

PARKER COUNTY

LIFE

Style

Vol. IV 2018



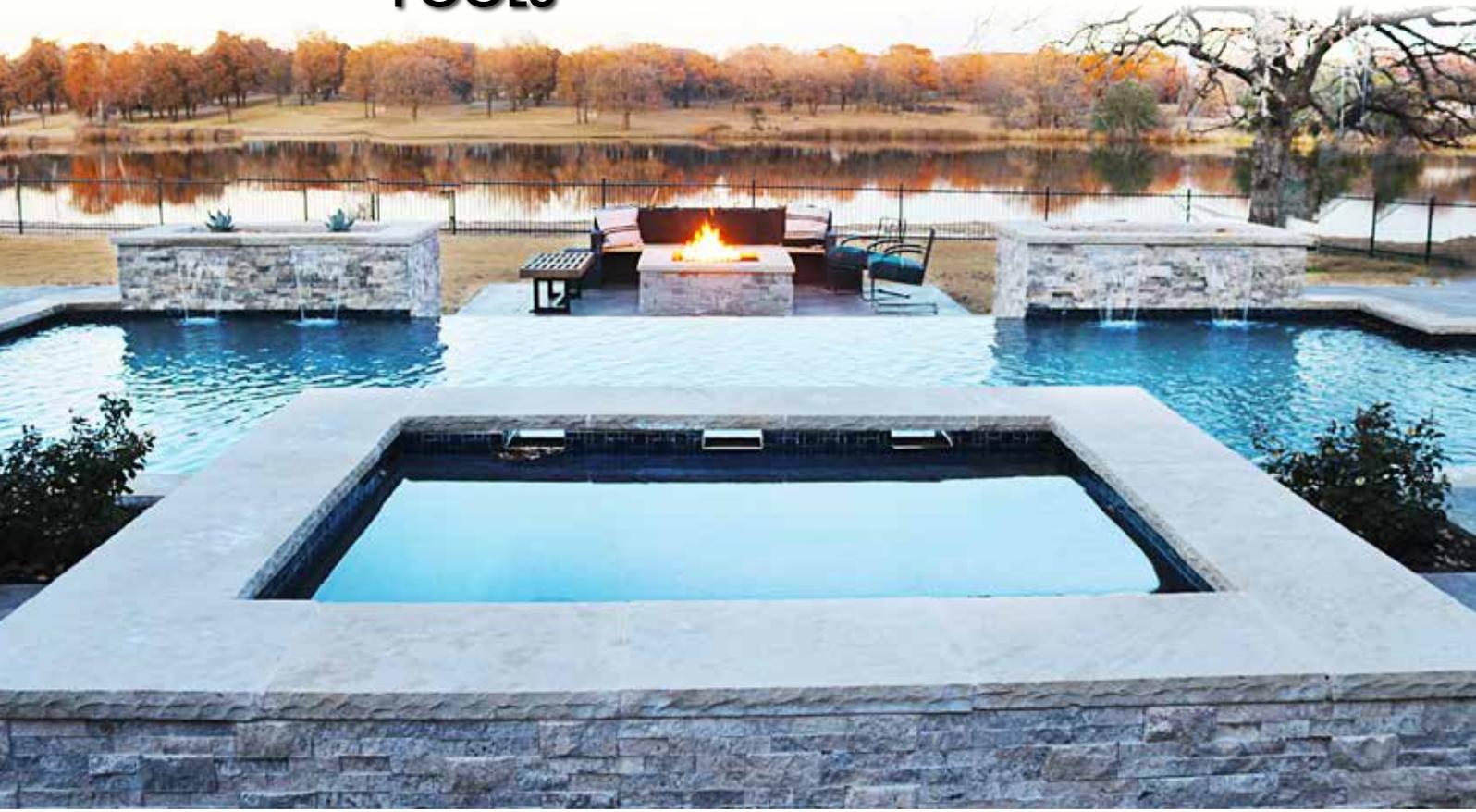
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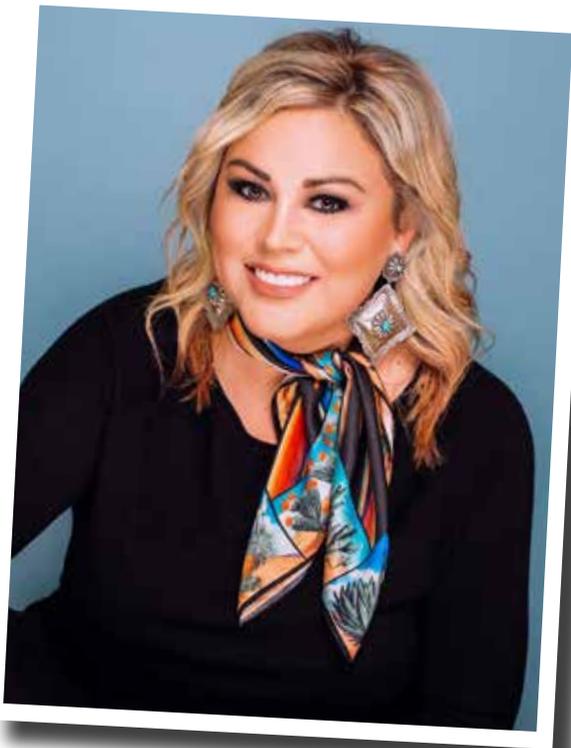
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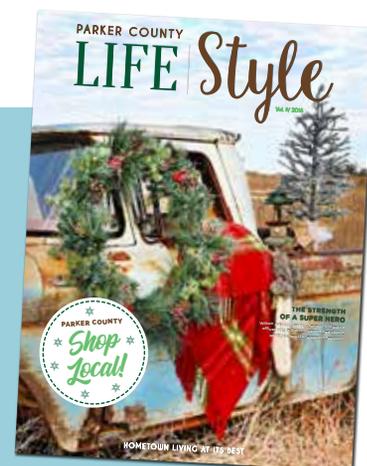
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Cover photo is a seasonal photo by Lindsey Sullivan Photography. RedFin Publications wants to wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.





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Hello!



The holidays are finally here and we feel the love! We are definitely excited to celebrate the holidays in Parker County with our family and church, friends and community. More importantly we are happy to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ and to love on one another. Love comes from God. We encourage you friends to love those who need it this season and every season after. This world, our community, our families, could all use a little extra dose of love right now. Fortunately for us, we get to meet and share the stories of individuals who are actively loving people where they are. Parker County is a little merrier and a little brighter because of them.

If you are looking for the perfect gift for that special someone, you will find lots of options in our local shopping guide, Parker County, Shop Local! You can also think of some new ways to rekindle old holiday traditions or ideas to create new ones, as well as some tips and pointers for traveling during the holiday season!

Learn some local history when you read about Davis City Pharmacy, which has been offering its services to Parker County for almost 100 years. Prince Memorial CME Church has been a part of Weatherford even longer -since 1867! Read about the renovations to the exterior of the church and find out how you can help the effort.

Finally, you can have your heart warmed by reading about one of our own local superheroes, Wilson Adams, an 11-year-old from Aledo who is showing strength through his fight against cancer and honoring his support from the local community.

We want to thank our advertisers for making this publication possible and free to the community! Help us express our gratitude this holiday season by shopping local and visiting their establishments to pick up your complimentary copy.

This publication is about you! Please feel free to email us your events to add to our spring calendar, photos of your events to add to our Hometown Happenings, or any stories you would like to read in the next issue. We would love to hear from you!

The entire staff at RedFin Publishing would like to wish each and every one of you, along with all your friends and relatives, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Thank you for supporting our publication.

Justin and Hayley Six Kyle and Halsey Clark

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men." Luke 2:14

 **PARKER COUNTY LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE**

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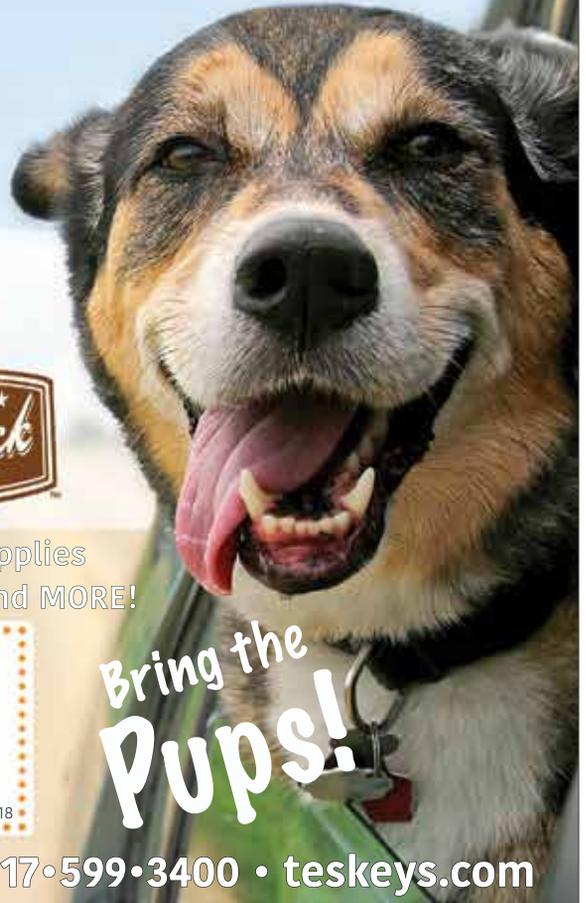
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THE STRENGTH OF A

SUPER HERO

BY LINDSAY ALLEN

PHOTOS BY PEACE, LOVE AND REALTY PRODUCTIONS
AND PROVIDED BY THE ADAMS FAMILY

**WILSON ADAMS IS AN ELEVEN-YEAR-
OLD POLICE OFFICER WHO IS FIGHTING
CANCER AND ALWAYS ON THE LOOKOUT
FOR A SUPER HERO STORY.**

There is strength in numbers. Strength, which is on full display in one eleven-year-old boy and his family from Aledo, is what the community is holding on to through faith for healing and a home for this family. Through Wilson's Warriors, many in the community are joining together to pray for the Adams family who have had their fair share of loss and grief.



Their story of loss began when Daniel, the sole provider of the family and loving husband and father, had to quit work to battle a genetic liver disease. While Daniel headed to the hospital, Tamela headed to work to provide for the family. Unfortunately, with the hospital bills from Daniel's two-year battle and his inability to work, the family finances, savings and retirement were exhausted and the family home was sold and the Adams family then moved into a rental. In September 2017, Daniel headed to Heaven to be with his Savior and Tamela was left to raise their three children. While they were focusing on grieving and healing, Wilson began to show signs of random vomiting and fatigue.

After losing his speech and balance, Wilson was rushed to the hospital, for the first of many trips to come. A brain tumor the size of a lemon was found at the base of his skull at 3:00 a.m. on May 18, 2018--just months after his father had passed.

"To have such a huge and scary diagnosis for Wilson, so close on the heels of losing the cornerstone of our family, is so hard. We were still grieving the loss of Daniel and trying to carve out our 'new normal' when our world flipped upside down again," Tamela recalled.

Wilson, who loves a good crime-fighting story, has fought his own circumstances with an unbelievable amount of strength and maturity. So much so that the Weatherford Police Department (WPD) took notice and needed Wilson's strength and encouragement on their team and named him an honorary junior police officer. The title came with a full police uniform and gear and even a ride in a police car to his first chemotherapy treatment.

"The officers of the WPD have become his friends, calling to talk to him and check on him, even providing meals to our family during chemotherapy. They are a huge blessing and to see how they have taken my son under their wings and made his dreams come true means the world to me!" Tamela said. "To see him stand as tall as he could, with pride and respect, while he was being sworn in was one of the most memorable days of my life. To pin his badge on his uniform in front of everyone was one of the biggest joys of my life. I pray he is able to reach every goal and dream in his life, despite his struggles. I see this as just the first of many achieved goals."

For Wilson, he recalls the day as "awesome" and said, "It was one of my proudest moments."





"THE OFFICERS OF THE WPD HAVE BECOME HIS FRIENDS, CALLING TO TALK TO HIM AND CHECK ON HIM, EVEN PROVIDING MEALS TO OUR FAMILY DURING CHEMOTHERAPY. THEY ARE A HUGE BLESSING AND TO SEE HOW THEY HAVE TAKEN MY SON UNDER THEIR WINGS AND MADE HIS DREAMS COME TRUE MEANS THE WORLD TO ME!"

-TAMELA ADAMS



Rob Helms, a volunteer mentor with Aledo ISD Connections Mentoring Program, began meeting with Wilson the month after Daniel passed away and said, "There are many things about Wilson that I love, but what has become my favorite is his strength. Over the last six months as he has fought this fight against brain cancer, he has shown a strength that would rival any of the super-powers possessed by his favorite super heroes. He is also incredibly brave as he has embraced all of his different treatments with a shocking level of maturity. Beyond strength and bravery, Wilson is a sweet soul, an artist who sees things that I cannot see and so I learn from him constantly."

As Tamela said, Wilson is dealing with two separate monsters--one being brain surgery and recovery and the other, cancer treatment. "They are both huge battles, but Wilson has held up with a strength that rivals any other. It's a hard fight, but he's harder and tougher," she said.

When Wilson's diagnosis came in May, a rigorous treatment schedule came with it that forced Tamela to quit her job and increased the financial stress in the home. Wilson's treatment and recovery will take between 9-12 months and began with radiation five days a week for six weeks. Now that his radiation is complete, Wilson will check into the hospital for five days every month to receive chemotherapy for roughly 9 months. In between these monthly stays in the hospital are clinic visits to run tests and measure the effects of the treatments and therapies.

Wilson is currently in his third round of chemotherapy, and all the while is continuing his physical, occupational, speech, low vision and mobility therapies. He is also unable to attend school this year and has a homebound teacher tutoring him at home.

“The hardest part is driving to and from the hospital. It’s a long drive and makes me sick and it also means I’m headed to more stuff that isn’t fun at the hospital. I try to remember it’s one step closer to getting better though,” Wilson said.

When you ask Tamela what the hardest part of this journey is, it’s watching her child suffer physically, emotionally and mentally day after day and not being able to make it all better for him. On top of that, her best friend, her rock and strength, Daniel, is not there to lean on. “To hold Wilson while another painful treatment is being administered and wipe his tears when he doesn’t want to have another scary procedure is hard. On top of that, I’m trying to be there for my other kids who are scared, hurting and worried sick about Wilson. Their world is upside down as well,” Tamela continued, “We are all battling cancer together, while still grieving Daniel.”



OUR FAMILY HAS LEARNED SO MUCH, LIKE THE FACT THAT LIGHTENING CAN STRIKE TWICE. BUT WE HAVE ALSO LEARNED THAT WE ARE LOVED, SUPPORTED AND CARED FOR AND THAT OUR GOD IS SO MUCH BIGGER THEN WE HAVE EVER IMAGINED.





HOW TO HELP

- Pray for the family as they grieve Daniel's loss and fight Wilson's diagnosis
- Visit Wilsonswarriors.org to learn more about the home building needs
- Donate to Wilson's Warriors at GoFundMe
- Send patches (kid friendly) of any type to Wilson to let him know the community is with him. Please send patches to P.O. Box 97 Aledo, Texas 76008



As Wilson puts up his fight and Tamela focuses on caring for him and raising all three kids, the needs have become great. "The first, and most important thing, that can be done to help Wilson and his family is to pray for them," Rob said, acknowledging the power in mass prayer, "Additionally, we are trying to build the Adams family a home. This requires cash, labor and building material." It will be a home equipped to meet the physical needs Wilson now has as he recovers and learns to deal with some of his more permanent disabilities, like loss of sight.

"Most importantly, the prayers, support and love from our community and neighbors is what gets us through and we wouldn't be able to make it without them; your prayers mean

the world to us. The kids' school staff have stepped up and loved on my kids and helped us in so many ways in our day-to-day life. They have gone the extra mile for us and we are thankful for that," Tamela shared, "Our family has learned so much, like the fact that lightning can strike twice. But we have also learned that we are loved, supported and cared for and that our God is so much bigger than we have ever imagined. We have learned to lean on each other more, share with each other and hold each other with grace. We have learned to put hope above any fears and doubts and that we are a lot stronger than we ever imagined we could be."

To follow Wilson's story visit Wilson's Warriors Facebook page and Wilsonswarriors.org. † PCLS



WHO IS WILSON

Wilson is an 11-year-old from Aledo and an honorary junior police officer with the Weatherford Police Department. Wilson loves super heroes, Marvel movies, making up stories, comic books and his Elvis and Chris LeDoux.

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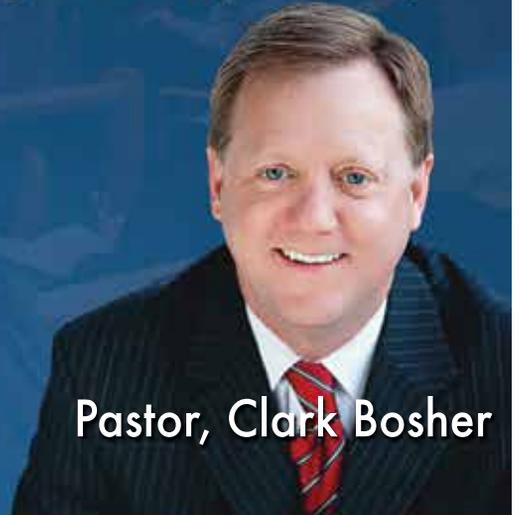
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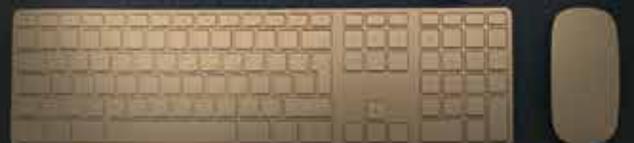
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THIS YEAR, INSTEAD OF TACKLING THE BIG RESOLUTIONS,
WHY NOT FOCUS ON THE TINY ONES?

"I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in their toil - this is the gift of God."

ECCLESIASTES 3:12-13

BY ERICA WILLIS | BELIEVEBOLDLY.COM

Crisp, clean sheets that smell of cotton and sunshine are one of the most cherished memories of my childhood. The cool touch of freshly laundered lightweight fabric as I climbed into bed communicated love and care to my little heart. I would lay pressed against the mattress, low enough to balloon the sheet high above and watch it float down around me, a fortress of sorts. Because my mother was a diligent housekeeper, we had our bedding changed every two weeks and I loved laundry day.

The smell of clean sheets as I make the beds of my own children still takes me back to the small, seemingly insignificant moments of my childhood. A song before bed; the long curtains opened at sunrise; laughing around a dinner table. It's these everyday habits that, when strung together like Christmas lights, shine to tell the story of families across the world. As an adult, it's late night talks in the kitchen, early morning prayer, and hot coffee on the back porch. While the patterns have changed as I have grown, the heart behind it has not. My actions every day tell others a story of what is good and valuable and holy to me.

What about you? What do your actions, your everyday patterns, say about you?

A heart can easily feel underwhelmed by its daily responsibilities. A lunch made here; kids to soccer practice there—does any of it add up to a fulfilling life? Does it pass down a legacy of hard work and faith to the generations that will follow? Or do we dismiss the little moments that matter in exchange for the accolades of a watching society? If it isn't seen by anyone but our loved ones, is that enough for us?

King Solomon understood it best. "I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in their toil—this is the gift of God." Ecclesiastes 3:12-13.

While our life's purpose is to serve God, we are also called to live out our days with passion and integrity. We have permission to take pride in our work, to play hard, and believe in the power of children who are well-raised and husbands that are well-loved. The little things of life- a hug on the way out the door or fresh sheets on a bed- can shape your family. And here's the shocker-

You will find it shapes you, too.

This year, instead of tackling the big resolutions, why not focus on the tiny ones? Change the way you spend the free moments in the car by not looking at your phone. Re-imagine your morning routine. Create patterns that bring life and peace to your heart rather than fill your schedule because, ultimately, a lot of littles add up to a big...

And everyone deserves clean sheets.

- Erica



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Experience His Story

THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM BRINGS JESUS' BIRTH TO LIFE

By Erin E. McEndree

Photos provided by Capernaum First Century Village

Imagine walking on the dusty streets of Bethlehem during the time Jesus was born as you become fully immersed in the search for the baby in a manger. Follow along with the guides as they direct the shepherds to follow the star. Listen as the shepherds experience fear that gives way to excitement and anticipation for their Messiah. Get lost in the search in a time long ago and walk among the authentic Biblical characters who emerge in the Christmas season. Feel every emotion and build up to the discovery of the infant wrapped in swaddling clothes.

Tammy Lane uses all five senses so visitors become fully involved in the story and witness the events firsthand. Tammy has created an interactive Biblical experience beyond the imagination. Tammy's passion for each project at Capernaum Village is to jumpstart people's faith and cause change.



Capernaum Village hosts The Star of Bethlehem Experience on December 21st and 22nd, 2018. It is a quest through the village to find where baby Jesus was born. With the help of shepherds, visitors are guided to find the newborn Savior. The grounds are lit up with thousands of twinkling lights that direct onlookers through Biblical themed gardens including the Garden of Eden, the Ark, Jesus on the cross and much more.

The story of the candy cane, as it relates to Christ, is a favorite with the children this time of year. They can ride the tram through Candy Cane Lane where red and white donned candy makers and helpers sing and dance.

Before God gave Tammy the vision to create Capernaum Village, she discovered her passion. "I didn't even think I had any talents," Tammy said. "But, I knew I wanted to serve and be in ministry." Tammy prayed for guidance and began feeling inspired to make videos. She had a vision for seven Biblical productions. "I told my husband what I was doing and bought one of those big video cameras," Tammy said. "He thought I was crazy, but I learned to persist without exception."

Tammy made a music video first and used friends and family to help. Her congregation played them where she attended and that encouraged and inspired Tammy. Soon, she became the director of the drama team at her congregation where she created live productions. "It is important to me to be historically accurate," Tammy said. She has spent time reading ancient journals from actual people who were there during that time period to be as precise as possible.

"I know the Lord was preparing me for larger productions the whole time," Tammy said. She built the whole Biblical set in studio, but after each one, it had to be struck and packed away. "I knew there had to be a better way. I wanted to keep the sets permanently erected," Tammy said. Her dad, Bobby Cox, donated 39 acres of land and a large house to Tammy north of Peaster. It was the perfect place for Tammy's vision and ministry to take shape. Capernaum Village began in 2005 with the Upper Room as the first building that replicated where the Last Supper took place.



In 2007, a larger than life statue of Adam and Eve was donated to Tammy for the gardens. Thirteen majestic statues from Korean sculpture Yon Sim Pak have made their way to the village depicting Biblical events, including Moses with the Ten Commandments, Mary holding Jesus' body and the Crucifixion and the Lion of Judah. "An inspirational place to sit and reflect is under the enormous cross with Jesus," Tammy said. "This statue is the only one in perfect condition. All the others have cracks. I do not believe that is a coincidence." Close by, the tomb has been newly constructed with hydraulics to make the large stone roll away where visitors may experience the empty chamber.

Tammy's vision for the self-guided garden tour was brought to life by creative director, Nathan Myers. On the walking path, visitors experience Noah's Ark and the parting of the Red Sea to name a few. There is also a busy marketplace and the path of all ten plagues. Recently, new walkways and steps were created to help visitors safely navigate the journey lined with scripture.

There are so many people who come together to make the productions successful. Melissa Tipton, the Marketing Director, is also passionate about the vision Tammy started. "We have a small staff who come alongside Tammy in every aspect such as technical, props, maintenance, landscaping, staging and marketing," Melissa said. "Our mission is Kingdom work and we all want to bring Tammy's vision to fruition." There are also many volunteers that help behind the scenes at each production. Many make it a family affair. "We always need more volunteers," Melissa said. "They are incredible."



TAMMY LANE PRODUCES ONE-OF-A-KIND EXPERIENCES WHERE THE AUDIENCE IS MORE THAN ONLOOKERS; THEY ARE INTERACTIVE PARTICIPANTS WHO WALK IN A FIRST CENTURY VILLAGE EXPERIENCING THE BIBLE AS CHARACTERS.



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There are about a hundred actors needed for each of the four experiences. “About 75% of the actors return each time. We hold auditions regularly for participants interested,” Tammy said. “The actors come from all over. Some are even from Oklahoma. We need men the most.”

The actors rehearse five or six times before the event on Sunday afternoons. Tammy turned the home on the property into the Retreat Center where the actors can stay during rehearsals. It sleeps 36 or more and has luxurious single and bunk beds a full kitchen and media room.

The Retreat Center is available for any type of group or conference. The Pavilion is available and equipped with a full kitchen. Groups can rent all the property or part. Production crews often rent the grounds, props and costumes to video feature films.

In October the whole village was bustling as Tammy rolled out the red carpet for her newest production: The Crimson Experience. This life-changing immersion experience starts in the Capernaum Theater to witness the accusations against Jesus. Then visitors are immersed into

the crowd as they follow Jesus trudging towards the cross. The light show that follows Jesus’ resurrection at the tomb is a one-of-a-kind experience that deepens faith in the One who gave it all.

For its debut, the Crimson Experience was featured alongside the Apocalypse Experience. “It is like a haunted house alternative,” Tammy said. “It shows a godless society and the consequences. Satan’s lair and a cemetery are depicted.” Again, for Easter, the village is open for the Passover Experience.

People are moved who walk through the experiences at Capernaum Village no matter the season. “Believers are intensified,” Tammy said. “Baptisms have also occurred in the Resurrection Pond.”

“Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas Night,” like Frank Sinatra suggests. Gather those who are dear to you, close to you for an immersion experience to reignite faith and belief in Christ.

For more information and tickets, go to www.capernaumvillage.com † PCLS

TAMMY LANE USES ALL FIVE SENSES SO VISITORS BECOME FULLY INVOLVED IN THE STORY AND WITNESS THE EVENTS FIRSTHAND





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REAL ESTATE GROUP



Our mission at Tara Stark Real Estate Group is “To make a difference by providing the highest quality real estate experience possible with professional results through honesty and integrity.”

Through years of advocating for her clients, Tara Stark walked them through many transitions; as one chapter closed, Stark equipped them for their new calling. Her expertise fueled repeat referrals, growing her business to a level that created an opportunity to build her business with like-minded professionals. With Stark’s business acumen and diligence to high standards, she skillfully built a team, the Tara Stark Real Estate Group. Together, they embody the perfect alignment of mission, vision and values that is client-focused.

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It’s not the awards or numbers that drive us, it’s the achievement of your goals and dreams, that define success.

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GREENWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH ONE STEP REVIVAL

Greenwood Baptist Church held One Step Revival from August 26-29, with visiting Pastor Ronnie Hill. They served 7 schools in outreach ministries, hosted a pizza party for all elementary students in attendance on the first night, held drawings for trips to Disney and CASH!

During the 4-evening event, 149 people were brought to salvation, 83 were baptized, and there were over 1100 people in attendance on the highest evening!

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God." Ephesians 2:8

Photos provided by Lindsey Sullivan Photography

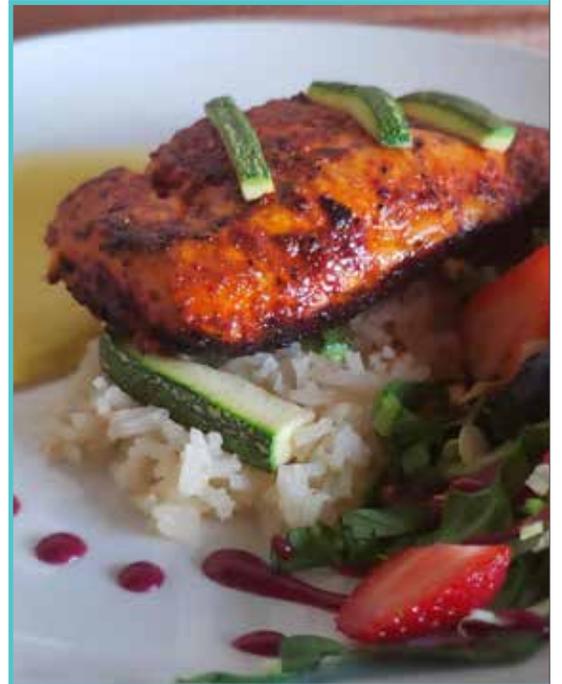




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Specializing in custom builds and tailor-made spec homes, Eduardo and Jaimee pride themselves and attribute success to excellent customer service and top of the line quality work. Eduardo's experience in concrete work, plumbing, and years of project management has been a driving force to ensure AK Custom Homes has the knowledge

to build exceptional homes. Clients can rest assure their home will receive detailed construction that is complete in a proficient and timely manner.

Jaimee utilizes her background in finance to keep their builds budget-conscious, while at the same time using her design style to create beautiful, modern-farmhouse style homes. Jaimee's intuition and attention to detail bring homes to life with exquisite shiplap, sprawling open-space kitchens, and impressive intimate living areas.

This husband and wife team have a passion for this industry and it comes alive as they build every home. That same passion also pours out as they build personal relationships with their clients, contractors, and the community.

Start to finish, Eduardo and Jaimee make sure the road to your new home is an incredible experience. Their recent growth and expansion is a direct reflection of their hands-on partnerships, ensuring total client satisfaction every step of the way. This dynamic duo are also proud residents of Parker County and have two beautiful 8-year-old twins, Aiden and Khloee. As a family, they have created a phenomenal success in AK Custom Homes.

If you are looking for a local, family-owned builder who will take your dreams and turn them to reality, let AK Custom Homes become your partner and turn that house into a home!

Entrepreneur Spotlight

Jodi Hendrickson



By Johnna Thomasson

Photos by Lindsey Sullivan Photography and provided by Brandie Mustian and Emily McCartney Photography

*W*ith every new sunrise it is impossible to know what the day will bring. It is even more of a mystery the chain of events that follow. However, when an individual finds themselves at the beginning of a new path, they are able to turn around and recognize that not only are they at the beginning of a new journey, but they are simultaneously reaching the end of a journey they had not realized they were on. They are then able to accurately pinpoint every event that had led them to this point.

With the motto “Stick your neck out and tie one on!” each scarf is not only 100% silk and custom-designed by Jodi herself, but serves as a great reminder the importance of being bold.



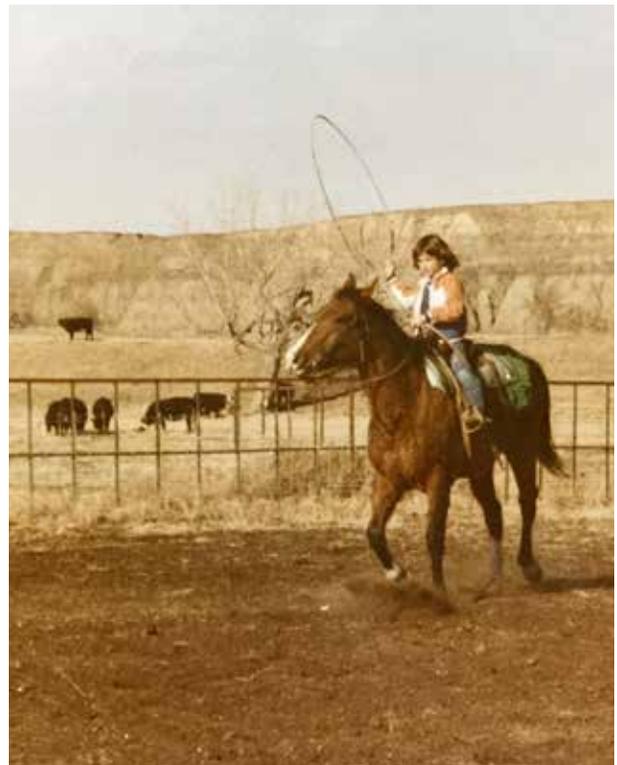


Nine years ago, Brock local Jodi Hendrickson had been working in a career she loved. While working as publisher for a group of western and fashion magazines under the Western Horseman brand, a job title she had carried for ten years, Jodi was completely unaware of the path God would soon present her with.

In 2008, Jodi was diagnosed with Lyme Disease. Affecting approximately 30,000 a year, this disease can take a major toll on an individual; physically, mentally, and emotionally...even death. Although spending the first few years balancing work, home, and her new health status, Jodi eventually was unable to work. She spent the next eight years learning everything she could about the disease and fighting her illness while trying to manage her home life.

In the back of her mind, Jodi never lost her passion to re-launch her career. As she grew stronger, in June of 2018, Jodi decided to embark on an idea she had been carrying around for years—her own silk scarf line! Aware that this was a venture with a staff of one, herself, and the minimal space she had to work with, she decided scarves were the best starting point.

“I needed something that fit my lifestyle,” she explains. Establishing Fringe Scarves, Jodi knew that she didn’t



want to just make something that looked good, she wanted each piece to carry meaning. With the motto of “Stick your neck out and tie one on!”, each scarf is not only 100% silk and custom designed by Jodi herself, but they serve as a great reminder of the importance of being bold.

Jodi and her husband of 15 years, Rob, are the parents of two girls; Ollie, age 13 and Scout, age 11. Being blessed with the opportunity to start something from the ground up and to have her daughters there to help, watch, and learn as it grows, makes Jodi especially grateful. It gives her the ability to teach her daughters that individuality is special, hard work is respected, and despite any illness, limited space, or obstacle presented, sometimes it is worth the risk of “sticking your neck out there.”

Currently managing 10-hour work days, Jodi says that just in the few short months of establishment, Fringe Scarves has exceeded her expectations! Slowly

beginning to add accessories to her line, like her new Silk Sliderz, Jodi is always tossing around many ideas in her head to further her new business. However, understanding that patience is the key to any successful business, she is choosing to wait until after the

first of the year to take on a few new opportunities that she has been presented with.

Although you can find these scarves in a few fine retail stores like the Maverick

Fine Western Wear located at the Fort Worth Stockyards, they can primarily be found at FringeScarves.com. She will also be in a handful of locations at the NFR this December. Fringe Scarves is the perfect way to express everyone’s individual personality with a pattern and a message unique to their customers! Believing that fashion can also be communicative, Jodi Hendrickson “Stuck her neck out and tied one on” in hopes to give each individual the chance to as well. † PCLS

"I needed something that fit my lifestyle."

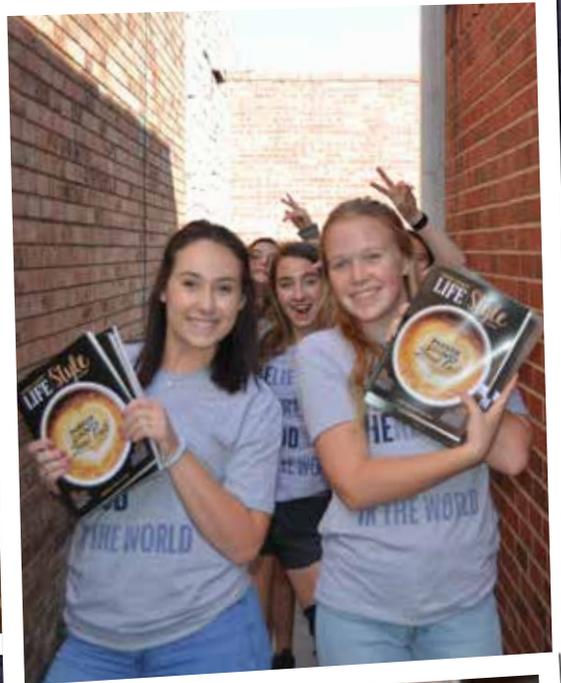




WCS DELIVERY SERVICE PROJECT

Parker County Life|Style Magazine would like to thank Weatherford Christian Schools for partnering with us for a community service project. They have taken time to spread the word by helping to deliver our magazines to local businesses around Weatherford. If you see a WCS student, make sure to say thank you from us!

Photos provided by Weatherford Christian School







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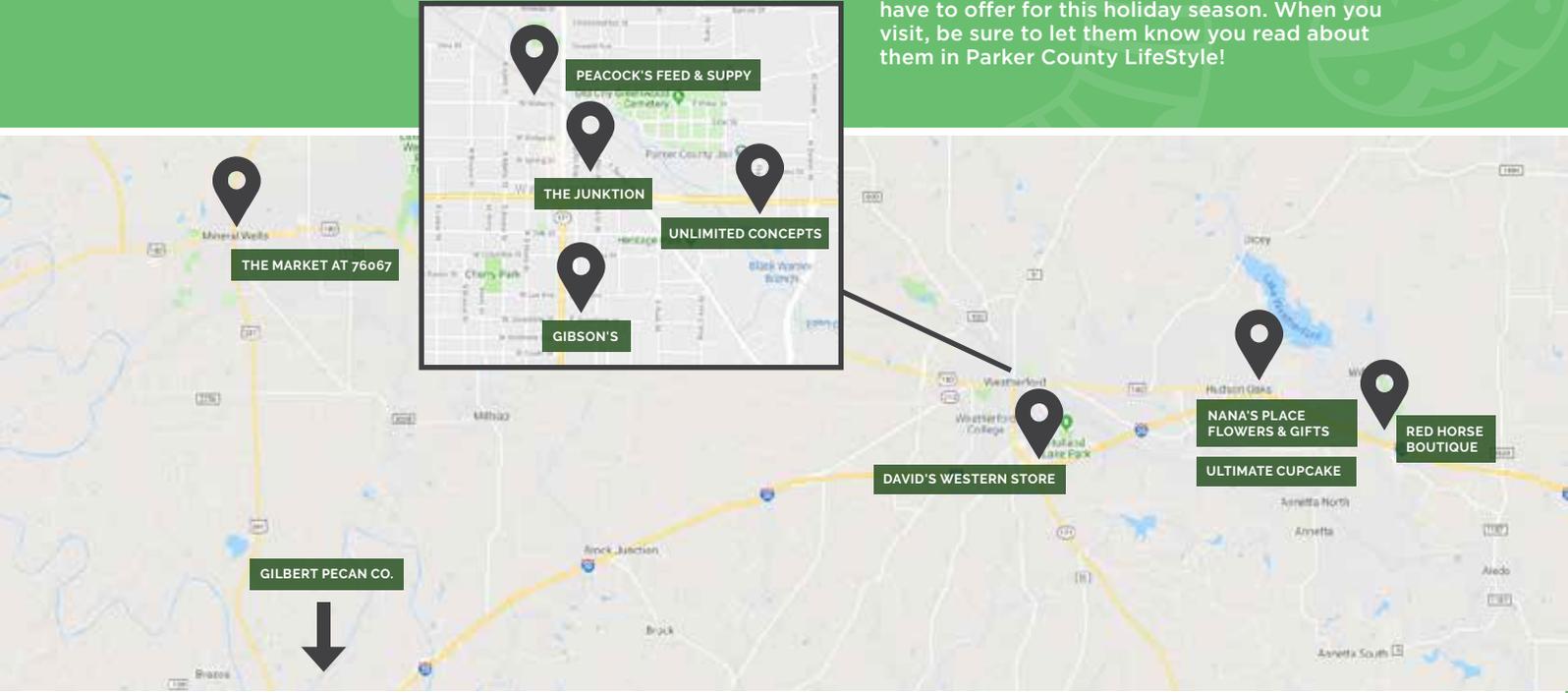
PARKER COUNTY

Shop Local!

PHOTOS BY LINDSEY SULLIVAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Living just outside the vast DFW area, Parker County residents have endless options for visiting any big-name store and retail outlet you can imagine. Locally-owned and operated businesses get a highlight in our local shopping guide, leading you to even more, personal options for gift-giving this season!

Take a few minutes to visit with each of these local, hometown businesses and see what they have to offer for this holiday season. When you visit, be sure to let them know you read about them in Parker County LifeStyle!



➤➤ PEACOCK'S FEED & SUPPLY

Peacock's Feed & Supply has offered full service agricultural supplies and livestock products to Weatherford and Parker County for over 20 years. Offering top quality brands from local distributors such as Protocol Naturals, Muenster Milling and Hometown Feeds with the goal of offering high quality products for the least possible price.

Peacock's diversifies their store with a unique display of home, gift and boutique items with top brands like Consuela, Corkcicle, Kris Cross Jewelry, Mud Pie, Lodge and Gilbert Pecan Co. items along with a Peacock's private label jarred food selection. With a business the perfect size and a goal to always prioritize customer service, owners Blaine and Tamara Peacock consider themselves lucky to call their customers their friends!

Providing additional services such as a Propane Refill Station and Peacock's Leather Works custom leather work and repair, Peacock's strives to leave every customer satisfied no matter the need! With an at-home feel and wide variety of options, Peacock's Feed & Supply, Boutique and Propane Refill is

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➤➤ THE MARKET AT 76067

The Market at 76067 is a shopping experience like no other. Upon seeing that Mineral Wells needed business to help revitalize downtown, The Market was opened on October 2, 2018.

Owners Misty and Randy Nix have spent the better part of 2018 renovating a 100+ year old historic building in downtown Mineral Wells and curating items from 70 vendors. The Market at 76067 is a consignment store but they have turned the idea of a “consignment store” on its ear.

When you enter The Market, you won't be greeted by individual booths with aisles in between. Each vendor's items have been combined and merchandised in a cohesive way that allows the shopper to meander with ease. This concept also allows vendors to have multiple items or only a few.

The 11,000 sq foot two story building includes items from farm fresh organic food to fine antiques, local artisan's wares to boutique clothing, olive oil to Crazy Water, the list goes on and on. You can even get a snack in the sample kitchen where they have dips and goodies for you to try before you buy.

The Market at 76067 is sure to become a destination shopping experience and is already attracting shoppers from all over the state and beyond. Checking it out should definitely be on your to-do list soon.

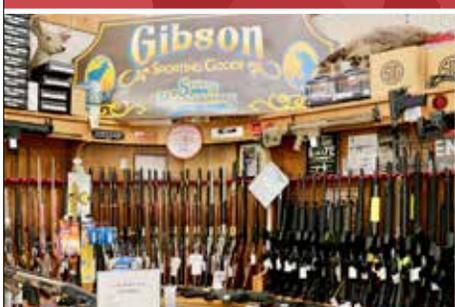


➤➤ GIBSON'S

Having been in business for over 50 years, Gibson's has continuously understood the importance of developing valued relationships with each customer. With a vast variety of products ranging from sporting goods, clothing, footwear, guns, ammo and everyday products, Gibson's strives to offer a stress-free shopping experience with great prices for all!

Now carrying STIHL products, TORO products for lawn care needs and SITKA products for hunting necessities, Gibson's continues to grow.

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dabbles in everything from car audio, custom builds on UTV/ATV's, tinting, hydrographics, suspension and much more!

Ran by Frank Hester, Unlimited Concepts also uniquely offers a home theater department. With a passion for cars since age 14, owner Eric Wedel values the idea of making products by hand and fit perfectly for each customer's needs. Offering services uniquely identified per customer, Unlimited Concepts is anything but your regular ol' chain store!



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➤➤ THE JUNKTION

Embarking on its sixth year of business, The Junktion is the perfect one stop shop for the ideal shopping experience.

Providing customized monogramming, etching, wreaths or accessories, this multi-vendor establishment allows each of its Parker County local vendors to share their craft. With a unique variety of items ranging from clothing, décor, inspirational gifts and even locally Roasted PIC coffee, owners Sara and Corey Tucker strive to offer their customers a wide variety of merchandise.

Between the relaxing atmosphere and excellent customer service The Junktion is the ideal place for finding the perfect gift and wrapping it up!



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➤➤ GILBERT PECAN CO.

Originally established in 1969, Gilbert Pecan Co. brought to life the vision of owner O.H. (Bubba) Gilbert and his love for quality farm raised pecans. Inspired by their father's vision to bring a farm to table product to the public, sisters Rhea Watts and Kristy Martinez opened Gilbert Pecan's first retail location in August of 2008.

Offering a destination experience for each customer with top notch one-on-one customer service, Gilbert Pecan offers a variety of unique items ranging from direct Texas pecans, desserts, meal service, balloons, gifts, Texas themed items and more!

By using family recipes to create their delicious and affordable products, Gilbert Pecan continues to carry on the Gilbert family legacy. Open 7 days a week from 10 am until 6 pm, with holiday hours running 9 am until 8 pm, Gilbert Pecan not only offers quite the shopping variety, but wholesale accounts and shipping options as well!

Creating an authentic family environment, owners Rhea and Kristy, along with their roughly 15 employees describes Gilbert Pecan as a true labor of love. Gilbert Pecan Co. is the perfect one stop shop for all those hard to buy Christmas gifts, offering customized gift cards with packaging and a quick turnaround for last minute gift ideas. Items can be found in-store or online at www.GilbertPecan.com.

As always, if you are unable to find what you are looking for, customers are always encouraged to call toll free at 888-769-4501!

➤➤ NANA'S PLACE

Recognizing the need for a local florist in Hudson Oaks, owner Jim Grimme and designer/manager Kimberly Ryon opened Nana's Place on December 1, 2016. Operating as a full-service, veteran owned and operated florist, Nana's Place is the ideal pick for any event ranging from holidays, weddings, or special occasion.

With the goal to satisfy every customer's needs Nana's Place also includes a gift shop providing a variety of gifts including stuffed animals, balloons, candles, children's clothing, jewelry and much more!

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Located right off of South Main, David's Western Store strives to provide the best Western products and customer service to each individual who walks through their door.

Don't miss a chance to shop their looks Monday-Saturday from 9 A.M. – 7 P.M., and every Sunday from 12:30 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.



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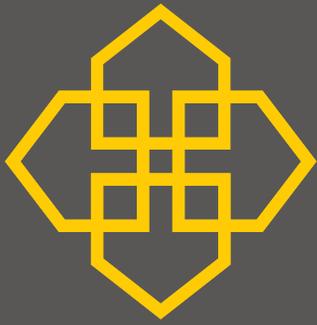
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Photos provided by Kimberly Bengel Photography







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DECEMBER

NIGHTLY

CoHoHo Christmas Corridor @ Voyles Park in Hudson Oaks | 6:00 pm

1ST

Christmas on the Square | 10:00 am

Christmas on the Tracks @ Peacock's Feed and Supply | 11:30-4:00 pm

Christmas Tyme in Aledo

Jingle and Mingle @ The Junktion | 10:00 am

1ST - 2ND

Weatherford's First Monday Trade Days

2ND

14th Annual Holiday Memorial Service @ Galbraith-Pickard Funeral Chapel | 3:00 pm

Trinity Bible Church 40th Anniversary @ Weatherford High School Auditorium | 10:00 am

3RD

Aledo Farmer's Market @ Aledo Community Center | 3:00 pm

4TH

Music and Movement Group @ Weatherford Public Library | 2:30 pm

6TH

Santa Clause is coming to Willow Park | 5:00-8:00 pm

7TH

Holiday in the Park, 315 Santa Fe Drive | 6:00 pm

8TH

2nd Annual Christmas at the Castle @ Texas Pythian Home | 11:00-7:00 pm

27th Annual Candlelight Tour of Homes | 11:00 am

Kids Christmas Shopping @ The Junktion | 10:00 am

Toy and Bike Drive @ American Concrete | 10:00 am-4:00 pm

Photos with Santa @ Weatherford Public Library | 11:00 am

Swim with Santa @ The Swim Lesson People | 6:00 pm

10TH

Aledo Farmer's Market @ Aledo Community Center | 3:00 pm

Movie Monday @ Weatherford Public Library | 11:00 am

13TH

Book Buzz @ Weatherford Public Library | 6:00 pm

15TH

The Blackwood Quartet in Concert @ Grace Community Fellowship | 3:00 pm

17TH

Aledo Farmer's Market @ Aledo Community Center | 3:00 pm

Peaster ISD Christmas Music Program @ North Side Baptist Church | 6:00 pm

18TH

Needlework Group @ Weatherford Public Library | 6:00 pm

20TH

Book Club @ Weatherford Public Library

Ladies Night Out @ The Junktion | 5:00 pm

21ST

Live 50s Music @ 20th Century Club (corner of S. Main and Lee) | 7:00 pm

21ST - 22ND

The Star of Bethlehem Experience @ Capernaum First Century Village

JANUARY

2ND

Story Time @ Weatherford Public Library | 10:30 am

3RD

American Red Cross Blood Drive @ Weatherford Public Library | 12:00 pm

7TH

Aledo Farmer's Market @ Aledo Community Center | 3:00 pm

8TH

Preschool Storytime at Your Museum @ Doss Heritage and Culture Center | 10:30 am

Gamers' Circle at Weatherford Public Library | 4:00 pm

9TH

Story Time @ Weatherford Public Library | 10:30 am

Movie Monday @ Weatherford Public Library | 11:00 am

Teen Writer's Group @ Weatherford Public Library | 4:00 pm

14TH

Aledo Farmer's Market @ Aledo Community Center | 3:00 pm

Anime and Magna Club @ Weatherford Public Library | 4:00 pm

15TH

Music and Movement @ Weatherford Public Library | 2:30 pm

Needlework Group @ Weatherford Public Library | 6:00 pm

16TH

Story Time @ Weatherford Public Library | 10:30 am

17TH

Weatherford College 150th Kickoff | 4:00 pm

17TH - 19TH

Book Sale @ Weatherford Public Library | 10:00 am

18TH

Beyond Board Games @ Weatherford Public Library | 6:00 pm

21ST

Aledo Farmer's Market @ Aledo Community Center | 3:00 pm

Weatherford's God Talent @ Antebellum Ale House | 7:00 pm

22ND

Books and Breakfast @ Senior Care at Holland Lake | 10:30 am

Music and Movement @ Weatherford Public Library | 2:30 pm

The Geekdom @ Weatherford Public Library | 4:00 pm

23RD

Story Time @ Weatherford Public Library | 10:30 am

27TH

2019 Parker County Bridal Fair | 1:00 pm

28TH

Aledo Farmer's Market @ Aledo Community Center | 3:00 pm

Gamers' Circle at Weatherford Public Library | 4:00 pm

29TH

Music and Movement @ Weatherford Public Library | 2:30 pm

FEBRUARY

4TH

Anime and Magna Club @ Weatherford Public Library | 4:00 pm

5TH

Preschool Storytime at Your Museum @ Doss Heritage and Culture Center | 10:30 am

Music and Movement @ Weatherford Public Library | 2:30 pm

6TH

Story Time @ Weatherford Public Library | 10:30 am

7TH

Aledo Farmer's Market @ Aledo Community Center | 3:00 pm

11TH

The Geekdom @ Weatherford Public Library | 4:00 pm

12TH

Music and Movement @ Weatherford Public Library | 2:30 pm

14TH

Aledo Farmer's Market @ Aledo Community Center | 3:00 pm

15TH

Story Time @ Weatherford Public Library | 10:30 am

18TH

Trivia Night @ Antebellum Ale House | 7:00 pm

19TH

Music and Movement @ Weatherford Public Library | 2:30 pm

Beyond Board Games @ Weatherford Public Library | 6:00 pm

Gamers' Circle @ Weatherford Public Library | 4:00 pm

Needlework Group @ Weatherford Public Library | 6:00 pm

20TH

Story Time @ Weatherford Public Library | 10:30 am

Teen Writer's Group @ Weatherford Public Library | 4:00 pm

21ST

Aledo Farmer's Market @ Aledo Community Center | 3:00 pm
Book Club @ Weatherford Public Library | 6:00 pm

25TH

Anime and Magna Club @ Weatherford Public Library | 4:00 pm

26TH

Music and Movement @ Weatherford Public Library | 2:30 pm

Story Time @ Weatherford Public Library | 10:30 am

Books and Breakfast @ Senior Care at Holland Lake | 10:30 am

28TH

Aledo Farmer's Market @ Aledo Community Center | 3:00 pm

Homeschool Sprinkles @ Weatherford Public Library | 6:00 pm

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IMPACT GYMNASTS COMPETITIONS

Impact Athletic Training Center's Level 4 and 5 teams competed in regional and state level competitions this fall.

Aledo's Sophie Cohen is the all-around state champion, the state beam and floor champion, and placed second on bars. Weatherford's Reagan Moberly is the state bars champion and placed third on beam, floor and all-around.

Congratulations to both Level 4 and Level 5 teams on outstanding performances!

Photos provided by Impact Athletic Training Center



Sophie Cohen, Aledo; Reagan Moberly, Aledo



Kinley Petzold, Weatherford; Addison Fields, Aledo; Lane Firestone, Fort Worth; Sarah-Kate Edwards, Aledo; Maya Brodsgaard, Fort Worth



Addison Fields, Sophie Cohen, Whitley Eppes



Maya Brodsgaard, Ft. Worth; Sarah-Kate Edwards, Aledo; Addison Fields, Aledo; Lane Firestone, Fort Worth; Kinley Petzold, Weatherford; Parker Williamson, Aledo

TEN TIPS

to Make Your Holiday Travels Easier

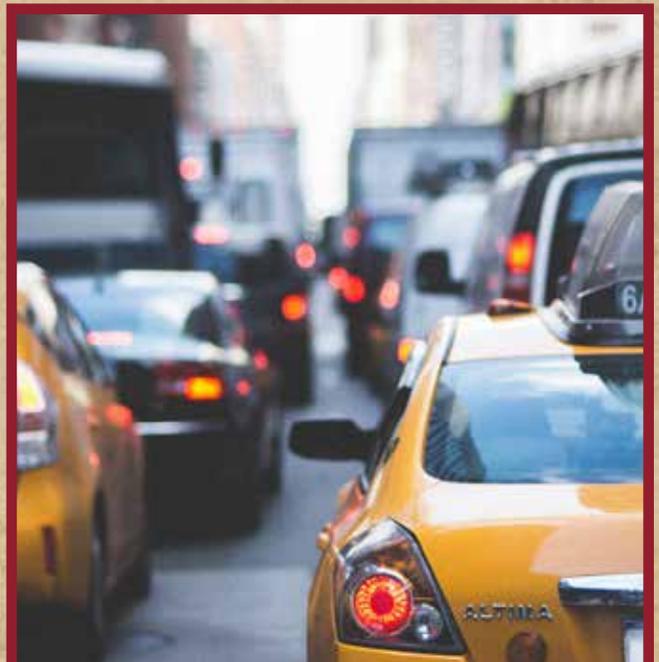
By Johnna Thomasson

Ten tricks and tips to help you keep your cool when traveling with your family this holiday Season.



I. Leave earlier.

No one likes hitting Dallas in the middle of rush hour, especially a parent with an ideal scheduled arrival time and one kid in the back with one finger half an inch from their sibling singing “I’m not touchinggg you.” There are not many things that will make a mom come unglued, but being 3 hours into standstill traffic and a non-stop continuation of the “What did your brother do to you now?” saga, might just do it. Avoid looking like the crazy mom in front of 30 surrounding cars, skip rush hour.



2. Invest in prior planning.

I'm just saying, most horror movies begin with a stranded traveler completely unaware that the nearest gas station was 50 miles back. Do a little research, know where the cheapest gas stations are, the best places to stop for food, and the places that Yelp strongly advises against. Again, the victim of every horror movie was NEVER been the individual that checked reviews of an establishment before-hand.

3. Always have backup.

According to Murphy's law, if something can go wrong, it will. Never mind the fact that those are brand-new tires on your vehicle, one will without a doubt find the sharpest nail 353 miles away from your nearest relative or friend. Pack a spare tire, have some extra cash on hand, etc.

*Bonus Tip: It helps if you also know how to change a tire.

4. Keep all travel documents easily accessible.



This is highly important if your family is traveling via airlines. Not that I checked statistics or anything, but it is pretty much fact that most airline travel disasters are due to the fact that someone might have left the plane tickets on the kitchen counter at home. Just watch every season of "The Amazing Race" for proof, because about 5 rounds in there is always the couple who loses their chance at a million dollars because someone forgot their passport.



5. Do not forget to pack the "undercover essentials".

As a girl who once, on a family vacation--in the middle of Dallas rush hour--was gifted with the stomach flu, I am well-aware that there are essentials needed on a moment's notice that most individuals often overlook. I am speaking of plastic bags, wipes, an accessible change of clothes, and an easy to reach fly swatter. This is because your child WILL spill their milk, or if it does happen make it to their mouth and not poured on your floorboard, it will be after 3 hours of it sitting in the heat resulting in an upset stomach and a mess all its own. The fly swatter however, is typically used to wave around all crazy like behind your back while your eyes stay focused on the road and you're giving your kids the "If you give your sister one more wet willy!" speech.

*Bonus Tip: It doesn't have to be a fly swatter. My mom used a paint stick. Same effect.





6. Pack a medical kit.

Speaking of essentials, although you never hope you will have to use it, it is always wise to have a safety kit tucked under a car seat. Children do not usually choose to injure themselves, they often tend to do it in a situation that leaves your head cocked to one side like a Labrador, asking yourself “How did that even happen?”

7. Bring the entertainment.

It is natural for any human, especially children to become restless and bored during a long trip. Use this time for bonding, teaching, or simply pure entertainment. There are many travel games that can be found online. Not only are they quite entertaining, they are often time consuming as well, resulting in the feeling of a much faster overall trip. Many other options are also available, including books, movies, small toys, etc. It should be no large task finding a variety of activities to keep one’s family entertained.



8. Take breaks.

Along with entertainment, one suggested tip with defeating restlessness would be taking breaks every few hours. Give your family or pets a chance to stretch their legs and move around for a bit. It is much easier on the body after so many hours of being cooped up. This might honestly also be a huge benefit for mood boosting morale. The less discomfort a family is in, the less likely they are to contemplate killing each other before the trip is over.



9. Bring snacks.

As a child, I could not understand why my mother could not afford to feed us through a restaurant daily, but as an adult with a “maybe I can afford just this one donut” per week budget, I am beginning to understand. Just pack the snacks and divert your child’s attention every time you see a “McDonalds ahead in 1 mile” sign. Save your money. Besides, if that second tire decides to find the next nearest nail, you might need that cash when calling a tow-truck.

10. Dress comfy.

Avoid pants that buckle really cute when you’re standing up, but stab you in the abdomen squeezing you like a can of biscuits when you sit down. Avoid shorts that ride up while sitting causing chafed thighs. Avoid allowing the one family member with the grossest smelling feet the opportunity to wear shoes that require socks at anytime during the ride because they WILL choose to take them off and that is just torture. Avoid putting your child in their Sunday best, because like I said, they WILL spill their milk. Honestly, just yoga pants and over size sweater the entire ride. Who’s going to judge you? The other mom in the gas station halfway through her family trip trying to figure out if her son is covered in melted chocolate he found somewhere in the car in the middle of winter or stuck his hand down his diaper? Just be comfy, or you’ll go crazy. † PCLS



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THAT SPECIAL GIFT *Just for Her*

BY PARKER COUNTY'S OWN T BELL OF BELLSTONE

VIEWER DISCRETION ADVISED:

Parker County Lifestyle Magazine is getting desperate, they asked me to write an article about “What to Buy Her for Christmas!” Someone thinks I’m funny or thought it would be comical to hear what I get my wife for Christmas. Not sure if I should be flattered or offended. I’m slightly offended, but I’ll be a good sport and roll with it. On a side note, whatever you are reading now, was surely edited and was probably way funnier the first time. If it sounds intelligent, it was edited for sure.

OK, so here we go! It's like they know me and know my struggles with Christmas gifts. It's hard, very inconvenient, stressful, and way too much pressure. I pride myself on being a guy's guy (whatever that means, but it sounds good). I just get something...or sometimes, I just don't. Something about being romantic is not manly. How can you be the man of the household and have a soft side? It's just too dangerous - I can't let my guard down!

My wife and I have dated since high school and we are now in our mid 30s. We were together through college, started a business together, and now have a family with three kids. Luckily, I locked her up before she knew she had better options. When we were younger, I tried to use my creative mind to get her something she would remember forever.

I remember getting her 11 red roses and one white silk one. I wrote a note that said, "I'll love you until the last one dies!" Pretty smooth, huh? I stole that one. I'll let you use it. After that I stuck with your more traditional favorites such as a ring, perfume, necklace, lingerie, jacket, purse, earrings, etc. Sometimes I would mix it up and do like a snake draft each year: Ring, perfume, necklace, lingerie... lingerie, necklace, perfume, ring. Over time, that routine loses its power, and obviously become predictable.

There is a saying that love only gets stronger each year, I am sure it does, but can someone explain to me why I am less excited to buy a gift each year. Ladies, it's not just men, you do it too. My mom buys herself presents, wraps them, and what's worse, she is so excited when she opens them. Then laughs hysterically like she's so funny. A real comedian. Sometimes my dad gets these crazy ideas and gives one of us some money to get her something. Every few years of course, he doesn't want to set the standards too high. He's so excited like he really went to the store himself or did anything more than just give us money.



I REMEMBER GETTING HER ELEVEN RED ROSES AND ONE WHITE SILK ONE. I WROTE A NOTE THAT SAID, "I'LL LOVE YOU UNTIL THE LAST ONE DIES!"

My mom will get excited too and I am like, "Mom, you know he didn't buy that." I am going to be the same way and I think my wife just accepts that. Or feels there is no hope. I blame it on poor genetics, it's not my fault.

Anyways, after the idea of this article came up several weeks ago, I have had to do some soul searching. I thought maybe this would help me come up with some great ideas that guys can relate to, inspire men to be all they can be, to help a brotha out. I broke it down with some logical reasoning.

She already buys the things she wants; the things she needs she will do without. God forbid you buy her something she needs, like a recipe book, new shoes, laundry detergent, or a way to keep my socks sorted (not sure that's a thing, but she needs it). I'd get roasted by my female peers. And since gift cards, although extremely practical, are frowned upon, I got nothing. Really. I am pretty lucky because my wife is not into things like I am. Maybe she has no choice because I am horrible at Christmas and she feels sorry for me. My sister-in-law and my secretary have been very helpful the last few years. So, I have come to the conclusion that you should find a good sister-in-law or get a good secretary. If that doesn't work, go for the lingerie as a stocking stuffer (one size too small of course so she doesn't get offended and at very least provides some good entertainment). † PCLS

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REVIVING FAMILY HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

*for
Your Kids*

..... BY CASSIDY HORN



In an age of electronic distractions, connecting with your family and children during the holidays is tougher than ever. Creating memories and capturing special photos that don't involve everyone sitting in their respective spots on the couch with the latest electronics in hand is almost impossible.

Being creative can bring life back to your family holidays and create memories for your kids that will last for generations. The beauty of these suggested traditions is that they can evolve and be altered to fit your family. Be creative and make these traditions your own!





CHRISTMAS

- If you have kids or grandkids, purchase a book for the 12 or 25 days leading up to Christmas, wrap the books, and put them under the tree. Reading is a phenomenal habit to form and it will give the kiddos the satisfaction of “opening a present.” The greatest part? When the kids outgrow the books, you can donate last years’ books to a family in need. Foster giving and reading all in the Christmas spirit.
- Add to the cookies and milk for Santa. Leave carrots outside for his reindeer. Enlist the help of a fun aunt or uncle, open and close the door in the middle of the night and ring jingle bells outside their window and sprinkle powdered sugar footprints from the door or chimney to the tree. Let your kids enjoy every second of the few years they have to believe in Santa. They’ll look back when they have kids of their own and realize how much effort you put into keeping their imagination alive.
- Bake a meal for a family in need. Contact a local church to see if they can deliver the meal for you or point you in the right direction. Setting an example of giving instead of receiving is an invaluable lesson and a great tradition to start.
- Visit a nursing home on Christmas Eve and spend time with those who might not have a family to visit them. Your local nursing homes and hospitals will have more information about activities you can do with kids like coloring or reading. When elderly people are around kids it does amazing things for their attitude and health. Don’t want to take the kids? That’s okay too. They’ll enjoy your company just as much.





NEW YEARS

- Watch a movie from the year everyone in your family was born. Enjoy movie night at its finest with snacks, comfy blankets, hot chocolate, and maybe some fun board games. Netflix has you covered.
- Time capsules questionnaire. Have each person in your family fill out a sheet with cute questions. Have your kids help decorate a shoe box to store them in and then next year you can look back at what you wanted to do this year.

Example questions...

- Favorite memory this year was...
 - What are you excited to do next year?
 - This year I'm going to be kind by doing
 - If you had one wish what would you wish for?
 - What makes you smile?
-
- Decorate your own ball to drop! Get really creative with this one. This could be a round piñata that's filled with goodies, a painted basketball, or large balloon full of confetti to pop at the stroke of midnight. And, of course... let the kids stand up on a chair and drop the piñata for a literal ball drop.

No matter what creative, out of the ordinary traditions you come up with, the beauty of a tradition is that they are meaningful to your loved ones and you'll make memories. † PCLS



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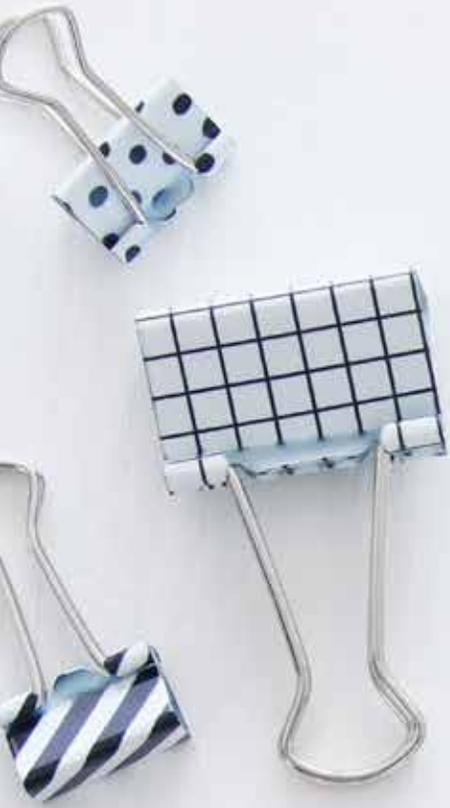


2019 GOALS:

1.

2.

3.



Changing How You Think About Resolutions:

THREE TINY TIPS

FOR BIG GROWTH

IN 2019

BY TORI MORTENSEN

CELEBRATING CHANGE, REVAMPING YOUR
RESOLUTIONS AND #LIVINGYOURBESTLIFE.

Can we just agree we are all SO over the basic New Year's Resolution thing? As soon as the ball drops, I just sort of want to reply to ALL of us resolvers with one big giant eye roll emoji in advance.

"Yeah, Janet, I'm sure you will last 12 whole long months as a clean-eating vegan. The same way I'm going to get for-real dressed every single morning even

when it's raining. See you in the CFA drive-thru line in February... with your 12-piece nugget... I'll be the one wearing the joggers I slept in."

At the start of each New Year, half of us make resolutions to change and get better. Yet only 8% of these promises to ourselves will be kept. What a wacky psychological process we put ourselves through!

LOOK AT MAKING BIG CHANGES BY IMPLEMENTING SMALL TIMELINES.

January 1: Today, I will point out the things that make me not so good at being a human and resolve to do something to change those bad habits or character flaws. Now, I developed this crazy over time, but I'm going to mend all the broken-ish things in one personal strategy session right now. Who am I kidding? I'll probably fail anyway (didn't I attempt this sugar detox challenge last year?) Regardless, I best come up with a plan to solve a few of my deep-seated issues and then document it TODAY with an encouraging social media post about change or people will think I don't want to be my best self in 2019.

Awesome way to start a fresh new set of 365 days, yes? With a 92% chance of failure? Heck no, that's not life goals. That's mental madness.

Take 2. January 1: This year, what things could I do differently DAILY that would make my life really awesome and more complete and who are the people that will get on board with this best life?

Now, that vocab doesn't seem quite as rough as the punch in the face that some would claim personal change to be.

See that's the kicker, change doesn't actually cause pain. In fact, change is almost always good. It's denying our body it's natural growth state and fighting change that hurts so badly and has us inevitably ending up a part of the epic failure stats. We must learn to adjust our thinking a bit and to celebrate change!

Life has a few constants, change being one of them. To some degree, almost all success or failure in any given year can be attributed to how well we are able to respond to big change. So if we want to be #livingourbestlife for this next trip around the sun, well then by definition our trip is going to be plumb full of just such change. Maybe that's the true draw of New Year's resolutions really. For a time in early January so many of us are working to BE the change rather than simply responding to it.





1. THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT
Successful resolution making should start with careful attention to what we DO want to have in our lives this year. Resist the urge to focus on what you DON'T want sticking around anymore. Instead of setting a resolution that focuses on stopping old, "bad" behavior, choose to make a plan for change that is based on adding a good habit.

2. TIMING IS EVERYTHING
We often overestimate what we can do in a year but tend to underestimate what we can do in a day. Look at making big changes by implementing small timelines. Try resolutions based on daily measurable daily behaviors rather than on an overarching idea or an end of the year goal.

3. TELL THE OTHERS.
Yes, I teased us about posting our lofty New Year's aspirations on social media, but science and common sense tells we ARE much more likely to accomplish a goal with a support system. So call up your people and tell them your plan, that you are resolving to live your best year ever. Tell them you feel like lots of big beautiful changes are in store for you all and then remind them it's time to celebrate! † PCLS





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Born With a Story





A story that began at a Weatherford community hospital, now Medical City Weatherford, nearly three decades ago gets its happily ever after.

BY JOHNNA THOMASSON

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY MEDICAL CITY WEATHERFORD

Sometimes, we read great stories. Sometimes, we watch them come to life through a movie screen.

Sometimes, we live them.

And Sometimes, if we are blessed, we are not even 6 months old and already born into a story so great.

Madison Stahl was born into a manuscript that began 29 years ago. The firstborn of Cory and Kelli Stahl, Madison, arrived June 18, 2018, in a labor and delivery suite at Medical City Weatherford. She weighed nine pounds and seven ounces, very healthy, and surrounded by a family that was truly in awe. A family that would one day tell her about the journey, filled with twists and turns, that led up to this day.

Her mother, Kelli, now a registered nurse at Cook Children's, was once a patient in the same hospital. Kelli credits her path into healthcare to the three generations of nurses in her family but also to the treatment she received as a child.

In 1997, Mark and Donna Boone, Kelli's parents, began to notice unusual symptoms, like swelling around their nine-year old's face. Kelli had also begun to complain of pain in her joints. Considering that she was in the second grade and already very involved in sports like cheerleading, they initially believed it to be nothing more than your typical growing pains. However, Donna, who has currently been a registered nurse for 44 years, decided it best to visit their primary physician. Tragically, after further testing,

the physician confirmed their worst fear. Kelli had been diagnosed with Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia. When asked about receiving the news, Donna describes feeling as completely overwhelmed, fearful, and angry.

“You start thinking about what your life would be like without her,” she recalls. In the following years, Kelli began receiving extensive treatment for her illness through chemotherapy. “I never really realized what was going on. All I knew was that I was sick and I needed help beyond what my physician at the time could give me,” she explains. “I remember sitting in the hospital bed and the oncologist came in and told my parents that he needed to talk to them. When they came back in the room, I could tell they were very upset, very hesitant.”

After completing three years of treatment, it was confirmed that Kelli had a 90% chance of surviving the disease and never having cancer again. However, since her cancer was treated with intrathecal chemotherapy, which means the medication was injected through her spinal canal, there was a possibility that Kelli would never be able to have children. Donna was hopeful and Kelli grew up feeling very optimistic that it would be a chapter in her life.

Kelli met her husband Cory on a mission trip in Honduras and from the beginning they both knew God had great things in store for them. Always optimistic that they would have children, whether naturally or through another avenue, it had been a topic they strongly agreed upon. They would have a family one day. With faith leading their decision, Kelli and her husband decided, after three and a half years of marriage, that it was time. After deciding



With the uncertainty that surrounded Kelli's idea of children, this beautiful baby girl was a miracle wrapped in pink.



to embark on the journey toward pregnancy, they did not have to wait a full month before finding out that they were expecting! Immediately sharing the news with her mother, Kelli then spent the rest of her first trimester cautiously optimistic while waiting to approach what is considered the “safe point” of pregnancy. Typically around 12 weeks is considered a time when a baby has reached this mark and the chances of survival greatly increases.

During this time, she became the patient of Stephen Stamatis, M.D. Kelli felt comfortable in his care knowing that Dr. Stamatis had cared for and successfully delivered thousands of newborns throughout his career. Working closely with Dr. Stamatis since 2006, Donna, who has dedicated 39 years of service to Medical City Weatherford, believed that there was no better doctor suited to care for her daughter throughout her pregnancy. “As an OB/GYN, it is my responsibility to be proactive in identifying and reducing any risk which could negatively impact the chance for a healthy pregnancy outcome. This strategy guides many tests during the course of prenatal



care,” states Dr. Stamatis. “When Kelli began visits to Weatherford OB/GYN Associates, her unique history of leukemia was identified. In my field, any historical or current medical problem warrants additional consideration,” he explains, regarding Kelli’s pregnancy. “Kelli’s intense treatments for her leukemia concluded in November 2000. She has remained healthy and cancer free since that time. After a complete history, physical exam, and upon reviewing lab results, there was no evidence that her pregnancy had additional risk.”

After 40 weeks of what was considered a “normal” pregnancy, Kelli was induced on June 18, four days after her initial due date. Not only had Medical City Weatherford been a second home to Kelli throughout her life, considering her mother’s years of service, Kelli was born in the same hospital where she was now giving birth.

To make this unique story even more powerful, Francis Walker, Director of Women’s Services at Medical City Weatherford, along with Priscilla Smalley, RN, were in the room when Donna gave birth to Kelli and they both played a vital role in delivering Madison twenty-nine years later.

Donna, now a proud grandmother, lights up as she recalls how wonderful her daughter did during labor. Dr. Stamatis speaks of the tremendous relief he witnessed throughout the room as Madison took her first breath. With the uncertainty that surrounded Kelli’s idea of children, this beautiful baby girl was a miracle wrapped in pink. Kelli recalls how supportive and caring Cory was and the overwhelming joy they felt when seeing Madison for the first time. “I had waited for so long and she was finally here!” she boasted.

As of last year, Kelli has been declared officially cancer free and no longer has to check in annually with her physicians. Madison is happy and healthy with her dad’s looks and her mom’s personality. When asked

about the prospect of future children, Kelli is thinking maybe a couple more, whereas grandma is rooting for double digits. Although Kelli describes motherhood as an adjustment, she sees an answer to prayers when looking at her daughter’s face.

Sometimes in life, families are blessed with a fairytale ending complete with a full cast of supporting characters consisting of a highly-skilled physician, committed nurses, two generations of beautiful girls delivered under the same roof. † PCLS



Sometimes in life, families are blessed with a fairytale ending complete with a full cast of supporting characters consisting of a skilled physician, committed nurses, two generations of beautiful girls delivered under the same roof.



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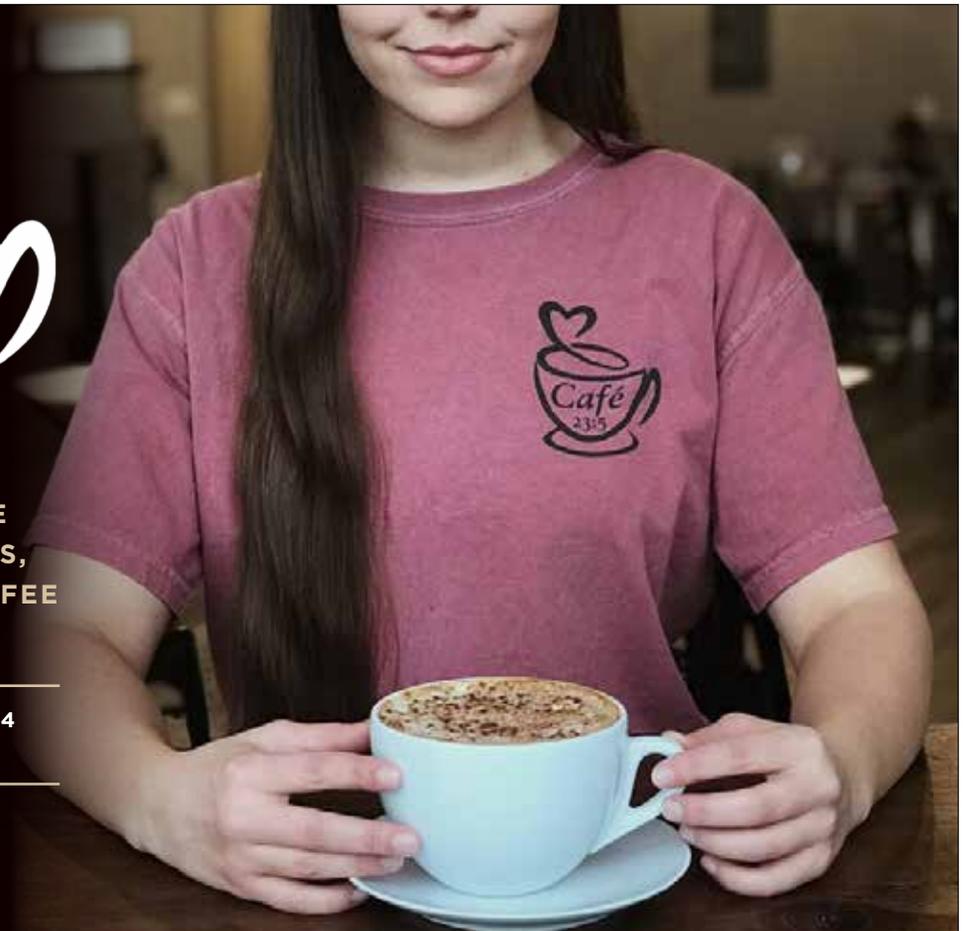
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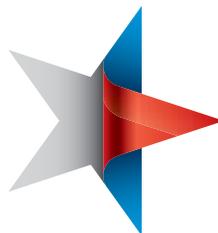
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PREPARING YOUR ANIMALS FOR WINTER

Winter can be a very difficult season for animals of any size, especially if they live outdoors. Luckily, many precautions can be taken to ensure your pet and/or livestock has the most comfortable winter possible. Here are a few suggestions to help your animals through this cold season.

COATS AND BLANKETS

If you are putting your inside dog outdoors to play, consider putting a pet sweater on them. Although all pets look cute in their Santa suits, ensure you are taking heavy weight sweaters off when you bring your pet back indoors. This will allow them to regulate their body temperature accurately.

If you have large animals such as horses, blanketing them during the exceedingly cold days can be very beneficial. Considering not everyone needs to keep a horse show haircoat on their equine, a good general rule for keeping your horses cozy and warm is to put on a blanket anytime the temperature drops below 40 degrees. If your horses are turned out in a pasture or field, a “turn out” blanket is highly recommended. These blankets are made to wick away any moisture from the winter elements.



HYDRATION

A common occurrence in the winter with animals who spend a significant amount of time outdoors is dehydration. Animals aren't as likely to drink water once the colder temperatures set in. In some cases, this can cause serious health issues.

For dogs, ensure their water bowl is made of plastic. Water in a plastic bowl won't freeze nearly as fast as water in a metal bowl. For large animals, a great solution is a heated stock tank or submersible water heater for tanks and troughs.

In addition, always break and remove any ice from the surface of your tanks or water bowls.

NOURISHMENT

One simple and effective thing people commonly forget is to feed extra during the winter months for animals living outside. Feeding a little extra will allow your animals to stay warmer and have a full stomach. Who doesn't love that on a cold day?

For small animals, try adding a little warm water or broth to their kibble so they are also getting hydrated while they eat. For large animals, try supplementing with a lick tub or salt and mineral block. Adding these vitamins and minerals will help supplement for some of the nourishment they are losing by not having fresh green grass. In addition, salt and mineral blocks will also encourage large animals to drink more water and, in turn, aid in hydration.

SHELTER

Adequate shelter is crucial for animals large or small. For large animals, try to keep their stalls, sheds, pens, etc. as dry and clean as possible. When it comes to small animals, invest in an insulated dog house such as an Igloo. Always keep dry blankets and bedding in your small animals' shelter, this will allow them to burrow in their bedding as the temperatures drop.

SENIORS AND NEWBORNS

Cold weather is especially difficult for newborns, seniors, or geriatric animals. These animals tend to have trouble staying warm, hydrated, and nourished in the elements. Additionally, they have compromised immune systems and are highly susceptible to illnesses.

Newborn, senior, or geriatric dogs and cats who live outside should be brought in the house when temperatures drop to an uncomfortable low or a storm is approaching. Our fur-babies and elderly four-legged friends will need every precaution taken to keep them healthy and happy during these difficult months.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Taking these precautions and paying close attention to the condition of your animals will make a significant difference in their comfort this winter. Always contact your veterinarian if you believe your animal is having health issues as a result of the weather conditions. We hope everyone has a happy and healthy holiday season with their four-legged friends!



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SERVING TO LEARN:



IT'S NOT IN THE CLASSROOM

BY LINDSAY ALLEN

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY TRINITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

TRINITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY CURRICULUM INCLUDES MANY SERVICE HOURS AND A FOCUS ON OTHERS.

It's not the usual school curriculum, but at Trinity Christian Academy (TCA), the classroom setting alone doesn't lend itself to teaching and showing students one of the school's core values—a culture of service. For this reason, TCA students, faculty and staff can be found at food banks, pregnancy centers, nursing homes and many other service-focused events and charities.



“Community service, or community ministry as we call it, is everything we do. We want our kids to be exposed to the world around them. Our school is located in east Parker County, where apparent need isn’t as visible and our fear is that the students will grow up thinking this is how the rest of the world lives,” Mike Skaggs, Head of School at TCA, said, “We want them to have a sense of how blessed they are, but more importantly we yearn for them to know that with these blessings come responsibility and they are to use what they have been given to be a blessing to others.”

The staff understands that servant hearts are not built in a classroom. The roughly 535 students, faculty and staff are all called to serve in some capacity throughout each semester and even given class time/work days to do so. Faculty and staff are provided time off work to go and serve during business hours and students are part of multiple service-oriented projects between Kindergarten and graduation.

Teresa Valdez, elementary teacher at TCA commented, “When our students get to go into our community and serve, it helps them live out what they are learning. We can teach our students about Mark 16:15 (And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.”), but it brings a whole new meaning when they get to live it out. Community ministry is a beautiful way our students can share God’s love with others.”

Often times, the teachers are serving right beside the students and Mike said that when a relationship like that is built between the student and teacher, the quality of education increases as a result, “all because they did something of significance together on a Saturday.”

Candice Gables, TCA secondary teacher, echoed this by saying, “Serving alongside my students builds rapport and lasting relationships. A special bond is formed when teachers and students work together to help meet the needs of another. Often times, while serving, students don’t just see me as their teacher. They see me having to learn and open up as well.”

The school believes that the teaching of community ministry has to happen from the top down. “Our faculty and staff need to see the administration serving and our students need to see the staff serving and our elementary kids need to see the high schoolers serving,” Mike said.

In fact, the staff at TCA even run their own Meals on Wheels routes and mentor core groups. Every student, no matter the age, is part of a core group that not only allows them to build relationships at the school but is a dedicated group for serving together. The groups select a non-profit and partner with them throughout the year to serve and provide in whatever capacity is needed. Because the groups include all ages, it’s also an opportunity for older students to lead and younger students to learn from those a few steps ahead of them.

Coach Joe Hamstra, athletic director and head football coach said, “As the students serve, we hope God will stir their hearts and they will begin to see how they can be a part of the solution. Not that they will all work in a non-profit organization, but that service and ministry will become a part of their DNA as adults.



THE STAFF UNDERSTANDS THAT SERVANT HEARTS ARE NOT BUILT IN A CLASSROOM.



Students are asked to complete 10 hours of community ministry each semester, but many choose to serve above and beyond that minimum. TCA tracks the hours of the high school student’s community ministry and since 2000, over 50,000 hours of service has been tracked and record by just the high schoolers alone. This equates to an average of 4-5,000 hours a year by the four grade levels!

The week prior to Spring Break, students at the secondary and high school campus participate in I-Term, where TCA sets aside traditional school lessons and focuses on getting students off campus and physically serving the whole week. I-Term projects are mostly local, but some students elect to go on a mission trip with their family or trips through the school. The TCA sponsored trips have included working with migrant children in the Florida Keys, helping with an after-school program in Chicago, helping an orphanage in China and much more. This year, the school will be sponsoring trips to the Dominican Republic to do construction work and lead Vacation Bible School, Spain to work with children through a soccer program and the Grand Canyon to assist a Navajo food bank.



“When we do community ministry, whether locally or abroad, the students get to see the world as it really is. We live in a bubble, but this gets us all out and we see a hurting world desperately in need of hope. For us as a Christian school, we believe that hope is found in Jesus Christ,” Joe shared, “Typically when we are a part of a ministry outreach, we will debrief about the experience we shared afterward. It is incredible to hear about the impact of some of their experiences and it’s one of my favorite things about serving. Quite honestly, I need this as much as they do.”

In addition, the school hosts stand-alone service projects throughout the year, namely with the Parker County Miracle League and monthly collects food for the Center of Hope. Parents help with a luncheon each month where funds are raised to support a missionary in northern Mexico as well.

TCA TRACKS THE HOURS OF THE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS' COMMUNITY MINISTRY AND SINCE 2000, OVER 50,000 HOURS OF SERVICE HAS BEEN TRACKED AND RECORD BY JUST THE HIGH SCHOOLERS ALONE.





The options for serving corporately with the school are unlimited for the students, staff and faculty and staff and help guide the students as the focus on the service portion of the three pillars at TCA (service, relationship and excellence).

“My favorite part about serving with students is that we are actively sharing and showing God’s love side-by-side. It is a powerful experience to get to see and feel God moving through us to reach others for His Kingdom. God’s Word comes to life when put it into action through ministry. Serving others also helps our students see and realize the needs around them---to think more of others than themselves,” Teresa stated, “Not only does it bless the hearts and lives of those we give back to, but it also teaches us a valuable lesson that it is truly better to give than to receive.” † PCLS



**CODY ATHEY,
SENIOR AT TCA**

A couple years ago as an underclassman, the core group mission project served as a way to grow friendships with the upperclassman. Now, as a senior the core group, projects serve as a way to grow closer to younger guys, which I know was special to me at that age.

**REBECCA LU,
JUNIOR AT TCA**

With each community ministry project, I have been reminded that above all the other duties I have in my life as a student, friend and daughter, I am a servant of the living God. In each and every moment, it is my joy and responsibility to represent Christ and it is so cool to me that TCA gives opportunities for us to live out our calling for ministry.



**HEATHER DAVIS,
2009 TCA
GRADUATE**

Community service was a big impact in my life, that I didn’t really understand until now, 10 years after graduation. In high school, I started volunteering at Camp Summit, a camp for kids and adults with disabilities. I would spend weeks during the summer, and weekends throughout



spring and fall semesters volunteering, but not just for service hours. It became a true passion, and I learned more about myself while serving others. As I look back at these experiences, it amazes me how these service opportunities created a foundation for me to become a pediatric physician assistant. It was because of these service opportunities I found my passion of working with kids, regardless of their abilities.




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On Wings of Angels

By Jennifer Foland

Photos by Lindsey Sullivan Photography and
provided by Weatherford Christian School

Behind every lasting legacy there is a story to be told. If walls could talk, the gym at Weatherford Christian School would have a lot to say. The gym was built in remembrance of five people whose lives ended much too soon.

A tragedy that devastated a community

After a Brock girls' basketball game, which they won 52-50 over Graford, Staci Lee, Mandi McWhorter, Lacey Osina, and Whitney Welch were heading home to hang out with friends and watch movies. As they pulled onto Ranger Highway, they were hit head-on by a drunk driver, and all 4 girls were killed. Cheerleaders, basketball players, and honor students, these 4 Christian girls had bright futures ahead of them. This loss was felt by the entire Brock and Weatherford communities. As a direct result of this accident, the State of Texas passed State Senate Bill 113, which amended the open container law and reduced the legal blood alcohol limit from .10 to .08.



This gym was not built by any one person. It is a God thing and His timing has always been obvious.



The purpose behind the gym

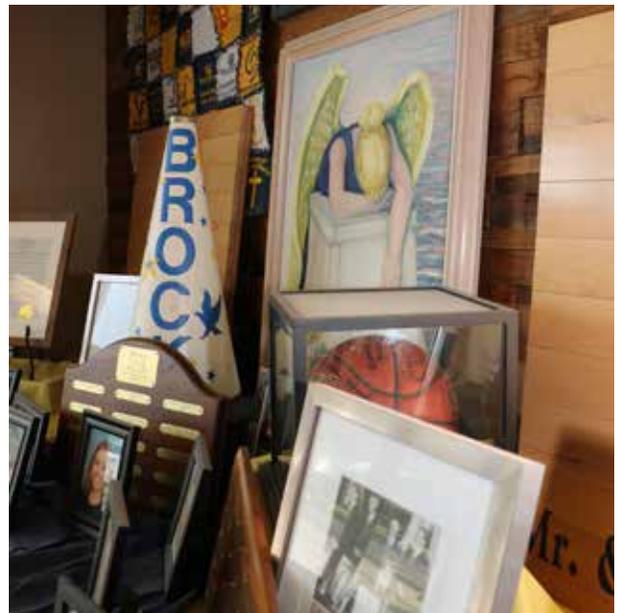
When Weatherford Christian School purchased land to build a permanent facility only 2 miles up the road from the site of that tragic accident, it seemed fitting to do something in their memory. Dr. Jeff Foland, a member of the WCS Board of Directors at the time—and the current Board chairman—and his wife, Jennifer, were serving as co-chairs of the campaign to help finance the building of the new facility. All 3 of their children have attended WCS, and Jordann, the oldest, was in the initial second grade class on the day the school opened its doors.

Jennifer was close friends with Greg Welch, Whitney's father, and had told him after the accident that she wanted some day to do something in memory of the girls. So, several years later, when the Ranger Highway property was purchased, "On Wings of Angels"—a new campaign to build a gym in remembrance of the 4 girls—began.

When Greg lost his battle with cancer in 2004, it seemed only fitting to include him in the memorial. The families of Greg and the four girls were contacted to get their blessing to build a gym which would pay tribute to the legacy of their loved ones. The fundraising went well initially, but then the economic downturn of 2008 made things more difficult.

It was then that the idea of a secondary campaign, "Brands for Education," came about. The "Brands" campaign allowed cutting horse ranches, local businesses, and families to purchase floor space where brands and logos could be placed around the perimeter of the gym's basketball court, making the gym very unique.

On each corner of the court is a three-foot cross bearing the name of one of the girls. The space immediately surrounding each cross is reserved for memories and scriptures contributed by that girl's family. Connecting the crosses, along the sides of the court, are the 3 ft by 3 ft squares containing brands, logos and inscriptions. The end zones are occupied by 2 major sponsors.





All in God's time

“Isaiah 40:31, ‘Those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength’ became a scripture that seemed appropriate for the gym and kind of became our prayer,” said Mrs. Foland. “This gym was not built by any one person. It is a God thing and His timing has always been obvious. The first event we held in the gym—when it was only a shell—was a candlelight Praise and Worship Night. On the walls of the shell, WCS students wrote scriptures, quotes and prayers. These inscriptions would later be sealed and enclosed behind the interior walls of the gym, and their presence is known by only a few.

In 2014, seven years after construction on the gym started, Leslie Chalmers, WCS Director of Development at the time, conceived and orchestrated a country music concert, car show and antique car raffle, held on the school campus adjacent to the gym, which helped raise funds to move the gym closer to completion.

GREG WELCH GYMNASIUM



IN REMEMBRANCE OF

STACI LEE † MANDI MCWHORTER † LACEY OSINA † WHITNEY WELCH



On each corner of the court is a three-foot cross bearing the name of one of the girls. The space immediately surrounding each cross is reserved for memories and scriptures contributed by that girl's family.

The final product

A ribbon cutting was held in which each girl's family was able to come and see the cross with their angel's name and the verses surrounding them. This was a special night for everyone involved. Tears were shed, memories and hugs were shared, and the feeling of a community of believers was something everyone present would long remember. Several months later, the gym, though not completely finished was ready for basketball games.

In January 2015, the WCS Lady Lions girls' basketball team played the first official game in the gym and won by a score of 50-48....one basket away from the score of the last game played by the special young ladies the gym memorializes.

In the gym's foyer, Greg's saddle sits surrounded by pictures of the four girls which line the walls. "The gym brings healing and awareness to our community," Jennifer said. "We are thankful to the families for allowing us to honor these special people and to everyone who has prayed, purchased brands, and worked to help this dream become a reality. We pray this gym will be a blessing to our community as well as to the students of WCS."

If you wish to be a part of this special memorial through "Brands for Education", contact Courtney McKeown, Director of Missions and Advancement at Weatherford Christian School. ✝ PCLS

Four Angels of Brock

Four friendships of Brock, and this was illimitable
Only with good intentions and bright futures in sight
Under each other's influence to do things agreeable
Relationships strong, and held with all their might



Greg Welch

Greg loved to train and show cutting horses, a love he passed on to his daughter, Whitney. He won the National Cutting Horse Futurity in 1991 and the NCHA World Championship title in 1982. He served as NCHA president in 2002-2003. He was a member of the NCHA Riders Hall of Fame and the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame.

He was a recovered alcoholic who rededicated his life to Christ after the passing of his daughter and, along with Horsemen for Christ, started sharing the gospel through the Whitney Welch Bible and Cutting Horse camp. After Greg's passing, Horsemen for Christ continued with the camp but added Greg's name to the title.

In 2000, the Whitney and Greg Welch Memorial Sportsmanship Award was established to honor a National Youth Cutting Horse Association member who exemplifies the qualities of sportsmanship, responsibility, and respect for fellow competitors.

Staci Lee

Staci, 16, always had a smile on her face, was very active in sports, and was an honor student at Brock High School. After moving to Brock in 1995, she joined the Brock Baptist Church and accepted Christ.

Mandi McWhorter

Mandi, 15, who was always willing to help anyone, was a Beta Club member, was involved in athletics, and had plans to attend Baylor University.

Lacey Osina

Lacey, 17, played basketball, volleyball and was a cheerleader. She was on the honor roll and cared greatly for others. She was an organ and tissue donor.

Whitney Welch

Whitney, 16, enjoyed track and cheerleading and was an honor student. She was a strong Christian and was always the peacemaker of the group. She rode cutting horses as well.

REBUILDING HISTORY

BY RICK MAUCH

PHOTOS BY HLANOUE PHOTOGRAPHY AND RICK MAUCH

The small but devoted congregation of Prince Memorial C.M.E. Church in Weatherford haven't given up hope, even though their beloved, 151 year-old-building is going through a massive restoration!



Raymond George and his cousin, Clem Smith, grew up in the Prince Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, a little building with a big history, located at 410 W. Oak Street in Weatherford.

"We used to have a lot children in this church, several came from Mineral Wells," Raymond, 81, recalled. "There was this one little girl, she noticed I had a couple of dimes in my shoes (penny loafers). She just came right up and took them out. I kinda liked her, so I just let her take them."

Eighty-year-old Clem's favorite memory rang a bell—literally.

"I remember at Sunday school, if we raised more money than the elders did, we got to ring the bell (in the front entrance)," he said. "We'd go out and do extra work just to get to do that."

Now, they and others are fighting to create future memories as the church is undergoing a restoration. The roof was caving in, the walls were collapsing, and all the while, the small but devoted congregation has never abandoned their church home. They are meeting in a dinner hall in back of the church as work has begun, but they are determined to return to their beloved sanctuary as soon as they can.



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"WE DON'T HAVE A HUGE CONGREGATION, BUT WE HAVE A SPECIAL CONGREGATION. AND THIS IS OUR HOME."

- CLEM SMITH

According to the Parker County Heritage Society's web site, the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church (C.M.E.) began in Parker County on Dec. 2, 1867. Bishop William Miles built the church using freed slaves, located in the current location, in 1871, which is named in honor of the Reverend A. Bartlett Prince, who was a charter member of the congregation and the church's first presiding elder, and ironically, a white man.

Built in an architectural style of the period, the church measures a modest 21 feet by 31 feet. The exterior features its original bell tower, arched windows, and steeply pitched gables.

It is the oldest church building in Parker County. Boze Ikard, trail guide and longtime companion of famous Texas cattlemen Oliver Loving and Charles Goodnight, was once a member of the church. It is also the oldest black CME church in Texas and the second oldest black church in the U.S. west of the Mississippi.

"When we saw it bending and the rain coming in, we knew something had to be done," said Clem, who is the church's recording steward. All money matters flow through him, such as paying the bills, and this major project.

"This is my baby."

Clem said the church currently has 32 registered members. Of those, between a dozen and 18 are regular attendees.

"We don't have a huge congregation, but we have a special congregation," he said. "And this is our home."

"We used to hold funerals in here. We couldn't go to the other places. We also had a lot of weddings. The membership used to be so good we had a morning and afternoon service."

Then, he smiled and remembered something his mother told him as a child.

"My mother always said, 'If you don't go to church on Sunday, you don't go anywhere else,' he said.

Repairs are going to cost somewhere around \$80,000. Raymond said around half of that is already raised through donations from individuals, money raised from a booth at the Parker County Peach Festival, and a \$25,000 donation from the Parker County Heritage Society.

"If they'd had one more rain (before starting work) that roof was going to cave in," Raymond said. "The roof was pushing the walls out. If it had collapsed, there'd be no way to save it."

Though Raymond no longer attends Prince Memorial, he felt a desire to step in and help. He even raised a donation of \$1,000 from his current church, New Hope Baptist Church.

Raymond was previously the driving force behind the restoration of the Mount Pleasant Colored School, spending 16 years on that project. In fact, the street on which the historical site sits is named after him, Raymond George Way (formerly Dubellette Street).

The school was built in 1917 for black students in grades one through nine and graduated its last class in 1963. Raymond graduated from there in 1963 before going on to finish his high school education at I.M. Terrell in Fort Worth.

"The city was going to tear my school down. I had to save it, and I couldn't let this church go down either," Raymond said. "These are the only things black students had back then."





"This is more than a church. It's history."

Raymond was honored by the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce as Citizen of the Year in October.

Greg Boyd, president of the Parker County Heritage Society, agrees. And after he and members of his board of directors held a meeting inside the church to discuss helping, they quickly came to a decision—with the help of Mother Nature.

"The water from the rain was actually falling onto us as we were meeting," he said. "It was that little extra push. We voted immediately and unanimously."

"A lot of people in the community have had friends and family go there. It's been a mixed congregation for a long time. It's been a part of our history for a long time, and part of our job is to promote living history. We just couldn't let it fall down."

In an effort to bring attention to the needed work and perhaps to help raise more funds, the church was placed on the Candlelight Tour of Homes in Weatherford in December.

"It's one of the oldest wooden frame structures in the city, and one of the oldest continually occupied," Bond said. "We encourage everyone to get involved and help on this project."

Jermaine Robertson became pastor of Prince Memorial in July. He said he feels honored to have been sent to the church at this time, given the opportunity to help it recover and grow stronger.

"THIS IS MORE THAN A CHURCH. IT'S HISTORY."

-RAYMOND GEORGE

"The restoration holds a particular challenge, not just for me and the members, but for the members of the community. It's a chance to extend God's voice," he said. "I've just been astounded by the investment of the community, that they would see the rich history. No matter what background or belief, people are just showing love, and that's very encouraging."

"I've never seen neighbors who looked different, believed different, serve different, come together like this to preserve a piece of history. The church is a mascot, showing what lives on the inside of them."

Bond said the restoration project also includes creating some additional parking space in a lot next door. The hope is that as the church is renovated, more visitors - and perhaps even new members - will attend.

"It's been my experience if people see some action, they're drawn to a place," he said.

Clem agrees, borrowing an expression from the Kevin Costner movie, "Field of Dreams."

"They will come. I know they will," he said. "Like they say, 'If you build it, they will come.'"

Those wishing to help with the project can contact Bond through the Parker County Heritage Society web site and send an email, or call them at 817-223-8708, or call Raymond at 817-304-3519, Clem at 817-613-6755, or Bill Baker at First National Bank at 817-598-4910. † PCLS



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HOMETOWN HISTORY:

Davis City Pharmacy



By Rick Mauch
Photos by Peace, Love, and Realty Photography

It's been 55 years since Jim Coleman took a job at a little pharmacy in downtown Weatherford to be closer to his brother, who was serving an internship at John Peter Smith Hospital.

Jim is still there every day, greeting each customer—many who have been coming to Davis City Pharmacy themselves for decades.

"Good morning" or "Good afternoon" are phrases that are as common as the sweltering Texas sun on an August afternoon. And speaking of the Texas heat, visitors are welcome to come in, sit a spell,

and enjoy a refreshing beverage, whether they are picking up a prescription or just to say hi.

"I love the town, and I love this place," Jim, 78, said. "I've had chances to leave, but this was exactly what I wanted when I got out of school (University of Texas in 1963)."

And he and the pharmacy are apparently what folks in Weatherford have wanted for many years. Even before Jim's arrival, the little drug store at 111 Trinity Steet was serving customers in a fashion that put comfort and hospitality first, as far back as when it was Scarlett's Pharmacy in 1924.



*City
Pharmacy*

Davis City Pharmacy

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PRESCRPTIONS



Gerald Davis came onboard as a pharmacist in 1949, and a year later purchased the store. It was Davis who hired Jim.

"I came in and we made a deal that day," Jim recalled. "We hit it off right away, and we were great friends. Gerald was a very personable guy. He knew everybody and everybody loved him. It was very easy for me to also get to know him.

"I remember his fatherly image. I learned a lot from him."

Gerald would bring Jim on as a partner, and the two of them entered other business ventures together. At one time they owned a couple of Gibson's stores in Graham and Eastland. Jim is still involved in real estate, and has been a bank director in the past, along with serving on the school board, the hospital board, and the board of deacons in his Presbyterian church.

Gerald passed away in the mid-1990s and Jim took over as the sole owner of the pharmacy. However, Davis' name is still on a sign that hangs outside the pharmacy.

"This store will always have his name on it. He was just a hell of a guy," Jim said, noting a photo of Gerald that still hangs above the pharmaceutical counter.

Folks overwhelmingly say the same about Jim.

"Jim is a very compassionate person. He cares about people, and that's what this business is all about. People

come here because they want to feel good," said Nelda Chane, who has been working at the pharmacy since 1962 and is now a pharmacy tech.

"We all ask how a person's family is doing, and things like that make a big impact. Some of the people we've become very good friends with."

Jim survived a bout with cancer in 2008. As soon as he could he was right back greeting customers, even though he now has to press an artificial device in his throat to do so.

Jim said the personal connection is one of the main reasons the pharmacy has been around for so many years—and a reason he believes it will be around for many more. He knows a thing or two about getting to know his neighbors, having been raised in the small East Texas town of Mabank.

"We get to know pretty much everyone in town sooner or later," he said, as just then a customer is exiting and he breaks away to say, "See you in a bit." Another leaves right behind, and he says, "You come back."

"This business is a health care business, but it's also a people business. When you're dealing with a person's prescriptions, it becomes personal," he continued. "If there's one place you want absolute trust, that's it. Over time you get to know their family, their brothers, sisters, mom, dad."

In fact, the pharmacy has folks coming there who, as kids themselves, would accompany their moms, dads, grandparents. Jim said they are approaching four million prescriptions filled in the pharmacy's history.

"I've been coming here ever since I was a little kid," customer Paul Hardin said. "I remember riding our bikes up here to get a drink at the soda fountain."

The soda fountain is now a thing of the past, but there are still plenty of treats for kiddos to drool over.

"The kids call us the candy store," said Belinda Shipman, who has worked at the pharmacy for five years.

By the counter is a vast assortment of candy sticks. Throughout the store is a variety of delicious offerings. There's even a shelf filled with local honey.



Lois Hardin has been a customer since the 1950s. Her husband worked for Davis as a teenager.

"The atmosphere is unmatched. They're so friendly, and they always find what I need," she said.

Beatrice Hooten has been a customer for 15 years. Among the many things she loves is that the pharmacy still delivers.

"That is very convenient," she said. "Of course, it's always nice coming in here also, seeing such nice people. That personal touch is important. At some of those big places you don't get that."

But you will always get that at Davis City Pharmacy, said pharmacist Ronnie Bane, who has been working with Jim for over 50 years. That specialty is a big part of what kept him around so long.

"I worked here in high school, college, and came back here after pharmacy school," he said. "We've all been here a long time. That tells you something about the place."

"Jim and I, we just get along. We've never had an argument, no disagreement, just lots of enjoyable times."

Connie Morris has been keeping the company's books for several decades. She's also Jim's business manager.

"WE ALL ASK HOW A PERSON'S FAMILY IS DOING, AND THINGS LIKE THAT MAKE A BIG IMPACT. SOME OF THE PEOPLE WE'VE BECOME VERY GOOD FRIENDS WITH."

"When we come here, we stay here. We're like family," she said.

Donna Chane, Nelda's sister-in-law, has been a cashier at the pharmacy for 16 years.

"We'll have people come in and ask how do you come to work here," Donna said. "Well, somebody has to die, because when you come to work here, you stay. You don't see that very much anymore."

Around the store are paintings by Jim's wife Myrlan, a long-time professor in the arts department at Weatherford College. And yes, they are for sell. The two met in college.

"I'm so proud of Myrlan and all that she has accomplished," Jim said. "She's been there a long time (almost five decades), and she's very good at her job."

Jim and Myrlan have two children and seven grandchildren. Daughter Jill Chilcoat is a radiologist at Harris Hospital, and son Will works alongside his dad as a pharmacy tech.

"He has taught me more than I ever learned in 15 years of school," said Will, who has been in the pharmacy approaching two decades. "I wouldn't trade it for anything."

And yes, Will does plan to take over the pharmacy if and when Jim ever retires.

"I definitely want to keep it in the Coleman family," he said, adding with a chuckle, "Of course we'll probably end up burying dad under these floorboards." † PCLS





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