

PAMPA PRIDE 2023



BUSINESS

D-D Horse Barns

By CALEB DORN
pampanewseditor@gmail.com

D-D Horse Barns is owned and operated by Cody and Jennifer Douglas. The couple bought the business April 1st of 2013.

“We decided to buy it because it would give me the ability to work a job I grew up doing and loved,” Douglas said. “But what was really important was being back in Pampa, where Cody is from and his family is at. So those two made it a good buy for us, it allowed us to be near his family which was really important to us.”

Jennifer, was born and raised on a ranch in New Mexico and Cody was raised around horses. Par-taking in parades and rodeos from an early age.

“We both had a common back ground in this industry,” Douglas said. “I mean being around animals was my upbringing and the same for Cody, he just lived in town.”

The business has been opened for 45 years, started by the Taylor’s the barns and stalls are all original from the time it was built. The barns are open for boarding for any horse owners needs.

“We do boarding, but that usually leads into other things as well,” Douglas said. “We do a lot of work with the Rodeo Association. Our services are really anything anyone wants to do with a horse.”

The ranch offers riding lessons in the summer time for anyone that wants to learn to ride. The horses also take part in the rodeos and parades that happen throughout the year.

“We try to be a part of each rodeo, especially the rodeo parade,” Douglas said. “We have horses here and we want to do anything horse related that someone is interested in. We enjoy getting to do work with people that want to be around horses or learn to ride.”

Jennifer is the one running the operations, her husband, Cody, works for Chevron and is available as often as he can be.

“I do a lot of the work out here on the grounds,” Douglas said. “But it’s what I love. We have kids come out here that aren’t our own but become like kids to us over time, and there’s some that want to be around horses but can’t own their own.

So I always offer, if they want to come



The Douglas Family

and learn to work hard and be around horses, I’ll always have a place for them to do so.”

D-D Horse Barns continues to serve and help with the rodeo association and the members of Gray County with an equestrian need’s. To learn more about them, visit their Facebook page. For questions, their phone number is (806)676-9142.

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Kyle Chambers

By CALEB DORN

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Kyle Chambers was raised in Amarillo, graduating from Randall High School. After graduation, Chambers attended Amarillo College for basics, and then WTAMU for his undergrad in 2010. After graduating with a 4.0, Chambers then went on to Baylor College of Dentistry, now Texas A&M College of Dentistry, graduating in 2014.

“It’s a funny story with the name change, when I was there it was still called Baylor, but it was owned by Texas A&M,” Chambers said. “But they’d already been wanting to change it, but a lot of people were going to be upset about it so they kept it as is for another two years before making the name change.”

When getting close to graduating from dental school, Chambers

was approached by John Sparkman about a job.

“My dad and uncle own a dental lab in Amarillo, and John used them often,” Chambers said. “So they got to talking about me, and John got my number and called me to ask if I wanted a job. Of course, I said yes.”

After working for nine months, Sparkman informed Chambers he was ready to retire and had another offer for Chambers.

“One day he just said alright I’m done, so I said have a good day and he responded no I mean I’m done, retiring,” Chambers said. “So he told me, I’m offering you to buy the building and take over, or find a new office to work at.”

So in 2015-2016, Chambers officially opened up his own office in the same spot he’d started in.

CHAMBERS cont. on page 3



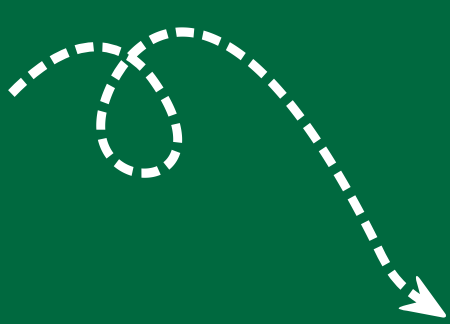
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Chambers Continued From Page 2

Chambers following in the dental field is a family legacy in a way. His father and uncle own 'Ricks Dental Ceramics' a dental lab that makes all ceramics for a dental office. From crowns, bridges, and implants to dentures.

"The way I got my job, was from the connection my father and uncle had made working with John Sparkman," Chambers said. "So it was a benefit in that way for me, but it is still a benefit to have them as the dental lab then and now. To have that closeness with them, I can call them up about a patient and have that open communication."

Along with Rick and Randy with 'Ricks Dental Ceramics,' Chambers's great-uncle was also a dentist in Amarillo, a key reason Chambers went into the field.

"My great-uncle who was a dentist, at family gatherings, would always get a lot of great admiration," Chambers said. "He was always very, very kind to everyone. So from a young age, I always wanted to do that and be that kind of person. So the older I got, I just went further into it."

Chambers met his now wife, Kayla while working in Pampa.

"We met in Amarillo while I was working here for John," Chambers said. "After date one, we were kind

of inseparable."

The two now work together in the office. Although offered the job in Pampa, Chambers could have gone anywhere, but Pampa had something he'd wanted to stay part of.

"Growing up in Amarillo is close to Pampa, but living in Dallas was a change," Chambers said. "People in Dallas aren't very nice. It wasn't that hospitality I'd come accustomed to. People in Pampa are just so caring, when I started working in Pampa, I remember I was carrying some stuff into the office and a random guy stopped by and asked what I was doing and if I needed help. The community of Pampa is so caring and wants to help everyone out."

Chambers' office offers a lot of different services, but the same quality of care is across the board.

"The best part about my job, and it's cliché, is helping people," Chamber said. "You get to see patients that come in with problems and don't feel as confident in their teeth and being able to help them overcome that and have confidence in everything they do is the best part. Or having someone come in that's having a problem and pain and being able to take that away from them is what makes it all worth it."

Chambers office is a general prac-

tice office, seeing ages from all ranges.

"I tell parents a lot, that the sooner you get the kids into a dental office the better," Chamber said. "As a young kid, a dental office is a weird place and there are all these things that can freak you out, so even if mom or dad is just coming in for a cleaning or something simple, I always invite them to bring their kid back with them. Letting them see their parent, not freak out or be worried about what they've come in for always helps the kids. We make it a thing to do what we call 'tell, show, do' with young patients. Telling them what it is we're going to be doing, showing them the tools or the instruments we're going to be using, and then of course doing it. It kind of takes that worry or hesitation away."

The office does all general practice things, including cleanings, simple extractions, crowns, bridges, and fillings. The office used to do root canals but has now stopped that, and instead refers patients.

"We used to do them [root canals] but there is an office in Amarillo that has the revolutionary equipment for those procedures," Chambers said. "So, I can't compete with this state-of-the-art equipment they have, and I want the best for my patients. Re-

ferring a patient to someone that is this effective is best for them, someone getting a root canal doesn't want to do it more than once, so referring them out is the best thing I can do for them."

In addition, Chambers office is big on teeth whitening and has different options for folks. With affordability in mind, each plan for teeth whitening is made to work for each person.

"We've done the teeth whitening side of things since day one," Chambers said. "We now have three different levels, we have the strips, the trays with gels, or the zoom whitening that we do in the office. We start everyone off with the strips because it's the least invasive, and then move into the gels, and if they want to continue then we move to what we call the zoom whitening. Zoom whitening is essentially just in the office, fast-track teeth whitening. We get people that have a big event in a week or coming soon and want to boost the whiteness of their teeth so they come in for that. We just apply the whitening agent to your teeth and then have a brightening light on your teeth for a period of time. With each level, the more you do, the more drastic results you see. With the zoom whitening, we still give trays with a desensitizing agent to help with that sensitivity you can sometimes get."

Even though the office sign has Chambers's name on it, the office takes all hands to get the job done.

"The one thing I do want to get out is that I could not do what I do without my staff," Chambers said. "From Laura and Kayla up front, Kaylee and Haley in the back with me and my hygienists Ana and Andrea, being a small office every single one of them is important for me to do my job. They make the office work."

Dr. Kyle Chambers sees all patients, of all ages. Visit the office and staff at 2401 Hobart or by calling to schedule at (806) 665-0256.



ITeck Managed Services

BY VALERIE GRAY
pampanewsreporter@gmail.com

ITeck Managed Services is one of Pampa's finest Information Technology support companies that services the Texas panhandle.

Born in Hale Center, Dorn moved

generally every two years due to his father's work in the ministry. He graduated from Snyder High before attending McMurry University. He moved back to Snyder and finished schooling at Western Texas Junior College before diving

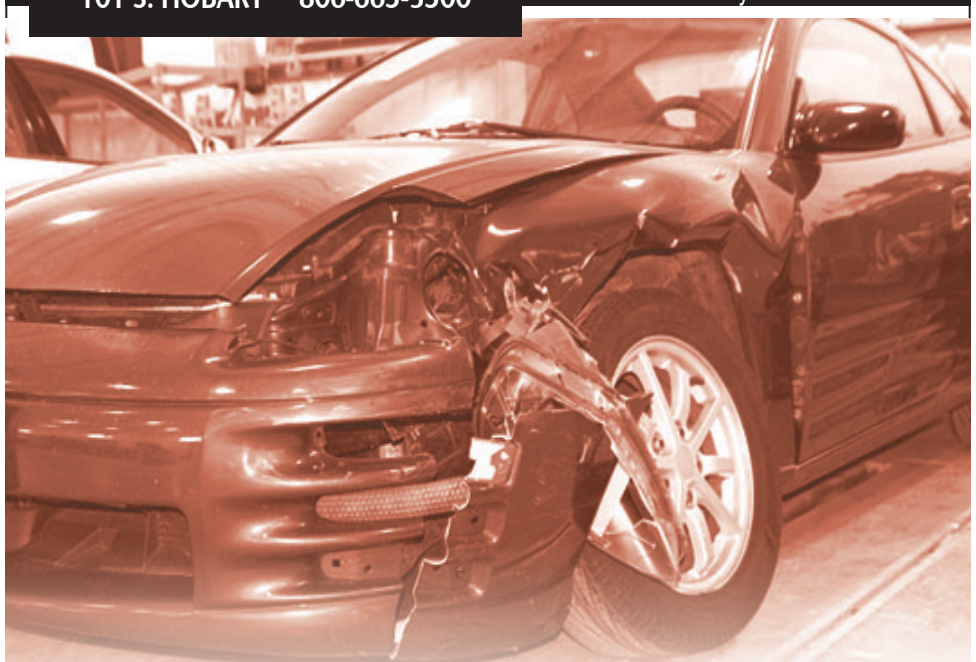
ITECK cont. on page 4



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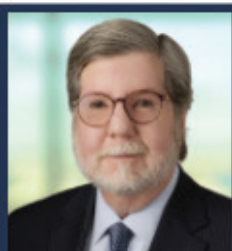


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ITeck Continued From Page 3

into the workforce in the electrical field. Dorn married Palma Guzman in 1992. After working all over the Texas Panhandle, Chris was offered a job in the DFW area. After living in Arlington, the family began to grow, having a young daughter and a son it was deemed best to move back to the Texas Panhandle for the benefit of a small-town vibe. Landing in Pampa, Chris began work for CentraMedia in 2004 as the Support Administrator. CentraMedia, a Pampa-based company became ERF Wireless before closing its doors.

ITeck opened its doors in November of 2013, taking up residence in suites 3 and 4 of the NBC Plaza Suites.

D.E Rice Construction of Borger, along with its associated companies, was the first to back Dorn in his venture to start his establishment. The second to join the party was ITeck's original neighbors in suites 1 & 2, Mills Ranch Co., a ranching company whose owners had known Chris for years and had used his skills and knowledge of all things technology before, was pleased to support him and come on as a client.

Dorn reminisced about changing careers. "I felt like it was a good transition. It interested me," Dorn said. "My parents told me when I was growing up, I would take every electronic device apart and put it back together. This change felt appropriate."

ITeck Managed Services primarily focuses on remote monitoring management. In addition to managed services, ITeck provides IT support services such as web hosting, email hosting, spam filtering (email hosting required), web design, off-site backup solutions, virus removal, hardware upgrades, pc repair, wireless network design & implementation, network security design & implementation, and IT consulting.

"Anything that you can think of that falls into the IT realm, we try to partake in," Dorn said.

Dorn gave thanks to those who have supported him in his career.

"First and foremost, I have to give thanks to God," Dorn said. "I am grateful for my family who has always supported me."

For more information about ITeck Managed Services, call (806) 665-0485 or visit their website: iteckms.com.

Larry Baker, A Lifetime of Service to Pampa

BY CALEB DORN
pampanewseditor@gmail.com

Larry Baker was born in Wheeler, raised in Redon Oklahoma throughout high school. After beginning work for a plumbing shop in Oklahoma City for three years, Baker moved to Perryton to continue his work in plumbing.

"I moved from Oklahoma City to Perryton for plumbing," Baker said. "But ended up at a job in Plainview for a sheet metal company, not even doing plumbing like I'd been taught for years. But I had to have a job, so I did what I needed to do."

While working in Plainview, Baker was approached by a Maintenance and Construction Manager for Ideal Food Stores in Liberal, KS who had a job offer for Baker. The company was opening stores in Pampa and surrounding areas and wanted Baker.

"The job offer was a no brainer for me," Baker said. "The pay and benefits were good, and for a young guy I thought I should try. I told him plain and simple, I'd never worked on an electric forklift and he said well I'll send you to school to learn."

So Baker took the job and began working as a forklift mechanic, after the replacement of two managers, Baker was getting into the groove of things when the division manager asked him to take the manager job.

"He asked me if I thought I could handle the job," Baker said. "I told him well yes, I think I can. So the committee gave me a year on the job before calling me in to see if I was handling it well and then if so they'd make me the construction manager overseeing everything that goes into a new store."

While working in Pampa, Baker became friends with a business owner in town that led him into opening Larry Baker Plumbing in July of 1988. The company started with Larry himself in the fields with a few employees that started out with the company. Baker's wife, Deanna, worked the office and as the family notes, kept him in a straight line.

Throughout the years, Larry and his wife Deanna moved many times for work, from Kansas to all over Texas. Throughout it all, Baker credits his wife for his ability to do what he did.



From left, Kyle and Kayla Parnell and Larry Baker

"She always worked, always supported me," Baker said. "She should've run me off years ago, but she stayed by my side and supported what I did. She worked in the office and took care of everything I didn't even know about."

"When I first opened the company, I went and bought two used pickups and the salesman told me if the trucks fell apart, I could keep both halves. We started out taking what we could get. Folks would come in for a job they needed done that I'd worked with over the years," Baker said. "So I got work just from people I'd met over the years to start us out, and the employees would come more and more. We have guys that started in the very beginning and have still continued to work for us."

For 35 years, Larry Baker worked and ran Larry Baker Plumbing before retiring in 2010 and letting his daughter and son-in-law take the reigns.

With the transition, Larry wanted to ensure things were going to continue at the level of excellence he'd felt his work had held to.

"Both my dad and my husband are people that want things done the right way, in other words their way," Parnell said. "So when we took over, the materials and process of bidding a job changed. We had computers and wonderful technology that allowed us to do the job in easier ways."

So once the timing was right, Larry and Kyle
BAKER cont. on page 5

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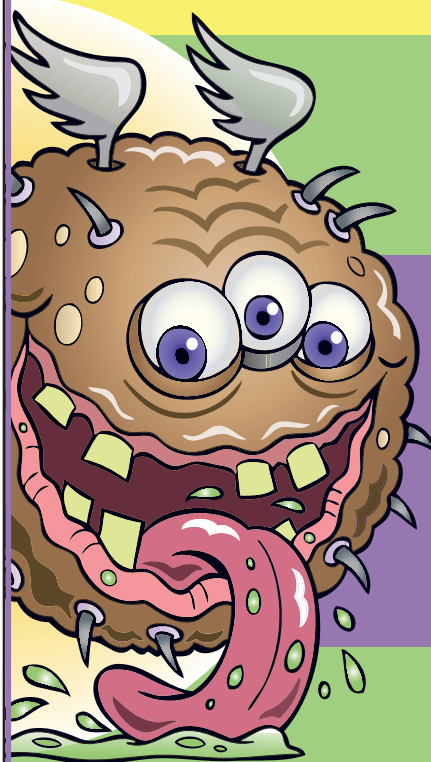
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Baker Continued From Page 4

worked through how he'd (Larry) done things, to make sure they would continue on in the same way.

"When I started, I didn't have a computer, I really never used one even up until the end," Baker said. "So one day we sat down, the three of us and found a way to modernize the way I did things. Kyle had new ways of doing things that had come over time, and it was the same outcome to jobs and bids I'd done over the years so I knew it would be okay."

Kayla and Kyle Parnell met in high school and were high school sweethearts. After getting married and attending WTAMU, both for education, they came to work for Larry Baker Plumbing in the 90's.

"Since I was old enough to work in the office, I did," Kayla Parnell said. "I would answer phones or run messages to my dad."

When the two returned to the family hometown, Kayla worked as a teacher for several years before coming to work at the family business and Kyle started in the fields before moving into the office in '03 and then taking over for Larry in 2010.

"When we moved away, of course we didn't plan to come back to Pampa," Parnell said. "But we knew we didn't want to stay in Amarillo, Pampa was our home and that's where we wanted to be."

"When Kyle first came to work with us, he was in the field working," Baker said. "But in '03 I asked him to come work in the office and he didn't want to leave the field." "I enjoyed the field work, with the customers and the interactions you get to have," Kyle Parnell said. "It was a fight to get me into the office, but I love what I do."

After retiring, the Baker's took to traveling to enjoy their time together.

"When they retired and left, my dad said, we're leaving so here you go," Parnell said. "I didn't think he was serious but sure enough my mom and dad left and spent a month in New Zealand and would call to let us know they were okay and that was it. We stayed here and did what the company needed."

Since then, Kyle and Kayla continue to run and operate Larry Baker Plumbing as a family business and serving the community.

"Our daughter, from the time she could, began helping Kyle with jobs," Parnell said. "We do HVAC work and she'd help out on job sites or by getting them into inventory, so this began as a family business and continues to be so." Larry Baker Plumbing thanks the community of Pampa and surrounding towns for the years of service and continued support.

To learn more about the services offered by Larry Baker Plumbing visit their website larrybakerplumbing.com or give them at (806)665-4392.



First Two Trucks Larry Baker Plumbing Used

Losoya & Son Landscaping

BY VALERIE GRAY

pampanewsreporter@gmail.com

Losoya & Son Landscaping is one of Pampa's finest local businesses. Beginning in June 2009, Eddie Losoya made his love of landscaping into a lucrative business that provides outstanding craftsmanship throughout the Texas panhandle area.

Losoya was born and raised in Oxnard, California. When he was 12 years old, Losoya and his family moved to Knox City, Texas. After graduating high school, Losoya went to college and got an associate's degree in Computer Business.

Losoya is happily married to his wonderful wife, Cecilia Losoya. Losoya has two children, his daughter, Celeste, a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist, and his son, Andres, a senior at Texas Tech University who studies Media Communication.

Losoya & Son Landscaping specializes in lawn service, stonework, sod installation, tree trimming, and irrigation.

"We do anything that comes our way," Losoya said.

The business' services do not stop there. During the winter holidays, Losoya & Son Landscaping offers Christmas lighting services and sells firewood as well.

Losoya expressed his sincerest appreciation to the community for their support.

"I want to thank the Pampa Community," Losoya said. "If it weren't for them, I wouldn't be where I am now."

For more information about Losoya & Son Landscaping, contact them at (806) 662-0497 or visit their Facebook page: Losoya & Son Landscaping.



Eddie and Cecilia Losoya

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North 40 Settler's

By VALERIE GRAY
pampanewsreporter@gmail.com

"When we were running Granny's, we would do a lot of shopping at Walmart. Anytime my mom would go, she would say, 'Okay, I'm going off to the North 40,' meaning Walmart," Estep chuckled. "When we moved out here, my mom decided to name it North 40 because we are located on the way to Walmart."

North 40 Settlers serves delicious home-cooked breakfast, lunch, and dinner-inspired meals every day. From classic pancakes, eggs, bacon, and hash browns, to meatloaf, mashed potatoes, and fired okra, this restaurant offers meals that hit the spot.

Adorned on the walls of the restaurant are crosses gifted to Hinds from customers. As well, there is a whole wall dedicated to the history of Pampa.

Estep spoke about the legacy her family has built throughout the years.

"These restaurants have been family owned and operated for 27 years," Estep said. "My mother retired five years ago and turned the business over to Nathan, my middle son. All of my kids have worked here. Our family has worked here. We all did something here. Us three, Granny, Nathan, and I have been here for the long haul."

Estep remarked on the impact her mother has made in the community.

"Granny has made a very big impression on Pampa. Everyone knows Granny," Estep said. "Even when we moved here, people still refer to this as Granny's."

Hinds described the welcoming environment the family has cultivated in every restaurant they have run.

"A lot of the customers we have had for years and years. We have watched them grow up," Hinds said. "Our customers are not just our customers, they're family."

Estep expressed her sincerest gratitude for the support her family has received throughout the years.

"I want to thank Jesus for giving us the opportunity. Without him, we wouldn't have made it," Estep said. "I thank my mom and my kids for their patience and hard work."

For more information about North 40 Settlers, call (806) 669-6237 or visit them at 2545 Perryton Parkway.

Pampa Economic Development Corporation

By VALERIE GRAY
pampanewsreporter@gmail.com

The Pampa Economic Development Corporation (PEDC) has been the cornerstone of Pampa and crucial to the city's continued prosperity.

At the head of the PEDC staff is Clay Rice, Executive Director. Rounding out the staff is Treasa Heuston, Assistant Director of Office & Records, and Carol McCord, Assistant Director of Marketing & IT.

In addition to the staff is the PEDC Board of Directors. Glennette Goode serves as the President of the board, with Troy Newton as Vice President and Ted Hutto as Second Vice President. Sue Fatheree is the Treasurer for the board with Jason Bagwell serving as the Assistant Treasurer. Tanya Larkin is the Secretary for the board with Emily Arrington serving as the Assistant Secretary.

The PEDC offers business coaching and consulting free to the public. In collaboration with Leading EDG, LLC, which provides business facilitation services to economic development corporations all over the upper part of the Panhandle and South Plains. Spencer McElhannon conducts the PEDC's business coaching and consulting services.

McElhannon elaborated upon his responsibilities at the PEDC.

"My primary responsibility is to come into the community and provide business facilitation services," McElhannon said. "This includes business development or business start-up, anyone who has an existing business in the community and has been looking to grow or sell their business."

McElhannon meets with Pampa clients every Thursday. In addition to consulting, he also oversees the business plans presented

EDC cont. on page 7

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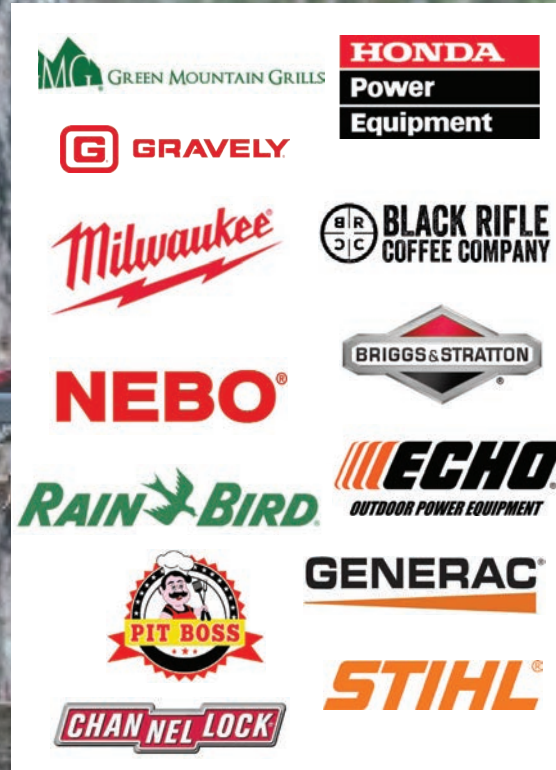
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Sheila Webb

BY CALEB DORN
pampanewseditor@gmail.com

Born in Baird Texas, Sheila Webb graduated from McMurry with a focus on business education to become a teacher. After graduation, Webb taught in Blackwell for many years. After a life changing accident, Webb had to close the door to teaching.

"I was in a head on collision with a drunk driver," Webb said. "I spent the next three years learning to get out of a wheelchair and then off of a cane. The incident happened in 1981 and after that I wasn't able to get back to teaching. It changed my whole life, I was very active and played many sports and I couldn't get back to that way of life. But even through the tragedy, the good Lord was with me. I lived 50 miles from a town and it just so happened an ambulance drove up on the scene before anyone could even call for help."

With her fear of no longer being able to teach, Webb began focusing on what was next for her. Her husband was an insurance agent and wanted to make the transition to working for State Farm.

"At the time, State Farm was in a law suit for not having equal hire," Webb said. "So I initially was going to be his office manager, but I thought I'd throw my name in the hat for a job with State Farm." After applying, the job was offered to Webb at the Pampa location, so the move was the next step.

"At the time, we were living in the Midland/Odessa area," Webb said. "I'd always said I would never move further north than Lubbock, but I learned to never say never."

Webb moved to Pampa and began her career with State Farm 32 years ago.

"I'd always thought I'd just be the office manager, but it didn't work out



working with your spouse," Webb joked. "But after deciding to try my own hand at it, I was appointed as a licensed agent and I think my teaching background really helps. A lot of people don't understand insurance, which it can be confusing, so it's a lot of explaining and making it understandable. My favorite part of my job is getting to meet with people and help them in any way I can. I make all my customers my friends and try to send out little gifts of love."

Webb has been in the same location and office since her beginning. Her office is, as she calls it, a one stop shop for all insurance needs. "We can offer anything and we can help you figure out what's best for you," Webb said. "One of the newest types of insurance we're seeing a lot of is pet insurance. I love getting to meet with people."

After being here for 32 years, Webb has never looked back on her decision to move to Pampa, nearly as far north in Texas as you can get.

"I love Pampa, we have such an amazing community with people," Webb said. "We have so many good people here and such an amazing community that I've never regretted joining."

For all your insurance needs, stop by Sheila Webb at Las Pampas Square, or by calling the office at (806) 669-3861

EDC Continued From Page 6

by clients to see if they will provide continued economic growth to the city.

Glennette Good is on her third term as president of the PEDC Board of Directors. Since 2009, Goode has been an active participant and overseer of the projects that PEDC has conducted.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to serve on the board," Goode said. "I served with the previous board members. The current board is very energetic and very fun to work with, but we wouldn't be able to do what we are doing without the foundation the previous board members had laid for us."

The Pampa EDC's primary goal is to create primary jobs. Primary jobs are jobs that will multiply throughout the community. Typically when a primary job is brought into the community, it is a higher-paid job. Thus, the primary job elevates the community by bringing in revenue from sales tax and property taxes.

When primary jobs are brought in, it creates a multiplier effect. With the primary jobs brought in, other jobs are created or brought in to meet the needs of the primary job.

Goode described the responsibilities of the board.

"Clay has the primary responsibilities of the PEDC. As a board, we oversee what he does," Glennette said. "He's done a very good job. Clay does the work to connect the PEDC and community."

The other goal of Pampa EDC is to assist in the community's quality-of-life. Prior to the current staff that runs the PEDC, the previous group made a notable quality-of-life decision: the establishment of Pampa H2O

Water Park. In continuation of the ideal to assist and improve the community, the current PEDC group and board of directors have done multiple quality-of-life projects since then.

McElhannon expressed his appreciation for the Pampa EDC and the community as a whole.

"I certainly want to thank the board and Clay," McElhannon said. "I am been very thankful for the opportunity to serve the community."

Goode gives thanks to her predecessors and the foundation they established.

"I want to thank the board that was in place when I joined. They were very visionary as to what we needed to establish and how we needed to set up our goals. I owe a lot of thanks to those members," Goode said.

Goode also expresses her deepest appreciation for the City Commission.

"Of course, I want to the city commissioners because we serve at their pleasure," Goode said. "It's been a very rewarding experience."

For more information about the Pampa Economic Development Corporation, call (806) 665-0800 or visit at 200 North Ballard Street.



Carol McCord, Glennette Goode
Spencer McElhannon and Treasa Heuston.



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The Pampa Economic Development Corp. and Xcel Energy have partnered on efforts to attract new business to the Pampa Energy Center, an industrial site located along U.S. Highway 60 west of the city. As part of Xcel Energy's Certified Site Program, a 250-acre space known as Pampa Energy Center South and a 470-acre space known as Pampa Energy Center North, received site certification following a robust site analysis process. "Xcel Energy is now actively promoting Pampa's industrial capabilities to a much wider audience, which extends our reach considerably at no extra cost," said Clay Rice, Executive Director of the Pampa EDC. Having a partnership with Xcel Energy, which has the resources and know-how to market and promote two of the best industrial sites in the Panhandle region, is a terrific opportunity for Pampa and Gray County. The Pampa EDC looks forward to working with Xcel Energy on this venture. Certification of the Pampa Energy Center South and North site will help Pampa be more competitive in the marketplace by making it faster, easier, and less expensive for developers and site selectors to consider real estate for their client.

Pampa Energy Center is Pampa EDC's rail served Industrial Park. With approximately 1,000 developable acres of land and 5500 acres of water rights, the property is more than sufficient to market as one of the finest Industrial Parks in the state. The abundance of acreage owned by Pampa Energy Center will be excellent for a variety of industrial development projects. Companies located at Pampa Energy Center are: Flogistix, Proman, Rampa, Inc., and RenewTest, LLC.



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One of the goals of our website is to promote every business in Pampa/Gray County and constantly grow!

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Executive Director

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Assistant Director
Office & Records

CAROL MCCORD
Assistant Director
Marketing & IT



The Pampa EDC is pleased to have Spencer McElhannon of Leading EDG to assist our community's aspiring entrepreneurs and small business owners. Spencer offers consultative services free of charge, courtesy of the Pampa EDC.

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The Pampa Economic Development Corporation is an organization that promotes new business in Pampa. The Pampa EDC type B has aggressive business incentives funded from the half-cent sales tax for Economic Development that yields over \$1,000,000 dollars annually. Incentives are available to companies creating new jobs in Pampa on a project-by-project basis. Location and excellent quality of life make Pampa a prime spot for new industrial business and sales. Pampa, Texas is located 50 miles Northeast of Amarillo, Texas, 113 miles from Elk City, Oklahoma and 120 miles from Liberal, Kansas.

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PAMPA PRIDE 2023



CHURCH AND EDUCATION

Full Armor Fellowship

BY VALERIE GRAY
pampanewsreporter@gmail.com

cuses on coming together and serving the community under Jesus Christ.

Michael Carlisle, the Pastor for Full Armor Fellowship since October 2017, has been a pastor since he was 33 years old. He and his wife, Amy, have been married for 31 years. Together they have two sons, Reese and William, and are soon to be blessed with their first grandchild.

Joseph White, the Worship Pastor for Full Armor Fellowship, has been in his current role for three years. Originally, White served behind the scenes in the church by overseeing all of the media and technological aspects. Eventually, White received a call from God to pursue becoming a worship pastor.

Carlisle explained the core mission of Full Armor Fellowship. "Though we did come from the biker community, we are primarily a family-oriented church," Carlisle said. "My wife and I have a real desire to see people be saved and come to know the Lord."

Carlisle credits the decision to become the pastor for Full Armor Fellowship and its subsequent success to God.

"On October 1st of last year, we had a night watch service. We left the church open for 24 hours. We invited anybody that wanted to come," Carlisle said. "We literally stayed awake, did worship and preaching for 24 hours. Following that service, that's when everything began to change for us."

Carlisle expressed his sincerest appreciation to his mother. "I'd like to thank my mom for never giving up on me. She always prayed for me," White said. "I wouldn't be where I am at today without her constant prayer for me."

For more information about Full Armor Fellowship, contact (806) 440-1508.



Pastor Michael Carlisle and Worship Pastor Joseph White

In addition to 9 am and 11 am worship services on Sunday, Full Armor Fellowship provides a variety of resources throughout the week.

On Tuesday nights, the men and women break off into their own groups. In that time, the groups create their own atmosphere where the church members learn and foster bonds together.

Wednesday nights are reserved for discipleship meetings which typically last for an hour.

On Thursday nights, it is worship practice night. Around a year ago, Carlisle created a class called Pastors In Training, otherwise known as PIT. Church members are brought in and discuss pastoral leadership and development topics.

On Saturday, the church holds 6:30 pm worship service.

White provides additional insight to the services Full Armor Fellowship provides.

"Recently, we have opened up the church sanctuary during the week," White said. "It is open for anybody and everybody."

For the Pampa community, Full Armor Fellowship maintains a food pantry and rents out the local water park for families during the summer.

"We do it for the whole community," Carlisle said. "The Lord told us that not only are we a church that does His work in the community, we also need to come together as a body of believers and do things together."

Carlisle expressed his deepest gratitude to the Pampa community.

"I really want to thank Pampa. We have been all over the country doing ministry. When this church opened, the City of Pampa really opened up their arms to us and cared about us," Carlisle said.

Carlisle happily thanked his wife for her support throughout their life changes.

"Of course I owe credit to my wife," Carlisle said. "When everything was changing, we didn't know what was in store for us. Now we have a flourishing church and we're going to be grandparents."

White expressed his sincerest appreciation to his mother.

"I'd like to thank my mom for never giving up on me. She always prayed for me," White said. "I wouldn't be where I am at today without her constant prayer for me."

For more information about Full Armor Fellowship, contact (806) 440-1508.



Pastor Michael Carlisle and Worship Pastor Joseph White in the Sanctuary

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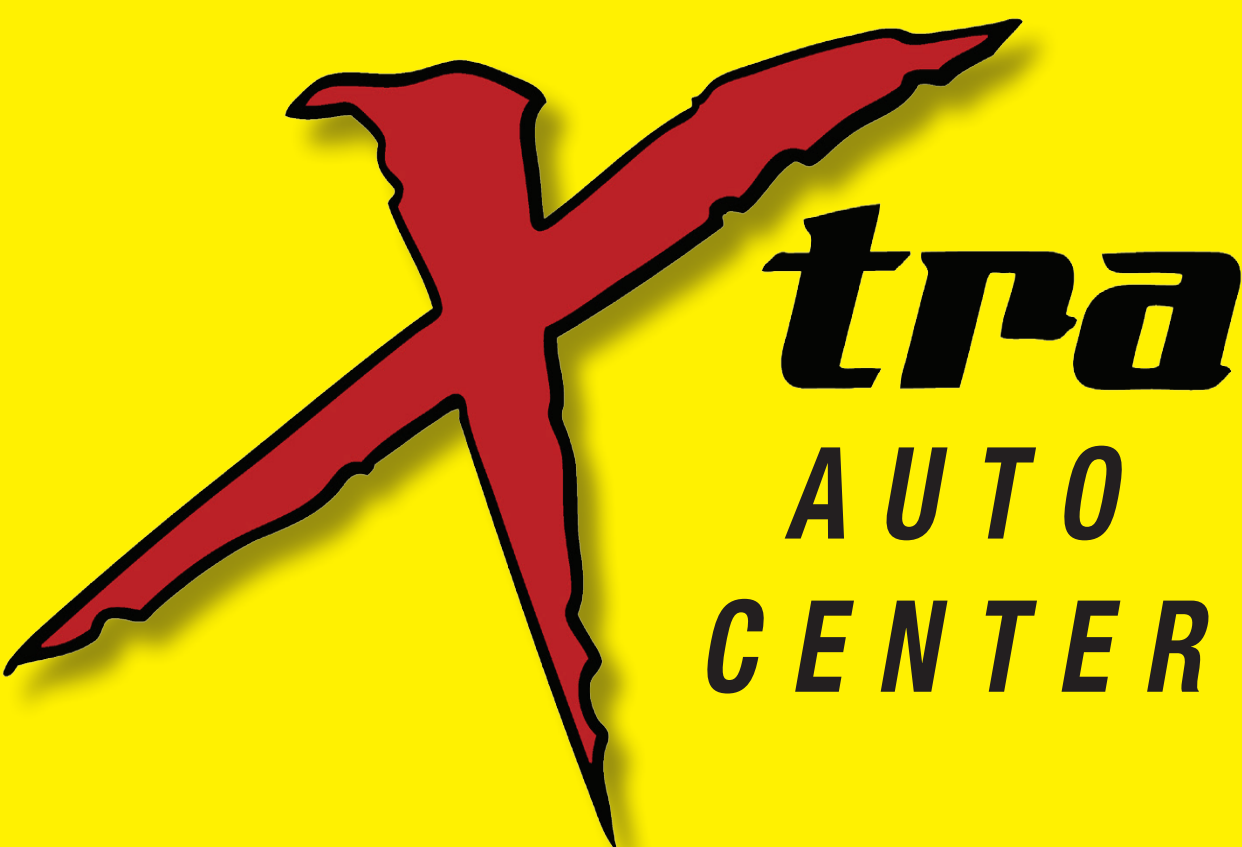
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Pampa First Assembly



Ed and Brenda Sattesahn

BY VALERIE GRAY
pampanewsreporter@gmail.com

Pastor.

On Easter Sunday 2021, First Assembly moved into the church building that was previously used by Calvary Assembly at 1030 Love St.

Sattesahn and his wife, Brenda, moved to Pampa from Florida where they pastored a church there for 25 years.

Together they have two children, Jason and Melissa. Jason and his wife, Christina, have three children: Braden, Camryn, and Logan.

Melissa and her husband, Charlie, have two children: Dylan and Payton.

Sattesahn has been in the ministry industry since the 1980s.

On Wednesday evenings, Pampa First Assembly has their Warm the Heart service. At 5:30 pm, people who are in need of a warm meal are welcomed to the church and served soup and bread. Towards the end of the meal, Sattesahn shares a devotion.

On Sundays, Sunday school starts at 9:15 am and worship service is at 10:30.

Sattesahn spoke about the services the church provides outside of its typical setting.

“We do prison ministry through the church,” Sattesahn said. “Each week, Kathy and Aaron Farrar send their sermon notes to prisoners. The

church also helps organize their blessing bags to send to prisoners. Last year, Kathy and Aaron took around 1,200 hygienic blessing bags to the prison.”

Sattesahn notes the ever changing atmosphere of the church and the reason behind it.

“Change is inevitable. We are improving things to reach the next generation,” Sattesahn said.

Sattesahn professed his profound gratitude to those who have helped him in his life.

“First, I thank the Lord for His call in guiding me into the ministry,” Sattesahn said. “I thank the church and congregation for their support and their help.”

For more information about Pampa First Assembly, call (806) 665-5941 or visit them on 1040 Love St.

*** Sections of this article were provided by Pampa First Assembly's pamphlet***



Pastor Ed speaking at service

Harvest House Ministries

BY VALERIE GRAY
pampanewsreporter@gmail.com

come the directors of this organization.

“When the last director passed away, his wife stepped down from the position,” Sattesahn said. “The board asked if we would like to be the directors because of our involvement with Warm the Heart. We said yes.”

Warm the Heart is a weekly meal that Pampa First Assembly hosts for those in need of a warm meal.

Harvest House Ministries aims to help low income families fulfill their basic needs while sharing the word of the Lord. The organization is open to families on Thursday mornings each week.

Families must bring this list of documentation in order to receive food:

- A photo I.D.
- Their social security card
- A bill showing a current address
- Birth certificates for household members under 18 years of age

Beginning at 10:00 am, families may register and fill out a grocery list. The grocery list has a variety of options to choose from



Pastor Ed speaking at Harvest House

one is encouraged to dress how they are able to,” Sattesahn said.

Harvest House Ministries serves around 30 families a week on average.

Sattesahn spoke about the volume of families that Harvest House Ministries was able to help during the holidays last year.

“During Thanksgiving, we fed around 51 families,” Sattesahn said. “During Christmas, we fed 52 families.”

Sattesahn acknowledges the support the local churches have put in to help those in need in the community.

“We work together with other churches in town to provide for those in need,” Sattesahn said. “Mary Ellen and Harvester Church of Christ has a top notch clothing closet that provides clothing

for those in need.”

Sattesahn reflected upon the unique situation he and his wife are able to experience being directors of Harvest House Ministries.

“It’s an opportunity to talk to people and see where they are at,” Sattesahn said. “Harvest House hosts a banquet and this year, I would like to interview more people who have been helped by our ministry and create a video from those interviews for the event in lieu of a guest speaker.”

For more information about Harvest House Ministries, call (806) 665-4042 or visit them on 736 S. Cuyler St.



Harvest House December 2022 Donations

*Photos provided by Pampa First Assembly and Harvest House Ministries

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The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints



Sister Grace Beeton and Hermana Heather Cahoon

BY VALERIE GRAY
pampanewsreporter@gmail.com

Sister Grace Beeton and Hermana Heather Cahoon are fulfilling their mission at Pampa's Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The missions are completely voluntary and are a rite of passage in the Mormon religion. The duration and age requirement is conditional: Elders (male members of the church) typically embark on their two year mission from the ages of 18 to 25, and Sisters (female members of the church) typically embark on their year and a half mission between the ages of 19 to 25.

Sister Beeton and Hermana (the Spanish word for sister) Cahoon were assigned to the Texas Lubbock Mission, which covers the regions of West Texas and Eastern New Mexico. Prior to arriving in Pampa, Sister Grace served a duration of her mission in Monohans, Abilene and Midland. Hermana Cahoon served in Lubbock and the Spanish Congregation of Hobbs.

Sister Beeton and Hermana Cahoon explained the responsibilities the members have on their mission.

"We do personal and companion studying. We learn about Jesus Christ, His gospel, and how we can help people get closer to Him," Sister Beeton

said.

"We hold service quite often. Our main responsibility is to call others to come unto Christ," Hermana Cahoon said. "We see how much it has blessed us and we want to share it."

The mission teaches important skills and beliefs that members can apply in their life once their time is fulfilled.

Sister Beeton, who has only one month left before she completes her mission, described her experience in Pampa.

"I'm excited but sad. Pampa has been awesome. People here are very kind and very welcoming," Sister Beeton said.

Hermana Cahoon, who has been on her mission for ten months, described her experience in Pampa.

"Although I've only been here for two weeks, I really like Pampa. There is definitely town pride here and everyone, though our practices may vary slightly, believes in Jesus Christ," Hermana Cahoon said.

For more information about the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, call (806) 440-6434 or visit them at 411 E. 29th Ave.

First Baptist Church of Lefors

BY VALERIE GRAY
pampanewsreporter@gmail.com

Matthew Honeycutt is the Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Lefors.

Honeycutt and his family arrived in Lefors in November 2020. Prior to joining the ministry, Honeycutt served in the U.S. Army, was a Paramedic, and worked in the mental health industry helping children and their parents.

Honeycutt attended Liberty University and earned his degree in Christian Ministry with a minor in Psychology.

The First Baptist Church of Lefors hosts a weekly family meal on Wednesday nights. Honeycutt spoke about the dedication the church members put forth to those meals.

"We have a great group of ladies that prepare the meal every week," Honeycutt said. "The families come to eat and then the adults have their bible study starting at 6:30."

On Thursday nights, a women's group gathers to discuss religious literature.

On Sundays, in addition to their normal morning service, the First Baptist Church of Lefors hosts Sunday school for youths, adults, and seniors. In the evening, there is Sunday night service. It consists of a core group of people who have been in the church for a long time. They learn how to better the church and how to be better versions of themselves.

Honeycutt gave special mention to the church's social media presence.

"Our social media presence is phenomenal," Honeycutt said. "We post all our services and bible group sessions to our Facebook. We have a lot of people who watch our services online."

Honeycutt acknowledges the unique opportunities being a pastor of such a dedicated church provides.

"It's all God's glory. I just love that I get to meet so many people and have the opportunity to do things I normally wouldn't do," Honeycutt said. "People look to me for so many different things. For instance, we have church members who have lost their spouses and they know that they can call me for prayer, support, basically anything."

Honeycutt gives special recognition to the sentimentality the church gives him.

"I have been blessed to be able to baptize my wife and all three of my children here," Honeycutt said.

Honeycutt expressed his sincerest appreciation to those who have helped him in his ministry career.

"I want to give special thanks to Eric Dennis, the Senior Pastor of Southern Baptist Church in Oklahoma," Honeycutt said. "Eric is the man who baptized me when I was 16 years old. He's mentored me. He has influenced me so much, not just in ministry, but in life. I owe so much to him."

For more information about the First Baptist Church of Lefors, call (806) 835-2222 or visit at 315 E. 4th in Lefors.



First Baptist Church of Lefors - Easter Service 2022

Hugh Piatt - Superintendent of Pampa Independent School District



Superintendent Hugh Piatt

BY VALERIE GRAY
pampanewsreporter@gmail.com

Hugh Piatt has been the Superintendent of Pampa Independent School District for nearly two years. With his well-established career in education, Piatt is eager and ready to progress PISD into a new era of education.

Born and raised in Piedmont, Oklahoma, Piatt went on to obtain his degree in 1988 from the University of Central Oklahoma. He then entered the education industry by teaching science at the local junior high in Kingfisher, Oklahoma. In addition to teaching, Piatt was also the Assistant Boys Basketball, Football and Head Tennis Coach. Piatt would end up teaching and coaching in Kingfisher for five years.

Soon after, Piatt and his family moved to Buffalo, Texas. It was there that Piatt worked as the Head Boys Basketball and Assistant Football Coach. Eventually, he would go on to coach additional school sports

such as track, golf, and baseball. In conjunction with coaching, Piatt continued to teach and found himself moving up in the administration side of the school.

"I was as a teacher/coach, then I became a counselor/coach. Then, I became an assistant principal/teacher/coach. Then, I became the principal," Piatt said.

After ten years, the Piatts' moved to Bryan, Texas where Piatt became an assistant principal.

Piatt noted the significant change when it came to his blossoming career in Bryan.

"It was big change. We left a town of 2,000 people and went to a high school of 3,800 people," Piatt said.

Within his time there, Piatt had the wonderful privilege of opening James Earl Rudder High School in Bryan. This would be the second high school established in Bryan ISD. Once completed, Piatt became the principal for Rudder High School, a position he held for eight years.

Piatt's career would then proceed into his most recent and well-known epoch: becoming a Harvester.

Piatt reminisced upon the moment he learned that he and his family would be moving to Pampa.

"I was fortunate to get a phone call from then Superintendent, David Young," Piatt said. "He wanted to know if I was interested in a high school principal job in Pampa."

The Piatts' moved to Pampa in 2015. It was here that he became the Pampa High School Principal for

six years before rising to the Superintendent of PISD, a position that he holds today.

Piatt reflects upon his transition from PHS principal to PISD superintendent.

"I've been a high school administrator for 20 years so I knew this side of education. I've enjoyed it a lot," Piatt said. "Best job I've ever had is principal in Pampa because of the community, people, and kids. Just fun to be around."

Piatt remarked that the overwhelming support from the administration and community toward the schools and students have been a blessing.

"It's been a blessing. We've got an outstanding board to work with. They are outstanding people who care about our community," Piatt said.

Piatt spoke about one of his proudest achievements and how that ties into the new changes PISD is making to their school system.

"Opening up a high school in Bryan is one of my proudest achievements. It was a great challenge, one that I look back on with pride," Piatt said. "Getting to create something new is always a challenge. We created the school song, mascot and colors. We decided on the hallway layouts. It was all fun and I would like to have a hand at creating something like that again."

In regards to the grade level changes that will be in place at the start of the August 2023 - 2024 school year, Piatt notes the progress that has been made to insure everything will be ready.

"We've been putting in the work. We have a great opportunity to create something new for the betterment of our town," Piatt said. "I am very excited. We will be an all encompassing unified school district.

As of August 2023, we will all be Harvesters."

As well, there are returning programs in the works for 4th and 5th graders. Choir and pre-athletics are looking to be implemented in the future.

The three main goals for the future of PISD are: *designing aligned PK-12 programs to create a competitive successful, and unified educational experience for all, investing in innovative schools, and fostering an actively engaged, unified community culture in the relentless pursuit of our vision.* Each of these goals has multiple steps for a smooth implementation aimed at the growing quality of education for students and their family. Pampa ISD's mission is to produce learners who are compassionate, competent, confident, and future-ready!

Piatt offers his sincerest gratitude for all of those who have helped him in his educational career.

"I'd like to thank my bride of 38 years. We've got three beautiful kids, two of which work right here in Pampa and one who is a youth pastor in Cisco. We have nine little grand kids, as well. We are thankful for all of our family and their support," Piatt said.

Piatt highlights the support received from the PISD Board.

"Our board is an outstanding group of people that care deeply about our kids and our community. They serve for the right reasons and I am super proud of them," Piatt said. "To me, it's pretty simple: it's all about serving and how we serve others. We lead with a servant's heart. It's all about making Pampa a better place."

*** Sections of this article were provided by the Pampa Independent School District's pamphlet of Strategic Design Framework.

Once a Harvester Always A Harvester



BY CALEB DORN
pampanewseditor@gmail.com

Clay Jones, a Pampa High graduate now serves Pampa as the high school principal. Born in Amarillo, Jones moved to Pampa and was involved in the Pampa school district before graduating in 2006. After finishing high school in Pampa, Jones attended a semester of college at Oklahoma State before transferring to

Texas Tech.

"Like a lot of graduating seniors, I had no clue what I wanted to do," Jones said. "I went to OSU for architecture but quickly found out that wasn't what I wanted so I transferred to Tech and changed to a business degree to kind of open my options after graduation."

While in his time at Tech, Jones realized he had a passion for athletics and began working at Lubbock Monterrey and worked with the coaches and around the students, which turned his decision on a degree for the better.

"At the time, I realized I really enjoyed working in education, the school I was working at had an internship," Jones said. "I was able to work in the school while I finished my course work."

Working at Monterey for six years, Jones transferred to Plainview ISD before making the move back to Pampa where he's now served the school for four years.

"Lubbock was a good place when my wife and I were growing up," Jones said. "But we started wanting to find a city that felt like the home we grew up with so we went to Plainview where I was able to serve as the assistant athletic director, it was a good place but it still wasn't Pampa."

Jones and his wife graduated from Pampa together.

"We had one class together on the third floor, Spanish four, and we ran in different circles I suppose," Jones said. "My wife thought I'd actually moved to Pampa during high school, but I'd been here my entire life so I guess I didn't leave a big enough impression. But we began dating towards the end of our senior year."

After graduation, Jones went to OSU and his

wife went to Tech, making her one of the reasons he made the transfer to Texas Tech.

"We went our separate ways after high school," Jones said. "But she's the reason I moved to Tech and the rest is history."

After finishing his time at Tech, Jones continued on the goal of being an athletic director and head football coach while finishing out his masters degree at Lubbock Christian.

"While getting my masters, they told me I was two classes short of being able to be a principal," Jones said. "But I thought there was no way I'd ever be a principal, I wanted to do what Cody (Coach Robinson) did, but of course I called back ten years later to finally admit I did want to go into that calling."

Serving Plainview as the assistant athletic director for four years, Jones was focused on the goal coaching but beginning to get burned out chasing a dream he wasn't sure of anymore.

"I was ready to just get out of education and do something else at that point in my life, but I was young," Jones said. "But Pampa reached out to my wife to offer a job here in the school district, but they didn't have anything for me, so we turned it down. Then sure enough, we got a call back a little while later saying they had a job opening at the high school for me, teaching and coaching. That decision to moved to Pampa really rejuvenated my passion for education."

As the kids got older, Jones started to realize that being a coach took a lot of time away from his family, which was a decision he couldn't stomach.

"You don't really realize how much goes into being a coach, but there's a lot. I felt like I signed up to be a coach and be gone for that reason a lot, but my kids didn't," Jones said. "My two sons were always okay with it and loved me being a coach, but once I had a daughter it just made it completely different. It made it harder to leave once I had my little girl."

Being able to step away from the coaching field, and into serving as an assistant principal, Jones really started to look deeper into what he wanted to do.

"One thing for me, in my heart, is trying to find a way to unite our community and our teachers," Jones said. "We have a lot of amazing teachers and our main interest and goal is helping our kids."

After being named principal April 1st, Jones has worked in administration for three years. Serving one year as an assistant principal, and a

coach at the same time.

"Being an assistant principal and a coach was an interesting balance," Jones said.

Working as a coach and teacher before entering into administration as an assistant principal and now head principal has shown Jones a different outlook on the job as a whole.

"The dynamic is unique, when you're the teacher with them everyday, you build a relationship with your students," Jones said. "But then when you get further away from kids and serve as the AP (assistant principal) you're the hammer coming down on them with discipline. It's not an easy job, and a thankless job but ours do an amazing job at it and still are able to connect with kids."

"The best part of the job now is getting to be the face of the school," Jones said. "With the benefits of being the one that gets to be a part of all the exciting things that happen within Pampa High."

"Those APs have to exist for our system to work," Jones said. "But now I get to be a part of good things. There's the occasional bad conversations I have to be a part of that you really don't want to be. But I get to be a part of honors the teachers receive or go to the games and cheer them on, even though I had nothing to do with those things. I get to be part of it and share in the celebration."



Clay Jones and his family

*Photos provided by Clay Jones

St. Paul United Methodist Church



Pastor Vondel Stevens

sits today at 511 N. Hobart. Predominantly an older congregation, St. Paul is a family moreso than just a church body. The small atmosphere allows the church and pastor to take a personal approach to relationships. In recent years, the church has begun to grow more into the younger crowd.

After finishing seminary, Pampa native Vondel Stevens found her way to fulfill her calling.

"I have been a pastor for seven and a half years, but I was in volunteer youth ministry for years before that. I just feel all Christians have a calling in some way, I was a photographer for years before going to seminary. I felt called to go, and I went, a little bit of the way through, I felt I was called to pastor a small church." Stevens said.

Upon leaving seminary, she found her way back to Pampa where she'd grown up and began pastoring at St. Paul. After attending schooling for ministry, Vondel began praying for a church to pastor near Amarillo, where she was living at the time. Not wanting to take on a large church, Vondel felt called to take on a small church and help it grow. After feeling her calling she contacted the Methodist district superintendent and told him of her dream and calling. In May, she heard back from him about a potential church needing a new pastor.

"I didn't hear about where I was going for a while, I was still in school finishing up and I got the call about Pampa, but I didn't know it was Pampa, I just knew it was within the range I was hoping and praying for. I started pastoring here in Pampa in September." Stevens said.

After growing up in Pampa, it was an opportunity Stevens was excited to take. When she started in Pampa, she made the third female pastor in Pampa. At the time, First United Methodist was under the direction of Pastor Ruby as well as Clover

Bailey at First Presbyterian Church. In the recent years, Ruby and Clover have left Pampa, leaving Vondel as the only female pastor in town.

"In most recent years, we have added a few young families and also some younger kids. We have a youth and a younger student ministries forming and growing." Stevens said. "What makes the church a good home, is that it's so personal with the people. Everyone is here to serve, and understands reaching out and showing the love of Christ."

The church does 30 lunches a week to homeless and people in need. Along with foster children ministry where the church provides kids in foster care, duffel bags and clothing to help them feel appreciated. The church also does a yearly free guitar camp for kids ages 13 and up, the church holds "No freight guitar camp" every summer, this year it will be taking place in September. To add kids for the camp, call the church. For any more information on St Paul visit the church office at 511 N. Hobart or call 806-665-8951.

BY CALEB DORN

PAMPANEWSEDITOR@GMAIL.COM

Founded in 1934, St Paul United Methodist has been apart of Pampa for many years. Starting out as McCullough Methodist under the leadership of Rev. Lance Webb the church moved in 1953 to where it

in volunteer youth ministry for years before that. I just feel all Christians have a calling in some way, I was a photographer for years before going to seminary. I felt called to go, and I went, a little bit of the way through, I felt I was called to pastor a small church." Stevens said.

Briarwood

BY CALEB DORN

pampanewseditor@gmail.com

Jamisen Hancock, the Head Pastor of Briarwood Church is a Pampa High School graduate after moving to Pampa in 1992. Hancock moved away to attend college in Franklin, Tennessee before moving back to Pampa in 2020. His father pastored Briarwood for 28 years before retiring and handing the title of Head Pastor to his son, who at the time was the Associate Pastor.

"I felt a calling to move my family back to Pampa from Canyon to help my father," Hancock said. "My father was sick and it wasn't getting any better and I felt that I needed to be here to help him up until the end. The church voted me in as Head Pastor in October of '20 and I feel honored to continue on the work my father had done here."

The location where Briarwood stands today was a building dedicated and built for the church in March of 1997, once moved into Pampa, Hancock's father served as the Associate Pastor in 1992 while the Head Pastor, Gene Alan planned his retirement. Briarwood church is non-denomination, providing a unique congregation within the church.

"We have so much diversity in our church, both on an age perspective and backgrounds," Hancock said. "We have members that are in their 90s and at the same time young families and young kids. We also have contemporary worship with modern music and hymns. We have people that have come from all different backgrounds. Some that were Methodist or Baptist and the mix of people that have always been here. The terminology is non-denominational but I like to phrase it as inter-denominational."

The focus of the church is preaching on the 99% belief all backgrounds share instead of the 1% that leads to different variations of Christianity.

"We come together because we all believe in God," Hancock said. "So we come together to



Jamisen, Brooke, Judson and Alexis Hancock

focus on that and worship Him. I think it's good that we have options, and people can go where they get feed the most. But a church isn't a business to fight for numbers of attendance, we need to fight for everyone to get to know Christ. We're all on the same team, as long as we as a church

are finding the lost, that's truly what the focus is."

Briarwood has three core beliefs, connecting to God, connecting to people and connecting to the world. As a church, they offer, 'Feed the Flock', a give back that feeds over 10,000 hot meals a year to families in need. They also support our local organizations such as United Way and Pregnancy Support Center in their outreach programs.

"We try to do as many local give back outreach programs as we can," Hancock said. "During the holiday seasons we serve love baskets to those in need, and a yearly coat drive to the people of our community that need that help."

On a global impact, Briarwood supports missions in Africa and Asia on a monthly basis. So what is a non-denominational church? The church focuses on the word of God, not in a scope of Methodist or Baptist, but in the simple words He's written to be shared and learned by a church.

"The focus of Briarwood is just anyone and everyone coming together to worship God," Hancock said. "Denominational churches aren't wrong in what they do, they serve those that feel called to be there. No matter the church, or the religion all that matters is that people are coming to know God. We focus on our discipleship with Christ, growing deeper in that and learning more to live our lives as He wanted. Loving God and loving people is the basis of what we do and represent as a church."

Proverbs 27:17 - 'As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another'

To learn more about Briarwood, visit their website at briarwoodchurch.org or visit them for a service at 1800 W Harvester Ave.



Pastor Hancock preaching to church members

*Photos provided by Vondel Stevens and Jamisen Hancock

Church of The Nazarene

By CALEB DORN
pampanewseditor@gmail.com

Mike James serves as the pastor for the Church of The Nazarene for Pampa and Stinnett. After attending Pampa, James was called to serve the people of Stinnett but Pampa didn't have a pastor at the time.

"The district superintendent asked me if I'd pastor both Pampa and Stinnett and I love the people of Pampa," James said. "So I gladly took that opportunity and served both."

Pampa has services in the afternoons on Sunday's at 4 with Sunday school at 3.

"Our attendance has grown with the afternoon services," James said. "It's worked out and I've loved getting to do this."

Before going into the ministry, James worked for JBS Beef Plant, before being sent to South Dakota to open a new plant for JBS as the safety manager.

"I worked 50-60 hours a week and it was rough for me," James said. "During my time in South Dakota, in a small town, I couldn't tell you where a church was because I was so out of tune with God."

After deciding to retire, James began praying about what to do next. He began reading the bible to learn more and felt a calling in some way.

"I thought for sure my calling was missions," James said. "But the more I prayed about it, the more I realized it was to preach."

After continuing to attend church in Pampa, James was asked to serve in different churches across Texas

but when the opportunity for Pampa came up, he felt he had no choice but to do what he was called to do.

"I love the people here and I couldn't see a church close," James said. "Pampa has such an amazing community of people and I knew this place still had things left to do."

Now under the leadership of James, he plans to start give back efforts to the community over time that can hopefully grow the church to the capacity the congregation has hopes of.

The church services are Sunday's at 4, with Wednesday bible study starting at 7 with a meal at 6:30.

To visit the church or more, stop by at 500 N West St.



Pastor Mike James

*Photo provided by Mike James



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The Jordan Family

The Brainard Family

Western Auto Appliance Store



Viola, Rufe, and Anne Jordan



Berklee Clements and Lilith Martin Brainard



Vance and Barbara Ketcherside

By VALERIE GRAY
pampanewsreporter@gmail.com

means necessary. One of the most common encounters of Jordan would be the elevator stop between floors. By that reason, Jordan's legacy remains divisive. Many would credit him for setting themselves on a better path while others chastise Jordan for his actions.

Jordan passed away on June 18, 1991.

Viola Lee McAnally Jordan, wife of Rufe, was born on July 13, 1913. She and her husband lived in an apartment above the courthouse for 32 years. Viola served as a Sunday school teacher. In the article, *The Law North of the Salt Folk* by Peter Applebome for the Texas Monthly Reporter, Viola noted

Jordan
Continued on Page 3

By VALERIE GRAY
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The Brainard family has had a rich history in Pampa and Canadian. Edward Henry Brainard was one of the most prominent cattleman and rancher in the panhandle. He would purchase cattle and land, most notably a 480 acre tract on John's Creek in Roberts County. Brainard served on the committee of the Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association.

Following in his family's footsteps, Edward Henry Brainard II, son of Edward Swasey Fullerton and Sally Brainard, was a rancher as well. Brainard II was a member of the Panhandle Livestock Association, member and director of the Texas Herford Association, and

member of the Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association.

In 1958, Brainard II married Lilith Martin. Together they have five children, Sallie Florence Wicker, Berklee Louise Clements, Amy Elisanan Brainard, Edward Swasey Fullerton Brainard II, and Sena A. Brainard.

Lilith Martin Brainard, born to Mr. and Mrs. George William Martin, grew up in Pampa. She graduated from Pampa High School in 1948 and attended Texas Women's University.

Brainard is the Godmother of Sichan Siv, who was appointed by President George W. Bush as the United States ambassador to

Brainard
Continued on Page 5

By VALERIE GRAY
pampanewsreporter@gmail.com

Western Auto Appliance Store has been an iconic local business for around 30 years.

Prior to running their own business, Barbara and Vance Ketcherside worked for the department company, Sears. Vance had worked for the Appliance department for 40 years. Barbara worked at a Sears Catalogue store in 1990.

Though Sears eventually closed their catalog stores, that did not faze the Ketchersides.

In August of 1993, the Ketchersides opened up Western Auto Appliance Store in Pampa.

Originally called Western Auto Supply Company, Sears bought the company in 1988. In due course,

Sears sold Western Auto to Advance Auto Parts in 1998. As of today, there is a handful of remaining Western Auto stores across the United States.

Barbara reminisced about the early days of owning the store.

"We thought buying Western Auto would be best because we knew more about the appliances," Ketcherside said. "Back when we opened, we sold more than just appliances. We had bicycles, televisions, and radios for sale in the store."

Nowadays, Western Auto Appliance Store primarily sells Whirlpool, Maytag, GE Appliances, and Speed Queen brand appliances.

Western Auto
Continued on Page 5

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The Honorable Judge, Phil Vanderpool

By CALEB DORN
pampanewseditor@gmail.com

Phil Vanderpool was born in Dallas, Texas and moved shortly after due to his father's work as a Methodist preacher. Moving generally every six years, Vanderpool moved to Pampa in the '60s where his father would then pastor First United Methodist for a period of time. After attending Pampa High for a few years, the family moved to Amarillo during his junior year. After finishing high school, Vanderpool attended WTAMU for a year before transferring to McMurry University in Abilene. From McMurry, Vanderpool graduated with his undergrad before attending SMU (Southern Methodist University) for law.

"I graduated McMurry with an undergrad, where I got to serve as the senior class president," Vanderpool said. "I wanted to go into law and SMU was the place to go for me because a good amount of my family attended SMU, so I got my degree in 1975 and began practicing law."

Vanderpool met his wife Gladys in 1972 from a connection through his cousin at college. The first person and friend Gladys met at her time attending Centenary College of Louisiana was Vanderpool's cousin.

"My wife is from Panama, so when holidays would come up, she would go with my cousin," Vanderpool said. "They would come from Louisiana to Dallas where my grandparents lived for the holiday's and that's how we met."

The two were married not long after finishing his time at SMU and have two sons together. The young couple moved to Pampa and Vanderpool

began practicing law under J.B. McGuire, McGuire mentored Vanderpool for a number of years. The pair worked out of the Combs Worley building on the second floor.

"People ask why go into law? I believe it was the opportunity to serve in a profession that helps others," Vanderpool said. "Some lose sight of the fact that the law is there to serve. Practicing law enables one to serve others working through the legal system. Being able to serve under a mentor was the best thing, and I think everyone can benefit from that."

Vanderpool became the city prosecutor in 1977 after his mentor worked with the mayor at the time to get that position opened. In 1981 the municipal court judge retired and Vanderpool was appointed into that position where he served for four years while continuing to practice law on his own until being voted into that same position again in 1992. Vanderpool served on the Pampa ISD School Board from 1981 to 1982 and then again in 1991 till 1997, during that time also serving as the president of the board in 1995.

Vanderpool has served in many different capacities, as a court judge for a multitude of years, and on boards across the state and local.

"I was the Course Director of the Child Abuse and Neglect Workshop at the State Bar of Texas's Advanced Family Law Course in 2002, and as the Child Protection Court Judge over 17 counties," Vanderpool said. "At that time, the single course was the largest continuing legal education event in the country. These positions I've held and things I've been able to do are a just a couple of things I'm proud of, that provided service to others. Being a judge is truly, I believe, a calling. Most, if not all, judges will tell you they were called to

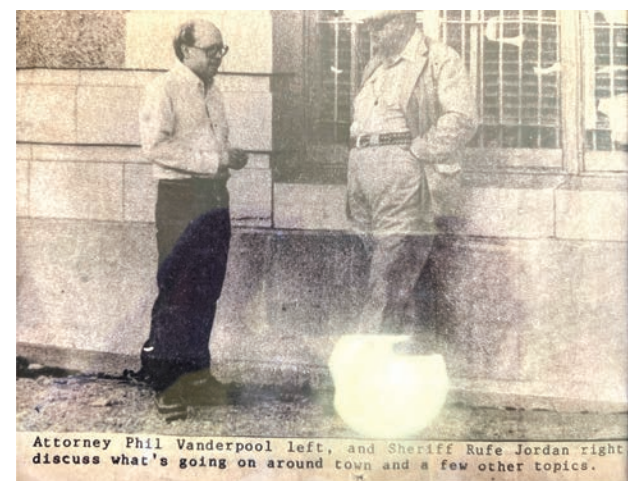


serve in that capacity."

Of all the boards and appointed positions Vanderpool served on, they were part time callings that still allowed him to work as an attorney. It wasn't until 2011 when Vanderpool was voted in as the State District Court Judge over the 233rd county.

"My staff and I try to carry on the tradition of the 223rd District Court in serving the many communities in Gray County with fairness and integrity," Vanderpool said. "That, to us, is the true heritage of all the courts and the justice system in Gray County and the State of Texas. The best part of being a judge is hearing all sides, holding true to fairness and upholding of the law."

"The 223rd District Court has the best support staff. The Official Court Reporter, Karen Morris, the Official Court Coordinator, Krissie Dudley and the Official Court Bailiff, Clark Teague are invaluable to the court and the justice system," Vanderpool said. "Without them, the court would not function as effectively as it does. Gray County's third floor District Courtroom is state of the art with its audio/visual systems and, at the same time, with its traditional design, respectful of the law's honor and traditions. State District Courts are serious business."



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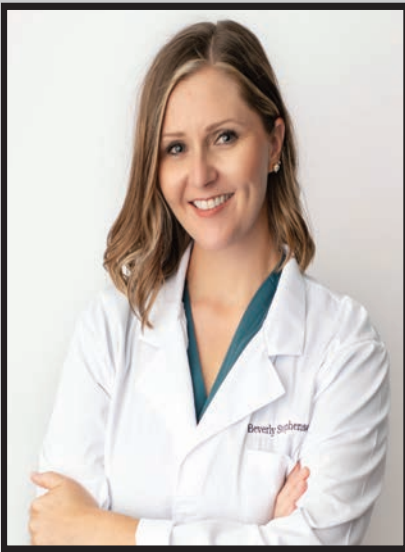
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Lovett Memorial Library

BY VALERIE GRAY

pampanewsreporter@gmail.com

The beginning of a library for Pampa occurred in January 1907, when a group of literary-minded women met to organize "The Ladies' Library Club." Mrs. W.R. Beydler was elected president of the organization which included Mmes. W.R. Beydler, J.H. Boge, C.P. Buckler, J.E. Chapman, J.T. Clagett, J.T. Crawford, Oscar Cousins, Edna Davis, Lettie Davis, T.D. Hobart, A.A. Holland, T.H. Lane, Claude Ledrick, C.H. Mullin, E.A. Shackleton, Harley Talley, J.W. Talley, G.W. Tinsley, H.M. Thomas, Georgia Vincent, Katie Vincent, W.T. Wilks, J.S. Wynne and Miss Bessie Warren (Mrs. B.E. Finley).

On January 18, 1955, dedication ceremonies were held for the Lovett Memorial Library building erected at the present location, 111 North Houston. The structure, a gift to Gray County and the City of Pampa, was funded through the estate, left in trust, of pioneers Henry and Fannie Lovett whose home was at

the location. Dr. Godfrey L. Cabot, head of the Cabot companies, gave the library a \$60,000 endowment for book purchases.

Since its opening, the Lovett Memorial Library has continued to provide an increasing number of opportunities for cultural growth, research, and continuing education.

The Lovett Memorial Library has a very dedicated staff that truly loves helping the community. Misty Guy, the Library Director, earned her Master's Degree in Information Library Science from the University of North Texas in Denton. Since October 2007, Guy has had the pleasure of maintaining the library's budget as well as ordering a variety of books for the community to enjoy.

Tonie Bolin, the Children's Librarian, has been coming to the Lovett Memorial Library since she was a young girl. Since July 2008, Bolin has organized the children's programs in the library such as the Summer Reading Program and weekly storytime. Bolin hosts the library's Tea & Talk Book Club every third

Tuesday of the month beginning at 11:30 am.

Shawna Snapp is the Lovett Memorial Library's Reference Librarian and assists with genealogy questions. She researches obituaries and past newspaper articles.

Brooke Noble is in charge of the national interlibrary loan (ILL) program that permits the library to borrow materials for its patrons from other libraries across the United States. As well, Noble keeps the library's website up to date and conducts the basic computer classes the library provides.

Guy and Bolin express their earnest appreciation for all of those who have helped them throughout their time at Lovett Memorial Library.

"I would like to thank Mr. Green, the Foundation Board, and the



Brooke Noble, Misty Guy, John Mead, Tonie Bolin, and Shawna Snapp

Friends of the Library Board for their support," Guy said.

"I want to thank my grandma for always bringing me here when I was a child," Bolin said. "She was the one who got me interested in reading and I am grateful for her."

For more information about the Lovett Memorial Library, call (806) 669-5780 or visit 111 N. Houston. The hours of operation are 9 AM to 6 PM Monday through Friday.

*** Sections of this article were provided by lovett.harringtonlc.org.

Brainard Continued From Page 3

the United Nations Economic and Social Council in the 2000s. In 2018, Ambassador Siv dedicated the Lovett Memorial Children's Library to his beloved late wife, Martha Pattillo Siv.

Brainard serves on the board of the Brainard Cattle Company, a seven generation establishment in operation since 1886. As well, Brainard is an honorary member of the Texas Hereford Association and currently serves on the West Texas A&M Univer-

sity Foundation board. As she is very active in the Pampa Community, Brainard serves on the board of the White Deer Land Museum, was a member of the Pampa Fine Arts Association, served on the Tourism Committee for the Pampa Chamber of Commerce, and participated in the Pampa Garden Club. Brainard has been a member of the Texas Cattlewomen organization at a local, state, and national level for 50 years.

Brainard fondly reminisced about her family and

expressed her appreciation to those who have helped her in life.

"There are many names.

I've had some wonderful friends and wonderful people in my life," Brainard said. "I'm thankful for my mother, father, and Mary Reeve, my 2nd grade teacher who was my favorite teacher of all time."

Western Auto Continued From Page 3

Though they have had employees throughout the years, the Ketchersides are the main employees running their business. Barbara mainly works the storefront and Vance does the deliveries.

The Ketchersides primarily deliver on Saturdays to and in areas around Pampa such as Wheeler, Canadian, McLean, and Miami.

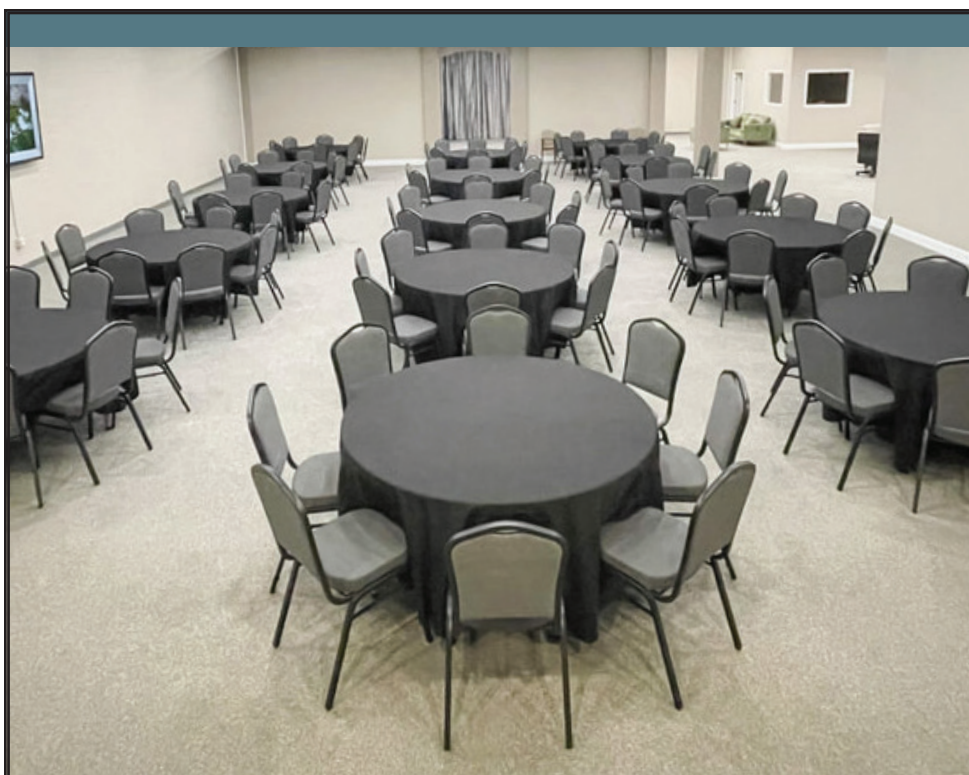
Barbara spoke about all the support she and her husband have received from the community.

"We thank all of our customers who have been with

us for all these years,"

Ketcherside said. "We have been here since 1993 and our customers have been really good to us. Without them, we wouldn't still be here."

For more information about Western Auto Appliance Store, call (806) 669-3361 or visit 2225 Perryton Parkway #1. The store's operating hours are Monday through Friday from 10:30 am to 4:30 pm.



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Montagu Kingsmill Brown



M.K. Brown and the Boy Scouts of America

BY VALERIE GRAY

pampanewsreporter@gmail.com

Montagu Kingsmill Brown, an iconic figure and notable philanthropist of Pampa, was born on May 22, 1878, to Thomas Davy and Margaret Brown in their family home in Hampstead, London.

When he was of age, Brown served in the British Military during the Boer War that spanned from 1899 to 1902. During that time, Brown served under the command of Robert Baden-Powell, the future founder of the Boy Scouts of Amer-

ica.

After the war, in April of 1930, Brown traveled to the Texas Panhandle. Brown worked for the White Deer Land Company, which was under the direction of Timothy Dwight Hobart.

Eventually, Brown advanced up the career ladder and became Hobart's assistant in the management of White Deer Lands and the JA Ranch around Clarendon. As the years went by, Brown was promoted to co-manager of the White Deer Company along with Mr. C.P.

Buckler.

White Deer Lands comprised a major portion of the counties of Gray, Carson, Hutchinson, and Roberts, and was an important developer of the Texas Panhandle. When the company had sold all its land, it went out of business in 1957. Mr. Brown purchased the office building located at S. Cuyler Street in Pampa and later began developing it as an area museum of history.

Anita Gullett, the current Director of the White Deer Land Museum, spoke about Brown's aspirations for the museum.

"Mr. Brown wanted to turn the office building into a museum for Gray County to tell about the land, the people, and their story," Gullett said. "Mr. Brown hired Clotille Thompson to start building the museum with him. They took classes and learned how to run things correctly and legally."

In his life, Brown was a member of Pampa's first Masonic Lodge and served as a Master Mason for more than 50 years. As well, Brown served as mayor of Pampa from

1913 to 1915 and was president of the Pampa Chamber of Commerce and Board of City Development in 1928.

Brown funded the construction of Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church. Furthermore, Brown was a huge proponent of non-profit organizations like Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of America, and Optimist Club.

The civic auditorium on 1100 W. Coronado Dr. was dedicated in memory of Brown in April of 1972.

Gullett discussed Brown's legacy with fondness.

"Everyone I ever talked to that had any encounters with Mr. Brown would say he was such a good, honest, thoughtful, and caring person," Gullett said.

For more information about M. K. Brown, visit the White Deer Land Museum at 112 S. Cuyler St. The hours of operation are 10 am to 3 pm Tuesday through Friday and 9 am to 5 pm on Saturday.

*** Sections of this article were provided by the book, 'M. K. Brown and His Legacy to the People of the Texas Panhandle' compiled by Clotille Thompson, Mary Ann McCloskey, and Iris Ragsdale.

Bob Douthit Auto

BY VALERIE GRAY

pampanewsreporter@gmail.com

Robert E. Douthit, better known as Bob, began his business in the mid 1960's. While working full time for the gas company in Pampa, he began to supplement his income by selling used cars on a small lot on East Frederick Street under the name of Bob's Used Cars. In 1983 he left the gas company and expanded his business to include the wrecker service. Bob could see that Pampa was in need of a towing company and was prepared to meet that demand. He had always owned a wrecker for towing the cars on his lot and had even driven a wrecker during his time in the military.

In 1987, Bob purchased the old drive-in theater on Barnes Street on the outskirts of Pampa and turned it into a salvage yard selling used cars as well as parts. He moved Bob's Used Cars into the old concession stand and renamed the business Bob Douthit Autos.

Business was going strong with Bob adding several new trucks and even a heavy duty to his wrecker fleet. However, the summer of 2002 brought great tragedy and loss to his family and friends when Bob was struck and killed by a drunk driver while helping a stranded motorist. In the months following his death, his employees, both family and friends, continued to run the business as Bob had done.

Since his passing, Bob Douthit Auto has continued to be a family ran business. Rene Garrison, the daughter of Bob Douthit, is the owner of the towing company. Garrison and her husband, Rick, are a couple of the many founding members of the Southwest Tow Operators Association. STO serves as the professional towing and storage association for Texas tow operators and vehicle storage facility operators. The asso-

ciation continuously advocates for traffic laws to include roadwork crews. One of their many noble feats is the inclusion of roadside workers in the Move Over or Slow Down law. This law requires drivers to move over a lane or slow to 20 mph below the posted speed limit when approaching emergency vehicles, law enforcement, tow trucks, utility service vehicles, TxDOT vehicles or other highway construction or maintenance vehicles using visual signals or flashing lights activated on the roadside.

As well, Kasey Garrison, Rene's son, and his wife, Laci work at Bob Douthit Auto. Kasey primarily manages the crew and drives the company's various tow trucks. Additionally, Kasey conducts continuing education classes for local towing companies.

Kandice Cruz, one of Rene's daughters, is the office and tow truck manager at Bob Douthit Auto.

Aside from towing services, Bob Douthit Auto sells new and used auto parts, provides mechanic work like alignments and on-site tire services for cars, trucks and semi-trailer trucks.

Though they are located right here in Pampa,



Rene Garrison, Kandice Cruz, Laci Garrison and Kasey Garrison

Bob Douthit Auto lends its services to the entire nation.

"We go wherever they send us," Laci said.

"We've been anywhere from Kingman, Arizona to Virginia Beach, Virginia," Kasey said.

The family fondly reflects upon the work Bob Douthit Auto has done for the community.

"We get thank you notes from the people who we have helped," Garrison said. "Helping people is why we do this."

Kandice gives credit to Bob and Gwen Douthit, her grandparents, for starting the company.

"I want to thank Nanny and Papa for starting the business," Kandice said. "We wouldn't be here without them."

For more information about Bob Douthit Autos, call (806)669-3481 or visit 1432 South Barnes.

*** Sections of this article were provided by bobdauto.com.

Jordan Continued From Page 3

*** Sections of this article were provided by the Texas Monthly Reporter and Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors & Crematory.



Anne Jordan Davidson
November 20, 1934 —
January 5, 2013

the difficulties of her husband's law enforcement responsibilities.

As Viola says, "I have seen him, well, not go to pieces, because he doesn't do that, but when a judge orders him to take children away from their parents, that just unnerves him. He'd rather be whipped with a wet rope."

Viola passed away on December 12, 1983.

Anne Jordan Davidson, daughter of Rufe and Viola, was born on November 20, 1934. She served as the director of the White Deer Land Museum in Pampa since 1989. Anne was the pianist for the First Baptist Church in Silverton for 30 years, pianist for the First Church of the Nazarene in Pampa for 20 years, and was the pianist for the Pampa Noon Lions Club for many years. She was a member of First Baptist Church and taught the Business and Professional Women's Sunday school class for over 25 years.

Anne passed away on January 5, 2013.

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DeFever Monument Company

By VALERIE GRAY
pampanewsreporter@gmail.com

Lance DeFever has been serving the Pampa community for many years. From Funeral Director to running his own monument company to becoming mayor, DeFever has provided compassion and earnestly to the community for many years.

Born in Amarillo, DeFever and his family moved to Pampa when he was a young child. After graduating from high school, DeFever worked in the oil business for quite a while. On account of life changes, DeFever switched career paths and became the Manager of Fairview Cemetery. In 1999, he established the DeFever Monument Company.

DeFever spoke about the tasks and responsibilities that come with running a noteworthy company.

"I take appointments. Once the client comes in, we go through and design the monument," DeFever said. "We add any personal details the client requests. I make a scale drawing of the monument and let the client see it. We go through the design process many times until the customer approves of the monument. From there, I give them a quote for the price and once the client is officially ready, I send off the design to get it made. Once completed, I get the monument installed for the client."

DeFever spoke about being there for the community when they are facing one of the most difficult times in their lives.

"I've been here so long and gotten to know so many people, I'm helping them at the worst time of their life," DeFever said. "It's been a bless-

ing to help them during those times."

DeFever expressed his appreciation to the community.

"I've had thousands of wonderful customers over the years. I really appreciate the fact that they entrusted me to provide the final memorial for their loved ones," DeFever said. "I consider it a great honor, I am grateful and take it very seriously."

For more information about DeFever Monument Company, call (806) 669-4495 or visit at 1600 Duncan Street.



Staff Photo, Mayor & Owner of DeFever Monument, Lancy DeFever



By CALEB DORN
pampanewseditor@gmail.com

WW Fiberglass Tank Co. was formed in May of 1978 by Wayne Wilson. The company started out making two-piece tanks. In 1985 the company expanded with a filament winding machine with 10' and 12' mandrels. After a major plant expansion in 2014 and the addition of an additional 12' and 15'6" mandrel allowed them to advance the size of tanks they could produce. Since its growth, the company has built small tanks, specialty tanks, and custom-built tanks, and also does repair work. WW now specializes in stock tanks, oil storage, and potable water storage tanks. With the additions of custom fabricated tanks for chemical, environmental, water, and wastewater industries including Reverse Osmosis Systems, De-Ionized Water Systems, oil removal, solution storage, clarified water storage, wastewater, and much more.

Todd Little serves as the Vice-President of the company which now has four locations across the United States. In 2004, WW purchased Crall Products, a steel tank manufacturer, and re-branded it to WW Tank and Vessel. In 2008, WW opened a fiberglass manufacturing facility in Ft. Smith, Arkansas to serve the Oklahoma, Arkan-

sas, and Louisiana markets. The company today has four divisions, three fiberglass, and one steel.

"The name of the company WW, could be for Wayne Wilson," Little said. "In the beginning, he had a partner that I believe also had the W initial but was bought out early on and the name just stuck, now we just say WW instead of W&W."

In Pampa, there is WW Fiberglass Tank, WW Tank, and Vessel and in Oklahoma there is WW Tank Oklahoma, building fiberglass tanks for the Oklahoma and North Texas oilfield markets. The Pampa offices are the HQ, sales and accounting are all done out of Pampa, along with the trucking and shipment of orders.

"Our tanks serve different markets, whether it's the chemical industry or municipal needs on farms or ranches," Little said. "Depending on the type of holding tank a job needs decides on whether it needs to be a fiberglass or steel tank."

The main product line is for the oil and gas industry, but they also have a strong base of sales for ranches and farms to hold water for various needs.

"The main product for farms and ranches are stock tanks," Little said. "The stock tanks are just for water to store for the cattle, and we have different dimensions in those that meet the needs the customer may need."

The smaller tanks are carried at farm and ranch stores for people to purchase. The company also makes potable water containers. The company serves the Permian Basin, Colorado, Wyoming, and New Mexico.

"We serve all over, but sometimes there are challenges to transport the tanks," Little said. "Most tank companies are regional because of the challenge of hauling an oversized load that these often are times."

For the industrial, chemical, and environmental side of things, the company does ship all across the country because of how specialized the tank and vessels are.

"When we ship them across the country, we send our team to do the setup," Little said. "So for that side of the company, we do send all over the country to make sure the job is done correctly."

The company started as a family business and still operates in that way today. Jona and Judd, the kids of Wayne still work for the company. Judd Wilson serves as the president of the company and some of the grandkids of Wayne work for the company today.



WW Employees on job Site

Thurmond

By CALEB DORN
pampanewseditor@gmail.com

Thurmond-McLoughlin was founded in 1946 with its original office in Lefors. After three short years, the company moved its home office to Pampa, which still serves as the main office for the company. The company, founded by Jim 'J.A.' Thurmond, has been in business for over 75+ years. Ken Hudgeons, who joined the company in 1976, has just recently stepped back as CEO to Chairman, with his sons now taking over as Co-CEOs.

"I started with this company 47 years ago, I started working with them officially when I was 19," Hudgeons said. "I had been around the company since I was 12 but didn't work for them until seven years later."

When Hudgeons came onto the company he was sent to work at the office in Wyoming. After working in Wyoming for three years, Hudgeons moved to North Dakota for six years, shortly after his time there he was sent to open an office in Utah.

"When I started we had many offices, sister companies," Hudgeons said. "I opened offices in Wyoming and then in Utah. We had those offices for several years, but over the years we made financial decisions to close those offices. In 1986, I moved to Woodward, Oklahoma, and began my work there."

Thurmond has just recently combined its sister companies into 'Thurmond' and has offices in Pampa, which serves as the main office for all business relation things, and an office in Oklahoma. After working for the company for many years, Hudgeons bought into the company in 1990 and over time, alongside partners.

"I had a few partners and over time we'd bought out the others," Hudgeons said. "If a partner wanted out or passed away, I'd buy out

the shares and a few years ago became the owner of the company and now we've made some more changes with this merger as well as my stepping down."

Long-time employees also hold shares of the company that have been given over time. After 47 years, Hudgeons was ready to hang up the hat and retire. The decision became reality and the sons were ready to step up to the plate.

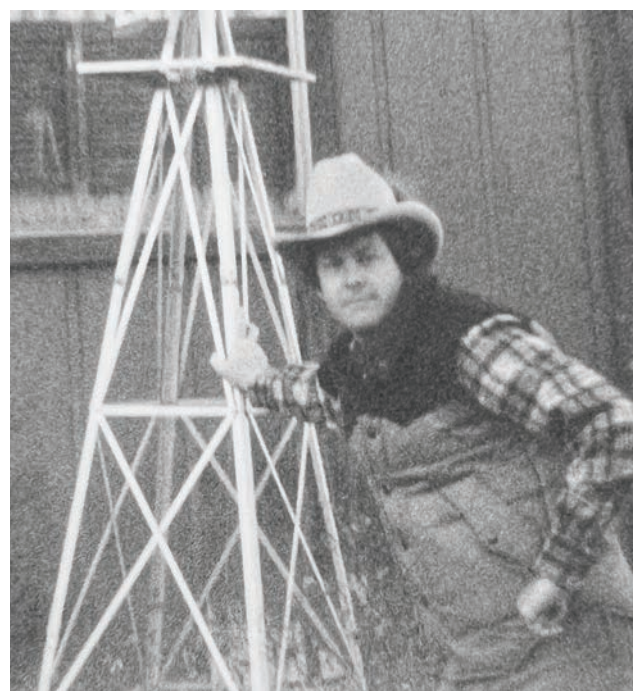
"These two guys will do a tremendous job in their roles," Hudgeons said. "They know they can call me at any time for advice or help, but retiring was just right for me. Time to spend with my wife and our kids and grandkids."

The company provides comprehensive field services and manufactured equipment to the natural gas measurement industry. Since 1946, Thurmond has been a leader in the natural gas measurement industry, manufacturing meter runs and custom instrumentation buildings, and providing full-service measurement and turnkey solutions to the natural gas industry, from the wellhead to the sales point. This year, Thurmond has added environmental services to its portfolio as well as investments in well-site automation and sales personnel.

"Since Trevor and Chris have joined the company, we have strengthened our financial footing, invested in new service lines and personnel, and have united and re-branded our sister companies," said Ken Hudgeons. "I'm very optimistic about the future of Thurmond, and I believe our best days are still ahead of us."

Growing with the times is a huge part of what Thurmond does. Hudgeons notes that from the first day he started, everything was mechanical but in years has transitioned into a more electronic-based line of work.

"Over time, this phone has now become attached to my hip. When I first came on, going



KEN HUDGEONS IN 1970

out into the field for a job, you wouldn't get a hold of anyone unless you went and found a pay phone," Hudgeons said. "Then as time went on we got radios or the bag phones that helped us keep in communication at all times. We now have equipment that is so far advanced from what we started with, that our job is so efficient."

Thurmond specializes in natural gas measurement, automation, and fabrications. But in recent times, the company has ventured into the environmental role.

"There are a lot of new regulations for clean energy and clean air," Hudgeons said. "So we have stepped into the field as well for our clients, we are still purchasing the necessary equipment to do the job to be able to provide that service to clients at the best possible."

The company has been in business for many years and continues to grow and expand the range of services it can offer to clients. With two new CEOs, the vision is to make sure the customers are still being upheld and given the best service when they reach out to the company.

Thurmonds' office in Pampa is located at 1428 N Banks St, Pampa, their website ThurmondGas.com showcases the work the company can offer.



ON THE LEFT, JIM THURMOND AND ON RIGHT, THURMOND OFFICE IN LEFORS



LEFT TO RIGHT, CHRIS MITCHEL, TREVOR HUDGEONS, KEN HUDGEONS

THURMOND AD

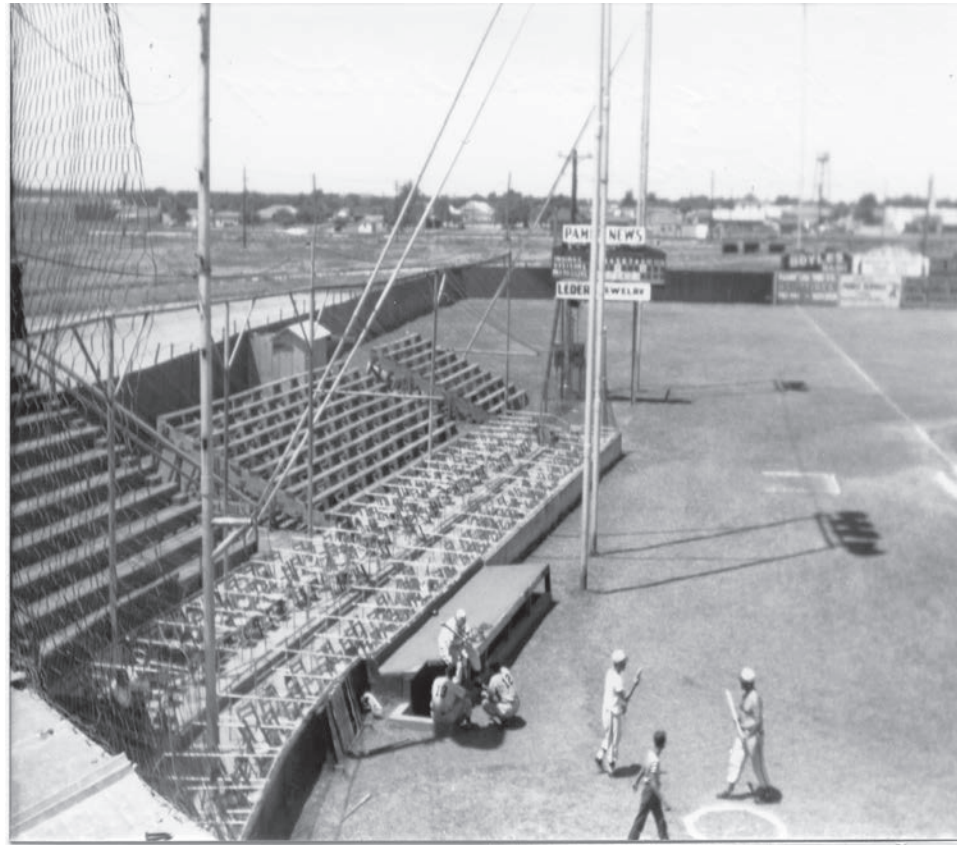


TREVOR AND KEN HUDGEONS IN FRONT OF THE THURMOND OFFICE IN PAMPA IN 1999

BLASTS OF THE PAST



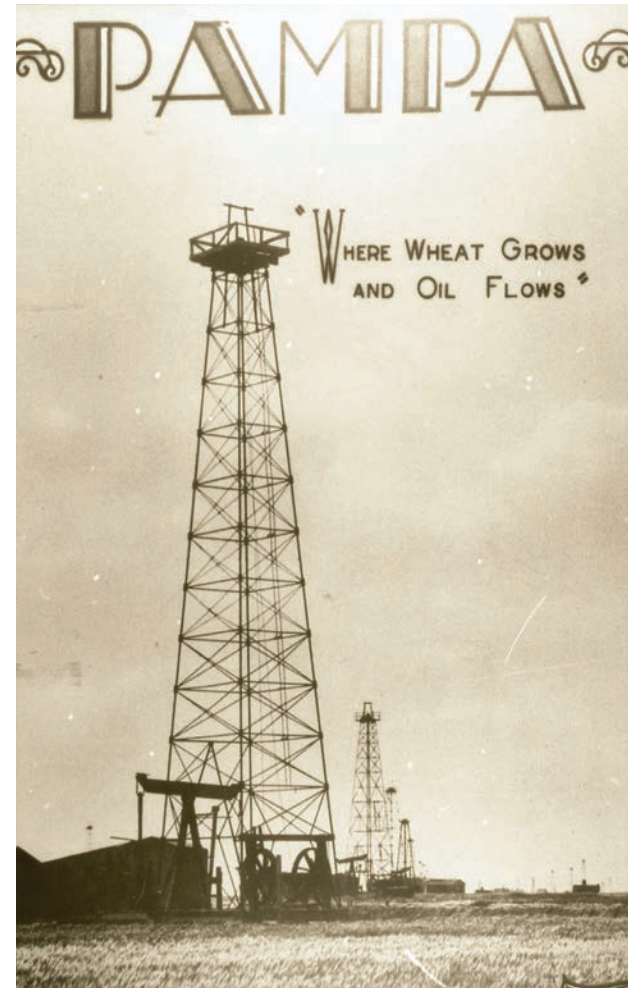
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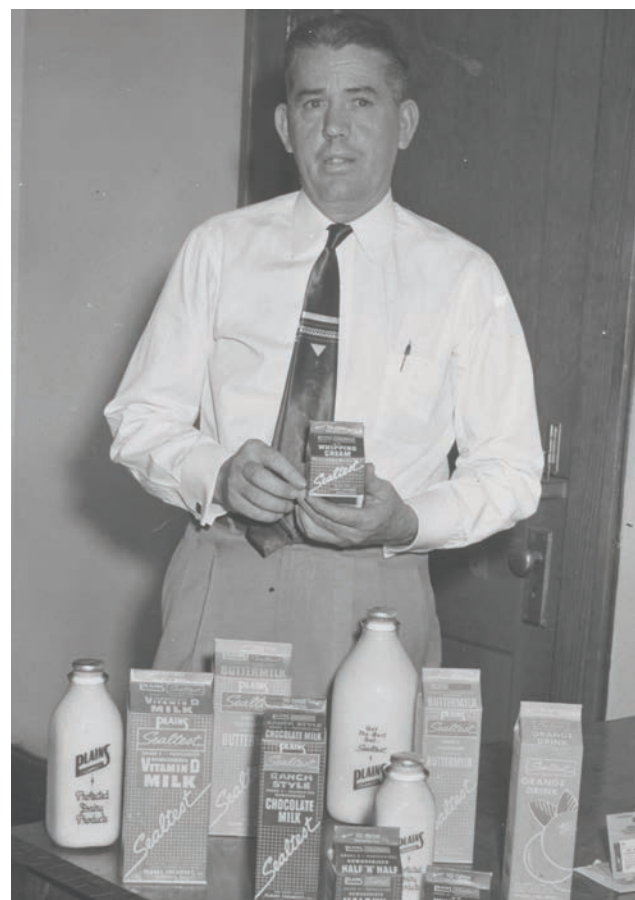
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Staple of Pampa, B&B Pharmacy

By CALEB DORN
pampanewseditor@gmail.com

B&B Pharmacy started in Pampa in the old Franks Hardware, that was previously Randy's Food store. In 1988, Dennis Roark and his wife Donna purchased the pharmacy and took it over. The two share the industry together, Dennis is a registered pharmacist and his wife Donna is a pharmacy tech. Roark who was born and raised in Southern Illinois moved to Phillips, Texas when he was younger, where he was raised and would meet the woman that would later become his wife. Roark's original life plans were to be a coach, but was swayed into pharmacy by a friend.

"I wanted to be a coach, that was my plan," Roark said. "I had a buddy from Borger who said he was going to school for pharmacy and really convinced me to go with him."

Dennis attended Southwestern Oklahoma State University and attending Frank Phillips in Borger for two years. Graduating from SWOSU in '81 and beginning work with Revco in Arlington, Texas for a year. After a year in Arlington, the two moved back to Pampa to work at the Revco in the old Pampa Mall location.

"Revco was a chain pharmacy, like your CVS or Walgreen's," Roark said. "I worked for them a year down in Arlington and then a few years in Pampa."

After leaving Revco, Roark worked and then purchased B&B Pharmacy. Later purchasing the building that it's been in for over 30 years at 300 N. Ballard. Dennis and Donna share two boys together. Their eldest son lives in Pampa and their youngest lives in Yukon, Oklahoma.

"Neither of my boys wanted to go into the same industry," Roark said. "But it's alright, they followed what they wanted to do and we're proud of them either way."

In Pampa, we're fortunate to still have locally owned pharmacies for our needs, in addition to 3 chain pharmacies. Pampa has many options for people to choose what they prefer.

"In my opinion, of course a locally owned business is better. We know you're name and you become part of a family," Roark said. "But ultimately, anyone is free to go where they prefer. We love getting to do what we do, I wouldn't trade the benefits of a small town. We wouldn't work without the support of our customers."

Be sure and stop by B&B Pharmacy to visit with Dennis or Donna.



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PAMPA PRIDE 2023



PEOPLE

From Cattle Drives To Commissioner's Court

BY CALEB DORN
pampanewseditor@gmail.com

brothers have continued to work along side each other, now with partnered ranches in Canadian and Pampa. The ranch continues to grow into a family business even more so, with sons now working the ranch now with their fathers. After graduating college, Haley's father and his grandfather purchased a ranch in Pampa and wanted Haley to take a job with the ranch upon graduation.

"I had a hybrid deal going, I was already in business with my brother," Haley said. "But then I had a job and a ranch here in Pampa, so I combined the two and we've been working as one since."

The day of graduation Haley's father was ready to move him to Pampa to start working the land.

"He was there the day of graduation with a cattle trailer to move me," Haley said. "So I went straight from college to ranching, it's what I grew up around and knew how to do."

After graduation and beginning the ranching life, two short years later, Haley would be set up with his wife.

"My little sister and Molly's cousin were sorority sisters at A&M," Haley said. "So I went down for my little sisters graduation and

they kind of put us together and it's been history ever since."

The two met and married within a year, and have been together for over 30 years.

"I wouldn't change it," Haley said. "We've raised 5 kids and I've loved the life we've made together."

After being in the ranching business his whole life, Haley was approached by James Hefley, to become a county commissioner.

"James had been in for around 16 years," Haley said. "He reached out to me and said he'd just thought it over and wasn't going to seek re-election."

After initially telling him [James] he had no interest in it, Hefley offered a week to allow him time to really think it over.

"I asked him to give me till the coming Friday, and I'd talk it over with Molly," Haley said.

Hefley and Haley had served on the Farm Bureau Board together, but the invitation to become a county commissioner wasn't anything on Haley's radar.

"He told me that if I didn't want to take his offer, he might run again instead," Haley said. "But he really encouraged me into doing it. So I went home and really thought about it



Jeff and Molly Haley Jan. 1 after he was sworn in for the 2023 year.

and realized I couldn't really complain about things or issues if I didn't do something to make a change when I had the opportunity in front of me."

After reasoning enough, Haley decided to give it a shot, and put his utmost effort into the campaign.

"I don't like to do things half way, if I decide to do something, I give it my all," Haley said. "I always have things to learn and grow on, but if there is something I truly want to do, then I can't be out worked. Like with this, I knew it would be a challenge but I was going to give it my all."

By the time Haley had come around to filing to run, Hefley had formally announced his departure through The Pampa News and three other applicants had entered the race.

"It was a real battle to win the title, the other three candidates were good choices, and there wasn't any bad politics involved during the race," Haley said. "The vote went to a run off and I won overall, but it was close."

Since the election, now being 12 years ago, Haley has continued to serve Gray County as the Precinct 4 commissioner.

"It was a hard fought

battle, but it prepared me for the work I had ahead of me as a commissioner," Haley said. "But throughout that I was knocking on door after door that were in my precinct to talk to the people I would be representing. It was an eye opening event for me, hearing the people out on the issues they saw or things they'd like to see changed that I would be representing. It was a huge connection point for me with the people of Pampa, McLean and Alanreed that I speak for when I go into these

Haley
Continued on Page 3

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Haley Continued From Page 2



Jeff and His Brother Jim working Cattle

commissioner meetings.”

The reasoning behind four commissioners is to make sure there is an equal divide among the county, an actual law within Texas that Gray County has to abide by.

“If you split the county into four equal axis points, each of the commissioners gets one,” Haley said. “It makes it even so that there isn’t one person representing all of Pampa, the city is equally divided so there’s representation across the board.”

So what do commissioners do? Among the slough of things they do, the biggest parts are setting the budget for

the county each year and the tax rate. Commissioners are also responsible for any contracts the county enters into and it must be approved by the commissioners court.

“We want to make sure each year that we use the funds the people of the county pay for with taxes to the best of our ability,” Haley said. “It’s incumbent on us to use these funds and make the best decisions for the county every year.”

Haley’s reasoning for getting into the position hasn’t changed after a decade, the mission is to continue helping the community he lives and

raised a family in.

“I’ve put time into this position, but I would say it took about 4 years to fully understand and do my job the best I can,” Haley said. “So it’s taken time for me to learn how to serve the people in my own community. As long as I can continue to do that, I will keep doing what I can. I know with any position you can stay too long, so I will continue on year after year until I am no longer serving the people of this community like I should.”

As a true Texan, Haley’s roots into the history of Texas run deep. Haley’s grandfather attended West Texas

tional Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum.

“My grandfather and Charles spent a lot of time together doing these interviews,” Haley said. “He hired a stenographer to take down the interviews in short hand to be able to catch more information in the time they had together.”

J. Evetts Haley, Haley’s grandfather was a historian and a cowman and the author of three other books published by the University of Oklahoma Press: *Jeff Milton: A Good Man With a Gun*; *Charles Goodnight: Cowman and Plainsman*; and *George W. Littlefield; Texan*. The thinking behind opening a library

was to offer a space for a researcher to come in and be able to research Texas and the Southwest and range cattle industry at no cost to the researcher.

“It was for researchers and students,” Haley said. “His thought was that students and researchers don’t need to pay to go into a library or use the information the library has to offer.”

In 1976, the building of Haley Memorial Library & History was opened and has served the community of Midland and researchers across the country for over 40 years.

“When the library of-

ficially opened, there was thousands of writings and interviews with early pioneers that my grandfather had written himself, that now had a place,” Haley said. “It’s a been great service. It’s completely operated from private donations, no help or funding from the government.”

The library’s inventory has been used to publish many books, and all contents of the library can only be seen in person, nothing is digitized. The library is also home to the original Alamo bell. But portions of the collection and what all is offered can be seen on the website.

“We felt that it best serves the library to keep everything in it’s original state,” Haley said. “It has history of early years of Texas, Arizona, New Mexico and even parts of California.”

Portions of the diary excerpts from J. Evetts are from in the Panhandle coming through Pampa, visiting with Mr. Hobart and many other founders of Pampa.

“When my grandfather came through Pampa, he’d noted that there wasn’t any places to even stay,” Haley said. “He cowboy’d the trip and carried everything he needed to live.”

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Serving His Community for Over 60 Years

BY CALEB DORN
pampanewseditor@gmail.com

John William Warner was born in Amarillo in June of '37 and moved to Pampa when he was two years old. His life and practice have been spent in Pampa. Warner attended Pampa Junior High and Pampa High where he was involved in numerous clubs such as the Latin Club, National Honor Society and Harvester baseball.

"Pampa is home to me, I've spent my career and lifetime here in this wonderful town," Warner said. "When my parents decided to moved to Pampa they were kind enough to bring me along with them."

Warner has practice law for over 60 years, all spent in Pampa working in his firm. Warner went into his first day of practicing law on his birthday, June 4th of 1962. Originally, Warner and AJ Carubbi were partners at the firm, before Carrubbi left the practice to become the executive assistant to the attorney general.

"He went to Austin and I stayed here," Warner said.

After graduation from Pampa High in 1954 he then attended Texas

A&M for journalism, where he was the 'Outstanding Journalism Graduate.'

"After graduation I went all over the panhandle of Texas to find a job in journalism," Warner said. "That wasn't for me, so that was how I knew I was meant to go into law. I've loved it from the beginning." Warner went on to the University of Texas Law School to get his law degree in January of 1962. In his time at the University of Texas Law School, Warner was the president of the University of Texas Wesley Foundation, and state president of the Methodist Student Movement. The day to day challenges of helping clients and getting the best possible outcome are the objective Warner has had from the beginning of his career, and is still the joy that keeps him working to this day.

John met his wife, Judy, at the Wesley Foundation while they were both in school. The Wesley Foundation is a United Methodist campus ministry sponsored in full or in part by the United Methodist Church.

"I met Judy at the Wesley Foundation, at a dance they were having,"

Warner said. "I saw this good looking gal with her sweater on and asked her to dance, and she said yes and we've been dancing ever since."

John and Judy have been married 61 years and share four kids, Mike, Cindy, Melanie and Patti. Their son Mike, who worked under his father for a period of time, now is a practi-

ing attorney in Amarillo and was voted the best attorney in Amarillo this past year. Their daughter Cindy is a social worker who's served as the executive director of Tralee Crisis Center. Melanie lives in Fresno California and is an award winning magazine publisher, Patti also lives in California, near Los Angeles.

After graduating college, the two packed everything up that they owned and moved back to Pampa to begin their careers and lives together.

"We've spent our lives together here in Pampa," Warner said. "Our friends call her Saint Judy for putting up with me all these years, I wouldn't trade her for the world."

John obtained a multi-million dollar jury verdict in Amarillo in 1987. He has two of the three largest jury verdicts in Pampa. He has been honored as the speaker for the Belli Seminar in Kansas City, MO. and for the annual Meeting of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America in Washington D.C. With his journalism degree under his belt, Warner has published articles in the Texas Bar Journal, Voice for the Defense and various other publications.

"I've loved my career, I do it now because I still want to, I enjoy the fight and the work," Warner said.

In addition to his impressive legal career, John has taken pride in his involvement with Pampa organizations. Warner served as the first general chairman of the 'Children's Shopping Tour' in 1963, serving in that same role for many times over the years, serving as the treasurer for the last 40 years. This year will mark his 50th year as an optimist baseball coach, coaching 11 and 12 year olds, he taught youth Sunday school at First Methodist for 50 years and 25 years in the Senior High depart-



John Warner

ment and 25 in the Junior High department and now teaches the adult classes. He's served on the United Way for many years, and has served as president twice and been part of Kiwanis for over 50 years.

"I love Pampa and being able to serve and give back in as many ways as I can," Warner said. "One of the most enjoyable things I get to do and have gotten to do is to be a part of the PHS Foundation Scholarship that I serve on with the Superintendent of Pampa school's as well as the Pampa High School principal. We have given over a quarter of a million dollars in scholarships to kids of Pampa. Each year I get to give out that scholarship at the awards assembly."

One of Warner's former clients donated from a settlement fund he helped win for her to get the foundation started, Warner did all the legal work to get the foundation registered as a 501(c)(3). He was inducted into the Harvester Hall of Fame for the 2004 - 2005 school year for his outstanding work as a member of Pampa and a graduate of Pampa High.



JOHN AND JUDY WARNER WITH THEIR ELDEST KIDS

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PAMPA, TEXAS

Mac Smith

BY CALEB DORN
pampanewseditor@gmail.com

Mac Smith is a born and raised Pampa native. After graduating from Pampa High, Smith attended college at Pepperdine in California for his undergrad and then law school at Texas Tech before going on to different colleges for other degrees before returning to his favorite city, Pampa.

"People always ask me where my favorite city in the world is and I tell them my second favorite city is Florence," Smith said. "They always debate that I didn't answer the question but it's because no matter what, Pampa is my favorite city in the world. I love it here, love the people here."

Smith moved back to Pampa and began doing business with family, opening, building and selling many rehab centers along with oil and gas work with some small work in the tech industry using his law degree to aid him in the tax side of business ventures. Smith's current business venture is his shoe company, Riomar.

"We started Riomar around 5 years ago, it's been a fun project," Smith said. "It's taken up all my time because there's so much I want to learn."

The headquarters for the company is in Vero Beach, Florida but everything happens out of the Pampa facility. The fulfillment warehouse is right here in Pampa.

"We have our office in Florida where we do a lot of the creative sides of the business, and PR related things," Smith said. "But Pampa is the base for bookkeeping and fulfillment as well as customer service."

The shoes are something that the team takes great pride in, the authentic leather is from Portugal and the interchangeable bearings are a patented part of the shoe's brand. The bearings are hand-tied in Florida, tied by commercial fishermen. Using the same technique the fishermen use to knot their nets off at the end of the

day.

"I've loved Riomar, it was such a fascinating market to get into," Smith said. "The idea came from a fraternity brother that had it for years, but I've thrown myself completely into it and love it. I'm always looking for the next thing to do down the road that's going to be as enjoyable as this has been."

Smith's friend, Lange Sykes had worked up the idea of the shoe and modeled it in his early years at Pepperdine and then after college continued working on it trying to get it off the ground. The first break in the business was obtaining the patent for IP (Intellectual Property) of the bearings. The first round of shoes were made using product from a leather distributor out of the Dominican Republic that didn't meet the standards or authenticity they were searching for.

"After the first round, we got some samples of leather from Portugal from friends of friends," Smith said. "I had some time I wanted to devote to looking into the project more so I went to visit him in Vero Beach just to take a look at it, but once I got there and saw the potential I got involved and helped build the business plan for the company to get it started."

After aiding Sykes in the planning of investor meetings, Mac saw the vision and with a group of investors put in the money it would take to get the company where they wanted it to be. Smith officially came on board under the title of 'Presidente' and Sykes stayed as the creative director for the company. The company is now owned by a collection of people, with Smith and Sykes remaining on board in their initial roles.

"The coolest part about owning your own business is being able to help people around you," Smith said. "With any business you get the chance to give people around you jobs and grow something out of noth-

ing. The daily challenges of solving problems and working with different people, it keeps your mind churning and constantly working."

The company has spanned in sales across the world, bringing up moments across the country where Smith runs into people wearing his shoes.

"It's an indescribable feeling to see something you've poured yourself in out in the public, seeing strangers that have taken interest in your product and wear it themselves, and getting

to talk with them and get their honest feedback not knowing who you are," Smith said. "I like to ask people I see wearing them what their honest opinion is of the shoe or what they don't like about it because they give honest feedback because to them I'm just some regular guy that's taken interest in what they have on. It provides me an opportunity to see what is or isn't working with the shoes and then we can fix those things that maybe customers don't like."

The company is big in the SEC states, but they also have shipments to Dubai, Singapore, Peru and other places in South America and some past Canada shipments.

"In the past six months we've shipped a dozen or so back to Portugal because someone there sees them and wants some," Smith said. "99% of what we do is in the U.S. but we have customers and accounts in other parts of the world which is just incredible to see as a company."

With 220 retail spots, the closest to Pampa would be DFW at the Squire Shop. Orders for residents of Pampa get a different encounter when ordering.

"We ship anywhere in the world,"



MAC SMITH, PHOTO COURTESY OF CASA

Smith said. "But if someone in Pampa orders a product, it ships out of here so most of the time we just refund the shipping and take it to them, that's a perk of our office here."

The office in Pampa isn't a retail shop but the employees can always help out with any issues or concerns about a product. Because the creative director lives in Vero Beach, that's where HQ and PR are housed, but majority of work happens in Pampa with Mac staying local while still operating the company.

"I just love Pampa, my family is here. It's home," Smith said. "I see my brother and his kids every day, my dad still comes into the office. So I get to see my parents and siblings all the time. But also a lot of the guys I went to high school with are all back here so we have a large friend group here and that just makes it better to have that tight friend group that you've been with your whole life. It makes Pampa home, I love all the traditional things here in Pampa. Harvester traditions like ball games are something that matter to me."

To search Riomar shoes and all they have to offer, visit the website riomارشoes.com

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City of Pampa Fire Chief

BY VALERIE GRAY
pampanewsreporter@gmail.com



KASEY PRESSON, STAFF PHOTO

Kasey Presson is the Fire Chief of the City of Pampa. A Pampa High School graduate of the class of 2002, Presson has made his way up the ranks of the firefighting industry to become the Fire Chief that Pampa deserves. Similar to many high school graduates, Presson was unsure of the next step to take in his life. It wasn't until he returned to Pampa and discovered the need for firefighters that Presson pursued the opportunity.

"When I came back to visit my parents, I saw an ad that said the city needed firefighters," Presson said. "I gave it a good shot. It was then and there that I decided that I was not going to leave."

Near the end of 2004 is when Presson tested to enter the Pampa Fire Department and was officially hired in February 2005.

Presson soon got promoted to Equipment Operator and in 2015, got promoted again to the rank of Captain. Presson was officially the Captain of Training for around three years.

Eventually, Presson became the Deputy Chief of Operations, a position that was created by then Fire Chief, Greg Lee. After Chief Lee's passing, Presson took over as Interim Fire Chief. In December 2021, Presson was officially promoted to Fire Chief.

Though the transition from firefighter to fire chief has had its considerable changes, Presson highlights the benefits of a more consistent work schedule.

"There are great benefits to being the chief. I get to go home and sleep in my own bed every night. I get to spend more time with my family," Presson said.

Although being fire chief has more administrative responsibilities, each and every day brings random opportunities just like being on the front lines.

"There is no typical day here," Presson said. "Every day is so varied and so diverse, it is impossible to describe everything that happens on a daily basis."

On the whole, Presson shared the rich history of the Pampa Fire Department. First established in 1925, the first department was built on 203 West Foster Avenue. That building was taken down and the new building, which still stands today, was created on the same location in 1927.

The Pampa Fire Department started out on a volunteer basis with it officially becoming a paid fire department in 1931.

The first Fire Chief of Pampa was Alex Schneider.

At its peak, the City of Pampa had three active fire departments. Station One is located in downtown Pampa, Station Two is located across Pampa High School on 17th Avenue, and Station Three was located on South Barnes Street. Identical to Station Two, Station Three has been converted

Presson
Continued on Page 7

Interim Director of Allied Health at Clarendon College

BY VALERIE GRAY
pampanewsreporter@gmail.com



SHERRIE DENHAM

Sherrie Denham is the Interim Director of Allied Health at Clarendon College for the Pampa Center and Childress Center. Denham is a registered nurse with 28 years of experience spanning home health, emergency room, medical search, and nursing home-centered care.

Denham, who is married and has three beautiful children and four wonderful grandchildren, comes from a long line of nursing.

"I come from a family of nurses. My mom is a nurse, my aunt is a nurse, my sister is a nurse, and my brother works in a laboratory," Denham said.

Denham began her nursing education at Vernon College where she became a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). From there, she became a Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN). Eventually, Denham went on to Excelsior University where she became a Registered Nurse (RN) and got her Masters of Science and Nursing with a sub-specialty in health care education.

Denham explains how her love of nursing mixed well with her adoration of teaching.

"My goal was to get my masters. I love teaching which is why I decided to pursue that along with being a nurse," Denham said.

Denham speaks highly of her nursing career and advises that it was one of the best decisions a person can make.

"You're so privileged when you're a nurse. You see people at their most vulnerable, their greatest highs, and everything in between," Denham said. "We get to see people of different cultures and different belief systems. The diversity helps us in our world view."

Denham reminisced about her transition from nursing into teaching.

"While I was pursuing my masters, I took a leave of absence from my full-time nursing job. A job teaching the CNA program at Vernon college came up and my supervisor encouraged me to take it," Denham said. "I taught the CNA program and eventually became the LVN Director at Vernon."

Since then, an opportunity to become the RN Instructor at Clarendon College opened up. Denham heard wonderful things about the working environment at the college and she has now been working for Clarendon College for five years.

"I really hope people do consider Clarendon College because we have really great instructors in our nursing program," Denham said. "We have good deans, a good president, and good counselors."

Allied Health at Clarendon College has many courses for those interested in the nursing industry. There is Introduction to Nursing, Vocational Nursing in which students can become an LVN, CNA Certification, CPR

Denham
Continued on Page 7

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Presson Continued From Page 6



FRONT (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT): LLOYD BENNETT, YOUNGER COCKRELL, UNKNOWN PLES DUVAL, AND ANDY CROCKER
 BACK (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT): BONNIE ROSE, ALEX SCHNEIDER SR., HARRY HOARE GEORGE LATUS, BEN WHITE, AND F.P. REID

into a fitness center for first responders.

As well, Presson spoke about the changes in equipment that the firefighting industry uses.

"Back then, firefighters used to be referred to as 'Leather Lungs' or 'Smoke Eaters'. If a house was on fire, they would take a deep breath and run in. A lot of firefighters developed health conditions because of breathing in the cancerous materials," Presson said. "Today, we have self-contained breathing apparatuses and heat-repelling garments that are fire-resistive. You don't suffer as much thermal effects as firefighters used to."

With the update in technology and serious use of personal protective equipment, the Pampa Fire Department ensures the safety of all firefighters.

"We take our PPE very seriously. We keep it clean and wash it often," Presson said. "We no longer ride tail boards, which means, back then firefighters used to hang on the back the fire trucks when going to calls."

Furthermore, Presson provided details on the biggest fires in the history of Pampa.

"The biggest building fire in Pampa history was on November 2005, when the abandoned meat processing plant on Highway 60 burnt down," Presson said.

By the same token, the biggest fire in Texas history affected the community of Pampa significantly. On March 12, 2006, quite a few large, consuming wild fires were burning at the same time. Dubbed the "Dumas Complex Fire", there was a cumulative 1.4 million acres of grass land that burned. Sadly, 12 people lost their lives and 89 structures burned down. The fire began in Dumas, made its way to Miami, then went down to Le-fors when the wind changed.

"Any firefighter that we could get from anywhere came to help," Presson said.

Presson shared his advice for people interested in becoming a firefighter. "Just do it," Presson said. "I have never known anybody who has ever made an attempt at it, not fall absolutely in love with it."

Likewise, Presson shares helpful information for those who don't know where to start on their first step into the firefighting industry.

"I always advise people to start with their EMT studies," Presson said. "When starting out, people must have their EMT basics. The EMT portion of our job requires a lot of studying and testing."

As well, Presson expresses his sincerest gratitude to the people in his life that have supported him.

"I'd like to thank my wife, Lindsey, my 15 year old daughter, 7 year old son and one year old baby boy," Presson said. "I give great thanks to my predecessor, Chief Lee. He mentored me for the position."

Presson goes on to give special thanks to the City of Pampa and the Pampa Fire Department crew.

"City manager, Shane Stokes, and the City Commissioners have been amazing to me," Presson said. "All of the crew has been really supportive of me. They bend over backwards to make me look good."

Denham Continued From Page 6

Certification, and Associate Degree in Nursing.

Indeed, there is a transition track for students who are interested in pursuing nursing but may not have all the qualifications. By completing Introduction to Nursing, students can then test as a CNA. As well, Clarendon College also offers a LVN-to-RN program as a pathway for students interested in becoming a nurse.

Denham offers a unique insight on why nursing is an optimal career path. "Consider nursing because if you get bored with the hospital, you can go into home healthcare, teach clinicals, or work in the administrative side like working in billing or case management," Denham said. "In nursing, there are a lot of pathways. It is one of the best decisions I have ever made and I hope people follow suit."

Denham offers her sincerest appreciation for her fellow peers.

"At Clarendon College, we are valued. Everyone has been so helpful to me as Interim Director," Denham said. "Dr. Mike, Tex, Brad, and all of the

staff have been willing to do anything to help us be successful."

For more information about Allied Health in Clarendon College, contact (940) 938-7148.



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Dr. Michael Davis: Dean of Clarendon College - Pampa Center

By VALERIE GRAY
pampanewsreporter@gmail.com

Dr. Michael Davis has an extensive background in education that he uses to aid the community. Raised in Pampa, Davis graduated from Pampa High School in 1983. From there, Davis went on to acquire a Bachelor of Arts with Honors in Philosophy at Wayland Baptist University, two Master of Arts in (Philosophy and History) at Baylor University, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Education and Human Development at Vanderbilt University.

After completing his Ph.D at Vanderbilt, Davis returned to Pampa and worked at Pantex Plant where he had similar responsibilities to that of an academic dean: justifying adult learning programs against federal mandates.

Davis worked for the Pantex Plant for 12 years. After Pantex, Davis began working for the Nevada Test Site (now known as the Nevada National Security Site). Davis' initial role was training policy and compliance for nuclear testing.

The purpose of the Nevada Test Site was to prove that weapons composed of nuclear material originally manufactured 50 years ago would still work as designed. By taking small amounts of material and conducting sub critical experiments, testing determined if the material could produce the intended outcome.

Davis ended his career at the NNSS as the Nuclear Training Manager responsible for training, qualification, and certification for national and international teams conducting these experiments.

With the growing desire to get closer to home coupled with other life events, Davis served a

transition year at Los Alamos National Laboratory, where he worked with apprenticeship programs for nuclear waste.

Ultimately, Davis returned to Pampa. After being inducted into the Harvester Hall of Fame in 2012, he kept asking Pampa ISD for opportunities to serve. Former superintendent, Dr. Tanya Larkin, and Davis' former high school counselor, JoAnn Jones, told Davis about the opportunity to become Dean of Clarendon College—Pampa Center. They encouraged Davis, saying that it would be a way to give back to the community.

"I came back to Pampa when I got this job. I've been working with the community and trying to develop programs and things that Pampa and the Eastern Panhandle area can benefit from," Davis said.

Clarendon College - Pampa Center started in the basement of the PHS and eventually moved to Sam Houston School, where it stayed for 20 years. The Pampa Center Foundation (PCF), whose board is comprised of 15 dedicated members, raised the money to start the current Clarendon College Pampa Center campus.

The PCF provides scholarships for many programs in Clarendon College like Dual Credit, Nursing, and other Career and Technical Education students. The PCF also provides up to ten 2-year scholarships each year for Gray County High School graduating seniors from McLean, Lefors, and Pampa, partnering with Opportunity Plan in Canyon.

Davis' greatest accomplishment is giving back so that others may benefit from the transformative power of his Pampa and Wayland educations.

"Going to Wayland, I was dependent on the kindness of strangers because it took visionary people to set money aside to help cover the educational costs of promising students they didn't know and would never meet," Davis said. "These are all either former administrators, faculty, staff, or private citizens who gave money to help people like me get an education and go on and impact the world through that education."

Though Clarendon College is the smallest community college in the state, maintaining and providing a quality learning environment for students and staff is no small task.

Davis typically works 12 to 14 hours five days a week. He comes in early in the morning to focus on paperwork and administrative responsi-



DR. MIKE DAVIS AND KAYLEI RAY

bilities.

Next, Davis ensures the buildings are ready and makes sure the students and staff have what they need to learn.

Not only is Davis Campus Dean for the Pampa Center, he is the Dean of Career, Technical, and Continuing Education with responsibilities in Pampa, Amarillo, Canyon, Clarendon, and Childress.

Davis offers this advice to those who are unsure of pursuing higher education:

"Not everyone needs an academic degree. We offer more than academic courses. We have hands-on technical courses as well. Talk to any of the directors of our programs like CDL, Welding, Nursing, Agriculture, or Cosmetology and see if there is anything that interests you. Don't be afraid to try," Davis said.

Davis expressed his sincerest appreciation for those who have helped him in life and in this job.

"I want to thank my parents, JoAnn Jones, Pampa Center Foundation, and Tex Buckhaults. He is the College President and picked me for this job. I'm grateful to him and for allowing me to serve Pampa through Clarendon College," Davis said.

For more information about Clarendon College, call (806) 665-8801.



DR. MIKE DAVIS AND EVERETT DAVIS



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Lamar Elementary School



Lamar Way Jrs and 5th grade teacher, Ms. Johnson, wrote a grant to get a Buddy Bench on the playground. This bench is a safe way for students to ask for a friend without using words. Kids can sit on the bench when they feel alone and others will know to offer a friendly hand.



We welcomed a new face at the turn of the semester. Ms. Utterback came in to first grade and the kids immediately fell in love with their teacher.



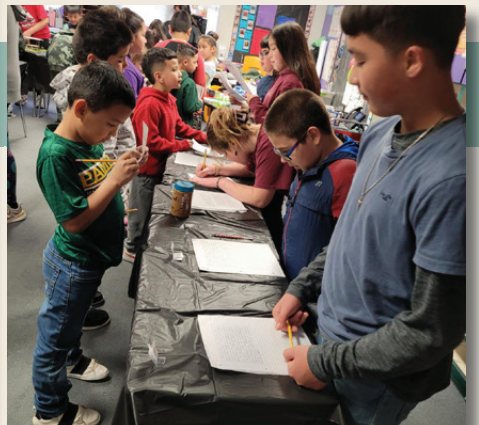
Our littles look up to our older students, so family assemblies are the perfect opportunity to offer some mentorship and connections that older and younger students may not normally have.



Students were challenged to meet a fundraising goal during the fall. If they met this goal they were able to watch Mr. McClendon get slimed. Well, the goal was met and slime was spilled.



The annual Winter Jam in March showed off the signing skills of our Bobcats as they sang songs from Broadway.



Fifth graders participated in a cross-curricular project for Social Studies and RLA. They then presented their projects and essays to lower grade levels in a museum like setting.



During Dia de los Muertos, students from Lamar and Wilson created ofrendas to showcase their loved ones and their heritage.



Second graders showed accountability and leadership as they participated in many activities on ice.

Austin Elementary School



October Dress Up Day- 4th Grade Teachers: Becca Ferguson, Misty Hood, Taylor Ferguson

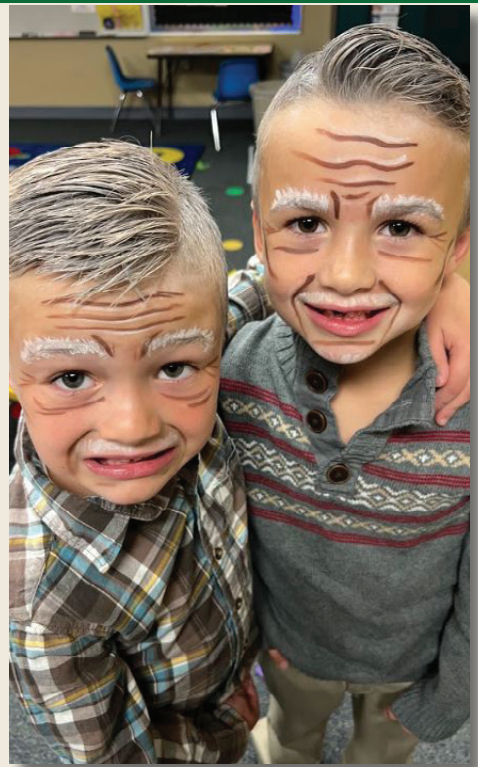
3rd Grade Ice Skating Field Trip in Amarillo: Chancee Cochran, Kylee McElroy, Carys Rains, Ryleigh Rankin



4th Six Weeks Celebration- 5th Grade Glow Party: Ava Thomas, Kaisley Niccum, Adilee Blackmon



2nd Grade Field Trip to Hodgetown Sod Poodles Stadium and Clint and Sons Processing Plant: Campbell Day, Evelyn Arrington, and Nora Davis



Dress Like an Old Person Day- Pre-K and Kindergarten: Legend and Chevy Lauderdale



4th Grade had a Native American Trunk Show



Dress Like a Tourist Day- 1st Graders: Lincoln Dawes, Paxton Bruce, Everett Brown, Stockton Hudson

Pampa Junior High School



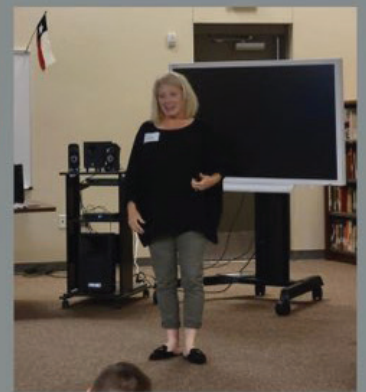
6th Grade Girls Choir serenading the staff and teachers of Pampa Junior High School at Christmas.



Athletics/Math Academic Spotlight - Celebration



History/Science Academic Spotlight - Mrs. Arnzen got the crowd hyped up!



Students with good behavior and attendance could sign up to participate in Staff vs. Student Dodgeball.

8th Grade students had the opportunity to hear Caleb and Jeremy Freeman speak about how Tragedy was turned into Triumph.



6th Grade Reading Language Arts students had the opportunity to listen to spooky stories by author Paula Schlegel.

Pampa Learning Center



PLC Staff



Gabriel Martinez



Harlii Schmidt



Jacob Covalt



Kaylee Calcote



Harlii Schmidt Friendship Award



Maesen Barnwell



Maesen Barnwell Star Student Award



PLC Seniors 2023



Marisol Gonsales



Osvaldo Silva

Pampa High School



AP Calculus Students



Education and Training Students Why Teach Conference



JV Tennis Team

PHS Choir students named to the TMEA Small School All State Choir



PHS Art Students



Practicum of IT students working on chromebooks



Students at ACT Bootcamp preparing for the ACT exam

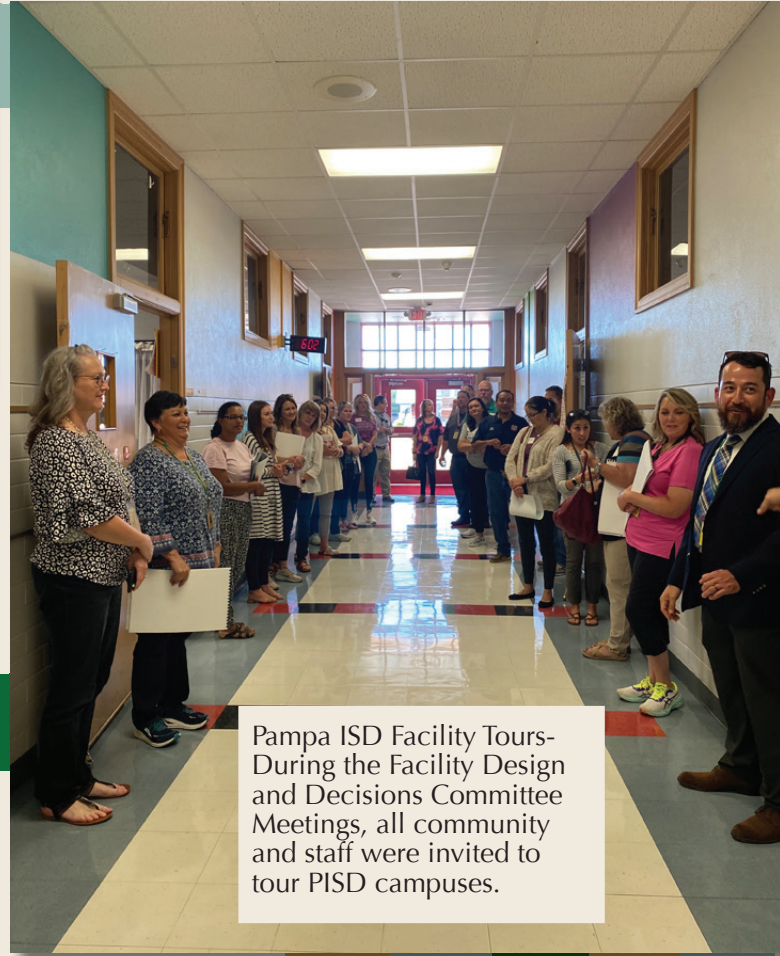
Bill Cofer- Mr. Bill Cofer speaking at a press conference announcing the \$1.5 million scholarship in memory of his wife Carol Cofer. This scholarship will support Pampa High School students and White Deer High School students.

Pampa ISD Community Involvement



Pampa ISD Student Resource Officers- Officer Flores, Officer Sibley, Officer Bowley

Pampa ISD Big Event Community Service- The Pampa High School Athletic Trainers visited The Meredith Place Assisted Living for their community service project. They played games and held a fitness class with residents.



Pampa ISD Facility Tours- During the Facility Design and Decisions Committee Meetings, all community and staff were invited to tour PISD campuses.



Salvation Army of Pampa donates school supplies to Pampa ISD students and teachers.

Pampa ISD partners with local businesses for events, student internships, and much more! Pictured is Cabot Corp at the Back to School Bash. They demonstrated the process and products that Cabot is manufacturing. Pictured: Marisol Lacher, Edgar Quevedo, Hugh Piatt, Chad Clements



Wilson Elementary School

3rd grade students dressed up for decade day during Homecoming week.



4th grade students from Wilson singing in the Veteran's day program.



5th grade students building with cups during STEAM.

Kindergarten students dressed up for GRINCH day.



Ms. Isch's class learned about monuments and made one about Wilson!



Mrs. Wise's class celebrating the 100 days of school!



Wilson students that placed at the 2022-2023 UIL meet.



The teachers at Wilson all pitched in to support the High school fundraiser and surprised Mr. Petit with the goat!

Travis Elementary School

First grade students have been learning about money.



Kindergarten Students went on a field trip to the bank.



Fifth grade students working on volume in Mrs. Davis' math class.



Second grade students had an on campus WOWW art presentation and got to create their own pieces.



Third grade students made solar systems and displayed them in the library for the school to see.



Fourth grade students having fun in Mrs. Hunt's class.