

# Dear reader



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\*Qualifying members only, subject to credit approval, some restrictions apply. All rates are based on annual percentage rate (APR) calculations.



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Everything we do, we do for you!

This time each year, I experience a sort of sensory rush as I try to “really take in” the last lazy days of summer. In the evening, I escape to the front step of our sidewalk — sometimes with my kids or my husband, but often alone — to savor my favorite time of the day and all the familiar sounds and smells that remind me of being a child.

The hypnotic humming of cicadas, coming from trees in every direction, reminds me of sitting in the old white rocking chairs on my grandmother’s porch in Cameron Park. We’d rock and rock until the sun faded away and the cicadas strangely stopped, almost all at once.

Sweetly-scented pink mimosa tree blossoms are hard to find these days. An upscale nursery owner recently told me no one wants them anymore — they aren’t in style. But, every once in a while, I’ll pick up the scent while on a walk — and I’ll spot one of the old-fashioned trees tucked away in someone’s yard in our 1950s neighborhood.

Something about hose water — unfiltered, and a taste somewhere between earth and metal — is refreshing as it fills my mouth. I always take a sip — to remind me of simplicity — when I water the flowers on my front porch.

That these are the images that stick out in my mind reminds me how insignificant the plastic toys and designer clothes are, in the big picture. Sometimes, it’s hard for me to consider this in my daily life — and in the experiences we try to provide for our children. All they need, all they really want, is to hear, smell and taste good things from the earth.

If you haven’t had a chance to check out our online ‘Flip Book,’ please do. You can virtually ‘flip’ through the pages of *Waco Today* from the convenience of your computer or cell phone. We even added a “flipping page” sound effect for all the nostalgic people, like me, who want that hold-it-in-your-hand experience.

This month, we bring you stories of education and inspiration. From future leaders and NASA engineers to Boy and Girl Scouts and homegrown football stars — we’ve got stories on all the young hearts and minds who will carry our community through the next generation. We’ve even got insider tips — from professionals and students alike — on making good decisions and how to be smart and cool, all at the same time.



Gretchen Eichenberg  
Editor