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JULY 2014

NOW

Cycling's Perfect Storm

Bill Mendrop
rides for fun and
reaps health
benefits

Whiz Kid

The Versatile Stripe

Learning to Jump

In the Kitchen With Ryan Mordecai

Rustic Elegance

At Home With Lindy Burch



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ON THE COVER



Bill Mendrop rolls around town on two wheels.

Photo by Sarah Claussen.

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Subscriptions are available at the rate of \$35 per year or \$3.50 per issue. Subscriptions should be sent to: NOW Magazines, P.O. Box 1071, Waxahachie, TX 75168. For advertising rates or editorial correspondence, call (817) 613-1533 or visit www.nowmagazines.com.



Editor's Note

Greetings, WeatherfordNOW readers!

I love summertime! I know, I know. The 100-plus temperatures are a bit much, but it sure is fun to take a dip in the pool or chat around the picnic table with family and friends. Plus, my children are enjoying their break from school. We are busy most summer afternoons. We spend them together hunting for treasures in our backyard, feeding the ducks and geese at the Lake Weatherford

Marina or just curling up with a book on the hammock.

We also take time to savor some of Parker County's tasty peaches! The 30th Annual Parker County Peach Festival will be held in Historic Downtown Weatherford on July 12. Tens of thousands will visit the downtown area to enjoy all types of peach treats, as well as live music and arts and crafts vendors. Why not join them?

Happy summer!

Amber

Amber D. Browne
WeatherfordNOW Editor
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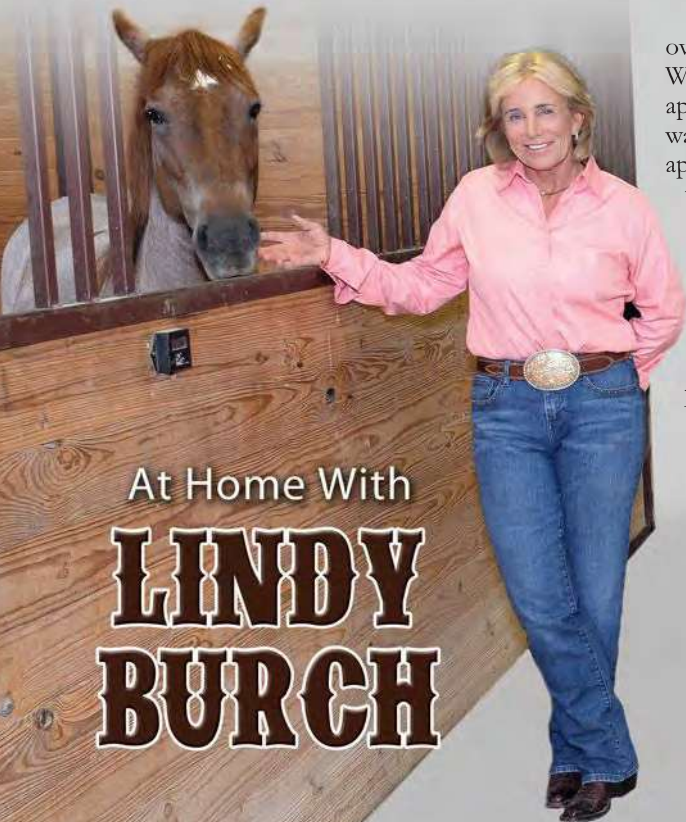
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A sprawling ranch in Weatherford is not just the place where Lindy Burch makes her home. Ranching is her way of life. Lindy grew up in Southern California and moved to the Cutting Horse Capital of the World in 1990. She lived on a couple of local ranches over the years, and in 2007, she downsized to her current homestead on the 34-acre Oxbow Ranch.

RUSTIC *Elegance*

— By Amber D. Browne



At Home With
**LINDY
BURCH**

As visitors enter the gated property, a sense of comfort and relaxation takes over. That feeling is amplified once inside Lindy's rustic, yet elegant abode. When she purchased the home, Lindy decided to renovate the original barn apartment and add on a foyer, master suite and office. Her reasoning was additional space, mostly to fit a refractory table into the original apartment. She renovated a bedroom into a large dining area, where the beautiful refractory table is now the centerpiece. Lindy and her former husband discovered the heavy table in a mission in Carmel, California. "It takes six grown men to pick it up," she explained. "I've carried it with me forever." The dining area also includes a large, wooden buffet cabinet, which holds an assortment of wines for Lindy and her guests.

A granite-topped island surrounded by oversized, leather stools was added to the kitchen for additional entertaining space. Stainless steel appliances were installed, including a microwave drawer oven. Fresh flowers add a little color to the kitchen, along with a cabinet door featuring an antique, stained-glass window. The iron hood above the range has been oxidized to match the fireplace in the living room. The gas fireplace, controlled by remote, is flush with the wall as to not take up space. Lindy spends evenings cozing up to the fire on her brown, leather sectional, as she catches a few shows on the big screen television above the mantel, which is crafted from a refurbished wood beam salvaged from a church in





South Texas. Corrugated tin panels that have gained character over the years were added to the ceiling, bordered by additional wood beams. The tin adds rustic charm to the room, which features wood floors and wood paneling.

It's a cozy home, highlighted with rustic elegance. "I've lived in more formal places, but here, I can come in with my boots and spurs, or I can get dressed up and go out in heels," Lindy shared. "Anyone who comes here usually tells me they feel quite welcome. That's the key to a nice home."

The guest bedroom in the original section of the home has been redone to include a stall door. Lindy added an iron bed and comfy bedding, which guests appreciate while staying overnight. "They hate to get out of it. Maybe that's just an excuse, so they don't have to get up and work," Lindy grinned.



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The foyer addition features an antique iron chandelier, which emits a soft glow as visitors enter the home. Lindy's love of Native American culture is apparent in the foyer with a bronze statue of Indians on horseback. A Native American rug purchased from a rug trader in Arizona about 30 years ago adds a splash of color atop the tile floor. Another



stall door slides open into the master bedroom, which is also an addition to the home. Painted in warm colors, the room features western decor and a second Native American rug. Her master bathroom, accented with raw cedar, houses her exercise equipment. Health and fitness are very important to Lindy. "It's necessary in my line of work," she said.

Lindy has been called a trailblazer in the cutting horse sport. Her home office is lined with trophies. Large, custom-framed photographs, showing Lindy in action atop her show horses, give visitors

insight into her passion for cutting. One of her mares, Bet Yer Blue Boons, was selected to pose for a collectible figurine, which is displayed on a shelf in her office. "Of all the mares I know, she certainly deserves it." Lindy continues to compete, judge and train horses across the globe.

Lindy was raised riding horses. "I would ride for fun. Most kids had bikes. I had horses." At 15, she began cutting. After a cutting trainer moved in across from her childhood home, Lindy got a job working in his barn. In return, she got cutting lessons and began competing

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when she was about 16. She attended the University of California, Los Angeles on a sports scholarship and began training horses part time. She earned her bachelor's degree in zoology and a master's degree in endocrinology. She taught school for a year and trained horses on the side. "I never dreamed you could make a living out of your hobby," she explained. "I still ride on Sundays. I ride no matter what."

Because of her experience and talent, Lindy became the first woman to win the titles of the National Cutting Horse Association (NCHA) Open Futurity Championship and the NCHA Open



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World Championship. Lindy was inducted into the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame and the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame, among others. "It's a great honor," Lindy shared. "It's like a piece of the cake. It's an added bonus. I'd never realized my life would have that kind of distinction." Lindy became the first female to hold the position of president of the NCHA in 2001 and continues to volunteer with the organization. She serves as chairperson of the NCHA Horse and Cattle Welfare Task Force and as a member on additional committees.





Horses may be Lindy's first love, but she enjoys several hobbies in her spare time. "My No. 1 hobby is bird hunting." She often takes her two black Labradors, Ziggy and Jet, to hunt pheasants and ducks. Lindy enjoys watching movies and playing sports and spends the summer wake surfing behind her ski boat on Possum Kingdom Lake. In Lindy's mind, labeling herself an adrenaline junky would be an understatement. Although her life is busy with work and play, Lindy tries to find time to relax on her cozy back porch in the evenings. It gives her a chance to soak up the view and reflect.



Why does she like to ride horses? "It's like why do you like to breathe?" she shared. "I can't see myself in the future ever not riding. I hope it never comes to that. I love to be with a horse. I love to form that partnership, that bond."

Lindy's love of ranch life is apparent throughout her home. From the shiny belt buckle display and bronze statue collection to her mounted ducks and framed artwork of her horses and dogs, Lindy Burch is a woman destined to enjoy ranch living. "I'm a ranch girl, I guess," she admitted. **NOW**



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