

8
BIG
PAGES

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COMMEMORATIVE EDITION. **EXCLUSIVE COVER!**



CEDAR COUNTY

Keep an eye out for these superheroes



This superduper labradoodle is a lazy pup in the evening, but when his bell rings, he is on duty. Find out about him on [page S2](#).

Neither rain, nor snow, nor gloom of night has stopped this superhero for many years. Read the revealing article on [Todd Clayton, page S3](#).

She is an unassuming teacher by day, but students know her true identity. Don't miss the expose on this superwoman, [page S7](#)

Retired life—that's a laugh for this superhero who now guards the Lions' den after leaving his combat duties. His story deserves to be told. [See page S4](#).

This petite little mother is a paralegal with stacks of paper in front of her by day, but let a command come through, and she jumps into her superhero outfit complete with weapons. Read about her on [page S5](#).

Cedar County heroes clean up the city and fly off at night. What an article is waiting for readers on [page S6](#).

EIDO School Superhero is **CODY** a black Labradoodle

By Alana Hindman

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's Cody, the super-duper labradoodle who doubles as a professional therapy dog for EIDO's school. In his fourth year at the district, he continues to be an outstanding Cedar County Marvel, regularly supporting and comforting students and staff.

"Cody was trained by the Canine Assistance Rehabilitation Education Services (CARES) program. This is an organization in Concordia, KS. They raise and train canine assistants in many different specialty areas," said Kaitlyn Norman, Eldo's Elementary School Counselor and one of Cody's handlers.



Soon to be third grader Austin Prew and Cody hanging out in class. Having a Professional Therapy Dog on EIDO Campus has made a significant difference in students and staff. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

He had to undergo extensive training before he was selected by the program and approved to be a professional therapy dog.

"Once he was fully trained, both handlers had to attend training with him to learn how to give him proper commands and guide him to continue being effective," said Norman.

Cody is a fully grown black labradoodle and is almost six years old. He has the sweetest brown eyes and the best personality. Cody loves all the attention he can get, especially from his elementary friends. He loves naps and playing fetch with his ball launcher toy. Any squeaky toy gets his attention fast. Dog treats are his jam, and he can even be found sneaking human food occasionally. His favorite tricks are shaking hands, jumping, and catching a ball in midair. He has been giving lots of hugs lately.

His after-school hours are spent at home with his other handler, Dr. Tracy Barger, EIDO's Assistant Superintendent.

As one of Eldo's super-staff, Cody starts his morning in the central office, then travels to the elementary counselor's office. He greets students and helps cheer up those having a rough morning. Throughout the day, he spends time around the school, helping to regulate student and staff emotions. He sits with them, lays in their lap, or gives them an extra cuddle. He visits the classrooms of students and has recess, plays with students, or, during class parties, "Cody time" is also given out to students as a reward.

"Cody has made such an impact on so many of our students. We have been able to utilize him in many different ways. We have students who have experienced

significant trauma. During an episode of a trauma response, the only thing that makes them feel safe is Cody. I have a calming corner in my office, and multiple times a week. I will have students come to my office who are experiencing big emotions that utilize that space. They'll lay down on a bean bag, wrap up in a blanket, and Cody walks over and lays down right beside them. He'll put his paws on them, and they will wrap their arms around him and fall asleep. Students who are some of the most difficult students to build relationships with are instantly drawn to Cody. He's trained to quickly read people's emotions and help them regulate," said Norman.

According to Norman, a common misconception about assistance dogs in school settings is that they can distract students while trying to learn.

"That has been the opposite of our experience with Cody. He has been a great asset to our students' education. The students are so familiar with Cody at this point that they know when it's the appropriate time for Cody to play with them and when Cody is in their vicinity to work with them or another student. Our whole building very quickly adapted to having Cody.

We have not had one complaint about him impeding the learning environment in our school. On the contrary, we've had many people reach out and tell us how much he's helped their child's education," revealed Norman.

Leslie Prew's eight-year-old son Austin will be a third grader this fall at EIDO School. This past school year, the family used Cody for the first time to assist Austin with everyday tasks and struggles.

"Whenever Austin begins to feel overwhelmed or anxious with a task, Kaitlyn Norman will either bring Cody or he will walk down to see him. Cody has just a strong, calming presence to Austin, and he immediately goes from a ten back down to a two. Sometimes, Austin would need to sit on the floor with his schoolwork, and Cody would lie next to him. Austin will take a break and pet him, or lay on him, and then proceed back to his work," said

TO BE CONTINUED...

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"The students have loved it because when he's hugging me he will let them slide under my arms and hug him back," said Elementary Counselor Kaitlyn Norman, who is also one of his handlers. She stands with a student and Cody.



This is what happens when EIDO's professional therapy dog, Cody, is asked for a hug.



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TODD CLAYTON

retires after forty years and 450,000 miles for the Stockton Post Office

By Alana Hindman

The Cedar County Republican marvels with others over Todd Clayton, who recently retired after almost forty years in his Stockton rural mail carrier position. While employed, he put over 450,000 miles on his JEEP. He estimates the amount of mail he has delivered to be in the thousands.

Clayton has lived in Cedar County for some sixty-two years and has never moved from this area. He lives on the same farm his mom and dad enjoyed. Folks may know his mom as the Cat Lady, who once owned sixty outside cats. Since her passing this past February, he has fed and cared for about twenty cats and said they are multiplying.

Clayton's father, Ralph, was a clerk at the Stockton Post Office, going back to when the building was on the square. In 1960, the post office moved to a location east of town. Todd Clayton later started at this location in 1982.

"They hired me off the street; Bob Hammond called me. He was the Postmaster and wanted to know if I wanted to be a sub. I didn't know if I wanted to be, but I told him I'd give it a try," said Clayton, who decided he liked the job and immediately went to work.

Clayton worked in that post office until the 2003 tornado demolished it. His father, Ralph, was gifted the Cornerstone of that building, which his son now possesses. It is a large, rectangular block of limestone, stamped with the 1960 date and weighing at least eighty pounds or more.

In 1984, Todd Clayton converted from a Rural Carrier Relief or RCR to a Rural Carrier Assistant, RCA. When Eldon Neil retired from his rural carrier route, Clayton gave a bid.

"He said he would wait for me, and I really appreciated him doing that. That's how I got started on the route," revealed Clayton, who retired after working at three Stockton Post Office locations.

He planned to carry mail until 2027, but his Jeep didn't cooperate.

"I had more than 450,000 miles on my Jeep from carrying mail. I bought it new in 2008. It was a Jeep Wrangler, right-handed drive," said Clayton, who was easy to spot with packages always tied to his hood.

He was frequently asked if his Jeep was still going, and he would say yes, it has this number of miles on it now. One time, he even invented a new Jeep Fender.

"It kept falling off, and I used some conveyor belt pieces to create a new one," Clayton remembered fondly.

"I had every light flashing on my dash...I told somebody, I said if my headlights go out, I'll just take my dash and turn it around," joked Clayton, who sold the Jeep upon request of another rural mail carrier.

When asked if he thought a Jeep was the best vehicle to carry mail, he said, "I think you might need a semi-truck for all the packages; that's almost what you need nowadays. I know my Jeep was getting pretty expensive to work on because you know what Jeep stands for? Just Empty Every Pocket. I believe it all right," laughed Clayton.

He went through significant training to fulfill his work position, and so do others. Many begin in Springfield, where a background check, fingerprints, and a driving test are required. There is a job-shadow period where prospective employees watch firsthand how the everyday rural mail carrier operates. They watch as the mail is caught, and they travel on the route, practicing their eventual job position. Training and filling a vacancy takes time, from the background check to the time someone gets hired.

Clayton said, "People always think carrying the mail is a piece of cake. But I just wish everyone could deliver mail for one day and see what we have to go through. It's not as easy as it looks."

Over his forty years, he has watched mail services for Stockton go through many changes. Routes went from four to seven.



Todd Clayton retired at the end of May from the Stockton Post Office after forty years as a rural mail carrier. PHOTOS BY ALANA HINDMAN

"Emails really killed us. Everybody uses email; they do everything online, and they pay the bills online. But there is always bulk business mail...I called that job security," said Clayton.

He also mentioned he was "...old school. I go by name, not by address and when they switched to the 911, it was harder for me to pick up the 911 addresses."

There was an overload of mail in the 1980s, yet Clayton said it started dwindling after computers became more popular. The amount of mail decreased, but packages increased.

He said, "The sizes of the packages started getting bigger, and we'd have to make two trips or more, especially around peak season, which is around Christmas time... They now estimate that post offices deliver almost 60 million packages nationwide daily."

He said some of the funniest things he noticed on his rural carrier route were on snow days. Residents would check their mail, creating multiple tracks in the snow when no vehicle tracks would be evident on the road.

"If there are no tracks, there probably isn't any mail yet," joked Clayton.

Sometimes, people are surprised to receive a package and playfully ask what they got. One time, a resident was an eighty-year-old woman who had just gotten out of the shower.

"She had a towel around her, and I handed her the package, and that was wild. It was unique. You don't see that every day," said Clayton.

After spending forty years working to carry mail, Clayton shared that all the friends he made were the best things.

He knows he made a difference as a mail carrier. He loved doing extra things for people on his route, like leaving a package in a special place that wouldn't require a long drive into town.

"I would go beyond to help my people out," said Clayton, adding that if he made any so-called enemies on the route, "I apologize, I didn't mean to make any enemies; it's just time to bury the hatchet."

Since retiring, he has discovered he has no "...hobbies, I always worked. I'm looking for a job now, 'cause I'm bored. I went fishing one day after I retired. I went and bought myself a fishing pole, bought some bait, and went down to the pond. I tried fishing for about 15 minutes, and now that fishing pole is in the bottom of my pond... No, I'm one of those who can't sit still; I've got to be on the move," said Clayton.

He attributes this to the superheroes in his life, "My folks, they enforced my work habits. When I was young, they taught us kids to work. I remember I started working when I was really young...work hard for what you've got," said Clayton.

His retirement goals are to travel out of state or country.

"I haven't done it, but I look forward to it. I'm going to put in for a passport, but I don't know where I'll end up," Clayton said.

In his opinion, a good citizen is involved in local activities and makes relationships with people. Everyone needs someone at some point, maybe even to come to the rescue.

His advice as a Cedar County marvel is to "Do the best you can at whatever you do, and if you think you've done the best you can, it's time to go relax and get on with your life."

Clayton concluded with a motto he has learned to live by: "Just take time in your life when you get older, take time to smell the roses, because you only pass through this world once, and cherish it, because you may not have a second chance."



Todd Clayton stands proudly next to his 2008 Jeep Wrangler. He made many fixes and corrections over time to his vehicle, including some homemade, conveyor belt fenders. During his forty year career as a Stockton Rural Mail Carrier he put 450,000 miles on his vehicle. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A TRUE HERO ISN'T MEASURED BY THE SIZE OF HIS STRENGTH, BUT BY THE SIZE OF HIS HEART.



This cornerstone came from the Stockton Post Office that was demolished in the 2003 tornado. It was given to Ralph Clayton and passed down to his son Todd Clayton.

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ROSBRUGH

JAMES ROSBRUGH

Super humble hero extraordinaire

By Pat Hindman

Rosbrugh. James Rosbrugh. Cedar County Republican Newspaper is pleased to name James Willard Rosbrugh "Rosy" as a marvelous superhero to many in the area. Rosbrugh, an EIDO graduate, lives near Taberville, just out of Cedar County. Still, his super works occur mainly in El Dorado Springs and beyond.

Superheroes are reluctant to brag, and "Rosy," with his military history and service to the Lions Club, is no exception. Events of Rosbrugh's childhood promised to offer him a call to change the world.

"When I was just a child, playing on the linoleum-covered living room floor, playing with a toy near the wood heating stove, my father was sitting nearby, tinkering with something and listening to the radio. Then, the man on the radio said something that upset him greatly. That day was December 7, 1941. What happened that day changed history, and the men and women who responded to their country's call are the real heroes. Those are the ones who set aside their lives for the sake of what our country was founded upon. So, as I sit here on this,

the 80th anniversary of 'The beginning of the end' of that terrible war writing a summary as a superhero, I do so greatly humbled, feeling unworthy of the recognition as such."

Despite his humility, Rosbrugh has reason to become one of those heroes with a war history that needs to be told. Rosbrugh, who served over 25 years in the Air Force, holds a military record for the most consecutive reliable programs of the Hound-Dog Air-to-Ground Missile while at Altus AFB in OK. This system tested targets behind the Iron Curtain.

While in Altus, he upgraded to Radar Navigator (Bombardier) and spent time in Target Intelligence.

Rosbrugh had combat crew duty when transferred to McCoy AFB in Orlando, FL. Six months at a time were spent "Arc Light," flying combat missions during the VietNam War. He completed two hundred twenty-two missions. Rosbrugh also served as Wing Air Weapons Officer in chemical and nuclear weapons at Grand Forks AFB, Grand Forks, ND. He transitioned to Disaster, where he remained until he ended his career.

During his career, he and his wife, Karen, have stayed in Madrid, Spain, and visited several historic sites in Spain and France. His duties also took him

to Germany, Liechtenstein, Turkey, Italy, and Greece. His final assignment was McGuire AFB in Trenton, NJ, where the superhero put down one cape in 1987, soon became bored, and picked up several others, including significant volunteer work in the Lions Club.

It was in Emerado, ND, that Rosbrugh learned about the activities of the Lions Club. After working several jobs in Emerado, the Rosbrughs decided to return home. They purchased a small acreage in the area, and Rosbrugh transferred his Lions membership to the El Dorado Spring Lions Club. Later, at the death of his father, Marvin, Rosbrugh inherited a portion of the family farm. He worked as a substitute teacher in EIDO for several years, during which time he loved teaching young people. Still, it was his extraordinary dedication to the Lions Club and other organizations that benefited most from his return. Serving for 37 years and counting, Rosbrugh has an incredible 100 percent meeting attendance, and he has held nearly every office, including District Governor.

"But receiving accolades has not been my purpose for being a Lion," he said. "The Lions' Motto is 'We Serve,' and service means getting out and touch-



ing the lives of the community, the region, and beyond. That service may be as small as providing clothing and other aid to victims of a fire, to eye-glasses or hearing aids to the needy, to Disaster Response, like the Joplin tornado, and other disasters worldwide."

As part of giving back, Rosbrugh also crafts the gavels for each Lions Club president and district governor as they begin their term of office.

"Very few individuals accomplish great things alone; it is when we work together, whether in small groups or large, that anything positive is achieved. There is strength in numbers; a twig is easily broken, a bundle of sticks, bound together by a strong cord (purpose), can support a great weight," Rosbrugh explains.

His superhero code of conduct is modeled after his hero,

Ronald Reagan.

"A good citizen is more interested in the good of the country as a whole, from the local to national level," he said. "A good citizen will not tolerate injustice nor prejudice of any kind--racial, political, ethnic,..., will not push his or her agenda for personal gain. A good citizen supports the Constitution of the United States. and will vote at every possible opportunity. If you don't vote, you have no right to complain about the outcome."

Like most superheroes, his code of conduct includes spiritual principles. "My personal relationship with Jesus Christ, my Lord, Savior, Protector, Comforter, Counselor and Soon-coming King...." is crucial to Rosbrugh.

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James Rosbrugh has served his country and community for a long time now. The ribbons and life experience have taught him his dogma: "A good citizen is more interested in the good of the country as a whole, from the local to national level. A good citizen will not tolerate injustice nor prejudice of any kind--racial, political, ethnic,..., will not push his or her agenda for personal gain. A good citizen supports the Constitution of the United States. and will vote at every possible opportunity. If you don't vote, you have no right to complain about the outcome."



James Rosbrugh proved his superhero status years ago, serving his country in the Air Force for many years worldwide. Then, he returned home to serve his community through the Lions Club. Rosbrugh has a 100 percent attendance record in the club. He is instrumental in organizing several events for the El Dorado Springs club. PHOTOS BY PAT HINDMAN



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TABITHA JOHNSON,

an unassuming paralegal by day, a weapon-carrying superhero when needed

By Pat Hindman

Every work day, Tabitha Johnson sits at her paralegal desk at Barrett's Law Firm on Stockton's square with her stack of legal papers, looking out on her hometown, which she has helped protect for several years.

Johnson started her career as a paralegal and has come full circle, but she still holds on to some on-the-ground training. After serving as Cedar County deputy for 11 years, Johnson holds her deputy commission and is a part-time reserve deputy. Her children want to know she is coming home safely each night, yet her heart knows she can make a difference with boots on the ground.

Johnson is known in the community as someone who cares, and she does care. "Everybody has bad days. Everyone makes mistakes. That's how I have done my career. If there is somebody out there who can be helped, I try to do that."

"Being a deputy, you are not always going to make everyone happy, but you have to uphold the law."

Johnson's advice that has helped those who break the law often goes like this:

"In the circumstances, this is what you have to do because this is the law that has been broken. Do go through this. Do what you have to do. Take your punishment, and then pick up and go on."

"I've had some who have done that and some who haven't," she said. In Cedar County, however, some know beyond a doubt that Johnson has changed their lives. (See boxed quote.)

Johnson loved her full-time position as a deputy, even though women sometimes face stereotypes in that field.

"As a female in law enforcement, I feel I had to work double hard to make my way. For one, I'm not as strong as the other cops. I know that. There are some things guys can do and some things girls can do that guys can't. I am not oblivious to that. But I had tools on my belt that were there for a reason: to be used if needed. That does help. However, as a female in this job, you have to prove yourself. But men do, too; it's not just women. You have to be able to trust your partner and your coworker, and they have to be able to trust you because you are in the thick of things, and you're going to go home. That was our goal".



Unassuming paralegal by day; deputy sheriff when called to duty. That's our Marvelous superhero Tabitha Johnson. PHOTO BY ASHLEY YOKLEY

Johnson noted that an officer cannot become complacent with any call. "Complacency is where you get hurt," she said. "There is no such thing as a routine

traffic cop-true. There is no such thing as a routine call because what's called in may not be exactly what it is when you get there. You hope it is, and you try to plan as you go to a call. But not a single call is ever the same. You don't know what is going to happen when you're rolling into a scene. When we get there, we want to know as much as possible so we can plan for the worst. If they do this, I'm going to do this. If they do that, I'm going to do that. That is constant from the time you get the call until you are finished with that call."

Johnson has worked in the legal field since her son was two weeks old when she started at a law office in Bolivar. "I had seen several things before I first became a deputy," she said. "I thought being first on the scene, I could make a difference by getting the right evidence and handling the call. If I can do that, I can make a difference in the justice department. I have made a full circle."

And, in the end, Johnson said it is ultimately up to the person to make a change.

As a deputy, Johnson said she has learned there is always more to the story. "There are two sides to every story, and there is the truth. You have to weed that out and come up with exactly what happened."

"Hopefully, I can help people receive justice, whichever direction that is. That's not for me to judge now, and neither was it when I was a deputy. We have some discretion, but then we send it on to the prosecutor, who has the final charge. The end result is justice. You want that as a citizen, and you want that to be a safe place for your kids and family."

"People are not predictable," she noted. "Sometimes they can't help themselves, and sometimes we have to help them. But God gives us all a choice, and we have free will as to what we do with that."



HERE IS AN ANONYMOUS TESTIMONY OF HOW SUPERHERO JOHNSON MADE A DIFFERENCE IN ONE PERSON'S LIFE.



"I look around this community and see people who are clearly not living their best life. You know the type. They are strung out on drugs, and you can't trust them. These people are probably not taking care of their family. They'd rob you blind for their next fix if you turned away long enough. They are the reason you lock your door when you get out of your car and the ones you hope your kids never meet. These people stick out like a sore thumb. Trouble! Trouble! Trouble!"

☐☐

I want to tell you that I used to be that untrusted drug addict. I used to barrel down the streets of Stockton with no driver's license, some combination of mind-numbing drugs, and no good destination in mind. Once Tabitha discovered me in this town, she made it her mission to take me to jail more than once. It's fair to say, she arrested me every time she saw me. She promised me that every time she saw me that she would lock me up until I got it right.

The last time she arrested me, she told me that next time, it's a felony and I better get my license because this is the last time. I spent the next several days going down the endless rabbit hole of trying to recover my license. I was so excited when I finally got it back that I drove up the the sheriff's office and showed her what I did. I was like a kid who had to show their mom this amazing accomplishment. I was changed that day.

This is the difference a good cop can make in the world.

You would think that I couldn't stand this lady, but it's quite the opposite. I have never known anyone who treated me with such respect when I was at my lowest. She saw past my flaws. She saw me as a hurting human, and she cared for me. She encouraged me. I wanted to do better, to be better for her, even as she's taking me away in cuffs.

I can only imagine how quickly our law enforcement officers become jaded when dealing with these individuals. It's easy to throw one's religion right out the window when you meet these people, and it's easy to be so quick to judge them.

☐☐ She protected me on more than one occasion.

"Today, I am a well-respected manager of a company. I have been clean for 9 years. I'm a blended member of this community, and no one will ever know me as the man that you knew.

Tabitha, I hope you know that because of your kindness, not only to me, but to so many undeserving people in this community, I am forever changed. You touched my heart and changed the way I treat others.

— signed,
A guy who didn't deserve it but got it anyway.

TWO CEDAR COUNTY MARVELS WORKING TOGETHER TO CLEAN UP THE COMMUNITY

By Melissa Johnson

Michael and Dianna Saathoff of Stockton have spent most of their lives in Cedar County. Like many, the superheroes of this story have simple goals in life. They want to be responsible stewards of the community they hold dear. Dianna expressed their desire to keep a community that future generations want to return to and raise their families as they have.

"We are committed to all that we do in order to create a community that our children will be proud to call home," she said. Raising responsible adults and having an allegiance to the community takes superhuman efforts nowadays, but the Saathoffs are up for the task.

The Saathoffs relocated to Stockton at a young age, with Michael being five and Dianna four. Both attended school from kindergarten through twelfth grade before temporarily moving away and then returning to raise their family.

The couple has three sons, ages 21, 18, and 14. Following the birth of their youngest son, they decided to become foster parents.

"We fostered children for five years," Michael shared. "Our goal was always to help a little girl." They successfully achieved this goal by adopting their daughter, who is now seven years old.

Recently, their family was completed with the addition of Ophelia, a super large Irish wolfhound.

Both are passionate about flying, with both holding private pilot's licenses. Dianna was inspired by the movie Space Camp, which showed her that girls could fly.

"I always wanted to be a pilot, and now I do it just for fun," she shared. In contrast, Michael pursued a career as a commercial pilot after 20 years as an IT project manager.

Michael and Dianna have a deep-rooted love for the area. They actively participate in community activities to improve it.

Like a superhero, Michael emphasized the importance of integrity when asked about his beliefs on what makes a good citizen. He said, "If I make a commitment, I want my friends, family, and those around me to trust that I will follow through. It's about how you conduct yourself when no one is watching." Dianna added that honesty and respectfulness are also key qualities of a good citizen.

Michael praised Dianna, describing her as the cornerstone of their operations. He acknowledged her role in managing their storage businesses, 39 Storage and A&A Storage, and mobile home park. Despite her responsibilities as a mother and a school board member, Dianna remains dedicated to each of her ventures.

Recently, Dianna felt compelled to purchase land near her family home. The property, known as "Airport Village," was in disarray, with old trailers, garbage, and drug activity. After thoughtful consideration and with Michael's support, they acquired the property with the trailer park. Michael noted, "I provided support, but Dianna was the driving force behind this endeavor."

Situated between two parcels of Saathoff's land, the trailer park held a special significance for Dianna. She felt strongly connected to the property and began praying for its acquisition.



Pictured is Michael and Dianna Saathoff. Two Cedar County Marvels who have who are committed to making Cedar County a place future generations want to come back to.



Cedar County Marvels to the community, Mom and Dad at home. Pictured from left: Back row: Hayden, 21, Bryson 18, and Dad Michael. Front row: Elijah 14, Mom Dianna, and 7 year old Rosalie.

After much prayer and reflection, the opportunity arose, and the land was successfully purchased. In an effort to maintain a sense of compassion and

understanding, the decision was made to allow those residing on the land to remain, unless they were engaging in illegal drug activity or violent behavior. The cleanup process commenced, led by Mike, who has successfully demolished seven trailers thus far, with one more awaiting demolition. Over thirty tons of garbage and debris have been removed from the area, not including the trailers themselves. While seven trailers are now occupied by content residents living harmoniously in the revitalized environment, there is still work to be done. The sewer system requires attention, and the Saathoffs are awaiting government approval to proceed with necessary repairs.

Michael and Dianna share a love for the outdoors and enjoy spending time with their children. Their hobbies include hiking, camping, and playing Pickleball. Michael also volunteers his time teaching young men Jiu Jitsu for free once a week.



Boots on the ground is what turned this property around. Only a Super Hero would step up to work the long hard hours to change it from a hazard into an oasis. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



It's not a bird or a plane. It's over 60,000 pounds of dilapidated trailers and trash in the Airport Village Trailer Park.

POW!

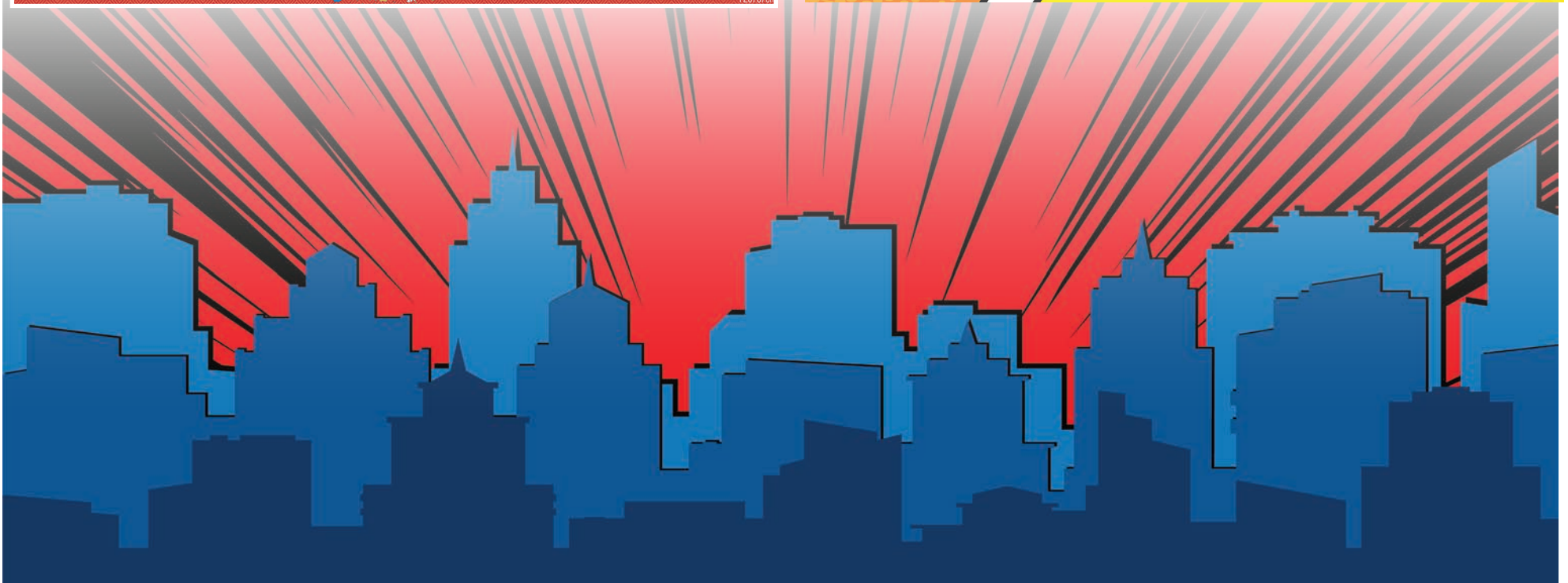
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TRACEY BURNS

does not have an eight to four school day-no way!

By Alana Hindman

Stockton Native Tracey Burns is the JAG teacher at the school and continually marvels others with the heart she has to support and encourage her students as they become their best versions.

"I have always been a teacher. I graduated in 1993 from SBU with a degree in Vocational Business Education. Vocational Business was the only subject I had taught until I took the position as JAG Specialist at the high school. August will begin my fourth year as JAG Specialist, but it is also my twenty-seventh year in education. Twenty-three of those years have been at Stockton High School," said Burns, who loves JAG because no two days are alike.

Seeing her students succeed, receiving a message about a test score, or just telling her how things are going fills her cup.

"I am so excited to see my kids excited over their successes. Random messages from my kids brighten my days. One Saturday Kevin and I were out driving, and I received calls from two of my kids just minutes apart. Two young men had called to tell me about things going on in their lives. One student had just completed his first day at a new job. When he called, he said, "I knew you would want to know how it went." Another student called just to let me know about the fact that he had fixed something on his car," said Burns.

While overseeing JAG, her students focus on skills they need to be successful now and after graduation. JAG focuses on Project Based Learning, Employer Engagement, Community Service, Employability Skills, and Trauma Informed Care.

"But, even more importantly, in JAG, we create a family. Challenges arise every day, but the important thing is that we face those challenges with people that care about us," revealed Burns.

She shared that many people may not understand the true relationship that teachers have with their students, "Many people believe that teachers work 7:30-3:30 and the day is just over; however, teaching is not like that, nor has it ever been. Teachers take



Mati, Tracey, Ali and Bree love momma/daughter time on the farm.

Ali and Avery, Tracey, Mati, Blayke, Ty, Wade and Bree all enjoy a family day on the water. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

on their students, and they become families. My kids' worries and concerns are my worries and concerns," Burns stated.

With so much history in teaching, Burns happily shared, "I am doing what I love to do. I get so excited when I see my kids succeed. I was a cheerleader in high school, and I still see myself as that same person cheering on my kids to become the very best person that they possibly can be."

She has spent much time as a Cedar Countian.

"Being a lifetime resident of Cedar County gives me great pride. I love the fact that I know so many amazing people. It does not matter where I go in town. I run into people that I know, whether that is former students, people I went to high school with, or people from my childhood. It is an amazing place to live and raise a family. The lake will always be special to me because the construction of this lake is what brought my mom's family to Stockton," said Burns.

She has been blessed with a wonderful thirty-five-year marriage to her husband, Kevin. They were high school sweethearts who attended SBU in Bolivar. They each took their first-year teaching jobs in Golden City.

"We taught right across the hall from each other. I taught for two years in Golden City and then decided to stay home with our daughter Bree after my second year of teaching. After staying home full-time for a couple of years and having our second daughter, I received a teaching job, once again alongside Kevin, at Greenfield High School. We came back home to teach in Stockton in 2003," Burns reminisced.

Together, she and Kevin have three daughters who married three Stockton natives. Their oldest daughter, Bree Walker, married her high school sweetheart, Buck Walker, and they have three adorable children, seven-year-old Ty, five-year-old Blayke, and Wade, who is two.

Their middle daughter is married to her high school sweetheart, Kyle Freeze, and they are expecting baby Maylee at the end of July. The youngest daughter, Ali, is married to her high school sweetheart, Hayden. They have one amazing daughter, Avery, who is fourteen months old.

The Burns family also claims one super sweet Australian Shepherd named Jessie. They have a cow/calf operation and run around seventy-five pairs.

"Although our cows are not pets, I can tell you a story on most of them," Burns said.

Regarding hobbies, she said, "Well, I would like to say I have a lot of them, but the truth is, I do not. Between school, the farm, and my family, we are super busy. But, I do enjoy a good walk when time permits."

She hopes, "...people see me as someone that walks out my faith. I truly believe the best in people, and I believe that people deserve opportunities to make up for past mistakes," said Burns.

She believes a good citizen sees the best in others and wants the best for others. Good citizens go out of their way to improve other people's lives and are concerned about those around them.

She lives by the motto, "See a Need, Fill a Need." If someone sees something that needs to be done or if someone needs help, don't question it—just do it. Work hard to brighten others' lives.

Burns said, "Life is short and you need to make sure you are squeezing everything out of every minute God has given you. When God calls you to something, He will make a way."



High School Sweethearts Tracey and Kevin Burns have been married thirty-five years and enjoy watching Chiefs football.

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Prew, who added that it had been so incredible to watch firsthand.

Austin Prew said what he loves most about Cody, "I love Cody because he's my best friend."

Multiple EIDO students have been able to apply and receive medical alert dogs and professional therapy dogs from the same program in which Cody was trained. One fourth-grade student received a diabetic assistance dog from CARES.

"Seeing how well Cody was trained and what an impact he was making encouraged that family to apply and re-

ceive their own personal canine assistant. We also have a student who spent a lot of time with Cody this year who has applied to receive a personal, professional therapy dog because of the impact Cody has made on him," said Norman.

It's easy to see that Cody is the perfect superhero for EIDO's elementary school and community.

"He meets the individual needs of every kid that comes in contact with him. If there is a child that needs to feel protected, he provides that. If they need to feel a connection, he is right there to give that to them. If they need to laugh or need something to bring them joy, he provides that tenfold. He has provided an avenue for the staff to build additional connections with children and children an avenue to love school more deeply," concluded Norman.

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His dogma is unwavering. "I believe in Biblical morality: There is a clear-cut difference between "right" and "wrong", that 'justice' should be applied equally to all, that criminals should pay for their crimes, that law-enforcers should be respected and obeyed. There are two, and only two, genders. That life begins at conception, and that 'Endowed by their Creator with certain

unalienable Rights, that among these (rights) are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness' includes the pre-born.

Rosbrugh is also a member of the Gideons, which distributes Bibles worldwide.

Rosbrugh and his wife of 49 years, Karen, have four children, eight grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

EIDO citizen Ida Lambrecht agrees Rosy is a superhero in the area. "Just being a veteran in the Air Force is huge," she said, "but now he is always here for kids like school

bus driver and substitute teacher. He helps organize the "Shop with the Lions" at Christmas time, and he goes around to teachers and finds out who the most needed kids are in school. He is always there."

Rosbrugh doesn't want accolades, though.

"While I do not consider myself to be even a hero, much less a 'superhero,' it is good to reminisce once in a while. I just try to live my life in such a way that others will see that there is 'more to life than just being alive,'" our superhero said as he meekly jumped into another day of "retired life."

GOOD NIGHT, SUPERS! UNTIL NEXT TIME.

Cedar County Republican Newspaper bids good night to our superheroes as they fly off into the night, continuing to work without recognition. However, we believe that their stories deserve to be heard. If you know a superhero in Cedar County who has a story to tell, please email us information at news@cedarrepublican.com. We won't be able to feature them in a section like this, but we may do a feature story that could inspire others.

