe below) and powdered sugar.

### **Drunken Strawberries**

- I quart strawberries, hulled,
- sliced 1/4-inch thick
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup Grand Marnier or Cointreau

**I.** Stir ingredients in a small bowl. Cover with plastic wrap; refrigerate 2-24 hours.

# Roasted Asparagus With Balsamic-browned Butter

40 asparagus spears, trimmed Olive oil or olive oil spray 1/4 tsp. sea salt

#### 2 Tbsp. butter 2 Tbsp. soy sauce 1 tsp. balsamic vinegar Lemon rind, ground

**I.** Preheat oven to 400 F. Arrange asparagus in a single layer on a baking sheet; brush or spray with olive oil. Sprinkle with salt; bake for 12 minutes.

**2.** Melt butter in a small saucepan over medium heat until browned. Remove from heat; stir in soy sauce and balsamic vinegar. Drizzle over asparagus; garnish with lemon rind.

### Auntie Ethel's Famous Chocolate Angel Food Cake

- 1 1/4 cups egg whites (about 10 eggs)
- 1 1/4 tsp. cream of tartar
- 1 1/4 cups sugar (divided use)
- $1 \frac{1}{2}$  tsp. vanilla
- 3/4 cup cake flour, sift before measuring 1/4 cup cocoa

**I.** Preheat oven to 350 F. Whip egg whites in large bowl until foamy. Add cream of tartar; whip until stiff peaks form.

**2.** Fold in 1 cup sugar one Tbsp. at a time. Add vanilla.

**3.** Sift together cake flour, 1/4 cup sugar and cocoa 5 times. Sift a small amount of flour mixture over batter; fold it in. Repeat process until all is used.

**4.** Bake in an ungreased tube pan for 45 minutes. Remove from oven; invert pan and cool. Remove cake from pan; frost (recipe below).

### Frozen Chocolate Frosting

- 2 squares unsweetened Bakers chocolate
- 1/4 cup butter
- l tsp. vanilla
- l egg
- I cup powdered sugar
- 1/4 cup evaporated milk

 Melt chocolate and butter in a small bowl.
 Mix remaining ingredients in another bowl. Place the bowl into a larger bowl filled with ice. Beat melted butter and chocolate into the mixture until it becomes firm.

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

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