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JULY 2011

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Editorial Coordinator, Sandra Strong
Editorial Coordinator, Beverly Shay
Writers, Amber D. Browne . Julie B. Cosgrove
Nancy Fenton . Betty Tryon
Editors/Proofreaders, Pat Anthony
Teresa Maddison . Angel Morris
Pamela Parisi

GRAPHICS AND DESIGN

Creative Director, Chris McCalla
Artists, Julie Carpenter . Martha Macias
Allee Brand . Cherie Chapman
Marshall Hinsley . Arlene Honza
Brande Morgan

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography Director, Jill Rose
Photographers,
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Heather Callahan Photographic Arts

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On The Cover



Chuck Katlic fills
Weatherford with
American flags.

Photo by Opaque Visuals.

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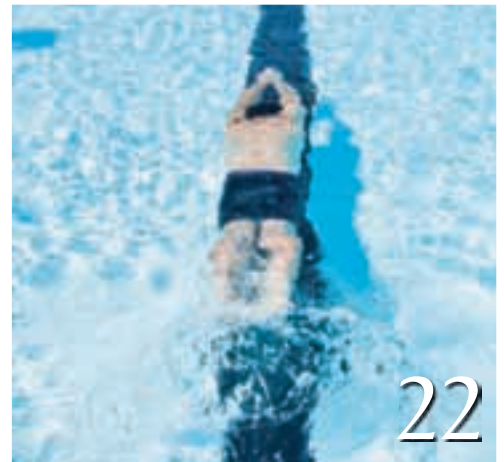
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Editor's Note

Howdy, Weatherford!

On Saturday, July 9, the 27th Annual Parker County Peach Festival presents amazing opportunities to taste and see how delicious Weatherford can be! Nearly nine square historic city blocks will be used for vendors to set out their arts, crafts and home-grown goodies. From three stages, music will fill the air and get your feet tapping. After a 7:30 a.m. takeoff on the Peach Pedal Bike Ride, over 2,200 bicyclists will return throughout the afternoon — ready for cool peach ice cream! And at Compass Bank, math whizzes will play the annual 42 Tournament. You won't see me there! I tried learning 42 a couple of years ago, with friends who thought I needed to learn to relax. Hah! I have a killer instinct but no math skills, and found out quickly that I'm a sore loser. So when you're watching those 42 players, smiling yet intent on their dominos, know that you're watching some high-quality people who know how to play nice!

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HONORING OTHERS

— By Julie B. Cosgrove

Eighty-plus-year-old Chuck Katlic served his country at the Battle of the Bulge in 1944-1945 with the 99th Division of the 394th Army Infantry. Mentioned in several articles and in one book, he has also been honored by Texas Governor Rick Perry for his service. This past May, he, along with other WWII veterans, was invited to tour the war memorials in Washington, D.C. “They scheduled an early lights out,” Chuck laughed. “Guess they know we are getting on up there.”

HE TREATS EACH FLAG HE RECEIVES WITH HONOR, BECAUSE IT REPRESENTS THE COUNTRY HE HAS SERVED FOR SO LONG, FIRST AS A SOLDIER, THEN AS A VETERAN.

But, Parker County officials and citizens know this patriot for another reason. Chuck has been instrumental in placing over 80,000 flags in 150 cemeteries since 1999. Last Memorial Day, he once again solicited 80-90 students from local elementary schools in Weatherford to help place an American flag on the gravesite of every veteran. He will do the same thing on Veteran's Day. "We'll put out 900 to 1,000 flags. Mostly, the flags only last a few weeks," he explained. "We try and pick some of them up before the mowers come through."

Chuck buys the flags in bulk from a manufacturer outside of Chicago. He solicits donations once a year in *The Weatherford Democrat*, but many people throughout the year hear of his unique volunteer work and send him money to help offset the cost. "I try to find other veterans who are buried around here," he said. Chuck researches the veterans and helps their loved ones, if he can locate them, fill out the Veteran Administration's paperwork to get grave markers. "I know most of the county judges. They help me find the information." He wanders through Parker County looking for names and researches each deceased veteran's service to his or her country. "So far I have found 50 or more abandoned graveyards, mostly tucked way behind little churches or on farms," Chuck stated. "We found one graveyard in Whitt with a Confederate veteran buried there." Since that first find, they have found over 30 Civil War veterans.



Chuck also gets up in the wee hours of the morning to head for DFW Airport so he can greet the soldiers coming home from Iraq or Afghanistan. "I do it when I can," he admitted. "I give them each a flag and tell them thank you." But that is not all this chaplain of the Parker County American Legion Post 163 does. He helps coordinate transportation for veterans. "The Legion has a van," he explained. "I guess we make over 150

trips to Dallas and Fort Worth a year taking folks to clinics and doctors." There are 23 volunteers who help in this effort.

The American Legion Post 163, along with the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4746, is in the process of building a Veterans Memorial Park on land donated by the city of Weatherford. People may buy a brick, which will be imprinted with their loved one's name, to be laid along the path to the memorials. "This

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is not limited to veterans who have lived in Parker County. Anyone can donate a brick," Chuck added.

This patriotic veteran makes good use of his days. He and others from the American Legion visit veterans in nursing homes and hospitals. Chuck is also happy to visit local schools and talk to the children about the war, his flag distribution and how to honor their flag. "I don't hide my faith. I know the Almighty exists. I tell them the story about how when we were under heavy fire, I ducked in a fox hole. A voice as loud as can be told me to get out of there," he remembered. "I dashed out and dove into another fox hole, just as a mortar shell hit the first one and blew it to kingdom come."

Chuck also collects torn or faded American flags. On Flag Day, he helps conduct a flag disposal ceremony with local Boy Scout troops which reverently and properly retire flags in a pyre. He treats each flag he receives with honor, because it represents the country he has served for so long, first as a soldier, then as a veteran.


Chuck spent 38 years working in the



shipyards in Baltimore, Maryland, after WWII. Then he traveled and volunteered in the national parks. In 1984, he spent time in Mexico with the Sari Indians, who were at one time cannibals. He has a photo of one family. "I found them





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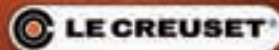
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on Christmas Eve," he said. "They had a baby wrapped in a blanket in an apple crate. It reminded me of the Nativity."

He has also written books on volunteerism in the national parks. "I want to write a book about my experiences. I found a lady who said she'd help me. It's just a matter of finding the time. Maybe I need to go away to a mountain or something to get it done," Chuck joked.

His wife, Ola, nodded. "We stay busy," she chuckled.

"That's why the house is a mess," Chuck replied. "I need a 10-room house

"I GIVE THEM EACH A FLAG AND TELL THEM THANK YOU."

to display all my stuff." What he calls stuff are priceless mementos, like a shadow box of his medals, pictures from the war, honors he has received — the list goes on. "Each November, for the whole month, the library gives us room to display our collection in a glass case right when you walk in. That's something."

Chuck, a widower, met widowed Ola in Donna, Texas, near the Mexico border. They just celebrated their 17th wedding anniversary. His house in Weatherford is easy to find. It's the one surrounded in the front by American flags. Many of his neighbors' front yards are peppered with them as well. He is happy to give a small



flag to anyone who wants to put them in their yard. Interested residents can inquire at the American Legion Post 163 on Eureka Street. Also, if they have a loved one who was a veteran and they need help getting a VA marker for their grave, the Legion can help them out as well.

The secret to Chuck's energy in spite of his years is obvious. His passion for



life and his country is demonstrated by the twinkle in his eyes and the enthusiasm in his voice when he talks about his flag distribution and research into the lives of past veterans. He considers it his duty to make sure they are honored for their service. "Some of them never were in life," he admitted. "Not all wars are popular. They should be honored now." **NOW**

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GIVE A LITTLE, GET A LOT

— By Melissa Rawlins

Be it handicrafts, hay or help, somebody is always giving something to Charles and Hortencia Loggins. Out back at the well-stocked tank, their pastor, John Anderson, built the dock they lovingly named John's Boardwalk. "He likes to come over to go fishing," Charles explained, "but mainly he likes to help people." In the neighboring field, where the Logginses keep their Belted Galloway herd, the "oreo" cattle are unaware of the blessings they received from a stranger. But Charles will never forget.



At Home With Charles and Hortencia Loggins



“Six years ago, we had a real bad drought here. Hortencia and I figured we’d have to take the cows to market because hay was so expensive,” Charles related. The day of their discussion, a man drove up and offered to give them 60 round bales. All Charles had to do to keep his beloved Belties was haul the hay, and that was achieved in one day with help from several of his dance students.

Charles and Hortencia teach all forms of dance in the studio they created where their carport used to be. “Everything about dancing keeps you healthy,” Charles said, “emotionally, mentally and physically. Studies on dancing say people who dance are probably happier. The main thing it gives us, and other married people, is a common denominator that’s always positive.”

“This is incredible,” Hortencia agreed,

“but we have never had any arguments or any fights. We were friends from the beginning, and we’re still best friends.” The couple met on the dance floor at Fort Worth’s Petroleum Club 35 years ago. Hortencia took good care of Charles when his instructor introduced them, and their mutual consideration has continued ever since. In 1998, Hortencia experienced severe bleeding in the brain, yet once back home the only residual effect is on her short-term memory.

“The dancing is one way we can keep her mind real active,” Charles said. “That’s where we decided to be real nice and share our love of dance with other people.” They started with three or four couples dancing in the living room, where Charles installed laminate flooring because of its smoothness and durability. The number of couples wanting to dance grew, so the Logginses added a whole new dance floor.

“This whole place is an evolving place,” explained Charles, who created the nucleus of his home on the two acres his parents gave him next to their parcel. The original 2,000-foot section of the home belonged to his great-uncle Charlie and great-aunt Etta Harrington from Bethel, eight miles south of Weatherford. “I got that house basically bought,





“new” 100-year-old home. She added her own special touches, including her collections of dancing shoes and of elephants. “I’ve always loved those big ol’ animals,” she said. “When I went to the zoo, I would always spend more time looking at the elephants than any other animal.”

Charles bought her the musical elephants, arranged above the television, from the antique store across from Dillard’s Feed Store, where he set up to sell peaches at last year’s Parker

County Peach Festival. “I have to watch Hortencia — she’ll put an elephant in the yard one day,” joked Charles, who decided one day he would put peach orchards in the yard. “I wanted something out there in the old rocky field, so I just told Hortencia: ‘Let’s just put some peach trees out there, and at least we’ll have something to look at and something to eat.’”

One thing led to another. Everything they tend here — the yard, flower beds, herb and vegetable gardens, peach trees,

moved, set on the foundation and leveled for \$7,500. After that I had to start digging wells, septic, everything that goes with the house.”

His dad lived to be 93, and his mom 97, so when Charles brought Hortencia from the Metroplex to live in her new home, she got to know his parents really well. “They were awesome,” she remembered. “We were neighbors and best friends.” Hortencia had lived in the country while growing up, and loved her



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Hortencia's favorite room, the bright blue sunroom that her daughter, Sylvia, decorated, was once a deck.

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Japanese persimmon and blackberries — is drip irrigated from the pond Charles' father built in the early '50s. "He was a cattle raiser and gardener," said Charles, who went to college and became an AP chemistry and AP biology teacher in the Lake Worth, Plano and Bridgeport ISDs. He also taught computer science, chemistry and nutrition for Weatherford College before settling down in his father's footsteps. "If you live on a farm like this, you have to be able to do woodwork, weld, work the land, run tractors and run every piece of machinery."

Hortencia's son, Jason, is now Charles' right-hand man. "He's out here nearly every weekend helping me. He works real well with kids and brings some out here. We teach them how to do stuff around the farm — kind of like a big brother

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program. That's what I did when I was teaching, too," Charles said. "I'd bring some kids in from the school and let them help me and learn how to run a farm."

Charles learned a lot from his father and applied his science background to teach himself — through trial and error — to rewire the whole house and do the plumbing himself. He completely remodeled the original house. Only the front porch, pantry and one door are original. Hortencia's favorite room, the bright blue sunroom that her daughter, Sylvia, decorated, was once a deck. This spring, Charles was still working to turn its shelving into built-in planters. Hortencia, who is retired from the U.S. Postal Service and the school system, now finds the room even more inviting for sitting and reading mysteries while the sun streams in.

In the nearby guest room, Hortencia displays a beautiful ring of crocheted chickens made by a neighbor. "I appreciate the gifts we're given," said Hortencia, whose daughter, Tracy, gave



them a sweet sentimental present several years back. Charles helped his father clear a field of live oaks for the fireplace in his folks' house using a saw Tracy later found in the barn. She sneaked it out and had their pretty country place painted on the blade, which they have hung in a place of honor in the family room.

Hortencia and Charles are studying to be Master Gardeners, and kid each other that since they do not even know who the Joneses are, they cannot possibly keep up with them. "People come by and look at the orchard and think it's real

nice looking, and ask how I make it so beautiful," Charles said. "I say: 'I don't make anything beautiful. God makes it beautiful; I just tend to it.'" **NOW**



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A Peach of an Art



Artist

— By Julie B. Cosgrove



People know Sherry O. Watters for her huge heart for the community and her talented efforts which support local festivals, charity events and fundraisers with her unique art. Her contagious smile and “let’s-do-it” attitude add a positive aspect to all the volunteer work she does. Her volunteerism keeps her busy all year long.

In 1988, she designed the first Christmas on the Square commemorative sweatshirt, and has created a new design as the themed logo for the Christmas on the Square every year since. Founded by Marie Thorton and Margaret Morgan, Christmas on the Square depicts a different theme each year involving Sherry’s now-famous rendition of Santa Claus in the courthouse square. She has never charged for creating the designed logos, but volunteers to create the template used for screen printing on clothes and other items. “In 2001, just after 9/11, I chose a patriotic theme with Santa carrying the American Flag,” she said with emotion. “I drew it while on a plane flight coming back from San Diego just two weeks after it happened. I used the paper plate they gave me on the plane.” She hand paints the themed designs on clothing from T-shirts and blouses to vests and hats, and now on jewelry.

Every year for the Peach Festival held the second week in July, Sherry not only paints peaches on everything, but volunteers in fundraising efforts, especially those through her place of worship, Couts United Methodist Church. “We offer homemade peach ice cream. The first year, we burned up all the ice cream makers. Now, we rent one of those margarita machines and churn up gallons of it,” she laughed. “We now average about 500 gallons a year. We use the whole peach, skin and all,” Sherry said. “Everyone loves it. But I can’t reveal our recipe.”

She participates in many other church activities including the mother/daughter banquet. This year the star speaker was Scott Mendes, a well-known bull rider, and his wife, Angel. Sherry was instrumental in getting the couple to come, through the connection she and her husband, Dennis, have with the rodeo world. Dennis, at one time, was a professional bull rider.

Sherry designs logos and themes for other charities and fundraisers, as well, including one which actor and philanthropist Larry Hagman (who played J.R. in the TV series *Dallas*) puts on for the National Kidney Foundation. She has designed the annual T-shirts for this event since 1993. “He was speaking at a Chamber of Commerce event. He walked in with a denim jacket he’d bought at the local Walmart. He wanted a painting of the courthouse on it by that evening. I delivered it to him at 5:30 in the afternoon, and he put it on right then.”

She was recently commissioned by Janine Turner’s Constituting America to hand paint the organization’s logo on each denim shirt which is ordered through the Web site and then sent to her for completion. Along with Cathy Gillespie, Janine began Constituting America as a means to encourage communities —through teachers’ kits, contests and hands-on activities — to help adults and children understand the importance of our nation’s founding documents, such as the

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Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. "Janine is a hoot," Sherry laughed. Janine's work is important to Sherry. "I had to ask myself, when was the last time I sat down and read the Constitution? When I did, I said, 'Wow I need to know this.'" Sherry has also helped the organization in fundraising events by judging a children's art contest and designing centerpieces for a banquet in Dallas.

Sherry's bubbly, upbeat attitude is reflected in her artistic designs. One look at them and you cannot help but smile. "It takes about an hour or less I guess, to hand paint a shirt — if I could do it without interruption. I am usually working on three or four at a time because you have to wait for the paint to dry," she said, then added, "I have to stay busy because I'm right-brained. My mind is thinking all the time." Concerning her design ideas, she simply stated, "The Lord gives them to me. I see them already on the shirt."

Her unique ability to see the world and capture it in paint on fabric developed from an early age. Sherry never had any formal art education, but has always been one to draw. "My mother was a photographer and had her own shop. I used to sit and draw or paint in her shop. I'd trace around the photographs she'd discard and paint them. I was also known to trace the designs in my grandmother's Wedgewood plates with my food."

Her artistic talents carried into adulthood. She "crafted" for years and worked for *American Handicraft* and several other magazines. "I was a career girl when Dennis and I met. We married late. I was 29," she smiled. Sherry and Dennis have two children. John-David is in Gulf Shores, Alabama. Michelle lives in Oklahoma City and has a daughter named Taylor.

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Dennis was in the insurance business, as well as the National Guard. During Desert Storm, he was called to duty as an instructor. Off and on throughout their married life, especially when he was serving our country, Sherry has rolled up her sleeves and pitched in with his business while also building her own, a boutique called Something Special. "In the beginning he needed someone to answer his phones. Now he is semi-retired," she explained. "He still has an office here in the back."

Sherry shares something else with her husband of 39 years — his passion for the open road. "On Saturdays, I turn into a biker after 4:00 p.m.," she said. Dennis has long been a motorcycle enthusiast. For the past four years, Sherry has joined him. "We have been to Arkansas,



Oklahoma and New Mexico," she said. It seems Sherry has found yet another good cause to support. They are members of the Christian Motorcycle Association, which raises money and interest throughout the year for missionary work. The organization, headquartered in Hatfield, Arkansas, was started in 1972 by a father and son who shared enthusiasm for motorcycles.

Sherry likes to be with the bikers. "They are friendly folk. When you pull up to a gas station, they talk to you." It's no wonder. Anyone who meets Sherry and sees her huge Texas smile wants to talk with her. Her infectious warmth, faith and loving-life attitude toward everyone she meets is one more way Sherry gives back to others. **NOW**

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COOL COMPETIT

— By Amber D. Browne

As an avid swimmer, Dr. Steve Wood enjoys his time in the water. He has been swimming nearly his entire life, much of it competitively. He spends his summers training and competing with the Weatherford Swim Team. The team has participants of all ages and travels the region for various meets with the Texas Amateur Athletics Federation. Some swimmers also move on to the state finals and then national competitions.

Steve loves the sport of swimming. He started swimming at the age of 8 and has competed much of his adult life, including on the swim team at Auburn University in Alabama. He took some time off, but got back to swimming about 10 years ago.

Win or lose, Steve loves to race and compete. “I’ve always enjoyed challenges, because they give me more of a sense of accomplishment,” he admitted. He usually competes against himself. “I know there are other people in the race, but I’m always challenging myself.” Each time Steve hits the water, he has a time goal in mind. “If that time ends up being the fastest,” he said, “that’s just more of a perk to the race itself.”

Steve enjoys training and swimming with the younger competitors on the Weatherford Swim Team. “It’s a lot of fun, and the coaches are great,” Steve said.

Linda Williams has coached the Weatherford Swim Team for about 14 years. About 90 people ranging from 6 years old



ION

to adults compete with the team, with entire families sometimes joining in the fun. New team members must be able to swim 25-yards of freestyle and backstroke, and they are evaluated before they can begin training. The team trains and competes for two months during the summer.

Team members get up early to train on summer days. "They are definitely building character and determination," Linda said. They set personal records and beat their goals. "They learn respect for other competitors, sportsmanship and dependability," she added.

The love of swimming and being around the children participating in the program keep Linda involved. She enjoys watching the adult swimmers reach their goals, too. Linda believes Steve must have a passion for swimming because he does it year-round. She classified him as a super swimmer. "He's fantastic in the water," Linda stated. "He has set all kinds of records and gone to nationals several times."

Steve is a seven-time All-American swimmer and qualified for the Olympic trials in both 1980 and 1984. He has



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held more than a dozen master world records for his various age groups in the past and currently holds two master world records and four master national records. Steve hopes to change that this summer and add a few more records to his résumé. Steve, who has been a Weatherford orthodontist for the past 15 years, showcases his trophies, medals and ribbons in a curio cabinet in the new office he opened just over a year ago.

For Steve, it's not just about the competition. "It's my escape, my therapy," he said. Steve does not own a pool, so he trains at an aquatic facility in Fort Worth nearly every day. Although he must drive a distance to train, Steve does not want a pool. "I don't want to have to clean it," he joked. Most of his training is in the early morning before anyone in his family is even awake. Steve says if he does not swim for several days, he notices it in his mind and body.

His wife, Stacey, supports his passion to swim because it keeps him level-headed. They have four children: 14-year-old Reilly; 8-year-old twins, Zoë and Amy; and 2-year-old Reese. The four children attend his swim meets alongside his wife on occasion. They may not be able to attend each of his events, but they do support his love for swimming and competing in the water.

His children are involved in numerous activities, but have chosen not to participate in competitive swimming. They are all comfortable in the water, however, and know how to swim. "It is extremely important for children to learn how to swim," Steve said. "It's important to prevent drownings, to become comfortable with the water at an early age, to respect the water and know the dangers of it." Summer drownings at area lakes show the dangers of not knowing how to swim coupled with the failure to wear a life vest. "Bad things happen. If they know how to swim, they can increase their chance of survival," Steve cautioned. "You do not necessarily have to *love* to swim, but you should learn *how* to swim."

Steve wishes there was a year-round aquatic facility in Weatherford so children could have access to a pool and learn how to swim at any time, instead of just during the summer months. Steve theorizes some of the best swimmers in the world have never been in the



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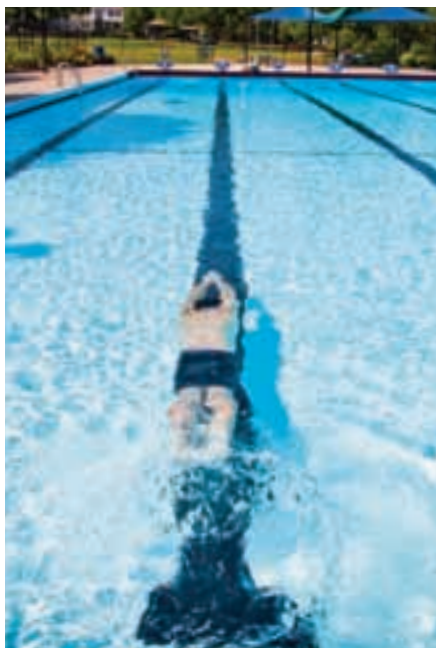
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water, "because they've never had the opportunity," he said.

Other athletics like football and soccer are more accessible. "Access to water, especially in this part of North Texas, has always been limited," Steve stated. Cherry Park is the only public pool in town and it is only open from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Area schools like Aledo, Azle and Springtown have swim teams, and Steve thinks Weatherford should have one, too. "There's been a lot of interest at various levels to have a year-round aquatic facility," he explained, "but it will take a group effort with the city, county and school district to bring that to fruition."

While lack of a nearby year-round aquatic facility will not stop Steve from swimming, he is hopeful more people will find other locations and groups, so they can get involved in the sport. "It's just a matter of seeking it out," said Steve, referring to various local programs for all ages and swim levels.

Swimming is only one of Steve's passions. He also enjoys cycling, running, wood-working and competing in triathlons. Steve gives back to the community by volunteering with several local organizations. He is a member of the Dental Health for Parker County, Weatherford College Foundation and the Rotary Club of Weatherford. He also enjoys spending time with his family and playing with his four children. And, on a rare occasion, Steve enjoys just sitting around, "like a bump on a log." **NOW**

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Pitmaster, Brian Krier, slices his hickory-smoked meat. Barb Scoggins oversees the Original Fried Pies. The team at Baker's Ribs cooks with TLC.

SERVING WITH LOVE

Baker's Ribs offers delicious drive thru, dine in or catered barbecue for any occasion. — By Melissa Rawlins

Making deliveries of her husband's distinctive hickory-smoked barbecue, DeeAnna Krier wears an apron over her frilly tops and heels. When she met Brian 19 years ago in Dallas, he was all about cattle, ranching and meat. She was vegetarian. Over the last 10 years working side by side to serve high-quality meat to Weatherford, DeeAnna has learned to enjoy the barbecue, too.

Vegetarians can still enjoy a fine meal at Baker's Ribs, which recently incorporated a franchise called the Original Fried Pie Shop. Barb Scoggins builds made-to-order spinach — plus a variety of meat 'n' potatoes and dessert — pies that she fries in peanut oil at just the right temperature while you wait. The filling is rich, and the crust — made with Crisco — is tender yet solid. The franchise originated in Davis, Oklahoma, where it just so happens DeeAnna's grandmother lived. "I'm sure she had a

conversation with God about how to bless us," DeeAnna said.

Loyal customers, including the city of Weatherford, all the local school districts and Weatherford Christian School, allow the Kriers to give back to the community. "We do things with organizations, whether it's educating children or helping the police with dogs or feeding children," DeeAnna said. "As we sow and reap in this world, we are preparing to share in a bigger way. Our dream is to feed the people who are hungry in Weatherford, and to help these kids learn to make good choices and eat healthy food."

The couple truly cares about the food quality at Baker's Ribs. "Brian prays over the food every day, and says God anoints the food," DeeAnna shared. "We sell pulled pork shoulder, sausage made from pork and beef, and ribs, which are our signature —

all from Texas. Ours is a very expensive cut of meat. Our chicken is real, true, honest, white-breast chicken with no fillers and therefore, no rubbery texture. It's the same with the briskets."

Growing up around the Baker's Ribs in Dallas, Brian worked for his uncle, Joe Duncan, on weekends in the summer. Reared in Southern Louisiana, Joe taught Brian recipes for sauces and dry rub that are spicy, not sweet. "There's very little brown sugar," DeeAnna revealed. "Our signature dish, herbed dill potato salad, is made with Hellman's mayonnaise, totally unique — with little green onions. Our pinto beans are Texas-style with onions and chili powder." All Baker's Ribs food is homemade in the restaurant by a team who arrive at 7:00 a.m. to start such loving tasks as hand-peeling pound after pound of little, red potatoes. Later, they will be boiled and then mashed with butter and milk. That homemade approach goes for every side dish, including the pies.

"We do things with organizations, whether it's educating children or helping the police with dogs or feeding children."

The cooking process on the briskets starts even earlier, since it smokes for 18 hours. Brian puts the meat into the pit the night before the tender cuts are served to folks who come from all over Parker County. There's a lot of TLC poured into every plate served by the 18-person staff at Baker's Ribs. "Everybody in here is a family," DeeAnna said. "We care about each other, and if one person is down, we get 'em up. We are here to make a difference. There's a love here for our employees, customers and community. We are so much more than a barbecue restaurant."

While the community celebrates Fourth of July and families host their own backyard barbecues, people are keeping Baker's Ribs' pits smoking non-stop. "We're happy to oblige them," DeeAnna smiled. Makes you wonder which came first: the busy or the blessing? **NOW**

Architectural Vignettes of New Orleans

New Orleans, with its richly mottled old buildings, its sly, sophisticated air and its Hispanic-Gallic traditions, has more the flavor of an old European capital than an American city. Townhouses in the French Quarter, with their courtyards and carriageways, are thought by some scholars to be related on a small scale to certain Parisian “hotels” — princely urban residences of the 17th and 18th centuries. Visitors particularly remember the decorative cast-iron balconies that cover many of these townhouses like ornamental filigree cages.

One of the truly amazing aspects of New Orleans’ architecture is the sheer number of historic homes and buildings per square mile. Orleanians never seem to replace anything. Consider this: Uptown, the city’s largest historic district, has almost 11,000 buildings, 82 percent of which were built before 1935 — truly a “time warp.”

The spine of Uptown, and much of New Orleans, is the city’s grand residential showcase, St. Charles Avenue. The St. Charles Avenue streetcar line represents the nation’s only surviving historic streetcar system. All of its electric cars were manufactured by the Perley Thomas Company between 1922 and 1924 and are still in use. Hurricane Katrina flood waters caused severe damage to the steel tracks along the entire Uptown and Carrollton route and had to be totally replaced and re-electrified. The cars themselves survived and are included in the National Register of Historic Places. New Orleanians revere them as a national treasure.

Creole cottages and shotgun houses

dominate the scene in many New Orleans neighborhoods. Both have a murky ancestry. The Creole cottage, two rooms wide and two or more deep under a generous pitched roof with a front overhang or gallery, is thought to have evolved from various European and Caribbean forms.

The shotgun house is one room wide and two, three or four rooms deep, under a continuous gable roof. As legend has it, the name was suggested by the fact that because the rooms and doors line up, one can fire a shotgun through the house without hitting anything. Some scholars have suggested that shotguns evolved from

ancient African “long-houses,” built here by refugees from the Haitian Revolution, but no one really knows.

It is true that shotguns represent a distinctively Southern house type. They are also found in the form of plantation quarters houses. Unlike shotgun houses in much of the South, which are fairly plain, New Orleans shotguns bristle with Victorian jigsaw ornaments, especially prominent, florid brackets. Indeed, in many ways, New Orleans shotguns are as much a signature of the city as the French Quarter.

New Orleans’ architectural character is unlike that of any other American city. A delight to both natives and visitors, it presents such a variety that even after many years of study, one can still find things unique and undiscovered. **NOW**

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Kathy Melton watering the gardens at Willow Lake Nursery.



Chamber of Commerce employees Jean Dumont, Brenda Stephens, Peggy Hutton, Taylor Hall and Tammy Gazzola pose for a picture.



Emma Boswell wishes bon voyage to Suzie Young, principal and teacher at Grace Christian Academy, as Suzie leaves on a mission trip to Don Carlos, Bukidnon in the Philippines.



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Miren and Herbey Hinojos enjoy a day of shopping on the square.



Acey and Karen Carter shop for antiques at Main St. Mercantile.



Lynne McCoy poses with her favorite artist, Thereasa Ramsey, at A Wing And A Prayer.



The Weatherford Chamber of Commerce holds a ribbon-cutting ceremony for McAfee Chiropractic.



Aimee Bartlett, Chris Gentry, Brittney Roper and Rebecca Shannon having fun with puppies at Cherry Park.



Getting Rid of That Itch

— By Nancy Fenton

Let's take a break from our specialty gardens series and look at all that glossy, three-leafed foliage coming up in our yards. *Toxicodendron radicans*, commonly known as poison ivy can strike fear into the heart of some of the stoutest gardeners. This year seems to be a really good one for poison ivy; at least it is in our yard. It's sprouting in ground covers and at the base of trees where I haven't seen it before. Master Gardeners tell me the birds are bringing it in through their droppings, but no matter how "natural" it is, I want it gone!

My first line of attack is to mow it as short as possible with the mower (being properly outfitted in long pants and sneakers with socks). I use the theory that the plant must have the leaf area to make the food it needs to survive. By cutting it at the roots or as close as I can get, I can effectively starve it out. Please note: It is not a good idea to use weed eaters for this step since they send the cuttings flying. (It would be my luck to catch a stray leaf in the face!)

A different plan is needed to deal with the poison ivy

growing among the plants I want to keep. I use what I call the plastic bag approach. Using regular storage plastic bags with ties (any size will do), I stuff the leading part of the vine into the bag, give it a very hardy spray of Roundup and tie it off. A small square of paper toweling in the bag helps keep the poison in the bag as you tie it. The bag protects the surrounding plants, concentrates the systemic poison on the vine and increases the heat Roundup needs to work. I leave the bag tied on for several months and watch the poison ivy shrivel up and die all the way to the ground!

Be aware poison ivy can pop up almost anywhere the berries can roll or the birds can fly. Special care should be taken when collecting and bagging clippings. Any sap can start an allergenic reaction (i.e. the "big itches"). Smoke or ash in the air from burning poison ivy can also start a severe reaction. Be careful; glove up; and get rid of your unwanted ground cover! **NOW**

Nancy Fenton is a Master Gardener.

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Mary Jane Is Not the Same

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

“This is not your father’s marijuana,” intoned the narrator from a recent *National Geographic* documentary. It is no longer the same because it is now stronger. There has been a determined effort to grow the plant with higher concentrations of THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol), the substance found in marijuana. Many sources of marijuana come from agriculturalists who seek perfection in their crop. With the perfection, comes a stronger plant that produces marijuana with a higher degree of potency.

The scientific name for marijuana is *cannabis sativa*. Other names for the drug are: weed, pot, ganja and Mary Jane. With close to 200 million people worldwide smoking marijuana, it has the label of being the most widely illicit substance in the world. In America, possession of this drug is illegal in all 50 states, but that has not slowed its growth. A common misconception is that marijuana is harmless.

All of the effects and risks associated with this drug have risen over the years because of its increased potency. Long-term use of marijuana can lead to addiction and opens the door to experimentation with stronger and more lethal illicit substances. Marijuana affects the circulatory and respiratory systems. The drug is inhaled into the lungs, which absorb the chemicals in the smoke. Marijuana smokers hold smoke in their lungs as long as they can to

get a bigger hit or achieve a better high from the drug. That smoke can contain up to 70-percent more carcinogenic hydrocarbons. The amount of tar in marijuana that settles in the lungs has been estimated to be up to four times the amount of tar in an unfiltered cigarette. The blood vessels carry chemicals from the lungs to the heart. These chemicals cause the blood vessels to dilate, which gives the body a flushed, warm feeling and red eyes. The blood pressure starts to fall, which makes the heart beat faster and can lead to abnormal heart rhythms. A marijuana user’s risk of having a heart attack quadruples in the first hour.

Mentally, the drug affects the parts of the brain that influence memory, thinking, concentration, coordination and perception. The effect on memory and difficulty in learning can last for weeks after the effect of the drug has worn off. This presents obvious problems for someone still in school because comprehension and thinking skills are impaired.

For those who smoke marijuana, it is wise to realize the risks to your health and mental capacity. Don’t impair your future for a few moments of floating high. **NOW**

This article is for general information only and does not constitute medical advice. Consult with your physician if you have questions regarding this topic.

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July 1-August 19

Summer Swimming: Cherry Park Pool, 302 West Lee Avenue, Weatherford. Hours for operation for public swim are as follows: Monday-Friday: 12:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday: 12:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.; and beginning June 6, night swim will be available on Mondays and Wednesdays: 7:45 p.m.-9:45 p.m. with lap lanes available. Daily admission is \$3 per person, and night swim is \$2 per person. Season passes can be purchased for \$50 for city of Weatherford residents and \$65 for nonresidents. For more information, call (817) 598-4124 or (817) 598-4125.

July 4

Independence Day: City of Weatherford offices closed and no sanitation services in observance of the holiday.

July 9

Parker County Peach Festival: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Courthouse Square and surrounding area. Admission is \$5 for adults, although tickets can be purchased in advance for only \$4 at the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce, 401 Fort Worth Hwy. Free shuttle service is offered to the festival from any of six designated parking lots. For all vital information, visit www.peachfestivaltx.com.

July 11

CSI Weatherford for Teens: 2:30-5:00 p.m., Weatherford Public Library, 1014 Charles Street. Learn about pirates of the past and the present, and how the movies get it right or get it all wrong!

For more information, call (817) 598-4150.

July 15-17 and 22-24

The Jungle Book: Fridays and Saturdays: 8:00 p.m. Sundays: 2:00 p.m., 1114 N. Denton St. For more information, call (817) 341-8687.

July 18

Parker County Aggie Moms' Club Howdy Party: 6:00-11:00 p.m., The Railhead Restaurant in Willow Park. Come support students and the community with the Parker County Aggie Moms. For more information, contact Martha Garrett of Parker County Aggie Moms at (903) 316-8465.

Beyond the Books-Teen Program: 2:30 p.m., Weatherford Public Library, 1014 Charles Street. For more information, call (817) 598-4150.

July 18-22

Don Eddy Basketball Camp: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Millsap High School, Hwy. 113, Millsap. Summer basketball camp for boys and girls, third-12th grade. Children bring refillable water bottles and a sack lunch each day, along with correct basketball shoes. Camp fee is \$195.00. If you register more than one child per family, each child after the first gets a \$15 discount. Any team of six or more receives a \$20 discount per child. Download registration forms at www.debb.com. For more information, call (817) 360-9649.

July 20

Historic Preservation Commission meeting: 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers, 303 Palo Pinto. For more information, call (817) 598-4106 or e-mail Troy Anderson at tanderson@weatherfordtx.gov.

July 23

Sherrill Douglas at the Texas Opry, 319 York Ave. She will do a show based on the question: "What if Loretta Lynn and Patsy Cline were singing on the same stage?" Cost: \$15. For more information, call (817) 341-1000.

July 25

Tie-dye the World!-Teen Program: 2:30 p.m., Weatherford Public Library, 1014 Charles Street. Make your life more beautiful by creating easy and colorful clothing and accessories. For more information, call (817) 598-4150.

Drug Prevention Awareness Rally: 6:00-9:00 p.m., Texas Opry, 319 York Ave. Free to all. Social awareness rally on the topic of substance use, abuse and addictions. Speaker is Dr. Caroline Leaf, author of the best seller "*Who Switched Off My Brain?*" There will be a lineup of special people willing to share their struggles, realizations and victories. There will also be a time for questions and answers. Free refreshments and helpful literature will be available. For more information, call (817) 304-1715.

July 29-31

August First Monday Trade Days: 7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., south three blocks from Santa Fe Dr. and Hwy. 18. Your family can find unique gifts, antiques, crafts, collectibles, farm and ranch items and lots of bargains located in the heart of Weatherford's historic district. For more information, call (817) 598-4354.

August 6

Hot Dog Trot: 7:30 a.m., Hall Middle School, 902 Charles Street. This is a 1k fun run and a 5k certified run for humans and canines alike. There will be Dachshund races, doggie costume contests and much more! Event benefits Parker Paws, a nonprofit group, which helps the Weatherford-Parker County Animal Shelter. For information, call (817) 594-5944.

Back to School Immunizations: 8:00 a.m.-noon, Campbell Clinic, 1517 Texas Dr. Free back to school immunizations for children ages 4-18. Sport physicals: \$15. A current shot record is required for those getting immunizations. For information, call (817) 599-1230.

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



In The Kitchen With Teresa Hale

— *By Melissa Rawlins*

Living in Weatherford for 32 years has been a joy for Teresa Hale, because her family and friends surround her as she serves her community, clients and co-workers at Petro Truck Stop. People who know Teresa well often ask her to share her delicious home cooking, and she's happy to accommodate. She learned how to cook from her grandmother — still one of Teresa's favorite cooks. She remembers standing on a chair in the summertime, stirring a cake mix with her grandmother for her father's birthday. "It was a wonderful time in my life, and the experience has made me absolutely love cooking," Teresa said, adding with a wink: "My second inspiration is Paula Dean, because she uses a stick of butter in everything." **NOW**

Hale's Breakfast Burritos

- 1 small roll of Jimmy Dean sausage, crumbled**
- 4 large potatoes, diced**
- 1 pkg. of bacon, cut into pieces**
- 1 dozen eggs, beaten**
- 2 cups cheddar cheese, shredded**
- 1/2 cup Pace Picante sauce**
- 20 flour tortillas**

- 1.** In a large skillet, over medium heat, cook sausage thoroughly. Remove sausage from grease and set aside.
- 2.** Add diced potatoes and chopped bacon into skillet with sausage grease; cook thoroughly.
- 3.** Add sausage back to skillet and pour eggs into skillet with potatoes, sausage and bacon. Continue stirring until eggs are cooked.
- 4.** Sprinkle cheese over top of other ingredients; add picante sauce and stir thoroughly. Remove from heat.

- 5.** Warm 20 flour tortillas. Add 3 tablespoonfuls of breakfast mix to each tortilla; then roll up. You can either serve them immediately or wrap in foil and freeze for later use.

Hale's Chicken Ranch Pasta

- 3-4 large chicken breasts, chopped**
- 1 1/2 sticks margarine**
- 1/4 cup garlic, minced**
- 1 tsp. salt**
- 1 tsp. pepper**
- 1 tsp. garlic salt**
- 6-8 green onions, chopped**
- 1 1/2 boxes rigatoni pasta**
- 2 small tubs cream cheese w/chives**
- 1 pint heavy whipping cream**
- 1 pint sour cream**
- 1 pack original ranch dressing powder**

- 1.** In a large, deep skillet, mix chicken, margarine, garlic, salt, pepper, garlic salt

and green onions. Simmer over medium heat, covered, for 25-30 minutes, stirring frequently.

- 2.** Fill a large, deep saucepan with water and cook pasta according to box instructions.
- 3.** Once chicken is cooked thoroughly, add remaining ingredients to the large skillet. Cover and cook over medium heat, stirring frequently.
- 4.** Once it cooks down and develops into a thick sauce, combine with pasta, stirring vigorously to cover all noodles. Serve while hot.

Hale's Red Velvet Cheesecake

- 2 8-oz. pkgs. cream cheese**
- 1 14-oz. can sweetened condensed milk**
- 1/2 cup sugar**
- 1 Duncan Hines Red Velvet Cake Mix**
- 3 eggs**
- 1 1/4 cups water**
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil**
- 1 3-oz. box cheesecake-flavored Jell-O instant pudding mix**
- Baker's Joy Original No-Stick Spray with Flour**

Frosting:

- 2 cups powdered sugar**
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract**
- 1/4 to 1/3 cup water**

- 1.** Preheat oven to 350 F.
- 2.** Prepare cheesecake mix by beating cream cheese, condensed milk and 1/2 cup sugar in a large mixing bowl with electric mixer on medium speed for approximately 5 minutes. Set aside.
- 3.** Combine cake mix, eggs, water and vegetable oil per cake box instructions. Add pudding mix to cake batter; mix well.
- 4.** Coat Bundt cake pan with Baker's Joy Original No-stick Spray with Flour.
- 5.** Pour half the cake mix into the cake pan. Spoon half the cheese cake mix on top of the cake mix. Spread to cover cake mix.
- 6.** Top with half the remaining cake mix and spread all of the remaining cheesecake mix over cake batter.
- 7.** Top with remaining cake mix.
- 8.** Bake as directed on cake box for 45-50 minutes. Let cool, then remove from pan.
- 9.** To make frosting; mix powdered sugar, vanilla and water in a small mixing bowl. Pour over top of cooled Bundt cake.

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

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