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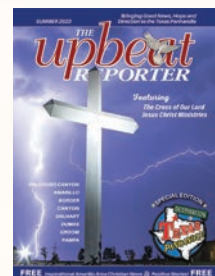
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UPBEAT REPORTER

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ON OUR COVER

Photo courtesy:
Blake Brown





Mary Kay Kuhrts

It is my honor to introduce Dr. Aaron Hunt as our new Pastoral Advisor for The Upbeat Reporter. Since the beginning issue in 2019, Dr. Hunt has generously and faithfully submitted inspirational articles about students' success stories. Dr. Hunt is the perfect choice due to his service as Chaplain for Fellowship of Christian Athletes at WTAMU.

Unqualified

By Dr. Aaron Hunt

I have long since given up feeling qualified for the various roles the Lord allows me to serve in. The first time I truly remember feeling this way was in 1999 while taking on the role as a summer youth pastor at a small church in the village of Metterich Germany in between Cologne and Luxembourg City. The church served a community of Christ followers that were mostly from the US and working at Spangdahlem Air Base. I had never read the bible through, had lied on my application for the position, and was not much more than a new believer as I had recently just come back to faith in Jesus. Nonetheless, as the adage goes, God equips the called. That summer he taught me humility, self-control, and other fruits of the spirit. I truly was like those ruddy fishermen in the Gospels, not knowing much, but knowing I wanted to give my life to whatever Christ wanted.



During that summer we took our youth group to a church camp in Grindelwald, Switzerland, in the Swiss Alps. There I met a ski shop owner who offered me a job during the upcoming ski season. I accepted and this is where I truly fell in love with God. I took the biggest study bible I could find and read it and skied every day. In May of 2000 I returned home to finish my undergraduate degree at Texas Tech University and met the love of my life, Emily. We met in August, had a terribly long dating and engagement period of 10 months, and married in June of 2001. This is again where I quickly felt inadequate. Understanding the opposite sex is no small feat for us men, although I gather that they have us pretty well figured out.

I graduated college and started teaching high school Spanish while Emily finished her PhD studies in Mechanical Engineering at TTU. As a non-native Spanish speaker, I was teaching Spanish to high school students, some of whom were from Spanish speaking homes. I would often ask my native speakers to wait until after class to correct my mistakes, that way I could keep up pretenses to the rest of their

classmates. After my second year of teaching and coaching, my first of six children was born. Nothing really prepares you to be a dad, but as I had already learned, God does not fail. He promises us that he will be there for us when we seek him. I have needed His help often. We went on to have three more biological children and adopted two boys from foster care. One of the boys that we adopted had cancer...twice. He is now disease free and living the mostly normal life of a twelve-year-old boy. My oldest daughter will start nursing school at TTU in the fall and my oldest son just received an appointment to West Point. The jury is out on the rest. Time will tell, the youngest is testing every bit of the skills we have learned as parents.

After coaching and teaching for seven years, I finished a master's degree in educational leadership from West Texas A&M University and took a job as assistant principal at Westover Park, now West Plains Junior High. While working at the junior high, I completed my course work for a doctorate degree in Educational Leadership from Walden University and took a job in 2012 as an instructor in the education department at WTAMU. Shortly thereafter I began to serve on the board as the WTFCA Athletic Chaplain. In 2016 I left to open a new FCA program at Texas State. He asked me to take his spot, and again I felt extremely unqualified. Yet, after now serving in this role for seven years, I couldn't be more pleased with where He has placed me. God doesn't need us, but He can use us if we continue to love Him and say yes to what He asks us to do! I don't know where He will call me next, but my aim is to love Him and keep saying yes!

Speaking of saying yes, I agreed to serve as the Pastoral Advisor for the Upbeat Reporter and am honored that Mary Kay would think me qualified, I'm not...but you get the picture!

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

James 1:12



God's Remarkable Creation

By Tammi Scoggin

"We live in such an incredible creation. We need to focus on that, rather than those things that detract." This encouragement, given by Eddie Tubbs, serves as an important principle in his life. Reared in Dumas, Tubbs recalls significant lessons from his upbringing. "My father taught me the love of outdoors." More specifically, Eddie remembers his dad speaking about Palo Duro Canyon. "There's something spiritual about this Canyon. There are nights you can look up into the sky, and the stars are so close you feel like you can reach up and touch them." Eddie inherited the same appreciation for the special place. "I come here to commune with God." Arriving early, he enjoys watching the grandeur of the sunrises with his Bible opened as he spends time with the Creator.

Tubbs and his wife, Connie, settled in Amarillo upon his retirement in 2014. After pastoring for around twenty years and serving as a chaplain nearly sixteen years, the decision was made to return to the Texas Panhandle, where other doors for ministry have opened. He presently preaches at FBC Hartley, and in recent years, he has honed his photography skills. "Wherever I go I have a camera," he asserts. Currently, he has produced around twenty-six photo books, both for individuals and organizations that include area museums. In addition, he regularly posts spectacular snapshots on social media, accompanied by Bible verses that point others to glorify God through His remarkable creation.

In conjunction with his love for stunning landscapes, he currently serves as president on the board for the Partners in Palo Duro Canyon Foundation. The organization, existing for over thirty years, raises funds for the completion of various projects within the park. Presently, they include more than 200 members and seek expansion. Applications are available at the Visitor Center and Gift Shop, which is manned by their volunteers. Proceeds from sales help to fund park improvements, such as the renovations made to the Rim Cabins, the purchase of UTV's for the campgrounds, night vision goggles for the park police, and other such upgrades. One of the more recent park enhancements completed and maintained by volunteers was the renovation of the wildlife viewing area, which attracts a variety of birds with its all-natural feeders and water supply.

A future goal for Partners includes the installation of what Tubbs describes as a playscape, an area for children to enjoy that will fit with the scheme of the Canyon. While still in the planning stages, the hope is to incorporate climbing walls, play equipment adapted to the natural setting, mountain biking opportunities, and even telescopes that make use of the Canyon's qualification as a Dark Sky Park.



Eddie Tubbs



Yet another project addresses the critical problem of extreme heat. Some days see a dozen or more rescues for those in medical crises. While the park may shut down trails, warnings often go unheeded by visitors. Partners has purchased gates that will enable closure when deemed necessary. Another addition will be a sun shelter halfway on the Lighthouse Trail. Volunteers will also continue to man a relief station at the trailhead, providing crucial water. Such projects highlight the importance of the organization, whose members may also help with trail development and clean-up.

The Foundation continues to brainstorm ideas for the park's betterment, as well as supporting upcoming events. September 15-17 will mark a meaningful celebration as Texas commemorates the 100th anniversary of its many state parks. Ten chuckwagons will be brought into the Canyon to prepare a full meal in Dutch ovens. Tickets will be available for the public to purchase the dinner with the goal of feeding 500. A 5K run will also take place, and the funds raised will go to suicide prevention for veterans, a cause particularly dear to Tubbs in connection with his past service as a pastor of a predominantly military congregation. Other activities that weekend will include seminars on mountain biking, various displays, and even attendance by some of Quanah Parker's family.

For Eddie Tubbs, volunteering to maintain and improve the Canyon fulfills an opportunity to minister in a unique way.

"God has called us to be stewards of His creation, and that's what Partners is all about," he testifies.

By doing so, others will also benefit from the park's magnificent beauty and give thanks to the One who made it.



Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.

Revelation 4:11



Tammi Scoggin

Tammi Scoggin, an Amarillo resident for over thirty-two years, enjoys all forms of writing – novels, short stories, poetry, children's books, ladies Bible studies, anecdotes, articles, and even a discipleship manual. She aims to share the gospel of Jesus Christ through all of her communication and encourage others to pursue a personal relationship with Jesus, especially through Bible literacy.



Center City Celebrates the Seasons

By Beth Duke

Center City welcomes a full calendar of summer events in the heart of historic Amarillo.

Center City is home to the **Downtown Dining District**. Center City has 30 restaurants within one square mile. The restaurants are home-owned and operated. When you dine downtown, you are supporting local businesses. Ben E. Keith Company commissioned a mural with its slogan, "Eat Often, Eat Local" at Braceros restaurant on Polk Street to celebrate Amarillo's food scene.

Fine dining options include OHMS, Toscana inside The Barfield and Las Brisas. Crush and Six-Car Brewery have a more casual atmosphere and rooftop patios to enjoy. Other restaurants offer regional fare. Valore and Napolis serve Italian specialties. Braceros serves authentic Mexican food. Young's Sushi Rocks and Rain have sushi and other favorites. You'll also find an assortment of food trucks parked at locations around downtown.



Summer in Center City officially kicks off with the **Coors Cowboy Longhorn Cattle Drive** on Polk Street. For 2023, the **Cattle Drive will be on Saturday, June 3**. The event also kicks off a full week of the Route 66 Festival. The Amarillo Convention & Visitors Bureau is coordinating the **Route 66 Festival** this year to gear up for the **100th birthday of Historic Route 66**.



The Route 66 theme continues on **June 7** as Center City sponsors the opening concert of **High Noon on the Square**. High Noon on the Square celebrates its 28th season in 2023.

Opening concert will feature Amarillo favorite Ed Montana with a special shout out to downtown's Route 66 heritage.

Many people don't realize that Route 66 extends from east to west, crossing Amarillo neighborhoods from Eastridge to San Jacinto. A stretch of Route 66 goes through Center City. The Potter County Courthouse sits on Route 66 as well as the historic Barfield Hotel.

Center City continues the fun with the Amarillo Community Market. The **Amarillo Community Market opens Saturday, June 10, with more than 50 vendors**. Everything sold at market must be made, baked, grown or created within 150 miles of Amarillo. Admission is free and parking is free. Market hours are 8:30 a.m. to noon every Saturday through Sept. 9.



On **September 16**, downtown will welcome the **Tri-State Fair Parade**. The Tri-State Fair Parade is a longtime tradition on Polk Street. Each year floats, marching bands and equestrian units fill our main street with colorful entries.

September 30 brings the **Hoodoo Mural Festival** to downtown. Hoodoo creates a walkable outdoor art gallery in downtown Amarillo. Each year, the foundation adds more murals to downtown walls. Amarillo is becoming a city of murals. The Amarillo Convention and Visitor Bureau has a full page of its website devoted to murals - check out www.visitamarillo.com and click on the "art installations" tab to see murals throughout Amarillo.

In **October**, Center City will sponsor **Jazztober** - a free jazz concert on **Tuesday nights** on the lawn of the historic Mary E. Bivins Library at 1000 S. Polk St. in downtown. Guests bring their own chairs and picnic dinners. Local musicians share their talents with cool jazz during the cool autumn evenings.

Check out these websites for more information:

- www.centercity.org
- www.visitamarillo.com
- www.amarillocommunitymarket.com
- www.panhandletickets.com



Beth Duke

Beth Duke is executive director of Center City of Amarillo, a nationally recognized and award-winning Texas Main Street City.

Duke joined Center City after retiring as city editor from the Amarillo Globe-News in 2005. She is the co-author of a college textbook,

"A Woman's Place: Management." She attended Amarillo College and graduated with honors from Baylor University where she was editor of the college paper.

In 2019, Beth was named Amarillo Woman of the Year by the Amarillo Globe-News and received the

Founders' Award from the Texas Historical Commission for Heritage Community Building. She is in the Hall of Fame at Tascosa High School and was named a Distinguished Alumna of Amarillo College.

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Canyon Captivates Hearts

By Emily Ellis



Just a short drive from Amarillo, Canyon is the perfect place to escape the hustle and bustle of city life and experience small town charm. Come experience wide open skies, stunning views and quaint country living.

Situated around a railroad in the middle of the rugged Texas Panhandle Plains, Canyon was once abustle with cowboys working a thriving cattle ranch. West Texas State Normal College was established for the education of teachers here in 1910 and has grown to be a part of the Texas A&M University system and is now known as **West Texas A&M University**. The university offers 60 undergraduate, 38 master's degrees and two doctoral programs.

Located on the campus of West Texas A&M University you will find the oldest and largest historical museum in the state, **Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum**. Its roots reach back to 1920 when educator Hattie Anderson started documenting the living past to preserve the history of the region, capturing the pioneer spirit of the West.

Considered the gateway to the spectacular **Palo Duro Canyon State Park**, it's home to the iconic musical drama **TEXAS** that chronicles the tragedies and triumphs of early Texas settlers. The play is performed in an outdoor amphitheater six nights a week during the summer and is said to be the most attended outdoor drama in the nation.

Check out these websites for more information:

www.panhandleplains.org

www.canyontexas.com

www.texas-show.com



Canyon offers visitors the opportunity to hike the Lighthouse Trail, ride horses or glide down the Palo Duro zip line in Palo Duro Canyon, or visit the Cowgirls and Cowboys in the West attraction.

Other local gems include Sad Monkey Mercantile, Bar Z Winery, Creek House Honey Farm, Canyon Aqua Park, the weekly Farmer's Market, Historic Canyon Square, Big Tex and Hudspeth House, Burrowing Owl Book Store and Buffalo Lake Park.

It is the place to be to celebrate the **Fourth of July** with the annual parade, market, fireworks display and Kickin' It in Canyon concert.

Come on down to experience Canyon's unique flair, charm and engagement first-hand. You might just be tempted to make it home.



Emily Ellis

Emily recently retired and moved from Amarillo to the DFW area after a long career in the non-profit field. She is active in her church and the Fort Worth Women's Club.

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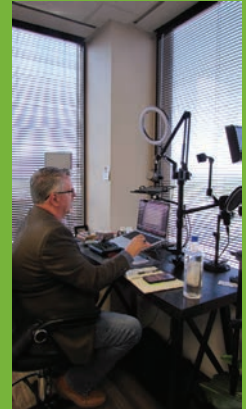
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His Camp

I wanna be at camp
Where the sun shines warm on your skin
And you can play all day and never go in
Where we teach kids how to love
Just like we were taught from God above

I don't wanna be at school
Where you sit for endless hours
And in order to get out you'd need superpowers
Where no one believes in Jesus
And I swear the AC tries to freeze us

I wanna be in the canyon
Where rattlesnakes hide from the sun
And all God's children are free to run
Where there's not a worry on the earth
Except for showing the kids what they're worth

I don't wanna be at work
Where I stand for hours prepping food
Dealing with customers who are just so rude
Where I have to search for words from above
And carry out tasks that I do not love

I wanna be in the pool
Where mermaids emerge from their caves
And boys see who can make the biggest waves
Where we party late into the night
Because we know everything will be alright

I wanna spread the word of the Lord
Who we sing to at night
Because it's the only thing that feels right
Who loves me fully no matter what
Because from his perfect cloth I am cut

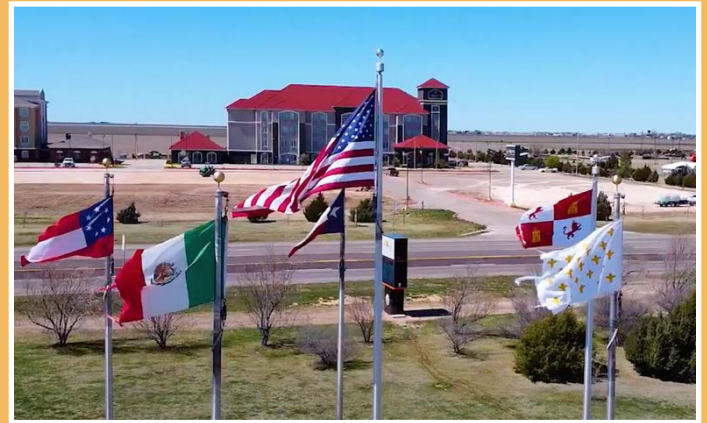
I wanna share with you the good news
He provides me with courage and gives me sight
So I can become his loyal knight
This place I speak of, my wonderful hoard
A place anyone can come to know the Lord



Emerson Byars
Age 17



A City with Great Expectations



ACTIVITIES

Shopping

Shop a variety of locally owned businesses in downtown. Our businesses take pride in all our businesses and what they sell.

Breweries

Located in the heart of downtown, Dumas had a brewery in a beautifully redone historic building. The Toppled Turtle Brewing Co. has a beautiful beer garden to enjoy a drink inside or out.

Indoor Kid Play

Dumas has a variety of activities for families to enjoy. In a convenient location right on HWY 287, we have an Indoor Sand Box for kids of all ages to play. Just Dig Playzone is a great place for kids to run around, stretch their legs, or even a great place to host a party.

Movie Nights

Located around the courthouse square is The Eveyn Theatre, shows amazing movies for the entire family to enjoy.

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Dalhart

Area Chamber of Commerce
& Visitor Center

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SUMMER EVENTS

JUNE

- 9-10 | XIT Trail of Sales
- 10 | Business Breakfast Club

JULY

- 4 | 4th of July Celebration
- 18 | Business Breakfast Club
- 22 | Summer Jam Concert

AUGUST

- 3-5 | XIT Rodeo & Reunion
- 22 | Business Breakfast Club
- 26 | Farm to Table

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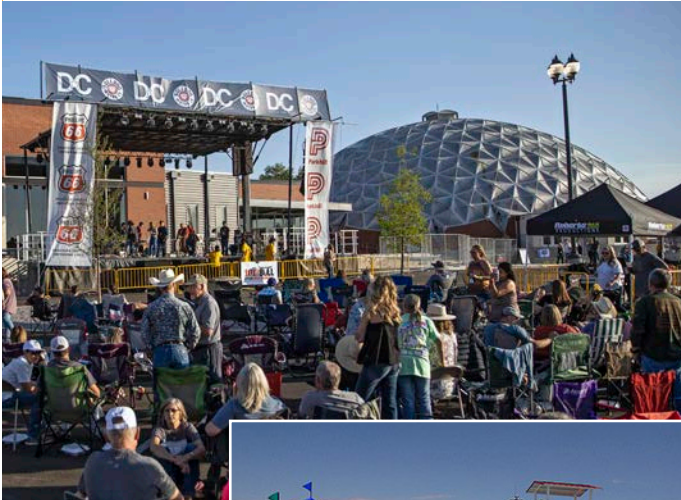
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Borger, a Hidden Gem!

By Amy Fesser



Amy Fesser



Looking for an unforgettable adventure in Texas? Look no further than Borger! Located in the heart of the Texas Panhandle, Borger is a hidden gem waiting to be discovered.

Must See Destinations:

Hutchinson County Historical Museum: Take a step back in time and explore the rich history of the area at this fascinating museum. With exhibits showcasing everything from pioneer life to oil drilling, there's something for everyone here.

Huber Park - This beautiful park is the perfect spot for a family outing or a peaceful picnic. With playgrounds, walking trails, and plenty of green space, it's a great place to enjoy the outdoors.

The Nature Trails and Chad Allen Foster Memorial Trail Head - Take advantage of the unique beauty of the Texas plains by enjoying a nature walk along some of our newly renovated trails.

Borger Downtown Historic District - Explore the charming downtown area of Borger, where you'll find a variety of shops, restaurants, and historic buildings. Take a stroll down Main Street and soak up the small-town atmosphere.

The Dome Civic and Convention Center - This state-of-the-art facility is the perfect place to catch a concert, conference, or other community events. With a range of amenities and a spacious, modern design, it's sure to impress.

Come and experience the unique charm of Borger, Texas. No matter what your interests are, Borger has something to offer. Whether you're a history buff, a nature lover, enjoy a game of pickleball, or disc golf, want to enjoy the local car scene, or just looking for a relaxing getaway, there is something for everyone. Explore this hidden gem for yourself and discover what Borger has to offer! It is the perfect place for your next adventure!

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| 6.15.23: Insufficient Funds | 8.3.23: Texas Junction |
| 6.22.23: RAK-45 | 8.10.23: Kayla Richardson & Byron Roberts |
| 6.29.23: Solano Project | 8.17.23: Touching VooDoo |
| 7.6.23: Lindsey Lane | 8.24.23: Tennessee Tuckness |
| 7.13.23: Sadie's Rangers | 8.31.23: Geezers Gone Wild |

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The Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ Ministries

By Mike Haynes

Despite the white wind turbines that dot the prairie around Groom, it's hard to miss the dominant sight on an Interstate 40 drive across the Texas Panhandle.

A 190-foot white metal cross rises from the farmland half a mile from the town of 550 people, just south of I-40. At night, lights keep it visible for miles as motorists travel east from Amarillo or west from Oklahoma.

It's the Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ, a Texas icon since its construction in 1995, and an estimated 10 million people pass by it every year. Many take exit 112 and stop to shoot photos, pray or stand at its base to wonder at its size. What some I-40 drivers don't realize is that the cross is surrounded by much more spiritual inspiration – and sometimes even support for travelers who need encouragement.

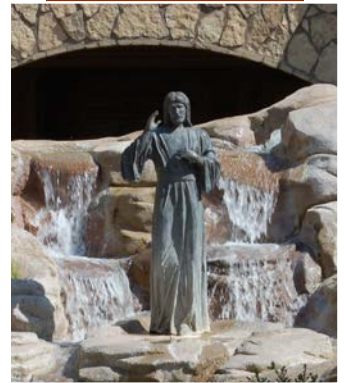
"We just hope they all find peace here and that they come to know the Lord,"

said Bobby Thomas, wife of the cross's builder, civil engineer Steve Thomas.

Steve and Bobby both are graduates of White Deer High School, 20 miles north, and have attended St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in nearby Pampa for decades. The cross, grounds and visitor center are not affiliated with any church, however, and operate as a nonprofit organization, the Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ Ministries.

Besides serving as a quick reminder of Christ as people speed by on the interstate, the site includes:

- Life-size bronze sculptures showing the traditional Stations of the Cross, the Last Supper and St. Michael
- Calvary, an empty tomb with the stone rolled away and a white angel standing above it
- A replica of the Shroud of Turin and a video about the Shroud
- A Memorial for the Innocent Unborn
- The Ten Commandments
- A visitor center with a fountain and a Christ sculpture; a state-of-the-art theater; a reception room; an office and counseling suite; and a spacious gift shop.



Bobby Thomas
Co-creator of
Cross Ministries



Photo by Mountain Sands Photos



Lots of people have said they'll travel up and down the road many times, and they thought it was just the cross," Bobby said. "And for a long time before we had the visitor center, they could see those sculptures, but they thought it was people working!"

The Thomases live much of each year in Florida, where one of their children, Zach Thomas, starred for the NFL's Miami Dolphins after an All-America career at Texas Tech. Zach will be inducted Aug. 5 into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

But Bobby and Steve also spend much time near Pampa and at the cross site. Steve is zealous about planting trees, and both get their hands dirty. "We do a lot of maintenance," Bobby said. "We do pressure-cleaning and planting and fertilizing and mowing - just taking care of the grounds."

The Thomases and cross workers and volunteers all have inspirational stories about their visitors.

- *One day in the gift shop, a couple told their daughter to pick out a stuffed animal or jewelry, but instead she chose a plaque with "The Lord's Prayer" on it. "It reminds me of Grandma," the girl said. "That just really grabbed me," Bobby said. "Those grandparents are so important." She would like to add a sculpture of Jesus, his parents - and grandparents - to the grounds.*
- *"There's tons of truckers that are regulars that stop here," Bobby said. "One that we called the Cowboy would pull up real close to Calvary and go up and get on his knees and pray and then go back and get in that truck and take off."*
- *A man who was taking his two young children from the Southeast to California to escape their drug-using mother and uncle stopped at the cross and discussed with Bobby whether he was doing the right thing. He decided to continue, and Bobby still prays for him and his family.*

This year, Bobby slept at the cross the night before Easter to get up early and prepare for visitors who would enjoy refreshments and a celebration of Christ's resurrection. When not on site, she orders merchandise for the gift shop.

"Everything we sell here sends some sort of spiritual goodness or scriptural message," Bobby said. "When people buy something, we want it to keep them inspired and close to the Lord."

The grounds are open 24/7 all year, while visitors are asked to call 806-248-9006 for gift shop and visitor center hours. The visitor center is available for weddings and other events, and youth groups spend the night in their sleeping bags on their way to Colorado or other destinations.

Mike Haynes



Mike Haynes taught journalism and mass media at Amarillo College for 25 years and was an adviser of student media at Texas Tech University for seven years. He is co-publisher of Panhandle-Plains Basketball Magazine and writes a Faith column in the Amarillo Globe-News. He and his wife Kathy attend Hillside Christian Church.



A Day in Pampa

By Eric Miller



There was a time in the early 20th century that Amarillo and Pampa were the big dogs in the Texas Panhandle. Competition was fierce between the “neighbors” in the business world, on the athletic field, in artistic endeavors and countless other ways. Amarillo continued to grow, especially after WWII, but Pampa didn’t keep pace. And with recent plant closings and agricultural challenges, as well as a location about 20 miles north of the interstate, Pampa developed a “time passed it by” feeling.

Don’t take that to heart. Pampa is a swingin’ town with some great reasons for a day visit this summer. Head to its small and friendly downtown with brick-lined streets a few blocks northeast of Pampa’s main highway intersection.

Don’t miss the Woody Guthrie Folk Music Center. Guthrie worked in the old Harris Drug Store on S. Cuyler from the late 1920s through the mid-1930s. He found an old guitar in a back storeroom and formed a local band, the Corn Cob Trio. He is known for writing “*This Land Is Your Land*” but Guthrie wrote almost 3,000 songs and was a painter and author as well. You’ll find memorabilia that reflects his entire career in the Guthrie Center. Stop by on a Friday evening at 6 p.m. for a jam session- it’s when the Guthrie Center really comes alive. The Woody Guthrie Folk Music Center has a Texas Historical Marker and is a stop on the Texas Music Trail. Admission is free and all shows and Friday jam sessions are by donation.



Kids don’t know the words and music to *This Land Is Your Land*? No problem- it’s easy to find a performance by doing a YouTube or Google search. Show them the outdoor sculpture of the chorus from *This Land is Your Land* over on North Hobart.

Curator Mike Sinks runs the place, occasionally performs and frequently answers the phone. 806-664-0824.

“I forget how lucky we are to have this place,” Sinks says.

Just up Cuyler St., north of the railroad underpass, is the White Deer Land Museum. Frequently mistaken as being located in the small town of White Deer, this museum is named after the White Deer Land Company that was headquartered in Gray County and dominated the local agricultural economy in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Walking in the door is like walking back in time. Don’t forget the wing devoted to Native Americans (Kiowa, Comanche). These first residents of the Panhandle preferred a teepee. Made from bison hide and centered around a small fire pit, this highly mobile home was perfect for Plains Indians who followed the large bison herds.

You can find a replica teepee (made of canvas, not hide) on display in WDLM. Pampa resident James Coverdale, great grandson of Kiowa chief Two Hatchet, designed, built and decorated the teepee. It also has a state historical marker just outside the building. Admission to one of the state’s finest museums is free.

Getting hungry?

Look for the Coney Island Cafe, a Pampa institution since 1933. It’s just a block away from the White Deer Land Museum. Home to great burgers, Coney Island style hot dogs smothered in homemade chili, and freshly baked pies, it is a regional dining landmark. Maybe Woody stopped by to eat! Expect a line at peak lunch hours.

Stop in White Deer on the way home. Turn left on Main Street for a couple blocks to the statue of the white deer said to inhabit and feed in the area according to Native American legend. You can’t miss it- it’s in the middle of the intersection at Main & 3rd.

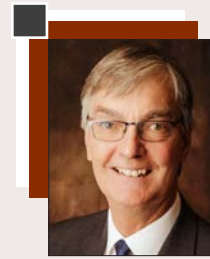


Check out these websites for more information:

The Woody Guthrie Folk Music Center in the Harris Drug Store, 320 S. Cuyler, 806-665-0883
www.woodyguthriepampatx.com

Pampa Visitor Center, 320 S. Cuyler, 806-665-0883
www.pampatexastourism.com

White Deer Land Museum, 112-116 S. Cuyler 806-669-8041, www.whitedeerlandmuseum.org
Coney Island Café, 114 W. Foster 806-669-9137
www.facebook.com/TheConeyIslandCafe



Eric Miller

For over 20 years, Miller promoted Amarillo to the world. Recently, he authored *100 Things To Do in Amarillo*, available at more than 10 outlets in the Amarillo/Canyon area, and has written stories for Authentic Texas and Panhandle Magazine. This is his first piece for Upbeat Reporter.

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Life Renewed for Arts in the Sunset

By Cathleen Tyson-Day

As I walked in the Arts in the Sunset for the first time since the renovation, all the memories of past First Friday Art Walks ran through my head. It was so good to see life back in this historical venue.

I sat down to interview the Amarillo Art Institute Executive Director, Rachel Flores, while she worked hands on with board members and construction workers. She graciously let me record the interview in a video. You can scan the QR Code to watch it.

I spoke with Rachel about the interesting history of Sunset Center. A local businessman and developer, MT Johnson opened the mall to a crowd of 100,000 residents, more than the population of Amarillo in 1960. **Sunset Center Market Town** mall stood as the most popular shopping venue for residents all over the Texas Panhandle for two decades.

In 1982, Westgate Mall opened on the west side of town off Interstate 40, pulling away many of the stores from Sunset Center. Local developer, C.W. Crouch purchased the property out of foreclosure. He and his wife, Ann, filled the location with paying tenants. Ann learned how to run a business while working with her husband. Upon his death in 2001, she wanted to create a place to nurture art. Ann took over management of the mall inspired to create something special.

Rachel explained that Ann was an artist and knew the value in an art community. In 2004, Ann opened the **Panhandle Art Center** or PAC and decided to add galleries to the interior part of the mall. The **Amarillo Art Institute** was created. AAI and Arts in the Sunset have a mission; Inspire, educate, and enrich lives through art.

First Friday events began bringing art and music lovers to Arts in the Sunset to experience the variety of talent, with the galleries of treasures for purchase. Music would ring through the halls as guests would walk from gallery to gallery.

Ann Crouch passed away in 2017. **Arts in the Sunset** is now a non-profit run by the Crouch Foundation to revive the well-known art center.

Many residents watched as parts of the center were destroyed in the renovation, only to see the iconic stained-glass window remain. It was important to keep the colorful element in the new addition. The footprint remains with exciting plans for the future.

On the outer side of Arts of the Sunset, a large beautiful mural draws you to the venue. A covered outdoor paved section of the facility will be the summer location for **Golden Spread Farmers Market**.



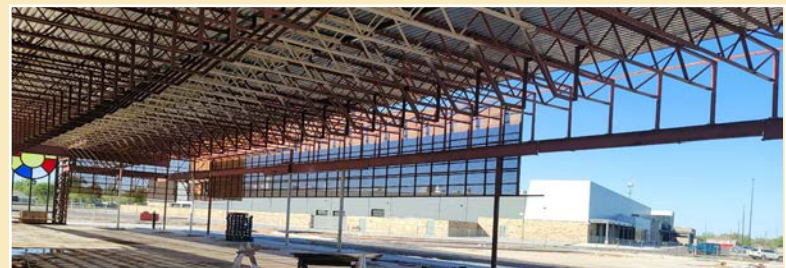
Photos by C. Tyson-Day



Amarillo Art Institute



First Friday Art Walk



Location for Golden Spread Farmers Market

Amarillo ISD is renting space for students with outer doors for easy access to classes. AmTech Career Academy is conveniently located across the parking lot.

The **AJ Swope Performance Plaza** is one of the last things to develop in the Arts in the Sunset. The new public performance venue is expected to be complete in 2023, exactly 10 years after AJ Swope - musician, newscaster, and wind energy advocate was tragically lost in a wreck north of Amarillo. The plaza will feature



a large stage with an attached green room, three dressing rooms, restrooms, a large area for tables, chairs and a dance floor, a ticket booth for paid events, and a built-in bar for third-party vendors to utilize. An exciting piece of the arts center!

Rachel made it clear that the involvement in the community is key in growing the love of the arts. AAI continues to write grants and create fundraisers to keep the cost down for students and members, including outreach to schools and kids camps throughout the year.

An inaugural exhibition will be featured in June 2023 at Arts in the Sunset. **Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel:** a collection of the artist's renowned ceiling

frescoes from the Vatican's Sistine Chapel in 34 artfully deployed reproductions. Viewing like this allows people to view the masterpieces "without being rushed or fighting crowds," Rachel said. Tickets can be purchased on ArtsintheSunset.org for dates between June 9-23, 2023.

Be sure and check in on their website for continued events. artsinthesunset.org



Photo provided by Sistine Chapel Promotions



Cathleen Tyson-Day

PPS Design Dept. Team Lead, Graphic/web designer, singer, music lover, writer, wife to Billy Day, mother, Nana, creative director and designer of The Upbeat Reporter, advertising consultant/designer of the Downtown Women's Center, Leadership Amarillo/Canyon and Estancia Community.



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They say that if you wear out a single pair of boots here, you'll never want to leave. With all the things to do in Amarillo, you'll wear them out pretty fast.

Explore Amarillo's wide-open spaces in the heart of the Texas Panhandle. Start outside and discover epic views at **Palo Duro Canyon**, the second largest canyon in the United States. Whether you want to go horseback riding, zip-lining, hiking, camping, biking, or just enjoy the beauty of Texas, Palo Duro Canyon is about a half-hour drive from Amarillo and gives you plenty of things to do under a big West Texas sky.

If you're looking for authentic cowboy culture, stop by the **American Quarter Horse Association Museum** to discover the horse that tamed the American West. For an iconic Amarillo experience, come hungry to **The Big Texan Steak Ranch** for the legendary 72-ounce steak challenge. After eating your fill, check out Historic Route 66, along with the one and only **Cadillac Ranch**.

See our creative side with local art all over this great city. For performing arts, go deep in the "art" of Texas to experience performances in the **Globe-News Center for Performing Arts** and the **Amarillo Civic Center**. Local talent entertainment from the Amarillo Symphony Orchestra, the Lone Star Ballet, and the Amarillo Opera are scheduled all year long, as well as traveling off-broadway series and other top-rated shows.

While in town, take the family for hot dogs and baseball! The **Amarillo Sod Poodles**, nicknamed the Soddies, are a Minor League Baseball team of the Texas League and the Double-A affiliate of the Arizona Diamondbacks. They play their home games at **Hodgetown** in downtown Amarillo.

No matter what you do while you're here, you'll find a city of friendly, welcoming folks who make you feel at home when you walk through the front door. Come see us in Amarillo, and we'll keep you busy enough to wear out those boots.

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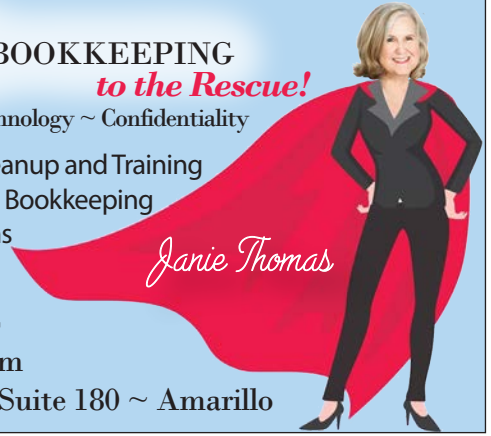
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THE UPBEAT REPORTER



Historical Homes

By Frances Frost
 Rev Realty Group of Fathom Realty LLC
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There are so many places to see and things to do in Amarillo, but if you're a Texas history buff (and an old home enthusiast), then you're in luck!

You definitely want to put the Charles and Mary Ann Goodnight Ranch on your list of "must see" houses. Located 40 miles east of Amarillo, on Highway 287, this charming 1887 home, served as the headquarters for the Panhandle's first cattle ranch. Step back into time and imagine living in this amazing ranch house when buffalo roamed the plains.

Make a visit to the "Harrington House," located right here in Amarillo, at 1600 S Polk St. Built in 1914 by cattlemen John and Pat Landergin, it was acquired by Don and Sybil Harrington in 1940. With exquisite materials and fine workmanship, this Neoclassical home will not disappoint enthusiasts of this era and architecture.

The next "home" isn't just a home, it's an entire community: Cal Farley's Boys Ranch. Founded in 1939 by Cal Farley, Boys Ranch is just 35 miles northeast of Amarillo on Highway 385. Visitors are welcome daily, and the Julian Bivins Museum is open from 8-5 every day (except on major holidays). There is a lot to see and explore, including the old Tascosa cemetery.

Whether you're a local or a tourist, these amazing properties are worth your time to see. Be sure to check them out!



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Sixth Street Association

By Karen Benckenstein

The Historic 6th Street on Route 66 Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to driving traffic to Historic Route 66 (particularly in Amarillo), pooling efforts and resources, and knowing the neighbors and their concerns. The association became an official organization in 2008 when a group of merchants and business owners joined together to promote, preserve, and protect the historic area.

Historic 6th Street is a 13 block stretch of road on 6th Street between Georgia and N Forest. It was originally built in the early 1900s, and has become a popular destination for shoppers, diners, and nightlife. The street was also a major stop on Route 66, the famous cross-country highway that ran from Chicago to Los Angeles.

This Amarillo-based association works to preserve and promote the history and culture of Historic 6th Street through a variety of programs and activities. The association hosts Saturday night "cruises" and festivals such as the Renaissance Festival the last Saturday in October. They are always looking for organizations to participate in festivals, particularly for children's activities, as well as anyone who wants to join the Association for just \$66/year. They promote tourism with painted signs, metal signs, branded trashcans, and the Route 66 logo painted on the nearby water tower. The efforts to raise money to create these visible markers have also raised visibility for the historic district.

The Historic 6th Street on Route 66 Association is partnering with Old Route 66 Association of Texas to produce a Motor Tour October 6-7, 2023. They also participated in the 10 day festival this June hosted by the Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB). The next 3 years, the CVB will be holding Route 66 festivals each summer culminating in the June 6, 2026 centennial celebration.



Texas Ivy Antiques/Dora & Andy Meroney

Texa Ivy Antiques located at 3511 W 6th Avenue was a single family dwelling until 1997 when it came under the ownership of Dora Meroney and her family. It is the oldest operating antique shop owned by the same family on the street, celebrating 26 years in 2023. Meroney is the Secretary Treasurer of the Association and a founding member. The shop has been under repairs since a fire in August of 2022, but never actually closed so that she could continue stamping Historic Route 66 Passports and posting pictures to Facebook of visitors with the logo sign in the front yard.



Historic 6th Street is a great place to visit for a day or a weekend. There is something for everyone on the street, and you're sure to have a great time.



Bob "Crocodile" Lile is an outspoken member of the Association and supporter of the entire Historic Route 66. He owns **Lile Art Gallery** located at 2719 SW 6th Avenue. This historic building once housed the San Jacinto Beauty School which received Texas' first beauty license. It is now home to an extensive art collection and the exclusive vendor of world famous Cadilite art and jewelry made from paint off Cadillac Ranch cars. Lile gathers the paint that has fallen off the historic cars then grinds them down to desired colors, using them to create a plethora of jewelry and art featuring local icons.



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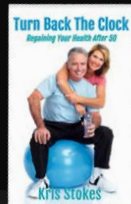


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Karen Benckenstein

Karen Benckenstein was a nonprofit executive and fundraiser for a decade. She is now a freelance writer in addition to being a wife and mom to 4 teenagers. Karen writes about ways to achieve wellness in mind, body, and spirit.



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