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ON THE COVER



The Johnsons enjoy family fun and football.

Photo by Amanda Rooney.

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Editor's Note

Dear Friends,

Students will put on their back-to-school best this month and head off to meet their new teachers and see some old friends. Many parents will send their recent high school graduates off to college for the first time. My parents moved me into the dormitories at Texas State University - San Marcos many years ago. It was such a milestone in my life, and I'll never forget that feeling of freedom, wonder and a little anxiety. Over the months, that anxiety quelled. I grew to treat my new-found freedom with respect. I had a lot of fun, but college graduation was my No. 1 goal.

As a community, we can support our students with a few words of wisdom or by simply wishing them well. Good luck to returning students and to all those first-time college students and parents. Have a great school year!

Take care,

Amber

Amber D. Browne
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STRENGTH IN FAM

— By *Amber D. Browne*

“To play football all of these years, and to be able to reach the pinnacle of football — Super Bowl world champions — it’s just a great feeling.”



THE LIV

Playing in the National Football League may take Chris Johnson across the country, but he always has time to sit in the stands and watch his children perform on the field. Chris grew up in East Texas and has lived in other states, but he and his family now call the Aledo community home.

The Johnson family made the transition back to Texas in 2009. "I wanted a lot of land," Chris said, "so my kids could run around." Chris' uncle, who works in real estate, showed them several houses. The final one, just east of Weatherford, was the perfect place. "We didn't know where we were going or where we were going to end up. Before we even turned into the yard, we were like, 'Yep, that's it,'" Chris recalled. "We walked in, and we loved it."

Chris' wife, Mioshi, had done her research on the Aledo Independent School District. "I looked at the education and the demographics. We just took the plunge." She likes the small-town feel. "We're both from Longview. It's kind of like Aledo. Everybody knows each other." They've been married since 2008 and have never regretted their decision to raise their children in the area.

Although they've made their home in the local community, their home away from home is in Baltimore, where Chris plays cornerback for the Ravens. He started playing football in a Pee Wee league in East Texas. He really enjoyed the sport. "Over the years, going through high school, being able to experience different positions, I just fell in love with football." He graduated



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from Pine Tree High School in Longview and then went on to graduate from University of Louisville.

Chris played for the Oakland Raiders for five years and became a free agent in 2012. "Baltimore wanted me in 2010, when I was a Raider, but the owner didn't want to trade me. We prayed about it. I called the GM [general manager] one day, and he told me to come out and work out for him. The rest was history."

And as a Raven, Chris now has a Super Bowl win on his résumé. "Other than actually having a child, as a profession, that's probably the second best thing that can ever happen," Chris said. "To play football all of these years, and to be able to reach the pinnacle of football — Super Bowl world champions — it's just a great feeling."

"It was a long journey," Mioshi said. "Just to be an NFL wife has been exciting. To see him, after so many years of working that hard, actually achieve that goal, it was great." All of the Johnson family attended the game in New Orleans in February and got to see Chris leave the field a Super Bowl champ. "And, Aledo gave us that great sendoff."

When Chris returned home from the big game, he received a banner that had been signed by students at his sons' schools. "The school district didn't have to do it, but I appreciate them for doing it and making this home for us," Chris

said. "The boys really enjoyed that." His oldest son, Brannon, is no stranger to the football field. He'll be in seventh grade in Aledo this fall. Christopher, Chris' youngest son, and his Pee Wee football team won their own Super Bowl last season, shortly after Chris brought home the title.

Christopher, a soon-to-be second grader in Aledo, adores his father and enjoys watching him play out on the football field. "It's pretty cool," Christopher said. "Dad comes to see everything for me. I should appreciate that and do it for him."

Besides the game of football, Chris spends time helping youngsters in the game of life. "I try to be a big brother,



almost a mentor, to these young men and young girls out here," Chris explained. "I didn't have a motivator, a speaker, to influence me: this is the right way, this is the wrong way. I just tried to feel my way through high school myself." Chris tries to give the younger generation an understanding of how to be successful. "Everybody has bumps in the road sometimes. I just tell them my story."

Chris offers guidance to the young men and women. "They don't know how to approach a person. They don't know how to shake your hand the right way," Chris explained. "The handshake is the very most important thing as a man, to be able to look a person in the eye and say, 'How are you doing? My name is so-and-so.'" Chris also reaches out to women at domestic violence shelters and founded the Showtime 37 Foundation to teach football camps in the summer.

Mioshi is no stranger to helping

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youngsters. She founded a mentoring program called Pretty Smart Girls. She has a daughter and nine nieces ranging in age from toddler to teenager. "Being around a lot of young girls in my life, I saw there was just a need for mentoring. There is not a lot of positivity portrayed in females in TV and radio. There's a lot of good that girls don't get to see." Mioshi began to think about how she could empower young girls while teaching them to empower themselves. She brainstormed with her daughter Krissy, who is a sophomore in Duncanville, and her niece Sidney, who lives with them and will start 10th grade in Aledo this school year. They came up with the idea for the Pretty Smart Girls program. Besides taking care of her family and her foundation, Mioshi is also a surgical technologist and is finishing up her clinical studies.

When they get a few minutes to relax in their busy schedules, the Johnsons enjoy going out to dinner or a movie and traveling in the off-season. Chris and Mioshi recently took up ballroom dancing to help him with his flexibility and agility. "Chris is secretly a good dancer, and I'm not. But, I like to dance," Mioshi said, grinning.

With preseason football games and school starting this month, the Johnsons will be back to a busy schedule. Chris likes flying his mom, wife and children to his games. "At a younger age, they get to see the world. All I saw was Longview through 12th grade," he chuckled. Chris is happy to be a part of the Baltimore Ravens and looks forward to the chance to win another Super Bowl ring.

For now, Chris and his family are living life to the fullest. They enjoy the excitement of life in the NFL but cherish the time spent back in the tight-knit community they call home. **NOW**

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INSPIRATION

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Miles Away

— By Erin McEndree

At Home With
Marcus and Beth Bowen

Walking up the limestone steps to the front door surrounded by lush foliage reminds Marcus and Beth Bowen of their pilgrimage in the Holy Land halfway around the world. Stone walls, dome roofs and arched windows and doorways are indigenous to the ancient areas they visited in Israel, Jordan, Greece and Turkey. Their home's style parallels the design and stone work of the ancient ruins where people like Jesus and Paul sojourned. Elements in every room of their home reflect ancient qualities that bring back fond memories and their love for the land of Jesus.

The stone typically used in the ancient world was limestone. "It is the dominant and most popular material we saw on our vacations," Marcus said. "I was inspired to use limestone in our house as well. I like using materials that are indigenous to our area." The 22-inch thick walls in most rooms of Marcus and Beth's home are crafted entirely out of Lueders limestone. Lueders is a small town north of Abilene. They supply several variations of colors in creams, grays and browns. Colors come from different layers in the quarry.

Limestone is distinctive, durable and very low-maintenance. "I am fortunate to have a person like Marcus whose business is landscape



design and can visualize and install the ideas in his head," Beth said. "I love everything he does, and we don't ever have to repaint." Beth admitted she has not participated in the changes made to the house. "It's dangerous for me to have a paint brush," Beth laughed.

The living room is surrounded in limestone with decorative pieces above the arched windows. An enormous limestone frame is set in the wall above the fireplace. "We can swap the painting in the frame whenever we want," Beth said. "The antique piano came from my mother. The Ivers and Pond piano is about 100 years old. My grandfather bought it second-hand for my mother for her 12th birthday."

The pool area is the outdoor focal point, resembling ruins in the Holy Land. "Marcus was inspired to build this area after he got back from a trip in 1996," Beth said. A stone fountain in the middle of the pool is flanked by columns on both sides that stretch to the clouds. Behind the pool is a high wall of stone. Four arched windows with brick borders overlook the mature trees and front yard. An ornate iron gate leads to the yard. The whole wall is engulfed with green tropical plants, elephant ears and pops of

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color from roses and seasonal flowers. A crossvine with red trumpet-like flowers cascades over the stone wall, attracting hummingbirds.

Large ferns and more iron embellish the long porch. Creeping up a column beside the house is a wisteria Beth cut from her parents' plant, which was cut

from her grandmother's. A large table and chairs anchor a seating area under the porch overhang. "We have our family and our church groups here," Beth said. "This is where we fellowship." A door off the porch leads into the den.

The den has a rustic feel. "I liked the cabin-look," Marcus said. "I found some

old wood that had weathered in the environment, and I clad this room with it." Chinking appears between each board and the result is the look of a real log cabin. The floor is gray marble with a black border that Marcus saved from another project. "I like to reuse materials others may view as trash," Marcus shared. Slate is another material used on the floor. The floors flow seamlessly from room to room. It helps their daughter, Virginia, cruise anywhere she wants to go.

Deer and wild hogs are mounted on the walls in the den. "I am not a big hunter, but both my boys and I like to hunt," Marcus said. Bridles and whips from Marcus' grandfather's farm in Mississippi are displayed around the room. The den is where Marcus pays tribute to his ancestors by displaying black and white photos of his relatives. Several paintings depict the Civil War. "History is my hobby. It fascinates me," Marcus said. "I had three relatives in the battle of Shiloh. If any one of them

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would have died, I would not be here.” Marcus is passionate about researching times gone by. “We ought to know what our ancestors had and didn’t have and where they came from,” Marcus explained. “It helps us appreciate where we are and the opportunities we have that they did not.”

Some of Beth’s past is found just steps away in the dining room. Old farm equipment and hunting items are displayed beyond the long dining table. “I have my dad’s corn sheller and the old farm bell from his father’s farm,” she said. The bell can be seen from the dining room window atop a stately limestone tower Marcus made especially for it. “The bell was originally at a rural one-room schoolhouse where my grandmother went in South Carolina. A storm destroyed the school, but the bell survived, and my great-grandfather ended up with it,” Beth explained. “After Marcus built the bell tower and placed the bell in it, my dad said the bell had never been in a place so grand.”

Beth feels like she is sleeping in grand chambers as she passes under the arches flanked by columns in the master bedroom. The dome roof over



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the master bed stretches at least 20 feet. Smooth, white stucco walls are reminiscent of the architecture in the Middle East. The design flows into the bathroom where polished limestone is used for the counter tops and to border the shower. Polished limestone has a deeper color and sheen and works well for borders and areas that acquire constant moisture.



Outside the back door, limestone steps beside the stone retaining wall lead up to the pond. A small arched niche in the wall is a fun detail Marcus added. Marcus likes for children to be able to fish for catfish and bream. Wild Muscovy ducks have taken up residence in the pond. "They come back every year," Beth said. "They lay eggs and roost in the trees." Deer migrate through their seven acres, as do Canadian geese. The deer eat Beth's flowers, so Marcus spreads corn beyond the pond so the duck and deer do not come up to the house.

Inspired by the architectural elegance of the Middle East, Marcus and Beth brought solace to their home in Parker county, 7,000 miles away. The design they created is unique and will stand the test of time. "The limestone will out last us," Beth said. **NOW**

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A Familiar Face

— By Amber D. Browne

Each morning at McCall Elementary School in Aledo, Principal Jason Beaty greets students with a smile. Mornings are his favorite part of the day. Mr. Beaty is either out front opening car doors or greeting students in the main hallway. He is always visible to the students. “A lot of times, I can see on a kid’s face how things are going. If I need to have a conference and pep talk with them as soon as they get into the building, I think it makes a difference before they go down to the classroom.”

Things that happen at home can impact the children in class, so he tries to redirect them once they get to school. “Those kids who may have struggled the day before,” he said, “need to know it’s a new day. So, I smile and give high fives and shake hands with every kid, every single day.”



MR. BEATY WAS
RECOGNIZED AS ALEDO
ISD’S PRINCIPAL OF THE
YEAR FOR 2011-2012.



Student safety is Mr. Beaty's No. 1 priority. One of his greatest compliments came from a parent after the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Connecticut last December. The parent approached him outside the school one morning and asked what he was doing differently regarding safety. The parent actually answered the question, because Mr. Beaty was doing what he always does. He was visible and on guard to keep his students safe. "Part of the reason I am outside is for safety," he explained. "As a parent, you have to feel safe when you drop your kid off. Kids have to feel safe being here at school." Whether the child is concerned about outside threats coming in or bullies inside the school,



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they need to feel comfortable to speak with him about their problems. "And, parents have to feel comfortable to come and talk to me about any concerns or questions they have."

Mr. Beaty started out working as a custodian with White Settlement ISD, while his wife, Christie, worked there as a teacher's aide. He then worked as a computer technician for Crowley ISD while finishing his undergraduate degree at the University of North Texas. He began teaching in Aledo in 2000, but ultimately decided to get his master's from Tarleton State University and become a principal. He was hired as principal for McCall when the school first opened in 2009. "It's about impacting kids. As a teacher, I was able to impact the students who came through my classroom. As an assistant principal, I was able to impact a few more. As a principal, there are some things I can do to impact the most students." Mr. Beaty was recognized as Aledo ISD's Principal of the Year for 2011-2012. As a teacher, he won the Jack Harvey Award from Weatherford College, and he has also been nominated for the Marva Collins Award.

Mr. Beaty claims he wasn't the best student growing up. "I was not one to cause problems," he explained. "I was just quiet, and I really didn't do very well," he said. "I think if a teacher would have jumped in a little bit sooner with me and recognized my struggles it might have made a difference a little bit quicker. It took me a while to get through college and find my path."

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As principal, Mr. Beaty is in charge of hiring quality teachers who are dedicated to the students. "When you have a staff that care about kids and care about the community, it makes a big difference," he explained. "I think everybody wants the best for their kids. Whether it's parents who want the best for their child, or a teacher who wants the best out of their student, it's not always the same vision," he said. "How we get there is sometimes the challenge." Not every parent will agree with each decision Mr. Beaty makes, but they know his heart is in the right place. Whether he's dealing with behavioral or academic issues or programs to better the school, he approaches it from a community standpoint. "My home is here in this school district. I need to be able to look parents in the eye."

Students and parents often see the silly side of Mr. Beaty. He spent an hour in a dunking booth at Aledo Fest this past spring, and each year, he dresses up like a chicken to drop kindergartner's science egg projects from the roof. He thinks it makes him more approachable to students. "If they see you doing silly stuff, you're not just the principal."

Mr. Beaty's father passed away when he was 13. Growing up with his younger brother and sister, he realized having other male influences is important. "I think that's where the biggest difference can be made." Because of that belief, Mr. Beaty wanted to get more fathers involved at the elementary school level. "That's why we brought the Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students)

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program here. This was actually the campus where the Watch D.O.G.S. program for the district was started,” he said. “The more fathers I could make feel welcome here as a part of this school, I think the bigger impact it has on students.”

He and his wife both graduated from Crowley, which he says is similar to the small town feel of Aledo. “This is where we wanted to raise our family.” He and his wife, who is the testing director at White Settlement ISD, love to travel. Mr. Beaty also enjoys volunteering. He has volunteered for the Give One Day program with Aledo United Methodist Church. He has also worked with them to bring the Snack Pack program for economically challenged students to McCall. With help from other local churches, the program has expanded to all Aledo ISD campuses. Fishing and playing golf with their daughter, Caitlin, provides additional enjoyment. “Golf is something we can play for a lifetime. When I’m an old man, she can drive me around in the golf cart.”

Caitlin will start fourth grade at McCall this fall. “She doesn’t want anybody to know who her daddy is,” he joked. “I’m Mr. Beaty here at school, and as soon as we walk out, I’m Daddy.” He may not get to see Caitlin much throughout the school day, but he doesn’t worry about her. “I trust the people I hire.”

The final day of school can be difficult for him, because he has built relationships with students and their families. “There are great people here. That really makes a difference. You have people who want to be involved in the schools; people who want to be involved in their children’s lives.”

As students head back to school this month, they’ll be looking for Mr. Beaty’s familiar face. “I don’t plan on going anywhere. I love this district.” **NOW**



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HD Free for Life: \$10/mo HD fee waived for life of current account, requires continuous enrollment in AutoPay with Paperless Billing. **Premium Channels:** 3-month premium movie offer value is \$135, after promotional period, then-current regular monthly price applies and is subject to change. **Hopper Features:** AutoHop feature is only available with playback the next day of select premium shows on ABC, CBS, FOX and NBC as part of PrimeTime Anytime feature. Both features are subject to availability. **Blockbuster @ Home Offer:** 3-month offer value \$30. After 3 months, then-current regular monthly price applies and is subject to change. Requires active DISH account. Broadband Internet to stream content: HD DVR to stream to TV. Streaming to TV and some channels not available with select packages. **Installation/Equipment Requirements:** Free Standard Professional installation only. Certain equipment is leased and must be returned to DISH upon cancellation or unlicensed equipment fees may apply. Upfront and additional monthly fees may apply. Recording hours vary. 2000 hours based on SD programming. Equipment comparison based on equipment available from major TV providers as of 5/22/13. Watching live and recorded TV anywhere requires a broadband-connected, sleep-enabled DVR and compatible mobile device. **Notes:** Offers available for new and qualified former customers, and subject to terms of applicable Promotional and Residential Customer agreements. State reimbursement charges may apply. Additional restrictions and taxes may apply. **Offers end 9/18/13.**
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you don't mind slowing down and getting lost for a little while, you might see some scenery that makes a vacation worth taking. Take a tour of a nearby cavern or a boat tour and look to the skies to catch a glimpse of a bald eagle. If birdies and other types of eagles are more your style, hit the links on one of 12 golf courses within 20 minutes of Marble Falls — many with designer names like Jack Nicklaus, Tom Fazio and Robert Trent Jones III.

Canoes are another great way to get around in the Hill Country. You can take a guided canoe tour, or set out on your own for a relaxing day trip. Find yourself at one with the outdoors on a fishing expedition to any one of the seven Highland Lakes, either on your own or with an experienced fishing guide. And the Texas air is never fresher than in one of our nearby state parks. Hunting, fishing and camping activities are popular here. Native game fish abound in lakes and streams. Fall and winter hunting seasons offer plentiful wildlife and excellent wing shooting of migratory and native game birds.

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Whether you have your own horse or you want to ride the range on a rental, there's nothing quite like seeing the Hill Country cowboy-style. Many of the LCRA and state parks have riding trails. Several local riding clubs and ranches will help get any greenhorn started.

For those who prefer the resort life, choose from one of the many lakeside resorts to make the most of our scenic waters. The friendly staff in the local visitors' office is just a phone call away, at (877) 638-3927. They can help you plan the trip that fits your fancy and takes advantage of each of the area's attractions, from lazy days on the water to wine tasting to horseback riding to hiking, biking and rock climbing.

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By Alisha Workman. Photos courtesy of: Marble Falls/Lake LBJ Chamber of Commerce & CVB.



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Sharon Russell and Sherrice Copeland greet customers with open arms at Furniture and more.



Top Quality at Discount Prices

At Furniture and More, customers get a sales price with a little bit of faith on the side.

— By Amber D. Browne

In September 2007, Sharon Russell was hunting for a new mattress and stopped by a small furniture store on Highway 180 at the urging of her friend, Sherrice Copeland. While there, she asked the owner if he had any part-time work available. "God had to have gotten ahold of me or my mouth. When I was walking out, I said, 'Well, if you are not going to hire me, should you ever decide to sell, call me.' And, I walked out thinking, *You nut, why'd you say that? You don't have a dime!*" Sharon laughed.

Sharon and Sherrice had discussed opening a business together, although neither one had any intention of buying a furniture store. "It was definitely a God thing when we bought the business. About two weeks after visiting the shop on Jack

Borden and Highway 180, Sharon and Sherrice bought out the owner. With Sharon's 30 years of experience in the furniture business and Sherrice's background in ministry, they decided it was the right time to buy.

They say their decision has been amazing. "We've done nothing but just try to honor the Lord and bless people. We probably do as much ministry work out of this store as we do selling furniture. Because, sometimes people need a hug more than they need a chest of drawers," Sharon confessed. "We named it Furniture and More, and we say all the time, 'The More is Jesus.'"

Furniture and More is now at a new location on Highway

180, just six blocks away from the original store. They sell everything from living room, bedroom and dining room furniture to wall decor, purses and yard art.

"We carry quite a bit of the western and rustic," said Sharon. They also offer traditional, casual and contemporary pieces. "We sell off of the floor. We also have a 4,000-square-foot warehouse in the back." Customers can also flip through catalogues to find their perfect piece. Most special orders arrive at the Furniture and More warehouse within two weeks. The items are then available for pickup or delivery.

Both women want each customer to

"You don't have to wait on a sale to get a sale price."

get the best deal, at the very best price every day. "We pretty much had our heart set to make it affordable and offer the lowest possible prices," Sharon stated. Many stores offer deep discounts during sales, but at Furniture and More, they take that discount right off the top. "You don't have to wait on a sale to get a sale price." Some discounts are offered depending on the customer's method of payment, such as cash versus credit card. Or, if you purchase several items, a discount could be available.

Every 8-12 weeks, Furniture and More purchases an entire truckload of closeouts, one-of-a kind and discontinued items. "We call it our Fun Truck, because when we go get it, we don't know what's on the truck," Sharon explained. "We can't wait to see what's on there!" They offer the items at about a third of the retail price.

Sharon and Sherrice are thankful for the Weatherford community and its support over the past six years. They've asked God to let them work until He calls them home. "We don't want any rockin' chair days," Sharon laughed, "unless we can do it after 7:00 p.m.!" **NOW**

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Barbara Milton and Lillian Haile grab a comfy spot in the shade at Boomin' 4th.



The Stephens family enjoys the Frontier Days PRC A Rodeo.



Rotary Club of Weatherford members pick up the Stars and Stripes on Flag Day.



The Parker County Sheriff's Posse rides at the Frontier Days PRC A Rodeo.



These Weatherford Healthcare Center employees get their share of the \$35,000 Blue Ribbon award.



Christina Durrington shows the way to TNT Fireworks.



Lacey Shifflett serves up some delectable chocolates at The Candy Store in Aledo.



Megan Parks and Kay Huse gather around Dana Bonman, with the Golden Knights, as he prepares to sky dive at Boomin' 4th.



Presley Youngblood wins Miss Peach Puddin' at the Miss Parker County Peach Pageant.



The Fields family enjoys an evening at Boomin' 4th.



Madison Lear of Aledo gets her hair cut for Locks of Love at Studio One Salon in Weatherford.



Wade Kunze of Beggs, Oklahoma wrestles a steer at the Frontier Days PRC A Rodeo.

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Tips for Setting — and Pursuing — Financial Goals

You can get lucky by finding a parking meter with time left on it. You can “luck out” by having nice weather on your vacation. You can even be lucky at love. But when it comes to financial matters, you’re better off not counting on Lady Luck — and focusing instead on setting and pursuing goals.

Here are some suggestions for establishing and pursuing your financial objectives:

Be specific. You probably have a lot of ideas about what you want to do, but if you’re going to turn these wishes into reality, you need to get specific. So, for example, instead of telling yourself that you want to retire early, set a goal of retiring at, say, 62. You can then use this target number to help guide your overall investment strategy. To illustrate: You can determine that you need to invest a certain amount of money each year, and earn a certain rate of return, to be able to retire at 62. You can also estimate about how much money you can afford to withdraw from your investment accounts each year to sustain a retirement that begins at 62.

Prioritize your goals. Of course, you want to achieve all your financial goals — and you can have a better chance of doing so if you rank these goals in terms of both importance and timing. For example, you may want to send your kids to college, purchase a vacation home and still be able to retire at age 62. How should you allocate your resources to each of these goals? Should you invest more at any given time for a specific goal? What types of investments are best for each of these goals? Prioritizing your goals can help you answer these and other questions — and help direct your overall investment strategy.

Be prepared to change your goals.

Over time, your family and financial circumstances can change considerably — which means you shouldn’t be surprised, or alarmed, if you have to change your goals accordingly. And you’ll find it easier to maintain this flexibility if you’ve worked diligently to create an investment portfolio with sufficient resources to allow you to change direction, as needed.

Review your progress regularly.

If you’re going to eventually achieve your goals, you absolutely need to measure your progress along the way. Are your investments performing the way you had anticipated? Are your goals becoming more expensive than you had initially envisioned? To achieve these goals, are you taking on too much — or too little — risk? To answer these types of questions, it’s a good idea to review your overall progress at least once a year and then make whatever adjustments may be necessary.

As you can see, it will take considerable effort to set, review and (hopefully) achieve your goals. And it can be somewhat complex, too, so you may want to work with a financial professional — someone who takes time to talk with you about your goals, understands your risk tolerance and family situation, and has the training and experience necessary to help you work toward your objectives.

But in any case, think hard about your goals and how you might accomplish them. And don’t delay in taking action — because goals are generally easier to attain if you have time on your side. **NOW**

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



Divide and Multiply

This is not the teacher in me coming out! You really do need to divide first if you want to rearrange your spring blooming plants. Most spring bloomers will divide and become very crowded. This causes them to become less and less able to vigorously bloom. This happens with your bulbs, as well as other spring bloomers such as: daisies, blue mist, iris, day lilies, etc. They need to be split up now, so they can adjust and grow new roots before the hard freezes begin. I worked on a bunch of daffodils I put in the ground 11 years ago when we moved into town. After I got them out of the ground and separated, the seven small bulbs I planted had grown into over 250. It's a wonder they were even blooming at all!

To successfully divide any plant, most of them must come up out of the ground completely. Bulbs can be gently pulled apart or soaked in water to loosen up the tough dirt holding the roots. You want the roots intact, so they can get a good start. Daisies and other “clump” types may even need a sharp knife to slice through thick roots. Choose a natural-looking division and cut away. Large clumps can make several smaller

ones that will grow, bloom and expand. They make great sharing plants also!

The general rule of thumb is to divide bulbs and clumps of spring bloomers every four to five years in the fall. While the need to do this really can vary a lot, a sure sign they need to be split is if they no longer bloom vigorously! Drop a small amount of fertilizer (a teaspoon or less) in the hole where you are moving the new start, and water just as you would after planting a new plant — every day for a few days and then once a week.

September is just around the corner, and it is a great time to plant a few seeds for the fall garden. Spinach, lettuce, peas, turnips and broccoli all do well in the cooler months. **NOW**

Nancy Fenton is a Master Gardener.



Tick Fever

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

Summertime means many things to creatures. For insects, warm weather signals a time to eat and breed. When they go about their business, far too often they cross paths with humans to our detriment. One species that can wreak havoc is ticks — specifically the American dog tick and Rocky Mountain wood tick. With their bite, they can transmit Rocky Mountain spotted fever, a bacterial disease, to humans. The infected ticks carry the bacterium *Rickettsia rickettsii*.

When campers and hikers go to forested areas or fields, they are at a higher risk of coming into contact with these ticks. Where the dog tick is common, owning a pet increases the risk. Many times a person does not even know they have been bitten, as the bite is usually painless. The longer a tick is attached, the higher the risk of becoming infected. If crushed while still attached or if crushed between the fingers, there is a possibility of the secretions causing an infection.

Initial symptoms occur within two to 14 days after being bitten, and the person may feel as if they have the flu. Not all of the symptoms are experienced by everyone. Some of the symptoms experienced are: headache, high fever, muscle aches, nausea and vomiting, fatigue and rash. The rash usually begins on the wrist and ankles spreading into the palms, feet, up the arms and legs and into the torso area.

Early diagnosis is very important. Rocky Mountain spotted fever can cause serious complications and can be fatal if treatment has not begun within the first five days of symptoms. The Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends Doxycycline as the first line of treatment for this disease. With clinical examination and medical history, hopefully your health care provider can get enough information to begin treatment even before the rash begins.

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases lists these prevention guidelines: “To help prevent Rocky Mountain spotted fever, you should avoid walking in areas of tall grass and brush where there may be ticks. If you do go into these areas, be sure to:

- Wear light-colored clothing.
- Tuck your pants legs into your socks so ticks can’t get up inside your pants legs.
- Wear a long-sleeved shirt and tuck it inside your pants.
- Spray insecticide containing permethrin on boots and clothing. The effects will last several days.
- Apply insect repellent containing DEET to your skin. Because DEET lasts only a few hours, you may need to reapply it.
- Look for ticks on your body, including in your hair, when you return from hiking or walking.
- Check children and pets for ticks.” **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.

Through August 3

Beads and Rawhide: Heritage of the Plains Indians: **Monday-Friday**, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and **Saturday**, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Museum of the Americas, 216 Fort Worth Hwy. Visit www.museumoftheamericas.com for more information.

Through August 11

Summer Reading Club Events: **Monday-Thursday**, 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. at various times, Weatherford Public Library, 1014 Charles St. Children can participate in fun activities for various age groups and register for the library's Summer Reading Clubs. An ice cream social will be held on **August 8** at 10:30am. Reading logs must be turned in by **August 11** to win prizes. Get more information at www.wpltx.com.

Through August 25

Photographing the West: **Tuesday-Saturday**, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; **Sunday**, 1:00-5:00 p.m., Doss Heritage and Culture Center, 1400 Texas Dr. Visitors will catch a glimpse of the work from renowned western photographer David R. Stoecklein. You can visit www.dosscenter.org or call (817) 599-6168 to get more information about the exhibit.

Through August 31

Chandor Gardens: **Monday-Friday**, 9:00a.m.-5:00 p.m.; **Saturdays**, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.; **Sunday**, Noon-4:00 p.m., 711 West Lee Ave. Tour Weatherford's 3.5-acre historic oasis of creative gardening. For more information, call (817) 613-1700.

August through December

Annetta Valley Farmers Market: **Sunday**: 11:00 a.m., 2655 W. FM 5, Annetta. You are welcome to bring the entire family to enjoy some fresh air and fresh produce out at the farm. Please contact Lynne Carpenter at (817) 992-5691 for more information.

August through February 2

Trail Drivers Exhibit: **Tuesday-Saturday**, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; **Sunday**: 1:00-5:00 p.m., Doss Heritage and Culture Center, 1400 Texas Dr. Visitors will learn more about the cowboys instrumental in the Texas Longhorn cattle drives during the 19th century. Visit www.dosscenter.org for more information.

August 2

Outdoor Expo 2013: 6:30 p.m., Willow Park Baptist Church, 129 S. Ranch House Rd., Willow Park. More than \$45,000 worth of prizes will be raffled off, and attendees can bid on various items, including Axis and duck hunts, in a live auction. Proceeds benefit A Place for Grace Children's Home. Cost is \$10 and includes a barbecue

sandwich meal. Call (817) 441-1596 for more information.

3rd Annual Summer's First Fridays: 6:00-10:00 p.m., historic downtown Aledo. Visitors can shop downtown Aledo merchants and collections from various vendors and crafters. Attendees can also enjoy free live music and end the evening with a Fireworks Extravaganza. You can get more information at www.aledo-texas.com.

2nd Annual Charity Showcase Luncheon: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Oak Ridge Church of Christ, 4895 E. I-20 Service Road N., Willow Park. Presented by the Women's Business Alliance, the luncheon will feature non-profit organizations from across East Parker County. Organization representatives will be on-hand to visit with attendees looking for volunteer opportunities. The cost is \$15 for WBA members and \$20 for non-members. You can register at www.eastparkerchamber.com or by calling (817) 441-7844.

August 2 — 4

First Monday Trade Days: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., corner of Santa Fe Dr. and East Oak St. Dozens of vendors will sell homemade crafts, livestock, food and other items on several acres. Please visit www.ci.weatherford.tx.us or call (817) 598-4351 for more information.

August 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31

Parker Paws Adoption Events: 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., PetSmart, 138 E. Interstate 20. Stop by and add another member to your family. Furry friends will be available for adoption. Visit www.parkerpaws.org or call (817) 694-5718 for more information.

August 9

Parker County Women's and Newcomer's Club meeting: 10:00 a.m., Doss Student Center of Weatherford College, 225 College Park Ave. The cost is \$10 per person, and lunch will be provided. Non-members are welcome. Please call (817) 594-0125 to make reservations. You can get more information at www.pcwnc.org.

August 10

Water Conservation Day: 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Doss Heritage and Culture Center, 1400 Texas Dr. Bring the entire family to learn more about how water affects ranchers, animals and the public. You can also learn more about the importance of water conservation in the local community. The cost is \$5 per person. For more information, please contact Education and Programs Coordinator Collette Annillo at (817) 599-6168, ext. 33.

Belk Kidsfest, Noon-5:00 p.m., Belk, 205

Adams Dr. Come out and enjoy a fashion show and plenty of fun activities for the children inside the department store. Carter BloodCare will be on-hand for a blood drive, and area school athletes will be available for sports drills with younger attendees. Organizations will also be there for back-to-school health tips. Please call (817) 594-2295 for additional information.

August 13

Parker Paws Quarter Auction Fundraiser: 6:30-8:30 p.m., Weatherford Senior Center, 1225 Holland Lake Dr. Attendees will have a chance to shop from a selection of local vendors. They are invited to bring a roll or two of quarters to bid on several auction items. Funds raised will help pets in foster care. Please call (817) 694-5718 to get more information.

August 17

New Plainsman Concert: 7:00-9:00 p.m., Weatherford Ninth Grade Center, 1007 S. Main St. The concert will benefit the Texas Pythian Home. Tickets will be sold at the door, but you can call (817) 594-4465 for pre-sale information.

Jukebox Journey: 3:00 p.m., Texas Opry Theater, 319 York Ave. The Amazing Made in Showtime Band will commemorate three decades of American music. You can find ticket information at www.texasoprytheater.com or by calling (817) 341-1000.

August 26

Public school back in session: Aledo and Weatherford ISDs. For more information, visit Aledo ISD's website at www.aledo.schoolfusion.us or Weatherford ISD's website at www.weatherfordisd.com.

August 30

Free Cardiac Screening: 7:30-10:00 a.m., Education Pavilion at Weatherford Regional Medical Center, 713 E. Anderson St. Screenings for Body Mass Index, cholesterol, blood pressure, vision and more will be available. You must RSVP at (817) 599-1672.

August 30 — September 1

First Monday Trade Days: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Corner of Santa Fe Dr. and East Oak St. Dozens of vendors will sell home-made crafts, livestock, food and other items on several acres. Please visit www.ci.weatherford.tx.us or call (817) 598-4351 for more information.

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



In The Kitchen With Marsha Jones

— By Amber D. Browne

Marsha Jones grew up in a Longview neighborhood full of fruit trees and residents who shared their livestock and harvest with their neighbors. She was the youngest of eight children and didn't learn to cook until she left for college. Over the years, Marsha has added thousands of recipes to those Southern dishes she learned to love as a child.

"I have always loved the comfort of home and the sense of peace you feel when gathered around a meal prepared with love by those you love," Marsha remarked. She once owned a tearoom and shared her love of food with the community. Marsha now spends her weekends relaxing and cooking. "My family and friends know when the pots are on the stove, something yummy is on the way." **NOW**

Copper Pennies

5 cups carrots, peeled and sliced
1 medium sweet onion, sliced
1 small bell green pepper, sliced
1 10-oz. can tomato soup
1 tsp. salt
1/2 cup vegetable oil
1 cup sugar
3/4 cup vinegar
1 tsp. mustard
1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
1 tsp. pepper

1. Boil carrots in a pot for 5-10 minutes until tender. Do not overcook. Drain, run under cold water and transfer to a serving bowl. Place onions and peppers over the carrots.
2. Mix the remaining ingredients in a separate mixing bowl and pour over carrot mixture. Cover; marinate in refrigerator overnight for at least 12 hours. Drain liquid and serve.

Chocolate Pound Cake

Batter:
3 cups sugar
3 sticks butter
5 large eggs
3 cups flour
1/2 cup Hersey's cocoa powder
1 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. salt
1 1/4 cups milk
1 tsp. vanilla

Icing:
1 cup sugar
1/2 stick butter
1/3 cup evaporated milk
1/2 cup semi-sweet chocolate morsels
1/2 tsp. vanilla

1. For cake: preheat oven 325 F. Make sure all ingredients are at room temperature. Cream sugar and butter; beat in eggs, 1

at a time.

2. Sift cocoa, flour, baking powder and salt together in a bowl; add dry ingredients and milk to sugar mixture, alternating between each, starting and ending with flour.

3. Spoon batter into a greased and floured Bundt pan. Put a baking sheet under Bundt pan to catch any overflow of batter. Bake for 1 hour and 20 minutes or until wooden stick comes out clean.

4. For icing: boil first 3 ingredients in a pot. Add the remaining ingredients; whisk until smooth and creamy. Drizzle over cake. Place pan under cake to catch overflow of icing.

Broccoli Salad

5 large broccoli crowns, cut into bite sized pieces
1 cup raisins
1 cup sliced almonds, toasted
1/2 cup red onion, finely chopped
3-4 slices of apple wood bacon, fried and crumbled
1/2 Tbsp. apple cider vinegar
4 Tbsp. sugar
2 cups mayonnaise

1. Place first 5 ingredients in a large bowl.
2. In a separate mixing bowl, combine final 3 ingredients. Stir until well-blended and sugar is dissolved. Pour over broccoli mixture and coat all ingredients. Transfer to a serving dish. Cover; chill until ready to serve.

Caramelized Onions and Brussels sprouts

3 Tbsp. olive oil
1 Tbsp. butter
2 Tbsp. light brown sugar
1 medium onion, chopped
1 lb. Brussels sprouts, halved
1 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. pepper
1/2 cup raisins

1. Heat olive oil in large saucepan; add butter. Add brown sugar; stir until dissolved. Add onions; sauté until golden and caramelized.

2. Salt and pepper Brussels sprouts; add to onions. Add raisins; sauté until sprouts are tender.

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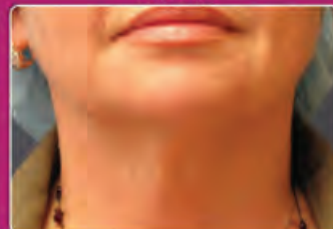
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