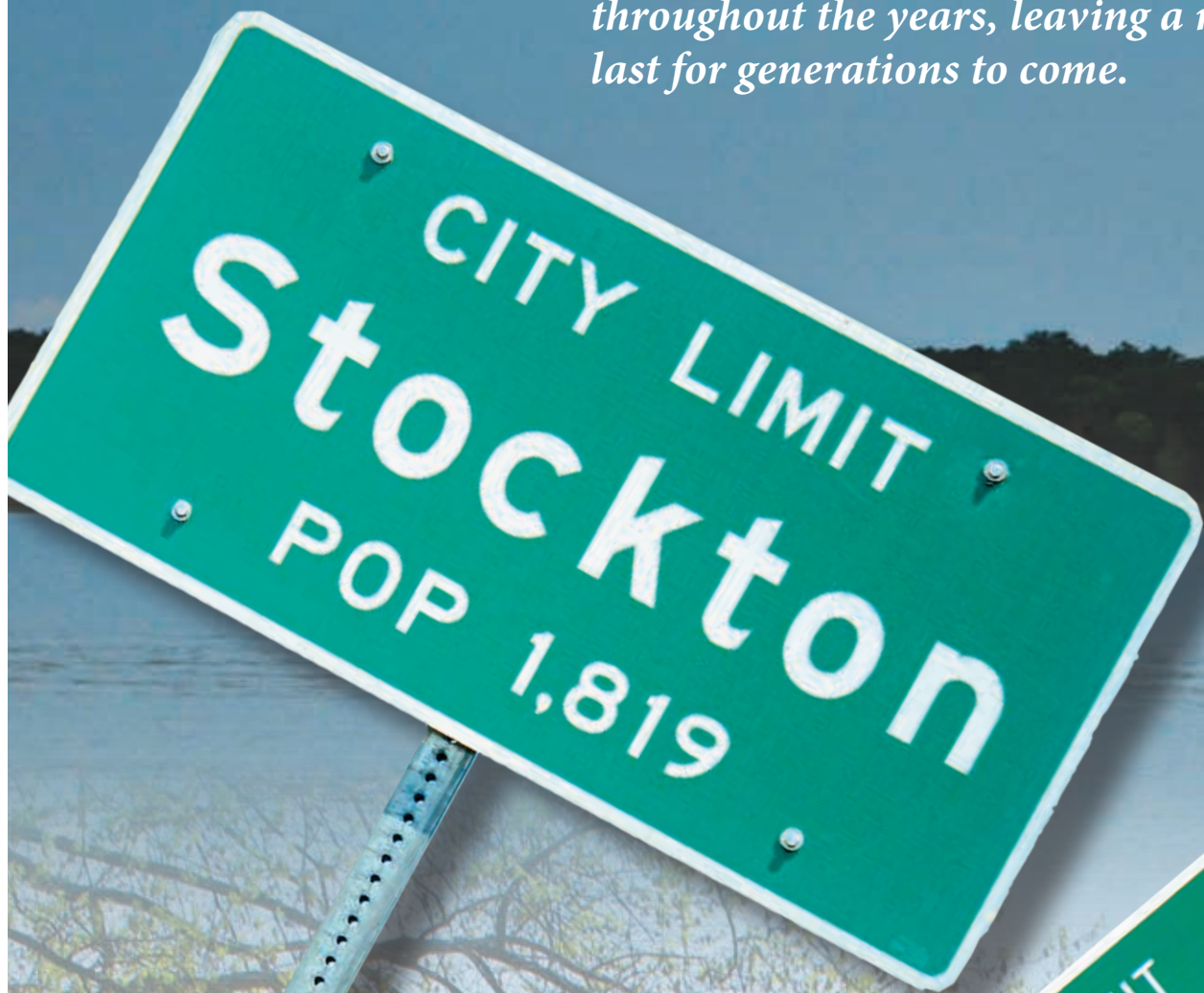


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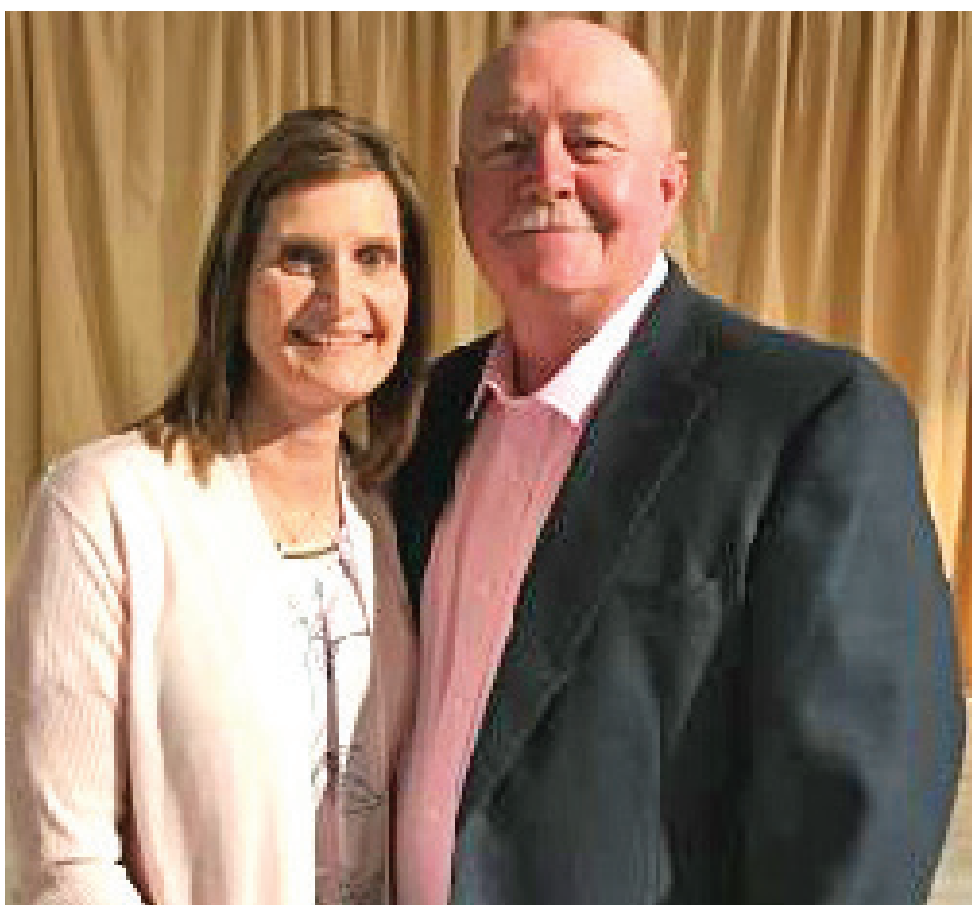
Individuals, groups and organizations who have contributed to Cedar County's pride and progress in a number of ways throughout the years, leaving a reverberating legacy that will last for generations to come.



**A special supplement to the Cedar County Republican
Wednesday, June 29, 2022**

'Be fair, kind, and true to your word'

Bill Crabtree



Pictured are Bill Crabtree, SACC Executive Director, right, and wife Rhonda, left, at the Stockton Area Chamber of Commerce's annual banquet. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS/BILL CRABTREE



Bill, left, and Rhonda Crabtree, right, enjoy the first Stockton Lake PRCA Rodeo.



By Alana Hindman
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Nothing compares to small town life for Bill Crabtree, Executive Director of the Stockton Chamber of Commerce.

"There's no better place to raise a family and know, work with, and trust your neighbors," Crabtree said. "Here, we have a beautiful lake. There we had beautiful rivers. Both places we had amazing friends and neighbors."

Crabtree was born December 3 in St. Louis. He and his sister, Beverly Duncan, were fortunate to be raised by a hardworking single mother and a caring grandmother. He lived in Phelps County for over 40 years.

He earned a college athletic scholarship for baseball and basketball. He has a double major in English and Education from Park University and a master's degree in administration from William Woods University.

"I greatly enjoyed competing, the dedication and discipline it takes to achieve," Crabtree said. "Athletics provided a lot for me. Through athletics, I was able to earn a degree and get most of that degree paid for. It provided focus and numerous life lessons. I enjoyed the travel, the friendships and networking that being an athlete provided. I'd like to think I gave back to my sports as much as I took from them. Quite the same way I feel about what we do here at the Chamber."

At his best friend's wedding, Bill met the love of his life, Rhonda. Later on, Garth Brook's brother, Mike, officiated their wedding. They have one son and one daughter, Tyler and Lauren. They are also blessed with four grandchildren, Madelyn, Maddox and twins Emma and Emmett.

Bill and Rhonda moved to Stockton in 2006. They are passionately involved in the community, meeting people and playing a small part in the growth of the area in which they live.

His wife, Rhonda Crabtree, said, "I enjoy being involved in events where younger generations are involved ... It's so great to have community events where the children are provided with safe places to celebrate"

Woody Kahl, owner of Woody's Fast Stop and chamber president, said, "The best compliment I can give Bill is that he builds relationships, and his primary focus is what benefits the city of Stockton and its businesses."

As an active Cedar Countian, Crabtree has served as a city alderman and as a board member of the local golf course.

"Overall, being active and engaged provides ownership and a greater sense of community pride," Crabtree said.

He served two terms on the Stockton R-1 school board and as Stockton Middle School Principal for seven years.

"Bill was a great mentor for me when I moved to Stockton," said Dr. Doug Crawford, Stockton R-1 Superintendent. "I've never been made to feel more welcomed and appreciated while working with him. He always kept the best interest of the school and community."

Crabtree is involved in the Stockton Community Development organization and holds the Executive Director Position for SACC.

Amber Fidler, Vice President of SACC, said a healthy community rests on three pillars: business, government, and civil society; nonprofits.

"Each has a distinct and important role to play," Fidler said. "All three must work together synergistically to create the most value for a society of a community. Bill Crabtree recognizes this for our community. His work within the chamber director role to

bring all 3 branches of our community together is why he's a pillar individual of our town."

The SACC is currently the 13th largest in Southwest Missouri and it serves the community and local businesses. Its mission is to advance the economic, industrial, professional, conservation, cultural, and civic welfare of the Stockton area.

"The Chamber is the first contact for people relocating or visiting our community," Crabtree said. "Membership in your local chamber is an effective business strategy. It communicates to consumers that a company uses good practices, is reputable, cares about its customers and is involved in the community."

"The Chamber hosts many community events to bring everyone together and provides venues for tourism to our area," Crabtree said. "A national study reveals that membership in a local chamber of commerce can significantly boost a business's image among consumers, as well as other businesses."

Crabtree works for a board of nine chamber members and together they strive to increase success for established businesses and to make Stockton a great place to visit and live.

"We live in a beautiful part of the world," Crabtree said. "We have the cleanest lake around, a great school system, quite a few tremendous small businesses and business owners ... My vision is that we continue to draw visitors who return often to our area, and our local economy grows. I want to see Stockton remain a great place to live."

Crabtree said there is always room for improvements anywhere you go.

"We could always use more of just about everything, but you still want to maintain that small town atmosphere which continues to draw both visitors and new neighbors," he said.

The Stockton area benefits from many great events such as the Walnut Festival, the PRCA Rodeo, the Governor's Cup, and the car show. Crabtree's favorite event is the Chamber Banquet.

"It requires the most work on our part yet involves and brings out a large number of our members and friends," Crabtree said.

The next Chamber banquet is scheduled for March in 2023.

Stockton mayor Brandon Cahill said he enjoys Bill's willingness to bring great things to our community.

"He is always looking for ways to bring people together," Cahill said. "Bill has been a close friend of mine for many years, he is genuine in everything he does. His dedication to our community and the Chamber speaks for itself."

SACC executive assistant Willa Tucker has known and worked with Bill for a number of years, both through the Chamber and when he was a principal in Stockton.

"In my role at the Chamber, I've had the opportunity to watch Bill work hands on with members of the community from people looking to start new businesses to those that are well established," Tucker said. "They all have one thing in common — they all look to Bill. Somehow with his busy schedule and countless people reaching out to him, Bill has a way of making every person feel like a priority and they know he will follow through. Not only am I immensely grateful to work alongside Bill, but I am even more thankful to live in a community Bill serves."

When he is not busy serving the Stockton and surrounding area, Crabtree enjoys traveling with Rhonda, golf, fishing, and hunting, and being an empty nester. He also loves spending time with the grandchildren. His dream vacation would be to take the western trip to Yellowstone and the surrounding National Parks.



'Help will be here in this community'

Becky Groff

By Kathryn Skopec
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Whether her name is a familiar one to lifelong readers of the Republican — or whether her face is a familiar one to you from the various events, volunteering and organizations she has in some way been a part of — Becky Groff is certainly a pillar in the Cedar County community.

After all, Groff's years of community service earned her a Darrell and Betty Johnson Community Service Award at the Stockton Area Chamber of Commerce's annual banquet in March of 2022.

Born and raised in Independence, Missouri, Becky and her late husband, Joe, came to Stockton in 1991, when they purchased land north of Caplinger Mills.

"We were thinking about buying a sailboat to do deep ocean sailing," Groff said, explaining how she and Joe first stumbled upon the area. "But, we knew we would have to come back to land eventually, and we started looking some acreage."

Groff said her husband's family had a family farm growing up, and he enjoyed the country. Thus, they began looking for property and found a piece of land north of Caplinger Mills. They built a house on 80 acres, but for five or six years, they didn't venture too much out into the community as they enjoyed the big shift from city life.

Groff ended up getting a whole lot of community interaction, though, when she joined the Cedar County Republican staff in 1999. She would go on to work for the Republican for 16 years, ultimately retiring in 2014.

"Working at the newspaper is when I got to know the community," she said.

Having never gone to journalism school, Groff did have typing and some writing experience in her previous work.

"A memory I have from my first impressions is one from Christmastime," Groff said. "We would be here until midnight pasting Santa Letters from children up on the pages, and then Marilyn (Ellis) would drive it to Bolivar to get it printed."

It was a lot of work, but Groff did it with passion. Her work at the newspaper made an impact on her life and her connection with the community, Groff said.

"Being able to report on our community, every aspect of it, was extremely satisfying," Groff said. "It was not always fun because in a small town, you know people, and sometimes news hits those people that you have to report on."

When Groff wasn't working at the newspaper, though, she also had many other community ventures, including her first and last love, which she said will always be the Caplinger Mills Volunteer Fire Department.

For 30 years, Groff was secretary and treasurer for the CMVFD, as well as volunteer firefighter for around 20 of those years, rising to the rank of assistant chief before retiring from active firefighting service. To this day, there will always be clothes "at the end of her bed to jump into in the middle of the night if needed."

"I never saw the dedication that these people had — they volunteered to lay their life on the line, basically, for their neighbor," Groff said. "You never know when you're going to walk out of a fire or walk out of an accident scene. They use their own gas, their own money."

Additionally, Groff was instrumental in assisting the establishment of Stockton's Shared Street Network within Stockton for safe passage of bikers, pedestrians and golf carts on city streets under former Stockton mayor Mary Norell's administration — to the point of Groff painting the stencils on roadways.

Currently, she serves on the Stockton Park Board, the Veterans Memorial Park Committee, the Stockton Lake Triathlon Committee (which returns this year), and the Stockton Trails Initiative Coalition.

Groff was the secretary for the local emergency planning committee for many years, and she currently serves as Cedar County Emergency Manager Officer Arlo Rupke's public information officer for the Office of Cedar County Emergency Management.

Additionally, Groff has also served as the Stockton Ministerial Alliance's secretary and public relations chair for its Christmas Basket Program the past three years.

'For the better'

Thinking back to the moment when she truly felt as if Cedar County was home, Groff noted one harrowing and noble example — the community's resilience after a tornado tore through Stockton on May 4, 2003, which devastated the town's infrastructure, injured many citizens, and claimed three lives. As a CMVFD volunteer and Cedar County first responder, Groff was directly involved in the midst of the tornado's aftermath.

"When the tornado hit, I was out in Caplinger Mills, and there were no tornado sirens out there," Groff said. "I took the brush truck with the siren on



From left, SACC vice president Amber Fidler, Becky Groff, and SACC executive director Bill Crabtree present Groff with the Darrell and Betty Johnson Community Service Award at the Stockton Area Chamber of Commerce's annual banquet in March of 2022. FILE PHOTO/CCR



From left, community volunteers Becky Groff and Marilyn Ellis spend a weekday afternoon stenciling high-visibility for Stockton's Shared Streets Network in 2020.



Becky Groff and her husband Joe while on a cruise in 1994. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS/BECKY GROFF



and said 'Take cover,' into the truck's PA system." Shortly later, Groff waited in the fire station as rain poured down. Radio communications from Cedar County soon later went out for a whole during the tornado.

"When communications came back, I heard one of the deputies say, 'Cedar County, are you there?' No response," Groff said. "Another deputy then answered him, 'Everything is gone. Cedar is gone.'"

Since Groff's husband was on duty, she initially thought he was gone, too. She traveled from Caplinger Mills to Stockton. Thankfully, she heard on the radio that her husband was OK. As a first responder, she was told on the radio to meet at the Parkview Apartments on Stockton's square, but as she pulled up to the area, the tornado's destruction

made it nearly impossible to find the apartments — it was just rubble and brick.

"I've never been so tired in my life," Groff said, thinking of how the newspaper crew would travel to Bolivar in the dead of night to continue putting out editions of the CCR, which never missed an issue.

"Everybody poured out to help everyone, and you just don't see that in a large city," Groff said. "The disaster brought out a lot of it, but anytime there's a person needing help, that help will be here in this community."

Ultimately, Groff said she feels very fortunate to have met the Cedar County people she's met in her Stockton journey.

"I've learned a lot of lessons, and I think I've learned them for the better," Groff said.

'The only way to be, is to be a part'

Doug Crawford

By Alana Hindman
news@cedarrepUBLICAN.com

Dr. Doug Crawford has spent many years serving in education settings. His experience working with different grade levels and even as principal has benefited him in the position he now holds — superintendent of Stockton R-1 Schools.

Crawford is well qualified, having earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education, a Master of Science in Educational Administration, and an Education Specialist Degree in Superintendency. He earned his Doctoral Degree of Education in Instructional Leadership through Lindenwood University.

"I love the challenges it (superintendency) brings," Crawford said. "Knowing and understanding that the decisions I make can have such a direct impact on our community, staff, and students."

He believes that the school district has a huge responsibility in the education of children.

"I have never taken this for granted," Crawford said. "Dropping your child off and trusting that we will always have their best interest is a huge responsibility that I will never take lightly."

"Since I have been in education, I have always tagged my emails with, 'Educating from the heart, changes the future. I truly believe this,'" he continued.

Kasi Simrell, teacher at Stockton Elementary, was under the leadership of Dr. Crawford when he was principal for nine years.

"I can't thank him enough," Simrell said. "He helped me grow so much as a teacher and always encouraged me to be confident in who I am! Dr. Crawford was a quality leader as a principal and now in his role as superintendent. He leads with a servant's heart and is always looking for ways to help us."

Crawford's favorite thing about serving in this community is working with the people and kids. He can usually be found watching extra-curricular activities and doesn't consider this work, but a chance to get to know students out of the classroom. It also provides him an opportunity to meet parents and get to know them better.

Ashley Collins (Chism), Realtor and Loving Stockton Coordinator, appreciates working with Dr. Crawford.

"I've been in charge of my church outreach ministry, Loving Stockton, for several years now and the school is our main focus," Collins said. "Just about every time I came to Dr. Crawford with an idea, he was always on board. He truly cares about the students and resources to help them. We've had some good conversations and I have learned a lot from him. He's willing to help and make my job easier. I very much appreciate him and how much he cares about the kids and community."

Crawford looks forward to annual community events like Stockton's annu-



Pictured are Doug and Meagan Crawford. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS/DOUG CRAWFORD



Doug Crawford is pictured with his daughter, Vella Crawford.

al Black Walnut Festival because of the food, atmosphere, and the chance to win the firearm raffle. The back-to-school fair is one of his favorite times of the year because he believes the community outreach for the kids is unprecedented.

"So many times, our community comes together for one another," Crawford said. "A perfect example of this: I recently reached out for help. I was in need of bus drivers. We had a great response and have been able to fill positions. It was nothing I did — it was the community that helped."

His vision for the Stockton area would include a facility area like the YMCA or a waterpark area for youth to take swimming lessons.

Crawford and his wife, Meagan, will celebrate their nine-year wedding anniversary December 31. They have four children. Zach is the oldest, already graduated and in the workforce. Next is Brooklyn, a sophomore in college. Vella, the middle daughter, will be a high school senior this year. The youngest daughter, Ava, will be in second grade this year, attending Stockton Elementary. The family also has two dogs, a golden retriever named Eve and a miniature goldendoodle named Addie. They enjoy the wildlife and peacefulness that comes from living on 40 acres just outside of town.

Meagan Crawford has recently started Flower Power Acres, a successful flower farm. This family business helps strengthen and bring happiness to relationships through the power of flowers.

"He has been my biggest supporter and does the grunt work! Doug tells me how proud of me he is! He makes this adventure fun," Meagan said.

Doug loves music and is skilled with the piano, bass, guitar, drums, as well as singing. He has played in different bands for entertainment as well as church worship teams. He and his family are members of Grace Fellowship



Pictured are Doug and Meagan Crawford, Vella Crawford, in-laws Wally and Cindy Walentiny, sister-in-law Allison Walentiny, Tristan Walentiny and Ava Crawford.

Church, where Doug is part of the Worship Team.

Several years ago, Doug lost an uncle to cancer whom he admired very much. This loss changed his outlook on life.

"We never know how long God's plan for us is on this earth," Crawford said. "We must make God #1, family #2, and take the rest with a grain of salt. My mentor and guide is the Bible."

His hobbies mostly center around his love for the outdoors. He enjoys spending time in a deer stand, a turkey blind,

being on the lake fishing or pulling the family on a tube. They can also be found outdoors camping or working together on the flower farm. Although he spends a lot of time outdoors, he prefers colder weather.

"I would love an Alaskan Cruise," Crawford said. "But I don't want a drive by. I'd like the boat to drop me off for 5-7 days so that I can explore the area. Guided fishing trip during Salmon season would be ideal...White tailed deer hunting in Saskatchewan Canada."

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ACCEPTING NEW CLIENTS IN CEDAR COUNTY AND SURROUNDING AREAS.

Doing everything with a purpose

Cory Gayman



By Pat Hindman
patriciah@cedarrepUBLICAN.com

Cory Gayman, mayor of El Dorado Springs and city businessman, has a clear concept of how the future could look for the city of El Do. He's a visionary pillar in the community who could help implement those plans.

Gayman's philosophy of life may help him accomplish his visions.

"Life should be lived intentionally," Gayman said. "I'm sure I'm not the first to say or think that, but I try to do everything I do on purpose. That can hold true for family life, community, business, or spirituality. I have always appreciated people and things that are genuine, long-lasting, and real."

When Gayman, an El Do homeboy, moved back to the town, he became intentional concerning the city.

"My wife and I have a strong passion to see El Dorado Springs succeed and continue to be a place where families want to live," Gayman said. "Together, we have been a part of multiple non-profit groups either as members or as volunteers. My goals and vision for the community include continued improvement of the north side of town including the downtown area. I want to see better housing and neighborhood options that are affordable for our citizens, including the removal of dilapidated structures. I believe our downtown park is a true gem that needs to be preserved and cherished as it is the reason our town was founded. I will continue to promote policy that encourages businesses to operate around it."

Gayman believes as mayor and business owner, it is important for an elected official to be active in the town itself. Currently, he and his family are living downtown behind a building he has purchased.

'Pride in our town and our neighbors'

Gayman also believes that each person in the community has a responsibility.

"That sense of pride might start with the leaders, but it truly lives within each member of the population," Gayman said. "If we do not get out and be part of our community, it can start to fade. Every non-profit organization in our community will accept volunteers and usually needs them very badly."

Small communities like El Do thrive on these organizations and the willingness of those volunteers.

"On the small-business side of the conversation, it is important to support those business owners that have invested their time and money to provide services to the community," Gayman said. "This encourages more pride in our town and our neighbors."

With huge commitments to the community, their businesses, and volunteer work, Gayman said his family leads a very busy life, but his wife Whitney "... keeps me in line with all the kids' activities and keeps our home moving forward all the time."

"I am very blessed to be married to Whitney for 13 years this year," he said. "We have three amazing kids, Joseph (9), Morley (8) and Renn (5). We also added our small house dog ZuZu a couple years ago. Whitney is a successful real estate agent and broker with Brower Real Estate. As I'm sure it's obvious we stay pretty busy with our business ventures and community involvement, but she is always sure to slow us down when needed to get some quality family time. For about a year, we have been attending Union Hall Baptist Church and have found a very welcoming church family."

Bruce Hooper, local businessman and deacon at Union Hall Baptist, has known Cory's mother and wife, Whitney, for a long time.

"Cory has always been a godly man and an asset



El Dorado Springs Mayor Cory Gayman, a pillar in the community, often strolls through the city park before going to work in his downtown CPA office. Gayman is a visionary who sees Eldo becoming a destination spot in the Ozarks. STAFF PHOTO/PAT HINDMAN

to the community," Hooper said. "He has enthusiasm and ideas, and he's got a lot of life in him."

Gayman is a proud Bulldog and fan of the teams. He holds a Bachelors and Masters in Accounting and is continually taking courses to improve his skills and leadership abilities.

While living in Springfield, Gayman helped grow his CPA firm by attending Business Networking and Chamber events.

"Even though Springfield is significantly larger, the people interact mostly the same on a small business level," he said. "Recently, I have been involved either personally or through my office staff in other communities where we have a CPA office including Stockton, Nevada, Bolivar, Springfield and Girard, Kansas. What I appreciate most about these towns is the pride in community that you feel when you are there. That pride and tone is set by the leadership, both private citizens and government seats."

Brett Entrikin is Gayman's life-long friend and served with him on the city council in the past. He appreciates Gayman's dedication to the city.

"I always knew he was highly intelligent and motivated," Entrikin said, "but until I served with him on the city council, I didn't realize how much he really cares about this community. He never stops looking for ways to make this town better and how best to serve the citizens."

Entrikin added, "Something people may not realize is when someone brings a concern to Cory, he pays attention and really tries to find a solution. He is definitely one of the best men I know."

Gayman is a proud Eldo school Bulldog. He holds a Bachelors and Masters in Accounting and is continually taking courses to improve his skills and leadership abilities.

Gayman's work commitment started as a teenager when he held jobs at Pizza Hut and Taco Bell. He mowed yards and hauled hay.

"I'm proud to have worked with my father for a summer in his plumbing business where I learned very valuable life skills," Gayman said.



In 2019, Cory Gayman and his family, wife Whitney and children Joseph (now age 9), Morley (now age 8) and Renn (now age 5) enjoy the El Dorado Springs Chamber of Commerce's Spooktacular in the Park. FILE PHOTOS/CCR

Keeping God at the center

In Springfield, he held a job with Great Southern Bank, and then worked in his first accounting job with City Utilities. After graduation, he started with a small CPA firm in Springfield, where he worked for seven years.

"In 2014, I decided to start my own CPA firm and moved back to El Dorado Springs," Gayman said. "I have been blessed with growth and over the last eight years have started or assisted other small businesses in the area."

"I continue to be a lifelong student in general," he added. "With the options available to us today, we can find a book or podcast tailored to the goals we want to achieve. I try to surround myself with these and people that will encourage growth in all aspects of life. I also strongly believe that my spiritual life leads growth in all areas. I am thankful for a strong church family, devout mother, and Christian wife that keeps God at the center of everything we do."

When reflecting on his move back to El Dorado Springs, Gayman said it's simply a great place to live.

"We have a very wide range of activities where a variety of people can create a fulfilling life," Gayman said. "I want to see that continue and improve. Cedar County was always a destination. The springs in El Dorado Springs brought people from all over the Midwest for its healing powers. Now the lake at Stockton brings in most of the visitors. I want to see this area become that destination place again."

Gabby Kinnett, city council member, says of Gayman, "Cory desires big things for the community and is willing to invest his own time and money toward the goal. I appreciate him being willing to ask questions at our council meetings and follow up with issues."

As mayor, Gayman is realistic about the city's problems. "Our entire area has suffered from a drug problem for many years now. I believe in our law enforcement and see the hard work they are doing. Many of the other issues, including dilapidated housing, domestic violence and poverty can be stemmed back to this problem."

Despite the problems, Gayman sees a bright future for the city.

"New small businesses, new housing, and downtown activity have all increased in the last couple years," Gayman said. "It is also refreshing to see that a new generation of leaders is emerging to continue the work of leaders of the past."

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Glenda Baker lives her “never too young or too old” philosophy

Glenda Baker



Glenda Baker may treasure the past as she looks through artwork that will be exhibited at Wayside Museum in El Dorado Springs, but she is a game-changer when it comes to the future. Baker's accomplishments in her past are far too numerous to relate, but she is a person who always looks forward to what she can accomplish to improve the future of the city. STAFF PHOTO/PAT HINDMAN



By Pat Hindman
patriciah@cedarrepUBLICAN.com

Glenda Baker of El Dorado Springs has a list of past accomplishments that are far too numerous to name. But she is far from resting on her past laurels. Baker is off and running every day as a pillar in her community. She is one person who puts her thoughts into action.

“It’s important to be involved in a community that you live in,” Baker said. “Our local area is the foundation of our country.” Baker is interested in cleaning up the city and discovering new ideas to make the community better.

A philosophy that says, “Never be afraid to fail, never be afraid to try, and you are never too young or too old to make a positive difference” is Baker’s life philosophy, and she has certainly succeeded in both trying and making a positive difference.

Paula Newman of El Do works with Baker in conjunction with multiple events regarding the Chamber of Commerce and serves with her on the Wayside Inn Museum board. Newman said of Baker, “She loves our little town and always wants the best for our community.”

After leaving El Do for an extended period of time in her adult life, Baker returned in 2012 and has once again put her hand to the grindstone to improve the town.

She works with the Children’s Lighthouse Theater, is a board member of Preserve Our Past, and a member of the Twentieth Century social group that hosts programs with historical themes along with current community involvement such as Christmas baskets.

Baker is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and co-chairman for Clean Up El Do. She was appointed to the city council in April of this year.

“I was attending all the meetings,” Baker said of the city council, “And I thought, ‘What the heck. I can sit here and not do anything or I can help make something happen.’”

Baker said she would like to see the council do more to improve the city in the upcoming years, and she would like the citizens to know they matter. “I have had people express concerns to me,” she said, “and if nothing else, I would like to address them.”

Baker and her late husband were past Citizen of the Year for the Eldo Chamber, and she was nominated for the honor recently.

“When my husband passed away, my family really encouraged me to move forward,” Baker said. Baker’s five children are scattered around the United States. “When we get together, it’s kind of crazy and loads of fun.”

Baker, an El Do high school graduate, spent many years of her life in Texas, where she was active in numerous

organizations and worked in several capacities. For a number of years, the family lived in College Station, home to the main campus of Texas A & M University. Among her numerous jobs, Baker was docent at George H. Q. Bush Presidential Library and Museum. She was Texas A&M administrative assistant for the Texas engineer extension and TEEEX staff support president.

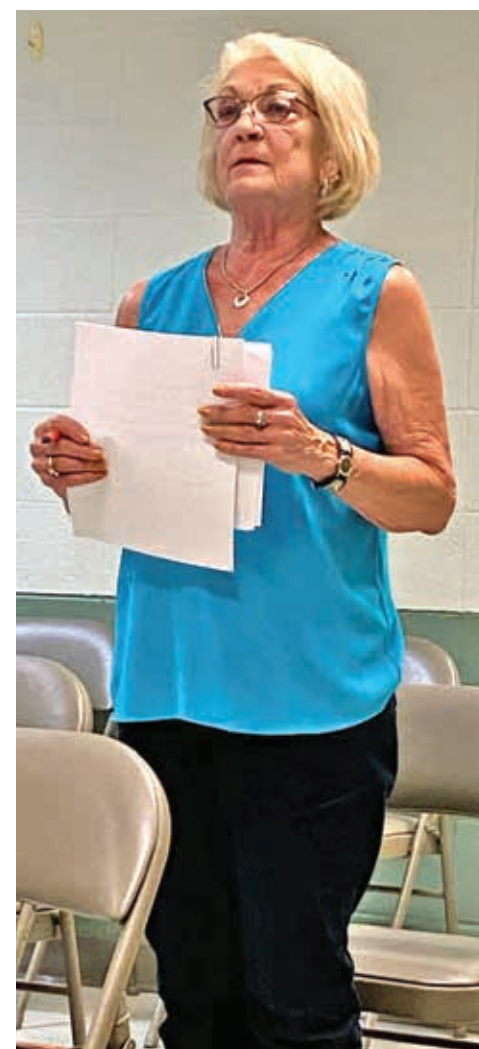
In 1997, she was honored with a Glenda Baker Day by mayoral proclamation from College Station.

“I’m glad to be back with four seasons and in a rural area,” Baker said about returning to El Do. “There are differences going from a community of 120,000 to Eldo but the people are amazing in both.”

Baker pointed out that College Station is a city with strong ordinances and zoning which “...makes for a clean city.” Seeing these ordinances and zoning issues in action is something that could be vital as Baker serves on the city clean up committee.

Baker, who has two deaf sons, has also served in areas benefiting the non-hearing. She has been a Mercy Hospital supporter, active in all seasons of her childrens’ lives, and pace-setter wherever she goes.

“It’s important to be involved in a community that you live in,” Baker said. “Our local area is the foundation of our country.”



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'Take unto them'

Randy Hayward



Honoring a community pillar, Randall "Randy" Hayward, Nov. 4, 1947-June 17, 2022

By Pat Hindman and Kathryn Skopec
news@cedarrepUBLICAN.com

'The call of God'

Randy served on the Gum Springs Cemetery Board for a number of years. His favorite pastime was reading, and "he loved books and the wealth of knowledge that could be gained from them."

Since 1972, Randy and his family faithfully attended the Stockton Assembly of God Church.

The office of Jailhouse Rock in Stockton does more than rock and roll. For the services Jailhouse Rock performs, it deserves a standing ovation.

And the man behind the magic, the late Randy Hayward, deserves a standing ovation, as he was certainly a community pillar for the altruistic efforts he made in positively impacting lives across Cedar County and beyond throughout the world.



Hayward, affectionately known as "Pastor Randy", was a beloved member of the local community and passed on to his heavenly reward on Friday, June 17.

He was born in Tulare, California, the son of Morris (Jack) Hayward and Bertha Mae (Jennings) Hayward, per his obituary.

Randy's family moved from Tulare, California to Stockton, Missouri, when he was only 6 weeks old. The family lived at Needmore near Randy's grandparents, Morris and Mary Hayward.

Jack and Bertha Mae lived several places near Stockton before returning to California in 1956. There the family lived in Covina in Southern California and in Visalia, in San Joaquin Valley.

While attending the Covina Assembly of God Church, Randy, at age 12, made the most important decision of his life: he accepted Jesus Christ into his life as Lord and Savior and was baptized in water.

"He never wavered in this boyhood personal commitment to follow Jesus of Nazareth," his obituary said.

In 1963, the Jack Hayward family returned to Stockton, Missouri, to stay. Randy worked at Clark's Grocery on the Stockton square a year before and a year after graduation from Stockton High School in 1965. He attended Kansas City College and Bible School from 1967-68; the University of Kansas in 1969, and graduated from Kansas City Business College with a Business Administration degree in 1970.

He later completed a ministerial degree from the Berean University of the Assemblies of God.

On June 16, 1967, Randy married his high school sweetheart, Corda Julia Rosenbaum, who brought much happiness to his life. A love developed that truly lasted a lifetime of over 55 years, and they were blessed with three children, Bradley (Brad) Boyd Hayward, Julie Jolene (Hayward) Woods, and Carson Caleb Hayward.

He faithfully worked for his Lord in many areas of ministry, and he launched the Royal Rangers boys' program at Stockton in 1975 and served as Senior Commander for 18 years.

Hayward enjoyed being a Christian Education Instructor, and he loved teaching from the Bible. He became Associate Pastor in 1996 and then accepted the call of God and his church as full time Senior Pastor in 1999 and retired in 2013.

The Stockton Assembly of God Church grew from 110 to over 300 during those pastoral years, completing a new sanctuary building program in 2004.

Randy and his wife, Corda, faithfully ministered to the church and surrounding communities over the years.

Upon retirement in 2013, Hayward was asked to serve as pulpit preaching supply in the following churches: Lakeside Assembly in Pittsburg, Missouri, and Herriman Chapel, El Dorado Springs.

Loving history as he did, he was gifted with being able to blend a little history and humor with his sermons. Randy also authored several booklets: Silent Danger, The Lifer, and The Revelation. He and Corda also conducted several marriage enrichment seminars over their lifetime in ministry.

In 1993, Randy founded and was the executive director of Jailhouse Rock Ministries. JHR ministers to the inmates across Missouri in county jails and prisons by providing Bibles, Christian books, and Bible studies.

That work continues today. At Randy's passing, 79,931 Bibles had been distributed to inmates in jails across the State of Missouri.

The ministry began when Hayward was working with the Cedar and Dade County jails on a regular basis prior to 1993. He had a few Bibles and visited with the inmates. But he kept thinking more could be done to help, according to a 2021 article in the Republican.

"I had a God-given vision coming home from the jail at Lamar," Hay-



The late Randall Hayward, executive director of Jailhouse Rock ministry located on the square in Stockton, puts away a shipment of Good and Evil, the Ultimate Comic Book Action Bible in November of 2021. These popular Bibles later appeared in the hands of inmates across the state of Missouri. FILE PHOTOS/CCR

ward previously said.

Hayward said he didn't even know at the time where Lamar was, but he took 22 Bibles to the jail. When he asked what the inmate capacity was at the time, the administrator said, "Twenty-two."

Hayward related that his vision for this ministry came on the way home from Lamar. He was struck by the need to do more. Driving home, he felt compelled to pull the car over, get out, and ask God what he should do. He was drawn to a sugar maple tree in a field. He went there to pray.

"I saw bars coming down and people behind bars," Hayward said, discussing his vision. He saw those

people behind bars suffering and then being transformed. The last three words he heard were: "Take unto them."

Since that night, the concept of Jailhouse Rock began to form and is now an incorporated 501-c3 non-profit with a five-person board of directors. The non-profit ministry covers all county jails, prisons and the federal medical center in Missouri.

Hayward previously told the CCR that one year after he walked to the sugar maple tree to pray, a new church was built on the acreage.

"It serves as a reminder to me of what happened on the beautiful fall day in October," he added.

Pillars, You make it look effortless, but I know it wasn't. Well done on everything. I hope you are happy with the work you have done and recognize your accomplishment.



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Keeping the music and history alive

Paula Newman



Paula Newman sings at the Preserve Our Past Society's chili cookoff in downtown El Dorado Springs in October of 2021. Newman is active in several area organizations and music. FILE PHOTO/CCR



From left, former El Dorado Springs Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jackson Tough and Paula Newman speak at the chamber's Christmas parade in 2016.



Paula Newman, far left, helps give out trophies to trick or treaters at the El Dorado Springs Chamber of Commerce's Spooktacular in the Park.

By Kathryn Skopec
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Paula Newman is always on the go — whether she's singing on stage somewhere in El Dorado Springs, helping the community with the Nine Wonders Optimist Club, helping the local FFA chapter raise funds, being involved with El Do's Wayside Inn Museum and more.

Newman said she was born and raised in El Dorado Springs, growing up on what is called "Portia Corner" just west of the city. Her band — the Portia Corner Band — is named after this little slice of home.

Newman and her brother have a country band that plays "old, authentic" country music. She sings and plays mandolin and her brother plays fiddle. They play at fairs, festivals and other events.

"When I was growing up, we played as a family," Newman said. "Music is my happy place."

A graduate of the El Dorado Springs High School class of 1983, Newman moved away from El Do for a few years in her adulthood, working in Joplin for several years while continuing to perform music, but found herself missing her hometown family and friends. She returned to El Do around 12 years ago, and has remained ever since.

"El Dorado Springs is definitely home to me," Newman said. "I love how El Dorado Springs has a true small town feeling to it. When you see somebody on the street, people are going to stop and talk to you. I can't imagine living somewhere in a big city where you didn't know anyone. I love the homeiness of El Do."

Speaking on her community involvement, Newman is proudly involved with FFA booster fundraising. As someone who was raised on a farm, Newman was active in FFA when she was in high school for all four years. "I was a farm girl and a big FFA person," Newman said. "You can take the girl out of the country, but you can't take the country out of the girl."

Newman is also heavily involved with the El Do's Preserve Our Past Society and the Wayside Inn Museum.

"Years ago, a couple of my aunts and uncles were some of the original members of POPS, so I ended up joining," Newman said. "I always enjoy trying to preserve our past and keeping that alive so people understand and realize some of our history."

As a POPS chairperson, the society's recent notable accomplishments have included revitalizing the Historical Hysteria Days festival in downtown El Do. This year's festival, which was held in early June, featured 30 vendors, musicians, performers, antique tractors and more.

"When I was a little girl, my aunts and uncles were involved in that, and it was a cool thing," Newman said. "We tried to bring it back in 2020, but COVID-19 ruined that. Last year's festival was our first one in around 10 years or so."

POPS' goal is to keep the Historical Hysteria Days festival growing and continuing, Newman said.

"This year, we had more vendors and fiddle players," Newman said. "The fiddler's contest is near and dear to my heart because I have two brothers who are fiddle players."

A long time ago, El Do used to have a fiddler's contest every year. Newman said when she was growing up, on Saturdays, she and her brothers would travel to fiddler's contest. She was happy when that was reintroduced this year.

Recently, Newman had been working on the museum's art show, which was held Sunday, June 26.

"It's fun to display different people's artwork," Newman said.

Additionally, Newman regularly helps out with the El Dorado Springs Chamber of Commerce's Spooktacular trick or treat event in the park, as well as United Way in Nevada.

Thinking ahead to the future of El Do, Newman said that she would love to see more community support and involvement overall for "everything" including small businesses and activities.

Newman reflected back on her childhood memories in downtown El Dorado Springs. When she was a child, the scene in downtown El Do was vibrant, a place where everybody went out to eat, did their grocery shopping and more.

"We have a beautiful park," Newman said. "I know it will never be like it was when I grew up, but we've got some businesses down there and it's growing again thanks to the community ... The museum in the past two years has also done a lot to start bringing more crowds downtown."

Ultimately, Newman said she is proud to call El Dorado Springs home and looks forward to the continued growth of the El Dorado Springs community.