### Friendliness and kindness through faith



BY JOHN LEE pampanewseditor@gmail.com Twitter: @jcl1987

It takes a special touch to be an educator as the profession sees a person interact with children, parents, administrators and teachers

Friendliness and kindness are key elements for the profession, and Pampa Independent School District Superintendent Hugh Piatt demonstrates that on a daily basis. So much so that he was named "Friendliest Citizen" in The Pampa News' Best of Gray County reader's contest.

"My daughter saw my name in the running on the internet and she read me the names of the others and I said, 'I don't have to worry about winning that," Piatt said. "But I did, I was surprised."

Piatt attributes the way he interacts with

others to his faith.

"It's a faith thing for me," Piatt said. "If my future is certain, I know where I'm heading one day. I'll be happy to be there but along the way, we are called to serve others and treat others the way you want to be treated. More than that, even if they aren't treating you right, we are still called to treat them well. You're never going to go wrong treating people nice and kind."

Piatt will start year 35 in education this fall and said his friendly demeanor fits into the field.

"We don't get into education for the money or the glory," Piatt said. "We get into education to make a difference in the lives of people, especially kids. As an educator, every day I have the best job in the world. If you want riches or fame, don't be an educator. But if you want to make a difference, we get this opportunity every day. I get to talk to kids and staff members every day.

"The words I use and the the attitude I possess is just to smile. We get to choose every day when we get out of bed whether to be happy about life or see that glass half empty."

Piatt added that we as a community and society are very blessed.

Education comes with tense moments at times and having a calm demeanor can help diffuse the situation.

"Parents are often looking out for their kid," Piatt said. "They didn't send us their worst ones, they sent us their best ones. For whatever reason, they come angry you need to listen. Don't talk all of the time. Listen.

"There is rich and poor, does that make you good or bad? No, we're all people. We put our britches on the same way, we bleed the same way. We're all people. God created us. You come to me with a problem. I want to listen and see how I can make a difference. With that active listening, comes compassion and empathy. We may not always agree on what the solution looks like, but that doesn't mean we have to leave mad."

Piatt added when it comes to students, he emphasizes choosing a good attitude.

Piatt has been in Pampa since 2015 when he was named the high school principal. He held that position for six years before being named superintendent last fall.

"We have great kids, great people and a great community," Piatt said.

Piatt is married to his wife of 37 years, Shanna, who is also in education. The pair have three children with eight grandchildren (and one on the way).



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### Buddy's Home Furnishings named 'Best Rent-to-Own"



FROM LEFT, BRANDON FISHER, MONIOA MACALLENES AND DAVID VALDEZ.

BY JOHN LEE pampanewseditor@gmail.com Twitter: @jcl1987

After being open less than two years in Pampa, Buddy's Home and Furnishings (located at 1533 N. Hobart) is making an immediate impact, being named "Best Rent-to-Own" in The Pampa News' reader's poll.

In fact, 2022 marks the second time the company has received the commendation.

"It's about hospitality and respect toward our customers," General Manager Monica Magallanes said.

Sales Manager David Valdez said it's about "showing what Buddy's is all about."

"When the guys deliver, our policy says we can move [the customers] stuff out of the way," Valdez said. "We don't actually have to take it out of the house. But the guys will offer and ask where the customer wants it. That's just helping them out."

Magallanes said in-store Buddy's will try to work with customers as best they can lining up due dates conveniently, etc.

Buddy's will also host customer appreciation cook-outs and other fun events for the community. Delivery Tech for Buddy's, Brandon Fisher, who

has been with the company since they opened, said it's the regular customers and staff experience that makes Buddy's great.

"It's the familiar faces," Fisher said. "David's got 12-13 years in (retail customer service). The customers follow us and where they feel more comfortable."

The crew at Buddy's shared a story of one of their relationships with customers.

"Her (the customer's) elderly parents needed an AC as soon as possible," Valdez said. "Like right that day. We ended up taking it to her even though we were booked that day (we didn't tell the customer we were booked).

"It's hot and elderly people don't mix. We took it to her, set everything up and the customer praised us on Facebook and the next day, Domino's showed up with pizza."

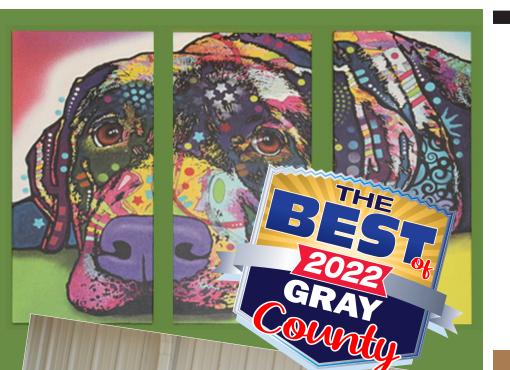
Buddy's is currently running a "Lucky 7 promotion," which gives customers the option of \$7 down, \$7 off weekly rate or seven months same as cash.

Buddy's is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. You can also find them on Facebook. For more information call 806-696-3669.

### Best Investment Firm - Fowler Investment



Photo by ReDonn Woods From left, Brianna Freudenrich and Dan Fowler.









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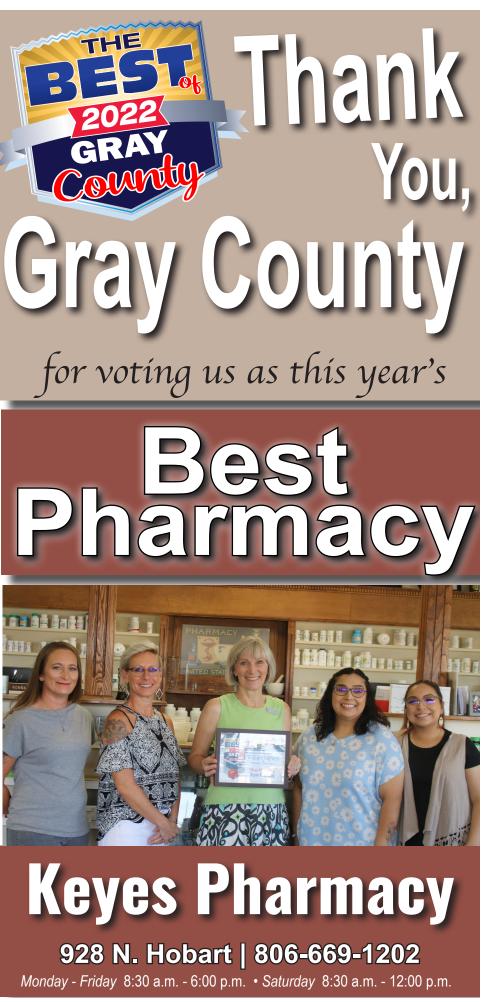
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### Best Cake, Take-Out, Lunch -The Secret Chef at the Barn



### **Physical Therapy Extra named** 'Best Physical Therapy'

BY JOHN LEE pampanewseditor@gmail.com

Twitter: @icl1987

When recovering from an injury or ailment, patients only want the best care. According to the readers of The Pampa News, that care comes from Physical Therapy Extra, located inside the Shops at Cornerstone at 2545 Perryton Parkway Ste. 35.

"It's exciting," Physical Therapy Extra owner David Godino said. "We've enjoyed being a part of Pampa and they have been incredibly supportive of us since we came. Just feels good to be recognized."

Physical Therapy Extra opened in March 2017 with no contacts from physicians to patients. Today, they've grown to five on staff.

"Patient-wise, it's been pretty consistent," Godino said. "Even through Covid we were able to see patients regularly. It's been a really good growth to where we're almost ready to add a full-time clinician outside of me."

Along with traditional physical therapy services, PTX also offers dry-needling.

"Dry-needling is where we take a small needle and insert it into various musculature to help with pain, headaches, nagging issues, etc.," Godino said. "Say they are working out and they tweak something, dry-needling can help push them through that issue to the other side. That's been 6 p.m. and Friday 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. pretty popular."

is the only clinic that offers dry-needling north of Amarillo.

is not limited to Pampa.

"We have patients from Pampa, date care. Canadian, White Deer, etc.," Godino said. "Lots of Miami people. 486-1697.

We serve various degrees of issues like recovering from cardiac surgery, post-operation patients (ACLs, total knees, rotator cuffs, etc.) and back/ neck pains. I have lots of people due to general de-conditioning and falls."

Godino emphasizes that movement heals and works with his patients to get them moving comfortably.

"People talk about the concerns of lifting weights, running and being active because of joint degeneration," Godino said. "The research doesn't necessarily support that that happens when you're running a lot or lifting (especially if you're lifting appropriately).

"The scary thing for me is having someone who is weak. Because if you can't get out of a chair and no one is around to help you, that's terrible."

The emphasis on mobility helps patients live on their own longer.

"Everything is improved by movement," Godino said. "Unless you have a bone sticking out of your arm, if you are hurting 9/10 movement will help with that. Physical therapy can help people get confident.

"A lot of times it comes down to the fear of 'well if I move, it's going to hurt more.' If we can get you moving in a way that's comfortable, then I can get you to moving at home."

Physical Therapy Extra is open Monday through Thursday 7 a.m. to

"We will occasionally take walk-Godino said to his knowledge, PTX ins, but most of the time it depends on what I have available," Godino said. "I try to stay up-to-date with Physical Therapy Extra's clientele all of the research and techniques so people can receive the most up-to-

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### Best Sandwich — Hoagie's Deli







Natosha Douglas, voted

Dr. Kevin Sieck, voted Best Physician



### **Best Nurse**



Pampa Regional Medical Center

Pampa Medical Group



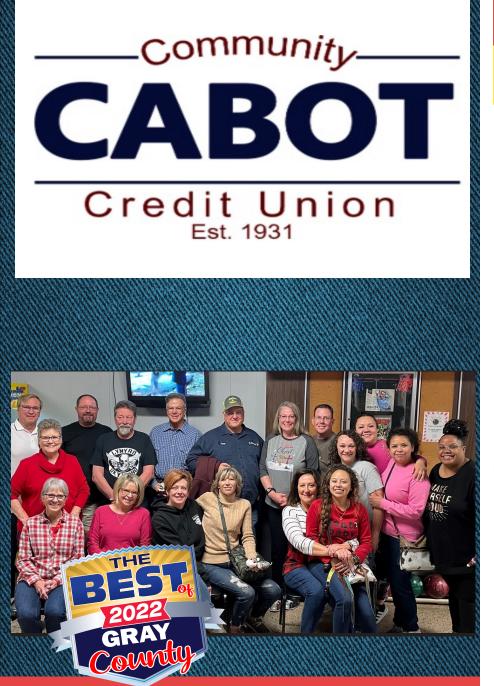
### Best Vet — Gray County Vet Clinic



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### Best Liquor Store - Mikey's Liquor





### Kaylynn Johnston named 'Best Nurse Practioner'

Dr. Nguyen named best pediatrician.

BY CALEB DORN calebwiththepampanews@gmail.com

Kaylynn Johnston is a nurse practitioner who works along side Dr. Giang Nguyen at his practice here in town. She has been in the healthcare industry for 19 years, and a nurse for 17.

"I have been a nurse practitioner for over five years now and a nurse for 17. I do primary care, of all ages," Kaylynn Johnston said.

For the second year in a row, Kaylynn has been voted by the readers of The Pampa News as the "Best Nurse Practitioner", along with Dr. Nguyen who won "Best Pediatrician"

"This is an honor, out of all the options people have, I am very thankful that they picked me. It means that I must be doing something right, to provide the care and take care of their needs. It shows that they trust me," Kaylynn Johnston said. "I think what sets us apart, is that we aren't corporate like. We are a little bit more local and more of a family. It's owner operated so it just has more of a family feel approach."

She became an LPN, in Texas an LVN, in New Mexico. After completing that program she worked nights in pediatrics for a year while continuing schooling to become an RN. In December of 2005 she graduated from schooling with her associate degree in nursing before taking the boards to become and RN in 2006. A little while after finishing her bachelors of nursing at Eastern New Mexico University, she made the move to Pampa in 2013. She fast tracked her schooling from there to become a nurse practitioner.

"As soon as I got to work here, I just knew I wanted to complete my schooling to get my masters and become a nurse prac and hurried it along because I just really new that's what I wanted to do. I started as a CNA and then worked my way up to an RN then LVN and then to where I am now. But it was so good working my way up because you learn all the steps. It helps you have that appreciation for every level because you've done it all," Johnston said.

Kaylynn works along side Dr. Giang T. Nguyen who was also voted a winner for the second year in a row. The pair work alongside each other, Kaylynn providing all the care and help she can, and Dr. Nguyen stepping in to fill his role as a doctor for all other needs.

"Dr. Nguyen does everything that I can't, he supervises me and writes for stuff I can't," Johnston said. "He really is amazing, I love what I do and I love getting to see anyone and everyone," Johnston said."I wanted to get into the medical field partially because my mother, also because I got pregnant when I was young and I knew I would be able to provide for my now family by doing it, and the immediate passion. I just had a passion and wanted to do what would provide the best life for my family."

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**BEST PET GROOMER** 

### **Texas Farm Bureau named** 'Best Insurance Agent/Agency'

BY CALEB DORN

calebwiththepampanews@gmail.com

Texas Farm Bureau is having another brilliant year of service to the Texas Panhandle. This year the local office was awarded the "Best Agency" award as part of the "Best Of" section, award for the second year in row.

"For this crew, these awards are just the reassurance that our hard work is paying off. It reminds us that every day we show and do what's best for our members is coming back to us in tenfold," Cade Taylor said.

With the current state of the economy, the reassurance reminds the team that despite challenges, the clients are getting the best they can get.

Taylor has been here with Texas Farm Bureau for five years, this year marking his fifth full year.

"We are just trying to expand on the footprint we leave month after month. We want people to know that just because we have farm in the name, doesn't mean that is all we do," Taylor said. "We want to be able to provide anything to someone that comes through those doors that they may

> Pampa Furniture Exchange & Mattresses Too

need."

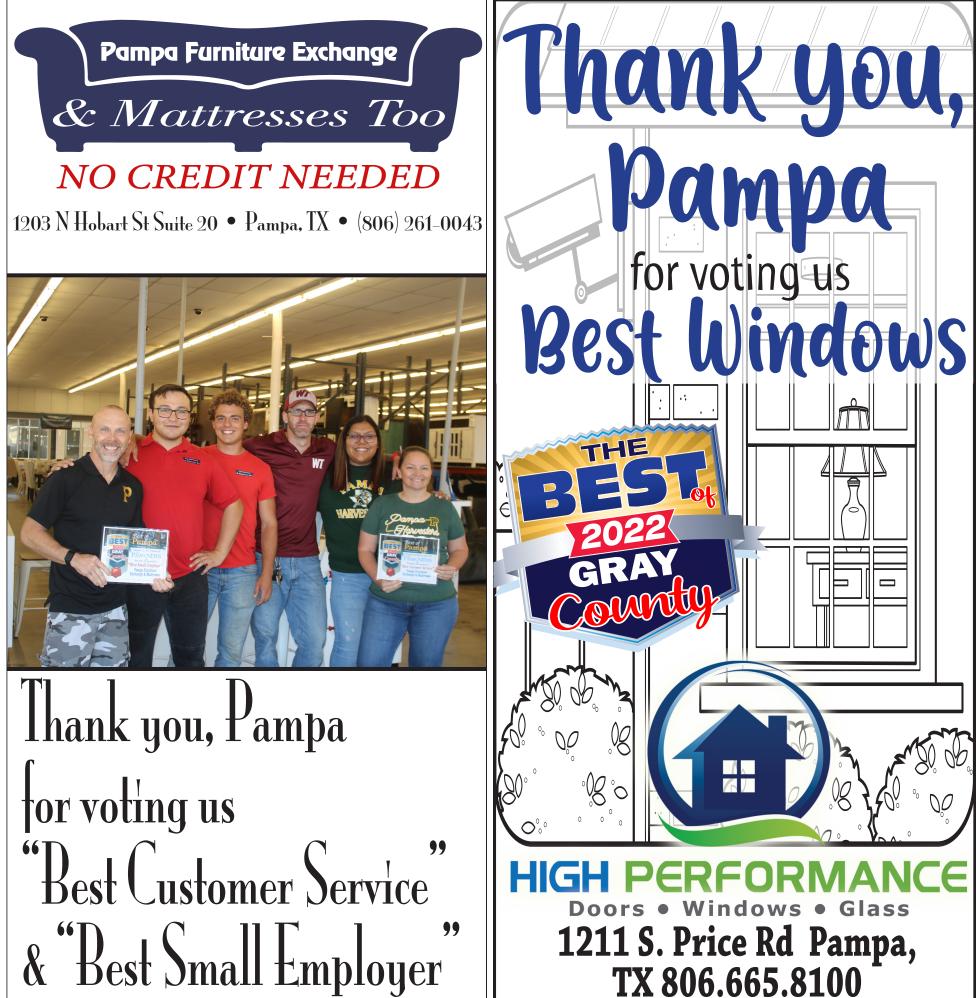
The bureau offers all insurance needs to customers, the office takes a family approach to all clien- provide to anyone that calls on them. are here in town and know the city which adds to call 806-665-8451.

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## ORTHODONTICS 2022 "BEST ORTHODONTIST"



### THANK YOU PAMPA!

### Pampa Youth and Community Center named 'Best Gym'

BY JOHN LEE pampanewseditor@gmail.com

Twitter: @jcl1987

Being a good gym is more than just having some weights and cardio equipment.

The reader's poll for The Pampa News seems to indicate that the "Best Gym" in Pampa is the Pampa Youth and Community Center, located at 1005 W. Harvester Avenue.

"I like it (hearing they won 'Best Gym')," Director Jimmy Hicks said. "The biggest thing is that it's a family experience. It's not just for weightlifting. Kids can swim, play tennis, play basketball, play racquetball, etc."

Hicks said PYCC has a lot of visitors from out of town that work out or use their facilities before heading home.

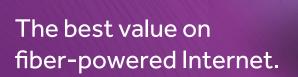
"We try to open to the community," Hicks said. "That's what it's all about. It's about the amenities and atmosphere that comes with your membership. I want it to be a safe-haven for young and old. We have people that come and see their friends and it's part of their routine."

PYCC has 15 on staff between instructors and staff, including long-time Youth Center pillar Liz Ramirez, who has been with the non-profit for more

than 40 years.

The Youth Center serves everyone from old to young, single or families.

For more information or for rates, call 806-665-0748 or visit their website at www.pampafitness. com.

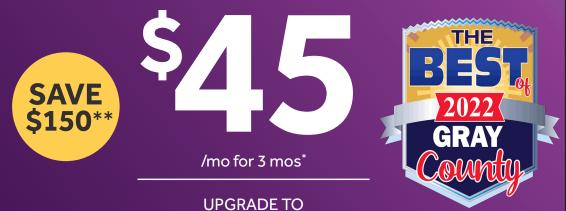


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From left, Liz Ramirez and Jimmy Hicks.

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- N. Best Equipment Rental B&G Power Equipment
- **O.Best Family Entertainment** Cinema 4
- P. Best Furniture Store Pampa Home & Sleep Store
- **Q.Best Gym** Pampa Youth & Community Center

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<b>R.Best Garage Door</b> Alpha 2 Overhead Door
S.Best Hairstylist (Include their salon)
Sonni Jo Smith - So Be It Salon
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CC. Best Massage Skye Niccum
DD. Best Nail Tech Sarah Mendoza
EE. Best New Business <u>Simply Bare</u>
FF. Best Nurse Natasha Douglas - PRMC
GG. Best Nurse Practitioner/Physician's
Assistant Kaylynn Johnston
HH. Best Optometrist Elite Eye Care

B.Best Car Detailing Knuck
C. Best Car Saleman Charle
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E. Best New Car Dealership_C
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H. Best Towing and Recovery
I. Best Used Car Dealership
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A. Best Convenience Store
<b>B. Best Customer Service</b> Par
C. Best Farm/Ranch Store Tr
D. Best Florist Brandon's
E. Best Greenhouse The G
F. Best Liquor Store Mikey
G. Best Local Boutique Shab
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B. Best Bar_ Fire Creek Ba
C. Best Breakfast Fuego's

E. Best Burger Jay's Drive

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- ng T. Nguyen
- **Great Plains Pest Control**
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- Panhandle Plains Realty

<u>Buddy's Home Furnishing</u> rawford Roofing

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- **Bronzing Barn**
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Country Veterinarian Clinic

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- F. Best Cake Secret Chef at The Barn
- G. Best Caterer Desperado's Catering
- H. Best Coffee/ Specialty Drink The Coffee Shop
- I. Best Coldest Beer The Plaza
- J. Best Dessert Coney Island Cafe
- K. Best Doughnut Harvester Donuts
- L. Best Food Truck Simply Bare
- M. Best Fountain Drink/ Tea Sonic
- N. Best Frozen Treats (Snowcone/Ice Cream) Tiki Hut
- **0. Best Grocery Store** <u>United Supermarkets</u>
- P. Best Hot Dog Coney Island Cafe
- **0. Best Lunch** Secret Chef at The Barn
- **R. Best Mexican Food** The Plaza
- S. Best Oriental Food Yum Yum Thai
- T. Best Pie Coney Island Cafe
- U. Best Pizza Verona Italian Bistro
- V. Best Salsa The Plaza
- W. Best Sandwich Hoagies's Deli

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X. Best Taco <u>Mejia's Bakery</u> Y. Best Take-Out Food Secret Chef at The Barn Z. Best Waiter/Waitress (Include Restaurant) Drew Miller - Coney Island Cafe **5.** Community A. Best Local Band Ghosts of Gray County **B. Best Friendliest Church** Briarwood Church **Hugh Piatt C. Best Friendliest Citizen D. Best Teacher** Paul Rayburn E. Best Coach Sarah Corse F. Best Event Venue The Harbor G. Best Firefighter Johnny Goodson H. Best Law Enforcement Officer Michael "Big Mac" Ryan I. Best EMT/Paramedic Tyson Williams J. Best Cleanest Restroom Toot N Totum K. Best Small Employer (Under 20 employees) Pampa Furniture Exchange PISD L. Best Large Employer (Over 20 employees)\_ M. Best Outside of Gray County Vendor **Desperado's Catering** 

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