

East Texas: Center of Universe *By Cathy Krafve*

Yep, it's that time of year when we all get wanderlust. Every good Boy Scout knows that to start a journey you need a compass.

Folks around here agree with me when I claim that East Texas is the center of the universe.

If you are looking to explore our neck of the woods, then a good center point for your compass is a quaint little Bed and Breakfast called the Rosevine Inn, only a few blocks from downtown Tyler.

Bert Powell and his wife of 29 years, Becca built the inn from scratch, designing with respect for the character of the neighborhood. Powell, who is known for the numerous homes he has restored over the last thirty years, incorporated many reclaimed architectural features into the inn's design to pay trib-

ute to the 1930s era, while including the modern amenities that make a visit comfortable and fun.

There's so much to do in downtown Tyler and the surrounding areas that the list gets long, but here are some ideas for starters.

-Shopping within walking distance from the inn includes, Bufo and Babin, a local favorite among designers where they carry hard to find French ribbon by the yard. Cross Front Street to be dazzled at The Rose Patch Antiques where collections of glass, vintage Christmas, and funky finds, including Mo McSwane's handmade gift items recently featured in Country Living, will stimulate your imagination.

-If you walk in the opposite direction, be sure and stop in at The Gipson Girl. Brace yourself; Cynthia Gipson claims "that leopard is a neutral

and fringe fixes everything;" her shop is the epitome of intentionally gaudy.

-Just past the McClendon House, down the hill where Houston intersects with Glenwood, is a little shop whose plain exterior belies the great deals on estate furniture, from Victorian to modern. Bob Kassube of Bob's Discount Furniture claims to feed people who don't smile to the alligator out back. There must be some truth to his claims because I find myself smiling as he offers me terrific bargains.

-And of course, there's Tyler Square Antiques where you can always find an English sideboard at a good price.

-Next door to the inn, Cox's Grill has been cooking up hamburgers since 1936. On the square, there's Jake's, Rick's and Don Juan's.

-I wouldn't leave town

without stopping by the Sweet Gourmet where Pam Gabriel keeps ceiling to floor walls stocked with fancy stuff like Barefoot Contessa, Godiva chocolate, and jars of her private label salsas and locally grown produce. A few steps away is KE Cellars, the shop of local wine producer, Kiepersol Estates.

With so much shopping to do, it may be hard to find time to relax in the hot tub back at the inn.

Cathy Primer Krafve, aka Checklist Charlie, lives and writes with a Texas twang. Comments are invited at <http://checklistcharlie.blogspot.com>, or cathykrafve@gmail.com.

Scout receives top honor

John Gardner, Bullard Junior (rising) and son of Wendell and Beth Gardner, received scouting's top honor -- Eagle Scout.

Gardner has been scouting since first grade and has completed all requirements of an Eagle Scout -- the highest rank.

Statistics show that only 5 percent of all scouts eve obtain the highest rank. Gardner is one of 13 young men from troop 366 that have achieved this goal.

Gardner is also the fourth grandson of Bro., and Mrs. Marvin Gardner, of Tyler, to receive the Eagle rank.

As part of rank

achievement requirements, a scout must complete a community service project. Gardener led 21 scouts, family and friends to refurbish flower beds at Bullard Middle School.



Mt. Selman VBS "Spy Training Academy" set to train God's spys

Mt. Selman Baptist Church's Vacation Bible School this summer is SonForce Kids Spy Training Academy.

Children from four years, to 13 will train to be special agents for God.

Training begins 6 p.m. - 8:45 p.m. Sunday, July 19 through Thursday, July 23.

Trainees are slated to sing songs, make crafts, play games, learn bible verses and enjoy snacks.

Daily themes are: TRUST, UNITE, TRAIN, FOLLOW and LEAD.

Don't miss out on the fun and espionage of this years Vacation Bible School.

For questions or to pre-register call 903-279-1766, or email rashasara@aol.com

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CYBERKNIFE STORIES TARGETING A BRAIN TUMOR

No More Headaches: Kelly Wishart's Story

Kelly Wishart spent six years in the Army as a Russian interrogator. "Learning Russian was very hard. It was a yearlong school and that's all you did, eight hours a day."

A busy wife and mother raising three children, ages 9, 8 and 4, while also working to finish a bachelor's degree in political science, Kelly is no stranger to headaches. But the headaches she was having in January 2007 were not the normal, kids-getting-on-your-nerves, stuck-in-traffic kind; they were so severe that Kelly's husband kept urging her to see a doctor about them. Army tough, Kelly put it off until April 17, 2007.

"I woke up that morning after having a headache for almost a week straight and could not lift my head off the pillow. And I told my husband, 'I think I need to go to the doctor,' so he took me to my ETMC family doctor."

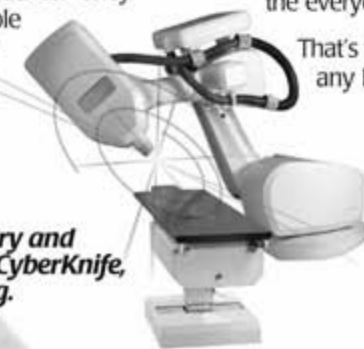
The CAT scan he ordered revealed a pineocytoma: a tumor on the pineal gland that was preventing her brain fluid from draining off. It was the resulting swelling that was causing her headaches. "They said I've probably had this my whole life, but it's so slow growing, it just now got to the point where it was a problem."

A temporary and then a permanent shunt were placed in her brain to drain off the fluid. Because of the location of her tumor, Kelly's neurosurgeon preferred CyberKnife® treatment to open surgery. "We had utmost confidence in the neurosurgeon. The full-blown surgery, if it was going to save my life, I would have done that. But when he came up with this alternative, I said, 'Let's try this first.'"

In May 2007 Kelly received three CyberKnife treatments: "One each day, for about an hour and a half. I just stretched out on the table in my street clothes, and they played whatever music I wanted, and probably 20 minutes into the procedure I fell asleep. Best sleep I had -- I didn't have any kids disturbing me!" Through it all, Kelly said, "the ETMC hospital was wonderful. The staff seems a little bit more personal. You feel like you're talking to a friend and a neighbor at ETMC."

By February of this year, Kelly's tumor had shrunk to half its former size, and it is expected to continue shrinking. Meanwhile Kelly is enjoying life without debilitating headaches. "If I have a headache, it's the everyday kind."

That's what we call a happy ending -- in any language.



To hear Kelly's story and learn more about CyberKnife, visit www.etmc.org.

