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On The Cover



Two mothers of several Aggies from Parker County represent the strength of America: families who care.

Photo by Lora Ralston.

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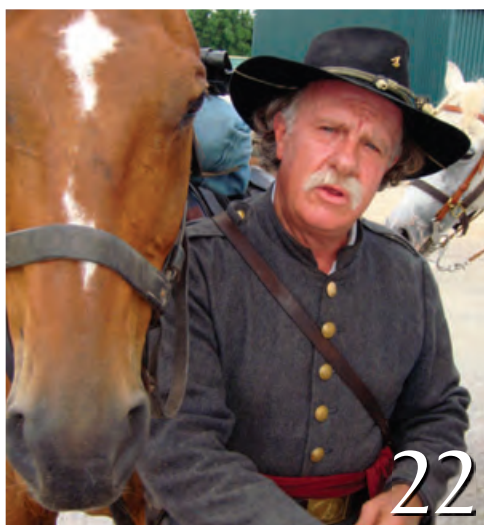
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Editor's Note

Hello Friends,

I have to confess: I abandoned my garden this year. After planting the babies I had started in the greenhouse, my attentions turned to work and friends. The heat rose and grasshoppers descended. Without the energy to fight nature, I let the garden go. So how has your garden fared?

I recently found a new artistic outlet allowing me to stay in the air conditioning! I am quilting — a challenging endeavor for patience-starved me.

Wonderful ladies in town have offered their advice and hands-on mentoring while I learn the ins and outs of stitching. On the 21st, I will be at the Sheriff's Posse Rodeo Grounds Building for the annual quilt show presented by the Quilter's Guild of Parker County. Aptly named The Joy of Quilting, it promises to inspire my ever-active brain as I dream up new ways to finish my king-size beauty.

On a more somber note, our continued thoughts and prayers are with all those in the Texas A&M community as they deal with the recent tragedy there. Even as we move into the fall and the new school year, may we all be vigilant in nurturing the young people in each of our spheres.

Melissa

Melissa Rawlins

WeatherfordNOW Editor

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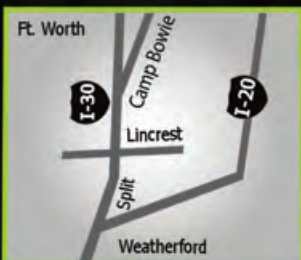
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**"I think it's
about the
Aggie spirit."**

BIG BOOTS to Fill

Many students are headed off to college. The Parker County Aggie Moms' Club has been instrumental in getting some local teens get there. The club's main focus is to raise money for local Texas A&M University students and the school through scholarships and other support functions. Both Cathy Cobb and Lori McCarty have spent countless hours raising money for the club, and being second moms to the school body.

— By Amber D. Browne

Cathy is the club's incoming president. "I just think it's so important to help them get that education financially," she said. Participating in the club is also an extension of being a mom. Cathy's two boys, Matthew, class of 2012, and Michael, class of 2014, are both in the Corps of Cadets at A&M. Her son, John, is not an Aggie, but he learned how to be one quickly because of the family's focus on school traditions and values. Instead of having just three children, Cathy feels like she now has 60,000 by taking on the responsibilities involved with the network of Aggie moms. "You celebrate every



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kid's achievement. It really is an extended family."

The Parker County club, with around 55 members, meets once a month. "We always start our meeting with the pledge and a prayer. We end it with Aggie brag, so any mom can get up and brag about their Aggie," Lori explained. The moms hosted their annual Howdy Party this summer at Clear Fork Restaurant in Willow Park and raised \$6,000, making it possible for them to award \$12,000 in scholarships to local students for the current school year. They will donate funds to student organizations and the Aggie Mothers' Room at the Memorial Student Center on campus in College Station.

They also put together final exam study packets for students. "They deliver them to A&M, and the kids come by and pick them up," Lori said. Club moms can even send out e-mails if their child needs a ride home from school one weekend, or if they need something delivered from home by another student. "Everybody is helping everybody. It's nice to have that when your kid is away."

For Aggie moms, it's easy to be passionate about the university. "You can't explain it from the inside looking out, and from the outside looking in, you can't understand it," Cathy said. Aggies not only receive an education in academics, but they get a secondary education, as well.

"I think it's about the Aggie spirit," Cathy explained. A&M students live by six core values: excellence, integrity, leadership, loyalty, respect and selfless service. With Cathy's sons both involved in the Corps, she had to learn the culture quickly. "The Corps is a lot of structure. It is part of who you are as an Aggie.



There is a code of honor, and the Aggies stick to it. When someone strays, they remind them of that code of honor.”

The Corps has been a good experience for her boys. Matthew has even made the decision to join the Texas Army National Guard. “We always raised our kids to be patriotic and to give back that selfless service,” Cathy stated. Matthew is deployable after graduation, and was in Mongolia with the Army this summer. “That’s part of being a mom. I’ve raised you to be an independent thinker and by golly you are,” Cathy said, referring to all her children.

Many students are generational Aggies. Lori’s husband, Bruce, is a 1978 A&M graduate. Although her son Tate chose to live and work in Colorado instead of Aggieland, her daughter, Shelby, will graduate in 2013 with a degree in horticulture. As outgoing president, Lori spent many hours volunteering with the club, mostly because of her passion for children. She has an education degree from Texas Christian University and has taught school, as well as volunteering with multiple kid-focused organizations — including leadership roles with the Parent Teacher Association and the 4-H club. “This was just the next natural step for me to take,” Lori admitted. “I’m all about the kids in everything I do.”

A&M was a perfect fit for her daughter. “I do want Shelby to have those values instilled in her,” she said, speaking of dedication to personal leadership as well A&M traditions. Shelby loves her College Station home, and Lori is glad her daughter made the decision to be a part of such a close-knit community and involved in her Chi Omega sorority. “I’m happy she loves it. I wouldn’t have it any other way.”

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The university is not for everyone, though. "I think you get it or you don't. You love it or you don't," Lori said. "But, if you go there, you're in it." Once you're an Aggie, you're always an Aggie. That also helps graduates with networking.

"The degree from A&M carries a lot of weight," Cathy said. "People know the tradition of excellence, and they know the core values that every Aggie has gone to school with for at least four years. It speaks to the character of who you hire, and it speaks to the quality of education they received."

Cathy enjoys being part of the Aggie culture and helping students along the way. "You don't stop being a mom, so it's a continuation of support for your child," Cathy said. The moms' club is also a great way to connect with other moms to answer questions or keep an eye on each other's Aggies. "My boys are accountable to a whole lot of other moms."

The local Aggie moms are the only club selling Aggie Mom Nacona boots to raise money for scholarships. Lori came up with the idea after her daughter asked for a pair of custom-made boots with the Aggie logo. "We have shipped them all over the United States. It's the same boot design as their collegiate boots," Lori explained. But, the "Aggie Mom" boots are a little flashier. "I got to thinking they would be so much cuter if they were painted." So, another local mom, Sherry Watters, paints the logo and adds some bling.

Even though she has left her post as club president, Lori plans to stay involved. "I feel a little sad, but Cathy will be great," she said.

Cathy teaches at both Hall and Tison Middle Schools in Weatherford, and her passion for children will play into her new role as club president. "I tried to get her to be president for life, but she won't," Cathy chuckled. "I've got big boots to fill." **NOW**

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Tranquility in Motion

By Melissa Rawlins



Lyn Walsh loves cooking. So, she designed her spectacular home in Aledo's ranch country with two kitchens, one of them outside. Both rely on granite counters to protect Lyn's workspace. Her mother was from Puerto Rico, and Lyn visited there while growing up

in Florida. She learned to speak two languages and rode horses on the island mountains and near the ocean. She helped care for her mother after she was diagnosed with cancer. Lyn developed a flair for preparing big Hispanic meals — especially Cuban and Puerto



Rican — from scratch. Every ingredient is fresh, and nothing is ever fried. The backyard herb garden, filled this year mostly with rosemary and tomatoes, is easy to reach while she grills or sautés. “This place is more relaxing than going to a restaurant,” Lyn said.

For the sake of tranquility, Lyn installed several large, rusty stars up high on the 20-foot wall of the entrance hall. “Their starlight adds extra ambience in the evening,” Lyn said. She and Beverly Branch, the co-founder of Careity Foundation, often meet here with the charity’s supporters for evening and weekend retreats and planning sessions. Patients who receive supported cancer-related treatments from Careity visit the clinics, either in Weatherford, Fort Worth or in Burleson, but fundraising activities are organized

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from Lyn's home. By day, she works from upstairs offices with Vickie Vernon, Carolyn Fatherree and Beverly.

Lyn built her house 20 years ago, when she and Beverly had already volunteered together for five years. She decided to leave her career as a clinical laboratory technologist, which often took bilingual Lyn to South America, to volunteer locally in full-time fundraising. Lyn designed her home with her new life's work in mind. Her focus is Careity, which she and Beverly founded to provide personal, holistic, on-site care and counseling for economically challenged cancer patients in the Tarrant, Parker and Johnson county areas.

As they meet with other Careity committee members to work on their annual fundraisers — Branded, Hats

Off to Heroes and Celebrity Cutting — husbands and wives often come over for the food Lyn dishes out. "I had had other homes and realized the flow of things," Lyn said. "The bar is separate from the kitchen, so it is easier for people to stay out of my kitchen." Some people serve themselves from the bar, where Lyn has hung her old high school clarinet next to a newsprint announcement that her Hialeah High School Marching Band would play in the New York World's Fair. This contrasts sweetly with a modern Western painting donated by Lyndon Gaither to the Celebrity Cutting auction, where Lyn bought it.

The cool, creamy travertine floor sees a lot of traffic, yet whispers, "*Hush. Calm.*" each time Lyn opens her front door. Directly ahead is a wall of windows

letting in an expansive view of sky and trees. Lyn can gaze out from her favorite leather arm chair and consider the wide-open future. Beverly noted that Lyn enjoys making her ideas happen. This is clear from her decor. The metal sculpture she commissioned from Rebecca Low of horses visiting a tank in a canyon was as carefully selected as the nearby kitchen table, made of mesquite and inlaid with a turquoise that Lyn specified when she ordered it. The dining room also features a custom-designed glass table, made from sandblasted, round glass sitting on a massive, oriental vase.

When Lyn entertains, she plays country music. One of her favorites groups is Sugarland. She also enjoys Lynn Anderson, whose music Lyn loved even before inviting her to sing for Celebrity Cutting. "When Lynn stayed here, I already had her album, and she signed it!" Ms. Anderson and Beverly sometimes sing around the baby grand piano.

Guests are given a large room upstairs, between Beverly's desk and the conference room. Carolyn's desk is here, and by day she refreshes her brain with a view of Texas countryside. At night,



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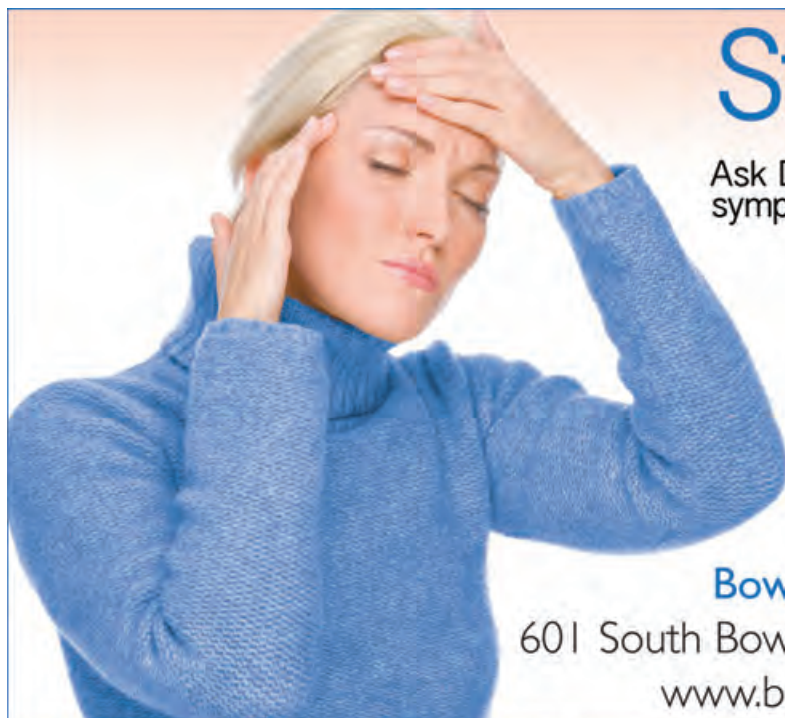
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guests enjoy the deck plus a four-poster bed decorated with suede and cowgirl, tapestry pillows on a southwestern bed spread, a television and their own phone line. Beverly finds Lyn extremely smart and able to see through people, organizations, relationships or even machinery to make things work. Lyn laughed, remembering the time she did not foresee an inconvenience for a guest. Lyn had run down to the barn to feed the horses, which required turning the alarm off before entering the tack room, and since the security alarm is tied into the guest room telephone line her guest's very important call was abruptly derailed.

In general, though, Lyn's do-it-herself nature results in an orderly, yet colorful, work-life environment. She refurbished multiple large, iron birds randomly brightening the outdoors. She handmade cowhide-framed mirrors in two bathrooms, as well as another that brought in over \$600 at a Careity auction. To operate with such creativity while running the Careity organization is her dream come true. "What has made Careity possible? It was not my plan. It was God's plan," Lyn said.

"When I was young, I loved sitting behind a test tube. Not even talking to people, just working and focusing on what I was doing. Now I talk to people every day, all day long," said Lyn, who frequently takes herself outside where she rides her horse, hits golf balls or maintains the landscape. "First thing in the morning, I like to take care of the flowers. And every night, I feed my koi and take care of the pond." She also takes walks on her land, listening to the birds while she inspects the trees, the two tanks, the natural waterfalls and streams.



Sometimes, Lyn just drives her tractor through the grassy fields. "I can't hear the phone ring on my tractor!"

At home, she and the Careity team always have fun. "What we do is stressful, but how we do it isn't," Lyn said. Small details prove the point. Across from Beverly's desk is an oak mantel that came out of her family's 100-year-old printing company, which at one time owned and



published the *Weatherford Democrat*. Her great-grandfather, Aaron Smith, had built the mantel into his wife's home. Now it is flanked on one side by a pedestal on which stands a bright red Tickle Me Elmo that makes Beverly laugh. In an antique chair on the other side of the fireplace sits a toy horse that neighs himself silly.

Everything in Lyn's home is either sentimental or functional or both. Like the three Rottweilers, which have their own covered patio. "Those dogs come in whenever we have company," Lyn said, unable to hide her affection for Vida, Rica and Mia, whose names translate into My Abundant Life. Of course, she invites them in *every* night to relax on that cold travertine floor. **NOW**



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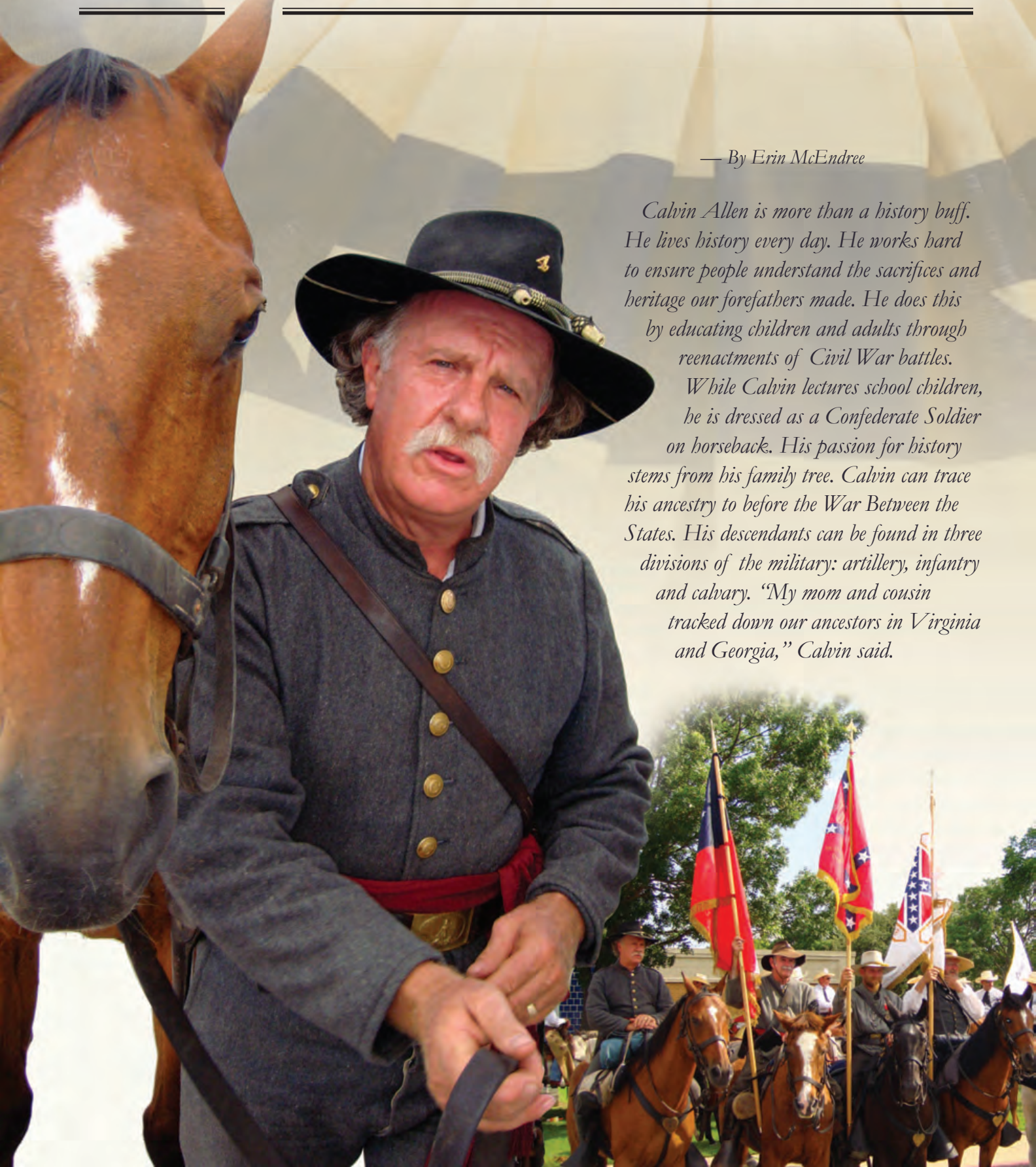
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BUILDING A LEGACY

— By Erin McEndree

Calvin Allen is more than a history buff. He lives history every day. He works hard to ensure people understand the sacrifices and heritage our forefathers made. He does this by educating children and adults through reenactments of Civil War battles.

While Calvin lectures school children, he is dressed as a Confederate Soldier on horseback. His passion for history stems from his family tree. Calvin can trace his ancestry to before the War Between the States. His descendants can be found in three divisions of the military: artillery, infantry and calvary. "My mom and cousin tracked down our ancestors in Virginia and Georgia," Calvin said.



"My great-great-grandfather met my great-great grandmother during the War Between the States," Calvin explained. "He was from Georgia, and she was from Virginia. They got married in 1866 and lived in Virginia." After the war, many people wanted to start over in a new place. Most families moved west. It was not uncommon to see GTT posted on the doors of empty houses. This meant Gone to Texas. While so many others relocated to Texas during this time of rebuilding, Calvin's great-great-grandparents remained in Virginia.

The Civil War, the name most commonly used in America, has more than seven titles associated with it. These titles reflect the historical, political and cultural diversity of different groups of people involved. Some include American War, War of Rebellion used by Northern forces, War of Southern Independence used by Southern forces, Freedom War used by blacks to celebrate the ending of slavery. Calvin prefers The War Between the States.

Stepping into Calvin's office is like stepping into the year 1865 during the War Between the States.



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Calvin grew up in Mechanicsville, Virginia. Mechanicsville has a rich history all its own. This is the site where General Robert E. Lee defeated General George B. McClellan in 1862 in the first battle of the seven days, which ended the



Peninsula Campaign. Growing up, Calvin was surrounded by history in this tourist town that furthered his knowledge and love for the Civil War era.

After high school, a friend told Calvin about Weatherford College where he could rodeo. "I came to Weatherford in 1971 to rope calves. I was not a bronco rider or a bull rider, just a calf roper," Calvin said. "Virginia is a pretty place, but not as open as Texas. I love that free spirit feeling."

While in Weatherford, Calvin worked in some saddle shops in Fort Worth, quickly learning the trade. Today, Calvin owns a retail store in Hudson Oaks which specializes in leather horse equipment. The smell of leather is heavy in his workshop. Hides hang all around waiting to be shaped into one of his designs. He makes reigns, breast collars and spur straps. He can customize a saddle or a pair of chaps. He also designs wallets and belts. By his side is his wife, Brenda.

Calvin and his wife have competed in cutting horse shows for many years. Calvin quoted Winston Churchill, "No hour of life is wasted that is spent in the saddle."

Stepping into Calvin's office is like stepping into the year 1865 during the War Between the States. "I collect anything from the prewar and postwar era, especially horse equipment," Calvin said. Authentic cavalry saddles are carefully displayed in a case of glass. A rack of cavalry carbines hangs over Calvin's desk. Carbines were made throughout the war for cavalry use. The advantage over rifles and muskets was their lighter weight. Range proved to be the main disadvantage in comparison to their infantry counter parts. The carbine was easier to handle because it was shorter and lightweight. Spurs, once worn on men's boots as they rode through the country side, lay neatly stacked in several cases. Copper bugles seemingly stand at attention just waiting for the command to announce their presence. A pre-WWI saddle chest exhibits tools and materials used for repairs. Buttons from uniforms, actual ammunition from the 1860s, medals and smaller treasures line cabinets, shelves and hang on walls.

Pictures of mounted cavalry units also cover every wall. Some are aged; some are recent. One painting, *Falling*



Timbers, depicts Terry's Texas Rangers at the Battle of Shiloh in 1862 against federal infantry. Calvin participates in reenactments taken from this scene. Another, more personal painting, is of Calvin's great-grandfather's unit at the battle of Gettysburg during the War Between the States in 1863.

Calvin not only participates in Civil War reenactments, he is also a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans

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(SCV). Members must be a descendant of a confederate soldier. Calvin qualifies threefold. According to their Web site, the SCV have a mission "to preserve the history and legacy of the citizen-soldier who fought for the Confederacy, so future generations can understand the motives that animated the Southern cause. ... Organized at Richmond, Virginia, in 1896, the SVC continues to serve as a historical, patriotic and non-political organization dedicated to insuring that a true history of the 1861-1865 period is preserved."

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, including First Lieutenant Commander Calvin Allen, can be seen riding in numerous parades and events, such as the Parker County Sheriff's Posse Frontier Days PRCA Rodeo and Livestock Show held in June and the Ranch Rodeo held in September. "We set up what is called an encampment and perform mounted drills in the arena and act out skirmishes," Calvin said. "We all know each other's ancestry, and those real stories bind us together like brothers." In all events, different Confederate flags are honorably and respectfully carried by each man's side. "There are over 500 flags to choose from," Calvin said. "Anyone can be a re-enactor, but you have to have the heritage to be a SCV," he added.

2012 marks the 150th anniversary of the War Between the States. Included in these wars are the Seven Days Battle and the Battle of Shiloh. Calvin took part in the reenactment of the Battle of Shiloh on April 6-7. It was the bloodiest battle up to that point with over 23,000 casualties.

Calvin is passionate about educating people on the reasons the war began, and in helping people be proud of their heritage. "People now days don't think about history, because they don't think it deals with them directly," Calvin explained. "There are so many reasons this war was fought that kids are not taught in school, like over-taxation and import and export issues. It was really about preventing Southern independence."

He may wish he lived in 1866, but Calvin is making his own history in the present by leaving a legacy to future generations. By keeping history in the forefront, he promotes curiosity and understanding for the future. **NOW**

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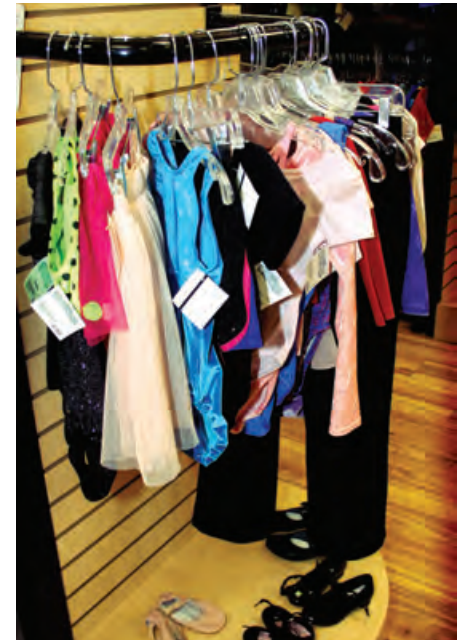


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A PERFECT FIT

Baby lover Pam Denney runs Kid To Kid, where families find resale items for every aspect of child rearing.

— By Melissa Rawlins

Innovation and respect are hallmarks of Kid To Kid, a resale shop where two doors greet shoppers: a solid pink one for short people and a tall glass one for adults. Teachers are coming in for art supplies, games and toys. Moms and children are going out with everything from onesies to school clothes to maternity fashions.

Owner Pam Denney takes pride in Kid To Kid's service to the community. "In our store, we go by the Golden Rule, treating our customers with the utmost respect," Pam said. All equipment available at Kid To Kid is approved by the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission, so the cribs, car seats and other items resold at affordable prices are safe for their new owners.

The clothing is prewashed and inspected by three different individuals before Pam or her employees, Meredith and Emalie, hang it on the racks. Recognizable brands like Gymboree, Justice, Aeropostale and Children's Place are available here, as well as Baby Gap and Old Navy. Kid To Kid rates their resale clothing as good, better, best, demand and exceptional — based on quality and durability.

Kid To Kid sells a lot of boys' clothes. This is part of what drew Pam to open the store. "When I had my son 31 years ago, I learned it's impossible to find cute little boys' clothes. You have to put your boy in a basic Polo shirt with a pair of jeans or Wranglers with a cowboy shirt and boots," Pam said. She once dreamed of opening a shop called It's A Boy, carrying only boy

items. "Now, I own Kid To Kid and sell boys' and girls' items."

Two and one half years ago, Pam opened Kid To Kid, knowing it was the perfect fit for her. She and her husband have 10 grandchildren. "My dad would have been proud because I am a business owner, and I knew it would please my mother that I'd opened a resale shop, plus I've always loved kids," said Pam, who shops in her own store before she leaves work on days when she is going to have her grandkids over.

Customers, too, can find anything they need in Kid To Kid. High shelves and well-organized floor spaces display strollers, bouncers, high chairs, walkers, Pack 'n Plays, changing tables, modern cribs, car seats, toddler beds and brand new toys by Melissa & Doug. Beyond the school-appropriate clothes for Weatherford students, customers can get any and every necessary clothing

"In our store, we go by the Golden Rule, treating our customers with the utmost respect."

for a baby or a child up to size 14, except underwear. "For babies, we have anything except bottles," Pam said. "For mothers-to-be, we sell maternity wear, and after they have the baby we have nursing covers, nursing pillows, nursing bras — pretty much anything other than breast pumps."

Even young ballerinas and tap dancers will find dance gear available at Kid To Kid. When you come in to review the selection of leotards and tutus, Pam will fill your custom order if need be. "I love the customers who come in to Kid To Kid," Pam said. "One day a woman will come in pregnant, then eventually she brings in that little baby who is two days old, and then we get to watch the baby grow up." This provides pure joy for a baby lover like Pam. **NOW**

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Stormy Knight, right, helps Dude Ezel select a cantaloupe from the farmers market.



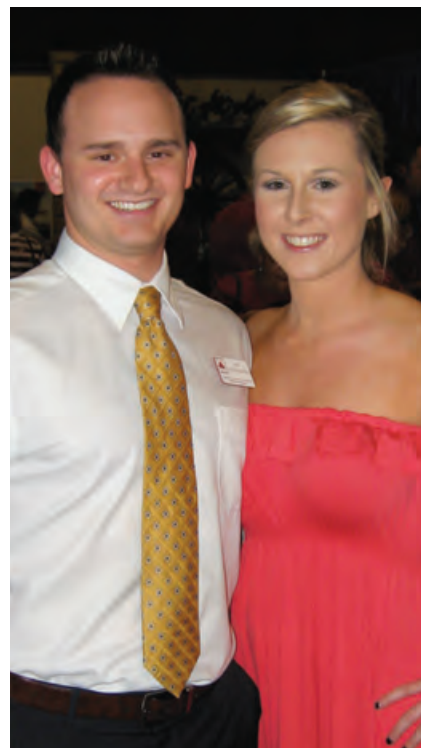
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Katy Keenie takes a break from a Fire Oak Grill gig to hang with her parents, Kathleen and Brian.



Newlyweds, Bob and Courtney Neuenschwander, pose at a fundraiser for Weatherford College.

A vertical advertisement for Texas Auto & Boat Repair. At the top is a white speedboat on water. The text reads: **TEXAS AUTO & BOAT REPAIR**. WHEN YOUR DONE THIS SEASON AT THE LAKE DON'T FORGET TO WINTERIZE YOUR BOAT. ONE DAY AT ZERO WILL DESTROY IT! WINTERIZATION SPECIALS (call for details) **817-594-7575**. At the bottom is a pontoon boat on water. **1506 FT WORTH HWY • WEATHERFORD TX**

A vertical advertisement for Beyond Faith Homecare & Rehab LLC. At the top is the logo with a heart and the text **BEYONDfaith Homecare & Rehab LLC**. Below is a photograph of two hands shaking. The text reads: *Believing That Love Makes the Healing Difference*. Below that is a photograph of a purple car with the company logo on the side. The text lists services: *Nursing • Therapy • Social Workers Home Health Aides* and *Joint Commission Accredited*. At the bottom is the address: **109 Larson Rd. Suite 100 • Aledo, TX 817.441.2747 • Cell 817.771.8368 BeyondFaithHomeCare.com**

A vertical advertisement for Razzle Dazzle. At the top is a yellow banner that says: Mention this ad for **25% OFF** ENTIRE PURCHASE DURING ROAD CONSTRUCTION. Below is a logo with a heart and wings. The text reads: **Razzle Dazzle** "Where Bling is our Thing!" **817.594.1531** 1710 Bethel Rd. • Weatherford, TX (Across from Chicken Express) www.shoprazzledazzle.net. On the right is a photograph of a woman wearing a blue patterned top. At the bottom right is the text: Mon-Sat 10am-6pm and a Facebook icon.

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- *Taxes* — If you take the lump sum and roll the funds into your IRA, you control how much you'll be taxed and when, based on the amounts you choose to withdraw and the date you begin taking withdrawals. (Keep in mind, though, that you must start taking a designated minimum amount of withdrawals from a traditional IRA when you reach age 70 1/2. Withdrawals taken before age 59 1/2 are subject to taxes and penalties.) But if you take a pension, you may have less control over your income taxes, which will be based on your monthly payments.

- *Inflation* — You could easily spend two or three decades in retirement, and during that time, inflation can really add up. To cite just one example, the average cost of a new car was \$7,983 in 1982; 30 years later, that figure is \$30,748, according to TrueCar.com. If your pension checks aren't indexed for inflation, they will lose purchasing power over time. If you rolled over your lump sum into an IRA, however, you could

put the money into investments offering growth potential, keeping in mind, of course, that there are no guarantees.

- *Cash flow* — If you're already receiving a monthly pension, and you're spending every dollar you receive just to meet your living expenses, you may be better off by keeping your pension payments intact. If you took the lump sum and converted it into an IRA, you can withdraw whatever amount you want (as long as you meet the required minimum distributions), but you'll have to avoid withdrawing so much that you'll eventually run out of money.

- *Confidence in future pension payments* — From time to time, companies are forced to reduce their pension obligations due to unforeseen circumstances. You may want to take this into account as you decide whether to continue taking your monthly pension payments, but it's an issue over which you have no control. On the other hand, once your lump sum is in an IRA, you have control over both the quality and diversification of your investment dollars. However, the trade-off is that investing is subject to various risks, including loss of principal.

Before selecting either the lump sum or the monthly pension payments, weigh all the factors carefully to make sure your decision fits into your overall financial strategy. With a choice of this importance, you will probably want to consult with your financial and tax advisors. Ultimately, you may find that this type of offer presents you with a great opportunity — so take the time to consider your options. **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.

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Calendar

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September 6

Chocolate Walk: 5:00-8:00 p.m., Historic Downtown Weatherford. More than a dozen merchants open their stores with chocolate samples and wine to enjoy while you shop into the night! Call (817) 304-5946.

The Bag Lady Luncheon: 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Parker County Sheriff's Posse Arena, 2251 Mineral Wells Highway. Luncheon and designer handbag auction benefits Parker County Committee on Aging. Tickets: \$30. Call (817) 596-4640 or e-mail pccoaa@swbell.net.

September 8

Snow Garrett Williams 9th Annual Food Drive for Center of Hope of Parker County: 10:00 a.m.-noon, Walmart Supercenter, 1836 S. Main St. In Aledo: (817) 441-2442 or in Weatherford: (817) 594-0266 or visit www.centerofhopetx.com.

Landscaping with Native and Adapted Plants: 10:00 a.m.-noon, Parker County Extension Office, 604 N. Main Street. Questions can be addressed to a Master Gardener at (817) 598-6096.

September 13

Parker County Gardeners' Club meeting: 10:00

a.m., St. Francis Church, 117 Ranch House Road, Willow Park. The public is welcome to hear Homer Babbit share his vast knowledge of rain barrels. Call (817) 919-6280.

PCSP Ranch Rodeo Parade: 6:00-7:00 p.m., North of Ninth Grade Center up North Main Street, then left on Lee Street to Cherry Park.

September 14-15

PCSP Ranch Rodeo: 7:30-10:00 p.m., Parker County Sheriff's Posse Arena, 2251 Mineral Wells Highway. On Friday, eight teams perform in events. On Saturday, the top eight ranch teams compete for the win. For Saturday daytime schedule, visit www.parkercountysheriffsposse.com/pages/Ranch-Rodeo.

September 15

11th Annual Freedom House Garden Safari: 6:30-9:30 p.m., Clark Gardens, 567 Maddux Road. Proceeds help pay the \$240,000 mortgage on the building used by Freedom House, which seeks to end abuse and violence through prevention and intervention. Tickets start at \$60. Please call (817) 596-7543 or visit www.freedomhousepc.org.

September 20

Celebration for Education: 6:00-10:00 p.m., Doss

Heritage and Cultural Center, 1400 Texas Drive. Boo Ray's caters this scholarship fundraiser dinner for Weatherford College. Contact Taylor Ray at taylorray1@gmail.com.

September 21-22

The Joy of Quilting: Friday: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Saturday: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Sheriff's Posse Rodeo Grounds Building, 2251 Mineral Wells Hwy. Quilter's Guild of Parker County annual judged quilt show. Admission: \$5. Contact Andrea Killius at (817) 441-2471 or (817) 304-5681 or bobandreak@hotmail.com.

September 22

United Way of Parker County's 2nd Annual Bike Ride benefiting local partner agencies: 6:15 a.m., Sheriff's Posse Rodeo Grounds Building, 2251 Mineral Wells Hwy. For information, e-mail kcherryhomes@vcslaw.com or visit www.rideunitedparkercounty.com.

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



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In The Kitchen With Mary Jackson

— *By Melissa Rawlins*

Mary Jackson learned early in life that it is more fun and more economical to eat at home. Entertaining was second nature. When she cooked, her friends showed up to eat. She still has fun sharing meals. Mary loves experimenting with spices and unusual recipes, as well as talking to other cooks and sharing recipes, shortcuts and cooking tips. As cooler weather approaches, she is preparing savory meals and cookies for her family, including her husband and two grown boys and their friends. She likes to make sure everyone gets a balanced meal. “But my best efforts are in my breads and desserts,” Mary said. “I enjoy topping my meal off with something sweet that triggers even more endorphins — the kind that make you think you are in love.” **NOW**

Acorn Squash and Chicken

- 1 acorn squash**
- 2 tsp. butter**
- 2 Tbsp. honey or brown sugar**
- 2 chicken breasts**
- 1 tsp. Cajun seasoning**

- 1.** Cut acorn squash in half and clean out seeds. In each half put 1 tsp. butter and 1 Tbsp. honey.
- 2.** Season the chicken with Cajun seasoning.
- 3.** Place meat inside squash. Wrap in foil and bake at 425 F for 1-1/2 hours or until squash is done.
- 4.** Serve with salad.

Pork Chops with Apples and Stuffing

- 6 boneless pork loin chops (about 1 inch thick)**
- 1 Tbsp. vegetable oil**
- 1 6-oz. pkg. cornbread stuffing mix, crushed**
- 1 21-oz. can apple pie filling with cinnamon**

2 apples, sliced

- 1.** In skillet, brown pork chops in oil over medium high heat.
- 2.** Prepare stuffing according to package directions.
- 3.** Mix apple slices with pie filling and spread in greased 9x13-inch baking dish. Place pork chops on top; spoon stuffing over chops. Cover and bake at 350 F for 35 minutes. Uncover. Bake 10 minutes longer or until meat thermometer reads 160 F.

Sloppy Joe Pizza

- 1 lb. ground beef**
- 3/4 cup frozen corn, thawed**
- 3/4 cup barbecue sauce**
- 1/2 cup sliced green onions**
- 1 large 12" Pizza Crust**
- 1-1/2 cups or 6 oz. shredded Co-Jack cheese**

- 1.** Heat oven to 425 F.
- 2.** In large skillet, brown ground beef over medium heat until no longer pink, stirring occasionally. Pour off drippings.
- 3.** Stir in corn, barbecue sauce and onions.

Heat through.

4. Place crust on baking sheet or pizza pan. Spoon beef mixture over top. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake 12-15 minutes or until cheese melts.

5. Cut into 8 wedges and serve with a salad.

Chippy Chocolate Cookies

- 2 pkgs. chocolate cake mix**
- 5 eggs**
- 2/3 cups canola oil**
- 1 tsp. cinnamon**
- 1 10 to 12-oz. pkg. vanilla, white or peanut butter chips**
- 1 cup pecans or walnuts, chopped (optional)**

- 1.** In large bowl, beat the cake mixes, eggs and oil.
- 2.** Stir in chips and nuts.
- 3.** Drop by rounded tablespoonfuls, 2 inches apart, onto ungreased baking sheet. Bake at 350 F for 10-13 minutes or until set and tops are slightly cracked.
- 4.** Cool for 2 minutes before removing to wire racks to cool.

Margarita Cake

- 1 pkg. yellow cake mix, without pudding**
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine, softened**
- 3 eggs**
- 1 envelope Margarita Powdered Cocktail mix**
- 1/2 cup orange juice**
- 1/4 cup orange liqueur**
- 1/4 cup tequilla**

Kahlua Glaze

- 1 Tbsp. milk**
- 1 tsp. butter**
- 1 cup confectioners sugar, sifted**
- 1 Tbsp. Kahlua coffee liqueur or strong coffee**

- 1.** Combine all cake ingredients and beat for 4 minutes at medium speed.
- 2.** Bake in greased and floured 12-cup Bundt pan at 350 F for 40-50 minutes or until cake tests done.
- 3.** Cool in pan for 10 to 15 minutes. Turn out on wire rack or serving plate to finish cooling.
- 4.** To prepare glaze, heat milk with butter and then pour over sugar. Add coffee or liqueur; mix until smooth. If too thick, add a few drops of milk.
- 5.** Pour glaze over cake and enjoy!

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