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FEBRUARY 2015

# NOW

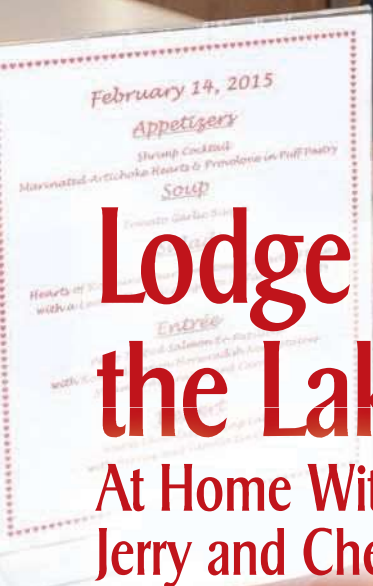
## Kiss the Cook

J.B. and Lori Gross  
create meals and  
memories together

## Lodge on the Lake

At Home With  
Jerry and Cheryl Cassels

Possibilities  
Before You Tie the Knot  
Caring for the Future  
In the Kitchen  
With Pam Powell





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### ON THE COVER



*J.B. and Lori Gross enjoy sharing meals with friends and each other.*

*Photo by Sarah McVean.*

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## Editor's Note

*Greetings, friends!*

Love is in the air! I look forward to Valentine's Day every year. It could be because of the tasty treats gifted to me by my children, sharing a romantic meal with my husband or receiving greeting cards that offer thoughts of admiration. Maybe it's all three! I wish you much love this month and all year long.

As we think of sharing our hearts with loved ones, it reminds me that we need to take care of our own heart health. February marks American Heart Month, and tips to stay heart healthy are available at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

Here at *WeatherfordNOW*, we're celebrating our fourth anniversary. Our hearts are filled with gratitude! We appreciate the support we've received from our readers and advertisers over the years. And to all of the residents who have shared their stories with us — we say thank you!

Take care!

### Amber

Amber D. Browne  
*WeatherfordNOW* Editor  
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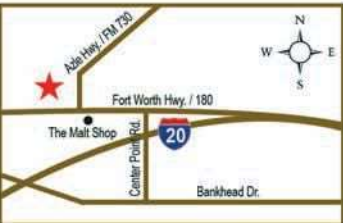
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Laverne Manire, South Bowie Day Care and Pre-School owner and director, and her staff offer part-time and full-time care for area children.



# CARING FOR THE FUTURE

*South Bowie Day Care and Pre-School serves families in Weatherford and surrounding communities.*

*— By Amber D. Browne*

Since opening its doors in Weatherford in 1985, South Bowie Day Care and Pre-School has been committed to serving local youth and their families. The state-licensed facility provides part-time and full-time child care for children ranging in age from 6 weeks to 12 years.

Laverne Manire, director and owner, purchased the land off S. Bowie after retiring from child care at First Baptist Church. She built the Christian-based day care center to serve the community. "I've always liked kids, and I knew there was a definite need for child care," Laverne shared. Laverne's daughter, Brenda Carter, came onboard to do the bookkeeping when the facility opened. She now serves as assistant director.

Students begin each day with a morning assembly at 9:00. Starting with the Pledge of Allegiance, the assembly includes information about the daily weather, the lunch menu and birthday announcements. Students also recite the South Bowie School cheer.

Classrooms are divided by age, and the student-teacher ratio is above minimum standards. The educators have 24-hours of training and are first-aid certified. Parents can find each classroom's daily learning objectives posted outside the door, along with a list of books read during the week. The curriculum may include handwriting practice, sight words, math and art.

Each day in their classrooms, the students enjoy a light breakfast, hot lunch and an afternoon snack. Weather permitting, the



students play outside in age-appropriate playgrounds under mature trees. "It's one big sand box. We don't have anything they can climb on. It keeps down the accidents," Brenda said. The school-age students have a place of their own dubbed the Bobcat Den. South Bowie Day Care and Pre-School provides transportation from Weatherford ISD schools, with the exceptions of Mary Martin Elementary and Bose Ikard Elementary. Once at the after-school program, the children can play video games or board games, watch TV and compete in pool tournaments.

Throughout the year, students participate in themed events. One of the facility's most memorable and engaging events is held each February. Throughout the month, Pre-K students study space. Once their studies are complete, Brenda sets up a makeshift space capsule. Students don helmets as they climb into the space shuttle and strap themselves in with seatbelts. They watch a portion of *Apollo 13* as stars shine above them. Their creative imaginations are on overdrive. "It's an experience for the kids," Brenda explained.

Camps are offered during the summer months. Various activities are planned for the older children, including swimming three days a week. Campers can also accumulate tickets they can use to purchase toys, games and candy during camp.

Safety is a top priority at South Bowie Day Care and Pre-School. "We are strict on who can pick up the children," Laverne said. Staff members ask for identification and only release the child to those who are listed on the paperwork. Security passes are required to pick up the child from class.

Affordability is also a priority. Pricing depends on the age of the child, and payments can be made weekly. "On January 1, all the parents get 20 days of vacation time," Brenda said. There is no charge for days the day care is closed for holidays or inclement weather. "We don't charge them for days they're not here."

At South Bowie Day Care and Pre-School, teachers and staff care about the children and their families. "We are a blessed day care, and we have the mentality to serve," Brenda shared. **NOW**

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