



BUILDING A LEGACY: Lee Lewis
Construction celebrates 40 years of projects. **F1**

LUBBOCK AVALANCHE-JOURNAL

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Military are still fighting struggles on the front and at home, as was the case with two Lubbock veterans — one killed by another in self-defense.

Battle scars

James Weideman, 64, below and right, remains shaken by the memories of the struggle he had with fellow veteran Jimmy Nguyen, in self defense. Weideman was taken to a local hospital with serious injuries. (A-J Media photos)



PEOPLE/Home invasion survivor talks PTSD, forgiveness after violent, fatal encounter

BY LUCINDA HOLT
A-J MEDIA

James Weideman wakes up in his Central Lubbock efficiency to the sound of shattered glass. Unable to sleep, the images of a fatal attack beside his bed haunt him as he replays the situation in his mind throughout the night.

Weideman, 64, remains shaken by the memories of early Thanksgiving morning when, he said, he killed a fellow veteran, 27-year-old Jimmy Nguyen, in self defense.

SEE SCARS, PAGE A6

US Marine veteran Jimmy Nguyen, above, was reportedly killed when he broke into a home early Thanksgiving. Loved ones say Nguyen may have suffered from PTSD. (submitted photo)



Beyond The Caprock

Heimlich maneuver creator dies at 96

CINCINNATI (AP) — The surgeon who created the life-saving Heimlich maneuver for choking victims died early Saturday in Cincinnati. Dr. Henry Heimlich was 96.

His son, Phil, said he died at Christ Hospital after suffering a heart attack earlier in the week. "My father was a great man who saved many lives," said Heimlich, an attorney and former Hamilton County commissioner. "He will be missed not only by his family but by all of humanity."

Heimlich was director of surgery at Jewish Hospital in Cincinnati in 1974 when he devised the treatment for choking victims that made his name a household word.

For more state, nation and world news, see pages A2-3, B2-3, B6, E3, E6, F2 and F5.

In Tomorrow's A-J

Pancho Clos makes his annual visit with Lubbock children. SECTION A

Words Of Inspiration

Father, you meet all our needs. You are perfect love, perfect joy and perfect peace. Thank you that you never give up on us. In Jesus' name. Jerry Beck, Lamesa

Obituaries

BARRERA, Lucia
CRAWFORD, Catherine
DURHAM, Charletta
HORN, Kenneth
HUNTER, Wilma
KNOTTS, Terry
LOVELESS, Sallie
MENDEZ, Romanaldo
OLIVAREZ, David
SCHLABACH, William

PAGE B3

On The Outside

Weather

Cold but sunny
High: 30
Low: 12
Tomorrow: Mix of clouds and sun, high 37, low 24.

BIG CHILL: Just how cold will it feel outside? PAGE B1

Find It Inside

Agriculture.....F5 Local.....B1-2
Anniversaries...E3 Lotteries.....B2
Arts.....E1-3,5 Markets.....F3
Books.....E5 Miss Manners...E4
Business.....F1-5 Movies.....A2, E1,5
Calendar.....E2 Obituaries.....B3
Classified.....D1-6 Outdoors.....C9
Crossword.....E4 Parade.....inside
Dear Abby.....E4 Savvy Shopper...F1,5
Dollars & Sports.....C1-8
Sense.....F2 Sudoku.....E4
Editorial.....B4-5 Weather.....B2



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Castle doctrine: Know when you can legally protect yourself

BY LUCINDA HOLT
A-J MEDIA

Military veteran Jimmy Nguyen's loved ones said he may have been confused when he broke into 64-year-old James Weideman's Central Lubbock home early Thanksgiving morning.

The 27-year-old was allegedly armed with a knife when, disoriented, he engaged a startled Weideman in a fight.

The two sparred for about 20 minutes before Weideman was able to end the attack, using the knife against Nguyen, who later succumbed to his injuries.

"I finally knew in my heart I only had about one minute of strength left," Weideman said. "I again prayed and told God, 'God, I only have one

SEE DEFENSE, PAGE A7

Duncan tells regents of Tech's growth, balance; mum on vet school

BY KAREN MICHAEL
A-J MEDIA

The 20th anniversary of the Texas Tech University System's creation inspired Chancellor Robert Duncan's remarks to the Tech System Board of Regents on Friday.

Duncan walked the regents through the system's progress, noting that it is now operating on a \$2 billion budget for the system's four component institutions, including TTU, TTU Health Sciences Center, TTUHSC El Paso and



Duncan

Angelo State University.

"We have now raised, in the 20 years we've been a system, we've raised over \$2 billion in philanthropy," Duncan said during the regents' meeting at the Tech Student Union Building.

After the meeting, Duncan also briefly talked with A-J Media about the Tech System's announcement

SEE REGENTS, PAGE A9

Goodfellows Contributors

In memory of Justin P. Haire by Johnny & Victoria Haire..... \$200
In memory of Anita Wierzba, Adolph Hanslik & Walther Mainz by Helmut Wierzba..... \$300
In memory of Kimberly King by Stephen and Marilyn King..... \$50
Brian and Claire Dulaney.....
..... \$200
For Leo, Ken and Bobby by Sarjlm How..... \$237
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Recipients: The Bridge of Lubbock; Buckner Children & Family Services; CASA of the SouthPlains; Food2Kids; Ronald McDonald House Charities; and Children's Home of Lubbock.

Advocates critical to CASA mission

BY LUCINDA HOLT
A-J MEDIA

In 2015, there were more than 1,200 children in the foster care system in the six counties covered by CASA of the South Plains.

With 398 children assigned to a long-term CASA advocate to see them through their case and speak on their behalf, Lauren Westerberg, interim executive director for CASA of the South Plains, said her hope is to see more volunteers, but the non-profit agency cannot do

that without the help of the community.

"Having a community member serve as a volunteer," Westerberg said, "is kind of the tenet to the success of our program because they bring so many different unique backgrounds, experiences and expertise that we as a staff maybe don't have."

While having the support of the community is critical to their cause, they also rely on monetary donations and grants.

SEE CASA, PAGE A8

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In Life Wednesday: Savvy Shopper Sean Fields shares his latest money-saving tips.

On The Web: Get the week's business headlines delivered to your email with the A-J Business Review.

Inside Business: Get the latest business news from Sunday's A-J's Dollars & Sense. Page F2

Learn more about the history of holiday shopping

While every era possesses unique characteristics, I think the 1970s had more than most. Pet rocks, shag carpeting, and leisure suits are just a few elements identified with this decade. With so many well known styles, catchphrases, and fads, it's only natural that a few of the memories should fall through the cracks. In particular, one frequently overlooked detail from this period was the ubiquity of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol."

As a kid, I felt like this play constituted every holiday school production and television special. An unfortunate side effect of all this overexposure was that I sold this classic short for far too long. However, knowing now how original and influential



SEAN FIELDS
SAVVY SHOPPER

it is, I realize what a towering achievement it was.

Remembering its ideas of Christmas past, present, and future got me thinking about holiday shopping through the ages:

— **How shopping became a part of Christmas** — Although some might imagine a far off time when Christmas was reverentially observed without the taint of worldly considerations, the reality is quite different. In fact, the holiday went

through three distinct phases after Europe was Christianized.

Before the 1600s, Christmas commonly consisted of intense celebrations like you might see at Mardi Gras. By the 17th century, devout leaders rose to power and viewed the existing festivities unfavorably. In England, Christmas was banned altogether after the Puritans took over in 1645.

Since America was settled by people with Puritanical beliefs around this time, Christmas was not even a holiday in most of the New World. In fact, for several years, the celebration of Christmas was outlawed in Boston with violations carrying fines.

It was only in the 1800s that Christmas experienced a revival in the English speaking

world. With the advent of books like "A Christmas Carol," the holiday became an occasion that extolled charity and goodwill. From that point, America started to embrace and adopt this observance.

With the works of Dickens and others as a guide, gift giving became a part of the festivities.

— **Christmas Cards** — As interwoven into the Christmas fabric as cards are, they only came about in 1843! In that year, a total of 2,050 cards were printed and sold. Although Christmas card usage has declined slightly in recent years, 1.9 billion cards were sent in America in 2005.

— **Christmas Trees** — While it is commonly known that Christmas trees originated in Germany, they didn't become popular

in England and America until Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's German-born husband, popularized them in the middle of the 19th century. Presently, Americans buy as many as 35 million Christmas trees annually.

— **Black Friday** — Different theories exist for origin of the term. One explanation is that department stores only start to turn an annual profit (aka, go into the "black") on this day, hence the name. Given retailer's significant markups, it is fair to say that this account can be dismissed out of hand. In fact, the actual birth of this phrase can be traced to the city of brotherly love in the 1930's. With the Army-Navy game taking place in

SEE HISTORY, PAGE F5



DENISE MARQUEZ
MY VIEW

Shopping center to be on Indiana Avenue

A couple of new businesses are set for construction in Lubbock, including a new retail center at Indiana Avenue, a new Whataburger and a new car wash at Quaker Avenue. A preschool under construction at 98th Street is planned to open in the summer.

Cooper Plaza Retail Center

A new shopping center is planned to be built at 11806 Indiana Ave. The new shopping center will be about 12,250 square feet. Cooper Plaza is planned to be completed in May 2017 and will offer space for new retail stores.

New Whataburger

A popular Texas restaurant chain will open another location in the Hub City. Whataburger plans to build its new restaurant at 11441 Quaker Ave. This is Whataburger's ninth location in Lubbock, according to the company's website.

Mighty Wash

The car wash business is opening a new location at 4444 S. Loop 289, near Quaker Avenue. This is Lubbock's fourth Mighty Wash location. The original Mighty Wash opened at 82nd Street and Milwaukee Avenue in February 2012.

Mighty Wash offers car washes, interior services and simple mechanical services.

Children's Orchard Academy

The new private preschool is planned to open at 5015 98th St. The school provides early education and child care. Children's Orchard Academy's mission is to focus on its students' academic progress and train them in the principles of the Bible, according to its website.

The school is planned to open in the summer.

Denise Marquez is the business reporter for A-J Media. Contact her at denise.marquez@lubbockonline.com

40 years

Lee Lewis Construction has tackled projects big and small

BY DENISE MARQUEZ
A-J MEDIA

A Lubbock construction company is celebrating 40 years of work, which includes projects such as the Overton Hotel and Conference Center, the Dallas Convention Center, Toyota Stadium in Frisco and Walt Disney World's MGM Studios in Orlando.

Lee Lewis founded his construction company in 1976 in Lubbock as Lee Lewis General Contractor Inc. In 1990, the company's name was changed to Lee Lewis Construction Inc.

Lewis, a Texas Tech graduate, said the company has seen years of success due to his dedicated employees, the company's solid reputation and clients who have returned continuously for his company's services.

In the past 40 years, Lee Lewis Construction has had thousands of project locations and completed more than 2,000 projects throughout the U.S. The company also experiences about 85 percent repeat business.

"We're a major player in the United States, we're a major player in Texas and we're certainly the largest here (in Lubbock) by far," Lewis said. "Our success (comes from) the clients that we serve and take care of, whether it's a Slim Chickens to a Monsanto plant — all of them are just as important to us. It is the client we are serving and we know the future it creates for us. It doesn't matter what size of job that it is."

Lewis was exposed to the construction business at an early age



Lee Lewis, Lee Lewis Construction Inc. owner, is celebrating his company's 40th anniversary. Lewis, a Texas Tech graduate, said the company has seen years of success due to his dedicated employees, the company's solid reputation and the clients that have returned continuously for his company's services. (Denise Marquez / A-J Media)



Lee Lewis Construction Inc. built Walt Disney's Grand Floridian Hotel Convention Center, which provides more than 40,000 -square-foot of space, two ballrooms and a business center. (submitted photos)

by helping his father, a Lubbock contractor.

"We had to go to work from the seventh grade up," Lewis said. "My father was also a tough contractor. I was actually a competitor of my father when I started my company. He taught me all the values of hard work, to do it right and honestly. That's one thing he did teach me. He was a good builder."

Lee Lewis Construction started small, but as the years went by clients started coming in from across the nation. Lewis said that projects with clients such as Lamar Hunt, Kansas City Chiefs founder, and Drayton McClane

Jr. of the McClane Group, helped his business get to where it is today.

Hunt had Lee Lewis Construction build the Toyota Stadium in Frisco, and the Lubbock construction company built several of the McClane Group's distribution centers and its headquarters in Temple.

Steady growth

Lewis also landed a job with Walt Disney when, he said, he walked into its offices in Florida and asked who was in charge of the new MGM Studios project.

SEE LEWIS, PAGE F4

The Overton Hotel and Conference Center was built by Lee Lewis Construction Inc.



Business Profile Lewis started company when he was 21

Name: Lee Lewis.
I am from: Lubbock.
Occupation: Lee Lewis Construction Inc. CEO and president.
Website: www.leelewis.com.



Lewis

How I ended up in this business: It is often said that people "go with what they know" and that is exactly what I did. I grew up around construction, so after I graduated, I started my own company. I was 21 and fearless.

The one thing I enjoy most about my work: The one thing that I enjoy more than anything else is seeing a project completed; although, it is probably not for the reason you think. The feeling that I get when I see an owner's vision come to life is indescribable. When you think about the countless hours put into a project — from the workmen physically building the project, to the architects who've designed it — the strength, care and attention to detail that connects people from all walks of life together on one tangible project never ceases to amaze me. I am blessed to see all phases of the project, and I get to build relationships with all of the people involved — from the workmen to the owner.

My business philosophy is: When I began this company 40 years ago, I had two goals in mind: build high quality structures that stand the test of time and develop relationships that last. Lee Lewis Construction Inc. wouldn't be where it is today without the relationships that our team has built and continues to build; 85 percent of our projects are through repeat business. At the end of the day, your reputation is the single most important thing it is your legacy.

What Lubbockites may not know about Lee Lewis Construction: Lubbockites may not know that Lee Lewis Construction is one of the largest companies in the United States. In addition to our main office here in Lubbock, we have two satellite offices in Dallas and Austin. Our company is rooted in West Texas and Lubbock — I am proud to call Lubbock home and strive to represent it well.

SEE PROFILE, PAGE F4

Construction Around Town

Commercial Construction			
Contractor	Location	Project	Value
Links Construction	Chick-fil-A, West End, 3210 W. Loop 289	4,983 sq. ft.	\$850,000
Clearview Custom Homes	Garden office building, 12219 Quaker Ave.	4,007 sq. ft.	\$700,000
Tommy Klein UMC	SWCC Pediatric Clinic remodel, 602 Indiana Ave.	550 sq. ft.	\$226,463
Clearview Custom Homes	Garden office building, 12419 Quaker Ave.	3,396 sq. ft.	\$400,000

Residential Construction			
Contractor	Location	Project	Value
Roten Homes, Inc.	Willow Bend, 8702 16th St.	1,266 sq. ft.	\$130,400
Roten Homes, Inc.	Willow Bend, 8706 16th St.	1,318 sq. ft.	\$135,750
Ironwood Master Crafters	Estates at Vintage, 12001 Utica Ave.	4,393 sq. ft.	\$850,000
David Rogers Homes	Enclave at Kelsey Park, 3909 137th St.	3,167 sq. ft.	\$436,500
Taber Properties, LLC	Vintage Township, 4606 121st St.	1,763 sq. ft.	\$265,000
Betenbough Homes	Quincy Park, 7214 91st St.	2,350 sq. ft.	\$211,875
Betenbough Homes	Windstone at Upland, 7429 102nd St.	1,550 sq. ft.	\$146,000
Betenbough Homes	Quincy Park, 7105 92nd St.	2,350 sq. ft.	\$211,875
Betenbough Homes	Windstone at Upland, 7426 102nd St.	2,050 sq. ft.	\$180,250
Betenbough Homes	Milwaukee Ridge, 3501 Saratoga Ave.	1,760 sq. ft.	\$178,220
Betenbough Homes	Quincy Park, 9708 Ridgely Ave.	2,361 sq. ft.	\$222,075
Betenbough Homes	Windstone at Upland, 7421 102nd St.	1,451 sq. ft.	\$128,450
Caliber Homes	Estates of Kelsey Park, 4011 139th St.	2,743 sq. ft.	\$458,000
Roten Homes	Willow Bend, 8704 16th St.	1,275 sq. ft.	\$131,350
Shelden Construction	Cambridge Way, 7614 86th St.	1,619 sq. ft.	\$142,900
Flatland Home Company	The Ridge, 7032 103rd St.	2,140 sq. ft.	\$289,000
Artistry Homes	Valencia, 6302 87th St.	2,032 sq. ft.	\$243,000
Brad Douglas Homes	Fountain Hills Estates, 10304 Justice Ave.	2,838 sq. ft.	\$450,000
Sunset Custom Homes	Cambridge Way, 7506 86th St.	1,482 sq. ft.	\$179,000
Mystique Homes	Cambridge Way, 7802 86th St.	1,933 sq. ft.	\$207,800
Tim Green Homes	Overton Park, 2104 Ninth St.	1,825 sq. ft.	\$253,000
Wheatley Custom Homes	Western Meadows Gardens, 5006 56th St.	1,964 sq. ft.	\$150,000
Wheatley Custom Homes	Western Meadows Gardens, 5008 56th St.	1,964 sq. ft.	\$150,000
Wheatley Custom Homes	Western Meadows Gardens, 5010 56th St.	1,964 sq. ft.	\$150,000
Wheatley Custom Homes	Western Meadows Gardens, 5004 56th St.	1,964 sq. ft.	\$150,000
Wheatley Custom Homes	Western Meadows Gardens, 5002 56th St.	1,964 sq. ft.	\$150,000

Sales Tax Licenses

New sales tax licenses issued in Lubbock by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts for the week ending Dec. 11:

Rodney Alfreddie EPPS Sr., PO Box 9411	Aurelien D Noumangue, 5416 Harvard St., Apt B
Twisted Spigot 2801 LLC, 411 University Ave., Suite 100	Viva Kids, L.L.C., 6604 Itasca St. Leonard E Pressley, 9601 Detroit Ave.
Small Town Auto Sales LLC, PO Box 54402	Lone Star Strength, LLC, 8901 US 87, SPC 13
Studio Honeybee LLC, 6142 38th St. Reymundo Ramos, 5421 32nd St. Kelly B Marble, 3519 34th St.	Matthew Lee, 10601 Dixon Ave. Rough 2 Rustic Custom Decor, LLC, 2313 95th St.
Elena H Vargas, 1302 59th St. Paragaph Ranch LLC, 1923 29th St. Barbara A Brannon, 1923 29th St. Sherri S Temple, 2103 54th St. Matthew Ryan Ballentine, 3305 59th St.	Signature Fence Co., LLC, 8207 Ithaca Ave., Suite C Tallman Designs, LLC., 6901 95th St. Coyote Candle Company, LLC, 14012 FM 1730
Cramor, LLC, 3305 66th St. c/o REMCO Suite 1	Grisworld & Grisworld, LLC, 4414 82nd St., Unit 202
S&P Quality Services 3409 32nd St. Hub City Title, LLC, 5502 58th St., Suite 400	Sandra K Mauldin, 6014 88th Place. West Texas Building Products Sales and Installation, 5301 Chicago Ave., Apt 5203
Austex Landscape, LLC, PO Box 16794	David J Mead, 6702 90th St.

LEWIS

FROM PAGE F1

“I sat down, talked with him and one thing led to another,” Lewis said. “We enjoyed a tremendous success at Walt Disney World. It couldn’t have been a better relationship. I never dreamed our company would be building at Disney.”

Business for Lee Lewis Construction continued to grow as the company expanded with offices in Dallas and Austin and was named Dallas Contractor of the Year by the Dallas Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Other projects Lee Lewis Construction has landed include \$500 million worth of new high schools in Frisco, Grand Prairie’s \$100 million indoor water-themed park and recreational facility and several municipal facilities and hospitals. In addition, Lee Lewis Construction has continually been the No. 1 educational builder in Texas.

Liz Lonngren, Lee Lewis Construction executive vice president, said the company has seen steady growth due to those high-profile projects, but has also been successful because of its smaller projects.

“We do tons of small projects for many of our local clients here in town and we do a lot of school district work all over the state and a ton of it right here,” Lonngren said. “Some of the fun jobs, in my mind, is when we get into some of these smaller school districts and you re-

ally become part of their town and their family. We have a lot of fun in the smaller districts. Looking at some of these large national clients that come in, we earn their business here. They have other ones (contractors) who they could bring in but we work hard and earn their business. I think that’s just from our reputation and how we deliver our services.”

Lewis said the success of the company also comes from his hardworking team and their attitude.

“I’m just a name out there, but what’s made the company what it is is the employees ... their dedication and their commitment,” he said.

‘Like a family’

Lee Lewis Construction employs about 400 people. Lewis and Lonngren said there is low turnover with their employees and those employees have helped build the company’s respectable reputation.

“We have some of the guys that opened the doors with (Lee) who are still here,” Lonngren said. “When people come they stay. It’s a very good company and it’s like a family. One of the things Lee always talks about is the success of the company and that it is only as good as it is because of our employees.”

Eddie McBride, Lubbock Chamber of Commerce president and CEO, applauds Lee Lewis Construction and all of its success in the past 40 years, and especially for the work the company has done in Lubbock.

“Lee Lewis Construction built a foundation in Lub-

Beautification

Three Lubbock churches were recognized for beautification efforts by City-Wide Pride:

Bethany Baptist Church, 4402 40th St., Word Aflame United Pentecostal Church, 6901 82nd St., and City View Christian Fellowship, 4501 Milwaukee Ave.

Bankruptcy Filings

U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT JUDGE ROBERT JONES CHAPTER 7
Jason Alan Kula, filed Dec. 9.

bock that provided steady growth and development for their business,” McBride said. “Lee Lewis Construction also plays an integral part in Lubbock’s growth as seen by all the work done at Texas Tech University and in the local school districts, health care, churches and retail, just to name a few. We congratulate them on an outstanding 40 years in the Lubbock community and look forward to working with them the next 40-plus years.”

Lee Lewis Construction is tackling several projects in Lubbock, including the new 500,000-square-foot Monsanto facility just off of I-27 and FM 5800 and the new Buddy Holly Hall of Performing Arts and Sciences that is planned to be built near Avenue L and the Marsha Sharp Freeway.

Lewis said he is thrilled with all the work the company has been involved in throughout the years and hopes to tackle even more projects in the years to come.

“If we had more people we could have twice the amount of work,” Lewis said. “It’s incredible what’s knocking on our doors. It’s incredible the owners out there that believe in us and support us. The next 40 years we want steady growth and hope it just continues on. We never set a goal, steady growth just happened on its own. This year we will have over \$1 billion in contracts.”

“I’m just getting started!” Lewis added. “It’s fun, exciting times; but truthfully, it’s been that way ever since we’ve started.”

PROFILE

FROM PAGE F1

The best advice I’ve ever received: Something that has always stuck with me is what my first banker, Wayne Finnell, told me when I was first getting started: “Cinch by the inch, hard by the yard ... Don’t trade old friends for new friends.” I took those words to heart and implemented them into my daily life. I never dreamed that Lee Lewis Construction Inc. would be where it is today: I literally took it one day at a time, one project at a time, one owner at a time. Success doesn’t happen overnight; you have to take it

Business Bulletin

Cochran named UW board chairman

Glenn Cochran, Lubbock Area United Way president and CEO, was recently elected board chairman of United Ways of Texas and will begin his term in January.

United Ways of Texas serves 70 local United Ways across the state. Each year, the Texas United Way network makes total financial investments of more than \$347 million. More than \$297 million comes from local fundraising campaigns. United Ways of Texas focuses on policy issues related to education, financial stability, health and the nonprofit sector. “It is an honor to chair this organization, especially at a time when there are so many important issues to be considered in the upcoming Texas legislative session,” said Cochran. “I look forward to continuing to work with our volunteers and staff to help make lasting changes in the communities our local United Ways serve.”

Cochran has served as CEO of the Lubbock Area United Way for 22 years. In November, the local organization announced that it had surpassed its annual campaign goal and received more than \$6 million in contributions for the first time.

Duncan new VP; Miller gets honor

Marc McDougal, McDougal Companies CEO, recently announced Doug



Duncan



Miller

Duncan as vice president of McDougal Realtors. McDougal Companies also announced David Miller, McDougal Construction president, has been named 2016 Texas Association of Home Builders Developer of the Year.

Duncan started his career selling luxury homes in 2005 in the Hill Country of Texas after graduating from Abilene Christian University. He is a father to two girls and husband to Rebecca. His focus is recruiting leadership candidates, training real estate agents.

Miller has traveled the state representing the residential construction interests at local home builders’ associations, school district meetings, state legislative hearings and business forums. Since House Bill 5 passed in 2013, Miller has been an advocate of its necessity and importance in local schools and to local school children. Currently, he is volunteering his time as TAB’s Association Planning Committee chairman where he works with the volunteer leadership and staff to develop a future road map for the association.

Workforce Solutions award at conference

The West Texas Intermediate Sanction Facility received the Local Employer Award of Excellence for the Workforce Solutions South Plains area at the



The West Texas Intermediate Sanction Facility received the Local Employer Award of Excellence for the Workforce Solutions South Plains area at the Texas Workforce Commission’s 20th Annual Texas Workforce Conference held Dec. 7-9 in Houston.

Texas Workforce Commission’s 20th Annual Texas Workforce Conference held Dec. 7-9 in Houston.

“The TWC Annual Conference celebrates and recognizes exceptional performance by employers who have not only partnered with Workforce Solutions South Plains, but also contributed to their community,” said Martin Aguirre, Workforce Solutions South Plains CEO. “Awards are presented to local workforce boards such as ours for exceptional achievement in various categories. We were honored to represent the South Plains and receive two cash awards that will enhance our activities.”

West Texas ISF is a for-profit correctional facility housing 289 inmates and employing 55 staff members. The facility’s correctional philosophy is to rehabilitate through education and it offers a cognitive intervention program to assist offenders in understanding the negative impact of poor behavioral choices and gain employment upon re-entry into the community.

South Plains was also recognized for outstanding Board performance, receiving a \$75,000 Child Care Quality Incentive award. The TWC Performance Incentive awards recognize boards that display increased accountability and improved efficiencies. South Plains was recognized for outstanding board performance, receiving the Industry Sector Outreach award for positive impact helping employers address workforce shortages in targeted occupations. South Plains was awarded \$30,000 to support services in this area. Monetary awards for achievement in these categories will be used to enhance workforce and child care service programs during the next year.

Wal-Mart, Sam’s raise \$73K for UMC Children’s Hospital

Local Wal-Mart and Sam’s Club associates, customers and members recently wrapped up a seven-week campaign, collecting \$73,913.80 on behalf of UMC Children’s Hospital.

The fundraiser is part of a national campaign for Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals, which resulted in nearly \$37 million for member hospitals across the country. Donations were made from Aug. 29-Oct. 16, as Wal-Mart and Sam’s Club associates at 14 locations held various in-store fundraising activities and asked customers and members at the register to help kids live better.

“This generous gift will go a long way to help the families we serve have

a happy holiday,” said Kathy Reasoner, director of the Children’s Miracle Network program at UMC Children’s Hospital. “We extend our sincere gratitude to the many Lubbock-area Walmart and Sam’s Club associates who helped to make this donation a reality.”

Wal-Mart and Sam’s Club associates have collected nearly \$1 billion for sick and injured children since partnering with the charity in 1987. Funds raised through Walmart and Sam’s Club impact each of the 170 Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals, which treat one in 10 children across North America. Hospitals utilize the funds based on what they need most — typically providing lifesaving equipment and research, supporting top therapy programs and providing charitable care.

McDowell named Centennial BANK VP

C. Brett McDowell, Centennial BANK chief lending officer, recently announced Kathy McDowell was hired as vice president/director of marketing.

“After a thorough search for just the right fit for this critical role, Kathy emerged as our leading candidate and was definitely worth the wait,” said McDowell, the chief lending officer and no relation. “Her banking and entrepreneurial experience will be key in enhancing the presence of Centennial BANK in each of our markets for the benefit of our clients and stakeholders. Speaking on behalf of our executive management team and board of directors, we are proud to welcome someone of Kathy’s caliber to the Centennial family.”

McDowell graduated from Texas Tech with a bachelors of arts in public relations. She has more than six of her 10 years in the field in the marketing department of another Texas community bank. She and her husband Dustin are the parents of Brody and are actively involved with the Cooper West Teacher Parent Team. A member of the Young Professionals of Lubbock, the McDowells own a local home theater, automation and security systems business.

“Upon learning of this opportunity, I was eager to make the partnership a reality,” said McDowell. “I was ready to return to the community banking world to get back into the business of impacting markets across Texas while raising my family here in Lubbock.”

community. However, when I was younger, I always thought it would be cool to be a jet pilot in the Air Force!

I wish I knew how to: I wish I knew how to sing and play piano. Wouldn’t it be neat to see a piano and be able to sit down and say “Let me play you a little something ...”

If I could change one thing about Lubbock, it would be: Absolutely nothing. Lubbock and its people have been very kind to me.

When I retire, I plan to: The only way that is going to happen is when they shut my coffin!

“inch by inch.”

The person I most admire is: My mother — she taught me compassion, honesty and humility. She instilled in me the importance of one’s reputation.

My family: I have two wonderful sons who I admire greatly. Ryan is a doctor here in Lubbock and Anthony is a leader in our Dallas office. Both have made me extremely proud to be their father.

If I could be anything, I’d be: At this point in my life, there is nothing else that I would want to do. I have been very fortunate to meet some amazing people, travel and support my com-