



Celebrating the Women in Business of Bastrop County

By Mary Lou Gil and Julianne Hodges

In the midst of this unprecedented year, we’re focusing on some of the business and community leaders in Elgin and around Bastrop County. These women are committed to making their communities a brighter place as they work behind the scenes to coordinate great events and projects.

Gena Carter

Gena Carter is the president of the Chamber of Commerce, and she has been with the Chamber for 18 years. Her plans were to retire in February of this year, but due to COVID-19, she is committed to helping out with the pandemic and will postpone her retirement to late fall.



Gena Carter – Elgin



Sonia Browder – Elgin



La’Richer Parks – Elgin



Becki Womble – Bastrop



April Daniels – Smithville



Amy Miller – Elgin

This has been the most challenging event of Carter’s career while working at the Chamber. The pandemic has taken a toll to local downtown businesses. She has taken on

the challenge as she seeks ways to help local businesses keep their doors open. “We have had to pivot our business plan, learn to be more creative and

do more tasks remotely,” she wrote. “Our main priority is helping other businesses and organizations in the community.” When asked what was her most memorable mo-

ment in her career, Carter says it was the year of the Bastrop fires and Hurricane Harvey. She was amazed by how the community came together to help with the disaster.

She said other chambers of commerce in the surrounding area banded together, along with school districts and government officials, to help with the disaster. There was a spirit of unity, and this is something she will never forget. Her greatest accomplishment has been giving back to the community and creating different events for the members of the Chamber. She knew that, by giving of her time, she would help build a stronger community and she would help Elgin to grow. “I have the best job in Elgin!” Carter wrote. “I get to tell people how great Elgin is and work with amazing people in our community.”

See **FEATURE**, Page 4B

Jeanette Shelby Realty & Property Management Jeanette Shelby – Owner, Broker & Realtor

Tell me a little about yourself and your position at Jeanette Shelby Realty.
My dad grew up on Travis Heights in Austin and my mom in Taylor. We moved to Los Angeles when I was a child

because of his job transfer. I always missed Texas, however, and came back with my dog, Greta when I was 18. I moved to Elgin in 1984, got my real estate license in 1980 and started my company in 1990.

How do you achieve work/life balance?
As anyone who is self-employed will say “what work/life balance”? I work approximately 50-60 hours a week and then spend several hours a week in

the evenings at the Lions Thrift Shop as the “book lady”. I also like to hike, kayak, and paddleboard with Casper, the Cutest Dog in the World. **What does your job position entail and how did you get there?**

My job position is Owner/Broker of my company. My job is to manage the company, making sure that repairs are being taken care of, bills paid, that everyone is being communicated with. I list and sell prop-

erty and am also the main person along with my assistants, in dealing with the property management side of the business.

See **SHELBY**, Page 11B

Kelly Koenning - Realtor/ Broker Associate

I am a home-grown Texan, Born and raised in Elgin, Tx. I have been helping buyers and sellers with all their real estate needs since 2002 in all areas around Elgin, including Bastrop, Manor, Taylor, Round Rock,

Pflugerville and Austin. Specializing in Residential and Farm and Ranch sales. In my spare time, I love spending time with Husband Newy, and son Cody, Playing golf and watching all types of sports plus cheering on

the Elgin Wildcats! I love supporting my hometown in many ways, having grown up in Elgin I can tell you lots of stories! Thinking of selling your home? Call me today for a Market Analysis.

Sandy Smith, Realtor

Tell me a little about yourself and your position at Jeanette Shelby Realty.
I’ve been a REALTOR for almost 20 yrs with Jeanette Shelby Realty. I grew up as a military brat & moved around a lot. Settled in Elgin 1996. Married. One son in law enforcement.

How do you achieve work/life balance?
Most of the time they merge together. My husband and I try to schedule camping trips often as possible to recharge. **What does your job position entail and how did you get**

there?
Practice, experience, time, and supportive team and family. Job involves customer service, knowledge, math, patience, empathy, negotiation, photography, flexibility, etc, etc, etc!!!

See **SMITH**, Page 11B

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Community Leaders of Bastrop.....1B	Candace Elliott.....6B	DBQ Strategies.....9B
Jeanette Shelby REALTY ®.....1B	Chemn Cafe.....6B	ETX Travel.....9B
Winkler & Company.....3B	Dolores Lundgren.....6B	First National Bank of Bastrop.....9B
Elgin General Store.....3B	We Logo Anything.....6B	Frontier Bank.....12B
Elgin Smiles Dental.....3B	Dr. Lauren Schwerdfeger.....7B	Rainey Real Estate.....14B
Sterling & Associates.....4B	Nancy Keys, Locks & More.....7B	
All City Real Estate.....6B	The Open Room.....7B	

An award winning team with 80+ years of combined experience specializing in:

- Residential
- Land/Lots
- Property Management
- Farm & Ranch
- Commercial
- Rentals

FULL-SERVICE AGENTS THAT GET YOU HOME!

409 N Main, Elgin, Tx
Office: 512-281-3412
www.jeanetteshelbyrealty.com

KELLY KOENNING
Realtor/Broker Associate

SANDY SMITH
Realtor

JEANETTE SHELBY
Broker/Realtor

Se Habla Español



The #1 Top Producing Agents In The Area



When results matter, contact the Real Estate Company with the best track record in the area! With over 36 years of experience, our top producing, caring Realtors can handle all of your Real Estate needs!



NANCY NAVARRETTE

WENDY PASKET

LITZY VIDALES

Quality Nutrition for any size pet!

★ POULTRY ★ GOATS ★ EQUINE ★ CATTLE & MUCH MORE

Monday-Friday 8am-7pm • Saturday-Sunday 8am-6pm

1155 DILDY DRIVE • ELGIN • 512-285-3210

*The Only Thing Brighter
Than Our Smiles is Our Staff!*



Sandra Robertson

Elgin Smiles
DENTAL CARE

RANDY ROBERTSON, DDS
1309 North Avenue C | Elgin, Texas 78621
www.elginsmilesdental.com

512-281-4260

Schedule your appointment today!



Natasha



Nicole



Renee



Gina

Sandy Menley – Winkler & Company Realtors, Menley Group

Tell me a little about yourself and your position at Winkler & Co.

For the past 36 years, I have worked for or owned Winkler and Company Realtors, Menley Group. Prior to that I was the Member Services Advisor for Bluebonnet Electric and prior to that a Business Office Supervisor for Southwestern Bell.

How do you achieve work/life balance?

I'm not sure I know how to spell balance! Real Estate is my life and I spend most of my time working in one form or another. When you are enjoying your work, sometimes it is difficult to tell the difference between work and enjoyment. I do really enjoy traveling, riding my horses and taking care of my cattle. Even when riding, I have a holster with my phone and take care of my clients on the trail!

What does your job position entail and how did you get there? What's unique about the service you provide?

Real Estate is more about listening and hearing what my clients' needs are than anything else... it is also about problem solving so that I can help them get to the place they want to



be... And that's what is unique about what I do... my clients and their needs come first and I work very hard to serve them. I am blessed to have had clients stay with me for 36 years and then to serve them and their families.

How do you motivate yourself and stay motivated?

My clients motivate me. I have been consistently the

number one selling agent in the area for the past 35 years. Knowing I am taking care of them and doing a good job motivates me. Their support and appreciation for the job I do just motivates me more ...

How did you get where you are today and who/what helped you along the way? Any mentors?

John Winkler was my mentor when I first started

Real Estate and he trained me well...my previous career with Southwestern Bell also taught me many of the skills that have helped me succeed in Real Estate.

As a mentor yourself, what advice do you want to give young women who want to succeed in the workplace?

I have mentored a number of young women along

the way...my message to them has always been to rely on their brain to help them succeed...to work hard, to be independent and to think for themselves. There is something to be learned from every experience, good or bad, that helps us to be better in the future.

How has the COVID-19 pandemic effected your business?

While things are different, we are still very busy. For a couple of weeks it was quiet while we all digested what was going on. We are doing our work, but very carefully. Showing homes in a mask and gloves with alcohol wipers is a new experience, but certainly doable. There is definitely a lack of inventory and an abundance of buyers. People are discovering what a great place Elgin is!

Elgin General Store – Our Hard-Working Ladies

Litzy Vidales

Tell me a little about yourself and your position at Elgin General Store.

I have lived in Elgin all my life. I am currently a student at Texas State.

How do you achieve work/life balance?

I try to stay active and workout to destress. It also helps me get my mind off of work.

What does your job position entail and how did you get there?

I am a clerk helping out customers with any animal health questions they may have. I have learned a lot from my co-workers.

What's unique about the service you provide?

I am a bilingual speaker, so I am able to help out a little more with customers.

What's a typical day look like for you?

I ring out customers for any feed or animal health supplies they may need.

How do you motivate



yourself and stay motivated?

I try to stay positive in the hard times and think about the better times.

How did you get where you are today and who what helped you along the way? Any mentors?

My manager, Wendy, has always been around to make me feel safe and confident in my work environment.

As a mentor yourself, what advice do you want to give young women who want to succeed in the workplace?

Don't let a bad moment ruin your day! Stay positive.

How has the COVID-19 pandemic effected your business?

n/a

Nancy Navarrette

Tell me a little about yourself and your position at Elgin General Store.

I am a clerk helping customers out when they need it. I was raised in Elgin, Texas.

How do you achieve work/life balance?

I keep an active lifestyle outside of work. It helps me to balance both work and play.

What does your job position entail and how did you get there?

I am a clerk that helps out the customers with any of their animal health questions they might have. I have learned a lot from my co-workers.

What's unique about the service you provide?

I'm bi-lingual, so I'm able to help others feel welcome at the store.

What's a typical day look like for you?

I ring out customers for any feed or health supplies they need.

How do you motivate yourself and stay



motivated?

I've always had a motivated mindset. I've learned to get things done through hard work and patience.

How did you get where you are today and who/what helped you along the way? Any mentors?

I got where I am today by staying motivated and keeping a positive mindset.

As a mentor yourself, what advice do you want to give young women who want to succeed in the workplace?

Working hard can get you further in life.

How has the COVID-19 pandemic effected your business?

n/a

Wendy Pasket

Tell me a little about yourself and your position at Elgin General Store.

I am currently a student at Blinn College. I manage Elgin General Store for David Glass, owner.

How do you achieve work/life balance?

Work can be stressful if you allow it. You have to find something to clear your head when you leave the workplace. For me, working out and trying to live a healthier lifestyle has been a great release for me.

What does your job position entail and how did you get there?

My job entails ordering, receiving products and make sure customers are happy and the store runs smoothly.

What's unique about the service you provide?

I worked in the veterinary field for a few years. Having that experience has allowed me to provide more accurate information on what could help our customer's animals.

What's a typical day look like for you?

Most days I work eleven hours at the store. When I leave work I either try to hang out with friends



and family, but COVID-19 has made that, along with working out difficult.

How do you motivate yourself and stay motivated?

Honestly, setting goals for myself and following through with them. I also found that making checklists for the day helps achieve what you need to get done.

How did you get where you are today and who/what helped you along the way? Any mentors?

I got where I am today by staying motivated and keeping a positive mindset.

As a mentor yourself, what advice do you want to give young women who want to succeed in the workplace?

Working hard can get you further in life.

How has the COVID-19 pandemic effected your business?

n/a

Thank you for all you do Elgin Business Women!

Elgin Smiles Dental

Elgin Smiles Dental, the practice of Randy M. Robertson, DDS is proud to recognize the women of our truly amazing team! Our team truly cares about their patients and consistently strives to provide quality, reliable and safe services especially now

with COVID-19. We are following the CDC guidelines which consists of increased PPE (personal protective equipment), temperature checks and COVID-19 screenings. We are also seeing fewer patients per day to enhance the safety of our environment. This has

been very challenging for everyone but our team remains positive and continually focuses on everyone's health and safety!

Dr. Robertson's wife, Sandra, joined the practice over 26 years ago when he needed help transitioning from his

former Austin practice to Elgin. After many years of being the full time Office Manager, Sandra now works from home with her main focus being on accounting and marketing.

We are so thankful and blessed to have such a committed and caring

team, some who have been with us for over 20 years! We are very appreciative of having these amazing women who are focused on helping our patients, but also on helping our practice to grow in such trying times. These women have what it takes for

our dental practice to thrive!

We have adjusted our office hours to Monday – Thursday, 8 am to 3 pm with no lunch break due to COVID-19 and appreciate the understanding of all of our patients as we continue to best serve those in our community.

Cecilia Whitley, Sterling And Associates Owner/ REALTOR®

After retiring from the State of Texas with 34 years of service, 24 of those years with the Texas Senate serving as Director of Purchasing and ending her state career as Associate Commissioner for Procurement and Contracts for the largest Texas state agency, Health and Human Services, Cecilia decided to do something different. She knew she wanted to serve the community that she grew up in and where she raised her three boys. Contracts and helping people are her passion so she decided to go into Real Estate. She knew she needed to find mentors, so she sought out the absolute best to help her learn the business. She has hours upon hours of education in the real estate field and is not finished learning. She has earned designations and certifications to further be able to give the best advice and service to her clients: Graduate Real Estate Institute (GRI), Pricing Strategy Advisory (PSA), Real Estate Negotiation Expert (RENE), Seniors Real Estate Specialist (SRES), Certified Home Marketing Specialist (CHMS), Seller



Representative Specialist (SRS), and Short Sales and Foreclosure Resource (SFR). She enjoys working with buyers and sellers to educate them about the real estate process so they can make informed decisions about what is most likely the biggest investment in their life. From the beginning of her Real Estate career, Cecilia has

been recognized by the Bastrop County Board of Realtors as one of the top Selling Agents in Bastrop County. In April 2019, Cecilia decided to open Sterling and Associates and has assembled a professional, skilled, and experienced team to ensure you are receiving the best service whether you are buying or selling. She and

her husband own and operate a small ranch outside of Elgin, where she enjoys spending time with her 3 boys and their families and her 4 grandchildren. Patricia Tuffentsamer, Broker Associate moved to the Bastrop area in 2016 and has been a Realtor since 1998. She enjoys family time, traveling and church activities. When

she isn't assisting her clients with real estate needs, you can find her in her gardens or taking care of her animals. One of her passions is staging homes. She owns 2 warehouses full of furnishings and decor items to create stunning vignettes. Patricia loves the challenge of taking vacant spaces and turning them into eye catching rooms.

She was Broker/Owner at Landera Realty for 15 years and joined Sterling and Associates in March of 2020. She brings a wealth of area knowledge and experience with her. Patricia has served clients all over Central Texas from Houston to San Antonio to Temple, and we are thrilled she is part of our team. Stephanie Walsh, Transaction Coordinator, became licensed in 2013 and has been working with Sterling and Associates since September 2019. As a licensed realtor she understands every aspect of the real estate process and is a valuable asset in getting us to the closing table. Stephanie and her husband are expecting their first child in the fall. Jeraldine King, Office Manager, is charged with keeping the office running smoothly, managing files and working with our Transaction Coordinator to ensure deadlines and appointments are met. She also manages the office budget and works with service providers. In her spare time she spends time with her daughter traveling.

FEATURE ...

From Page 1B

The thing she will miss the most when she retires, she said, will be the people. They have become family, she also said, and it has been a pleasure and an honor working with so many amazing people in the community. She will continue to be part of Elgin's One Town, One Team, One Family.

Sonia Browder

Sonia Browder works on marketing and business development in Elgin for the Chamber of Commerce, promoting local businesses through various avenues such as social media, word-of-mouth and printed materials. Her and her brother founded Enye Creative, which has worked for the Chamber and the City of Elgin, and she has also served on several Elgin boards and committees. "This experience has helped me to build many good working relationships and introduced me to a great group of people that have become my friends," Browder wrote. "It has also allowed me to accumulate a collection of stories and photos that I cherish and share in my work." To stay motivated, she reads and listens to all kinds of books, subscribes to trade publications and follows creative people and entrepreneurs on social media. She also likes to travel by car and take in the scenes. Browder credits her fourth grade teacher, her father and the marketing director at a firm she worked for when first moving to Austin as her mentors. "Just do it," she would tell those who want to succeed. "Keep moving forward. Enjoy what you choose to do and do it to the very best of your abilities, and as long as you respect yourself and those around you and always offer some grace!"

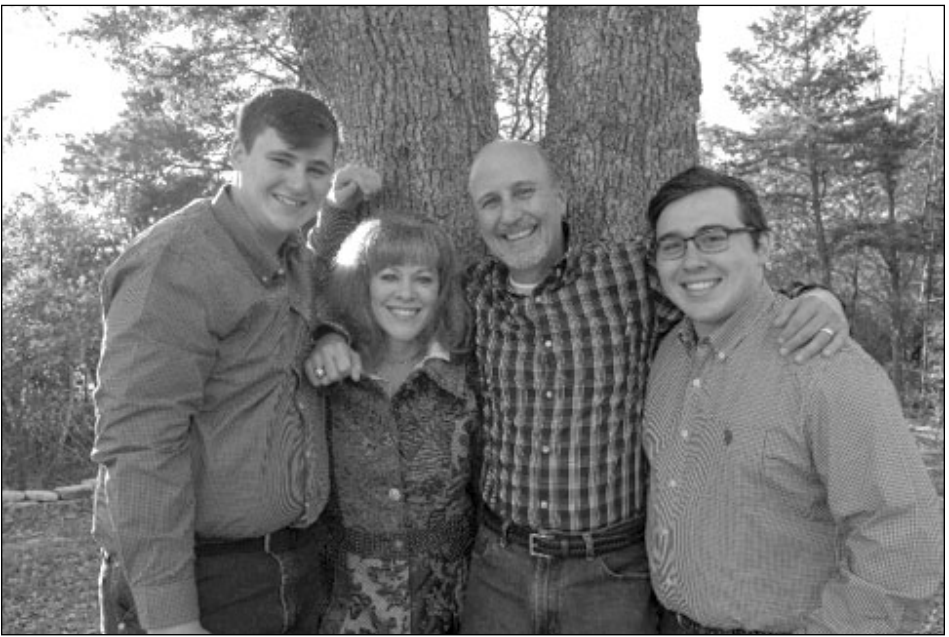
Amy Miller

Amy Miller moved to

Elgin in 1996 to become the Main Street Manager and Economic Development Director and has served in various roles over the years. Her job includes managing city community services, downtown revitalization and more. Miller's family is very supportive and understanding of the dedication that her work requires, and they are part of many of the things she does, such as the Hogeye Festival. "For our community, there is always another project, more stretches of sidewalk, that will make a great difference in our daily lives," she wrote. "I believe that it is important to do all that you can in the time you are given." She names her high school debate coach, her public administration professor, her mother, the volunteers she works with and a number of friends from Elgin as the mentors who have helped her along the way. "Speak up for yourself and understand that not everyone communicates the same way!" is the advice she would give. "Be open to new opportunities and change, as well as seeing the value that others bring to your workplace." When the COVID-19 pandemic reached Central Texas, Miller was named the city's public information officer. Over the past few months, she has worked to provide information to both people and businesses through the city's website and social media, and the Main Street Program has worked to support local businesses and promote safe practices. **La'Richer Parks** La'Richer Parks has been working for the City of Elgin for five years as the community service administrative assistant. She has coordinated many different events, such as the Sip, Shop and Stroll in Elgin. Parks says her greatest challenge while working as a coordinator is



planning the Hogeye Festival. It takes a lot of hard work and planning, but it's well worth the stress and long hours, she said. It is a joy being able to see it all come together, and seeing the community come out and join to support the downtown businesses. Throughout her career working in her position, she's learned to get out of her comfort zone. Parks says she's a shy person, but working there, she's learned to quickly overcome her shyness. In her line of work, she meets and contacts different people, and through this she has met many amazing people. "These are folks who have become my friends," she said. **Becki Womble** Becki Womble is the president and CEO of the Bastrop Chamber of Commerce. Right after college, she became an ambassador for the Abilene Chamber of Commerce, then worked for the Lockhart Chamber before taking the helm in Bastrop in 2014. There isn't a "typical" day at the Chamber, Womble said; each day has its own tasks and appointments, but the plan for the day can often change in response to Bastrop's active community, making for a fun environment to work in. "I live, breathe, eat and drink my work," she



wrote. "When I do unplug, I completely unplug." She stays motivated by staying away from negativity, and has a great support network as well. She has always surrounded herself with strong, uplifting and influential women, and she names a number of people from various chambers as her mentors. "The sky is the limit!" is the advice she would give. "Set your goals and go after them. You can have the career, family and the marriage you desire; it just takes balance and having goals." Womble said she has never prayed and worried about the Bastrop business community as much as she has during this pandemic. "As a Chamber, we are strong and our membership has been extremely supportive," she wrote.

"We will do everything we can to help businesses to restart, restore and rebound from COVID-19." **April Daniels** April Daniels has been the director of the Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce for nearly six years. In that time, the Chamber has nearly doubled in size and has dramatically expanded its mission. "We are proud of the work we've done to support our members and our community," she said. "The growth we've seen has been thanks in large part to the enthusiasm and hard work of our board, our members and our staff. We have amazing support from city leaders and the community as a whole." The pandemic has not dampened the spirits in Smithville, Daniels

continued. "We've been working hard to help our businesses and non-profits during these unprecedented times," she said. "From delivering signage and personal protective gear to giving out mini-grants to online classes and speakers to creating a brand new Chamber website and online shopping guide, we've been working hard to support our businesses." Daniels says she is committed to continuing to support the Smithville community for years to come. "I live and work in a magical place," she said. "I treasure my many friends, my two-minute commute, the walks down Main Street and the impromptu visits at the grocery store. Smithville truly is a big small-town experience!"



3 ways women can build and maintain professional networks

Established professionals often tout the importance of building strong networks. In fact, a 2017 global survey from LinkedIn found that nearly 80 percent of professionals consider professional networking to be important to their career success.

Professionals may see networking as a great way to land their next job, but establishing strong networks can pay dividends even for those people who have no immediate plans to leave their current companies. Small Business BC, a resource that caters to entrepreneurs in British Columbia, notes that successful networking can lead to referrals and new partnerships and raise the profiles of professionals and the companies they work for. The LinkedIn survey supports that notion, noting that one-quarter of professionals across the globe have established new business partnerships through LinkedIn Messaging. Of course, networking often helps people find new jobs as well, as the LinkedIn survey also found that 70 percent of people hired in 2016 found work at companies where they had existing connections.

Women can employ various strategies to build strong networks and maintain those networks once connections are established.

1. Join professional organizations.

Professional organizations provide great networking opportunities, serv-

ing as avenues to begin new business relationships. Many such organizations host annual conferences, and attending these conferences can help women maintain the relationships they develop through their participation in these groups. That's an important benefit, as the LinkedIn survey found that 38 percent of professionals admitted they find it hard to stay in touch with their network.


2. Offer help as much as you seek it.

The LinkedIn survey found that only 48 percent of professionals keep in touch with their networks when things are going well in their career. By reaching out to a network when things are going well, women are showing a willingness to offer help as much as seek it. That can lead to stronger, more easily maintained networks.

3. Schedule networking each week.

Build networking into your weekly schedule. Even the busiest professionals can find time each week to email someone in their network to see how things are going or share updates on previous collaborations. That's a quick and easy way to maintain connections.


The value of networking is undeniable. Women can take various steps to build strong networks and maintain those relationships for years to come.




BECKI WOMBLE, IOM
PRESIDENT / CEO

“ ”


With my first job out of college, I became an Ambassador for the Abilene Chamber of Commerce and fell in love with what Chambers do. I believe my job is to help make connections for our business community, advocate for them daily and always working to move Bastrop forward.




WWW.BASTROPCHAMBER.COM | 512.303.0558 | INFO@BASTROPCHAMBER.COM




Cecilia Whitley, Owner/REALTOR®




Patricia Tuffentsamer, Broker Associate



Stephanie Walsh, Transaction Coordinator



Jeraldine King, Office Manager






Sterling and Associates Real Estate represents the region's finest properties with exceptional skill using the most innovative technologies currently available. Years of full-time experience has given us a clear understanding of the importance of serving home buyers and sellers and a thorough understanding of the regional marketplace.

We strive to make a difference in our community every day.


SterlingAndAssociatesRealEstate.com

116 E. 1st Street, Elgin, TX

(512)285-6500 OFFICE



Residential | Farm & Ranch | Commercial | Leases



Debra Cole, Realtor - All City Real Estate

Tell me a little about yourself and your position.

I grew up in the Round Rock area and have lived in Elgin for 32 years. I have been a Realtor® for the last 20 years and worked as office manager for a real estate office in Manor previous to getting my license.

How do you achieve work/life balance?

Being a real estate agent can make it difficult to have a work/life balance! I attempt to keep my phone hours limited to 8am – 7pm M-Sat and typically leave Sundays for family and worship. Computer work is a different story though and sometimes runs way into the evening, but I also have the flexibility, at times, to have some free time during the day



for family.

What does your job position entail and how did you get there?

Being a Realtor® holds you to a high level of accountability to your clients. I love providing people with accurate information about the home buying/selling process which enables them to make the best decisions for their own unique situation. Helping people reach their dream of home

ownership is a very satisfying part of my job. I have always enjoyed helping people, so being a real estate agent fit right in with those values.

What's unique about the service you provide? My clients & I spend time together assessing their wants and needs in their home buying/selling process. By listening to these needs, it enables me to assist them in staying on track with their goals during the entire process. My clients are not just a “transaction”, each of them are important people that I want to help reach their dream of homeownership.

What's a typical day look like for you?

I start my day with tea and

my Bible, then spend a little quiet time planning my “have to’s” for the day, schedule showings with clients, and from there, it’s anybody’s guess as to what happens!

How do you motivate yourself and stay motivated? I motivate myself by knowing that there are people out there that need my help. I stay on track with systems that I have in place from a real estate coaching program, Buffini and Company, that I enrolled in when I first got my real estate license.

How did you get where you are today and who/what helped you along the way? Any mentors?

A fellow Realtor friend of mine took me under her wing and paid for me to go

to a Buffini event, telling me this was what I needed in order to develop good habits for my business – she was right! There have also been a couple of other people that taught me a lot about how to handle myself in real estate situations & negotiations.

As a mentor yourself, what advice do you want to give young women who want to succeed in the workplace?

Keep learning! Always be willing to listen, you can pick up a good nugget here & there that may help you in your journey. Be sure any advice you receive, or new innovation that comes along, aligns with your values & goals. If the plan doesn’t work, you may need

to change the plan – but NEVER the goal.

How has the COVID-19 pandemic effected your business?

It has certainly changed the way we do business. Showing homes has become very different in varying degrees depending on the comfort level of each person, which we discuss before scheduling. As a generality, we wipe down all surfaces being touched & hand sanitize before and after entering a home & of course wear our masks, some sellers may have additional requests that we do our best to honor. I feel we have all worked together extremely well in being flexible and respectful of each other’s requests.

15% OFF
ANY DRINK
(Good thru August 2020)

Coffee * Espresso * Cold Brew * Tea * Pastries * Light Bites

WiFi, Meeting Space, open Sip Shop & Stroll

HOURS: M-F 6A-6P, SA 8A-3P, SU 8A-1P

Keep updated via Instagram & Facebook - Chemn Cafe

114 N Main St, Elgin, TX 78621 | 512.827.9747

www.chemncafe.com

Empowering you with accurate real estate information so you can make the best decision possible for your own unique situation.

Chemn Cafe

Tell me a little about yourself and your position in (place of business). Where you're from, family, etc.

I was raised in the Chicago area, and moved to Texas almost a decade ago. Once I met my now-husband who is from Elgin I relocated and thus my dream of owning a coffee shop began seeding.

How do you achieve work/life balance?

I balance my schedule by keeping abreast of what the needs of my work and family life are, and keep a tight schedule of getting things planned and taken care of.

What does your job position entail and how did you

get there?

Currently since COVID has become a reality in our lives my position has become more full + overtime at the coffee shop, which means I am the barista, accountant, orderer, cleaner, and social media/marketing person!

What's unique about the service you provide?

We are the only full-service coffee shop in town! We also offer meeting space, coffee service, classes, and a large variety of food options as well as free WiFi.

What's a typical day look like for you?

Starting with disinfecting the front counter and tables,

sweep vacuuming, and then preparing the first pot of coffee to prepare for opening hour to checking inventory and restocking, serving customers throughout the day, and then cleaning up all equipment and washing/sanitizing.

How do you motivate yourself and stay motivated?

I remind myself of my blessings every day in order to stay motivated, and am constantly motivated by others who impress me. I stay motivated from the love I have for my family and legacy to show them what hard work brings.

See CHEMN, Page 11B

Dolores Lundgren

Dolores Lundgren has always liked numbers. After taking a bookkeeping class in high school, she realized that she wanted to pursue a career in accounting. While attending the University of Texas, her high school sweetheart

proposed to her and they got married.

Lundgren finished school with a bachelor’s degree in administration with a specialty in accounting. Her goal is to be able to provide for her family and eventually retire. When compared

to other big companies that do the job she does, she says that if you work with her, it is more conversational, personal, and laid back. Since she works out of her home, she tries to make her customers feel at home

Dolores Lundgren, CPA

Serving Elgin Since 1979

- Accountant
- Tax Prep Service
- Accounting Firm

Accounting Services & Tax Preparation for Personal or Business
512-281-3900 + 849 Central Ave. + Elgin

Candace Elliott, AAMS® - Financial Advisor

Tell me a little about yourself and your position at Edward Jones.

I was born and raised in College Station. I graduated with a B.S. in Agriculture from Texas State University in San Marcos. After a brief time at Fastenal, I transitioned into the Financial Advisor role in 2015 with Edward Jones. I have my sister in law to thank for the opportunity to help people reach their financial goals.

How do you achieve work/life balance?

Being able to have my branch right where my clients live and work makes a big difference. Part of why I love Elgin is because of the small town feel and seeing clients around town. With the autonomy and flexibility I have as a financial advisor at Edward Jones, I enjoy quality personal time for the things I love, like taking my dog to

See CANDACE, Page 11B

MARKETS WILL FLUCTUATE.
RELATIONSHIPS SHOULDN'T.

We will partner together throughout your life to help you to reach your goals.

We Can Help You With

Retirement Income Strategies

Preparing for the Unexpected

Wealth Building Strategies

Tax Efficiency

Insurance and Annuities

Candace Elliott, AAMS®
Financial Advisor
516 HWY 95 N Suite B
Elgin, TX 78621
512-229-3600
candace.elliott@edwardjones.com
www.edwardjones.com/candace-elliott

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

MEMBER SIPC

WE LOGO ANYTHING

Yes, we mean anything!

115 Norma Jean Blvd.

Smithville, Texas

512-237-2227

In house graphic design and digitizing

Tee Shirts, Hats, Bags,

Vehicle Graphics, Banners

Any product with your logo!

Screen Printing, Embroidery,

Full Color Banners & Signs

Vehicle Wraps & Laser Engraving

Our job is to make you look good!

24 HOUR SERVICE ON BANNERS

Shop local. We design and print right here.

Terri Couteau– We Logo Anything

Tell me a little about yourself and your position in We Logo Anything. Where you're from, family, etc.

I am from Texas and worked as a semiconductor engineer for 30 years before retiring and starting We Logo Anything. I live in a tiny apartment above the business with my husband, Kevin Hutchison. I run the business full time and have a full time staff of four. I do all the employee

training, most of the customer interaction, all the bookkeeping and inventory management, and personally handle all the wide format printing and vehicle graphics.

How do you achieve work/life balance?

There really is no such thing. Any small business owner will tell you if you want to be successful, you have to be all in. I'm all in.

What does your job position entail and how did you get there?

Well, I've always been creative and very detail oriented. I ran We Logo Anything alone for 5 years

See LOGO, Page 11B

Dr. Lauren Schwerdfeger

Dr. Lauren Schwerdfeger was born in Houston, Texas and graduated from Pearland High School. She attended Texas A&M University for both her Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences, and her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Schwerdfeger returned to Pearland after graduation where she was an associate veterinarian at her hometown practice for 2 years. Her professional interests include internal medicine, preventative medicine, oncology, geriatric/senior care, and veterinary mission work. She is an active member of the AVMA and TVMA.

Dr. Schwerdfeger enjoys hiking and spending time outside, bouldering, shopping, and spending time with friends and family. She has one cat, Trapper John, who is constantly testing the theory of nine lives!

Being able to establish and cultivate lasting relationships with clients and patients is her passion through veterinary medicine. She is grateful for the opportunity to serve the community in such an influential and personal way and is excited to meet you and your furry family members!



Nancy Barron

Nancy Barron is a one-woman locksmith from Elgin. She has been running Nancy's Keys for 18 years, but has been working as a locksmith for over 32 years. She first started out as a key maker in a convenience store when she was in her adolescence. She likes to study rocks, watch movies, travel and her guilty pleasure is to play games on her phone. Her dream is to eventually open a shop where no matter what key walks through the door, she can make it. She is known for her determination to get into any car no matter what the situation is. Although she considers herself an "old school" lock smith, she still tries to stay up to date with the newest technology.

She said her range of business spans over five counties. "Wherever the phone rings that's where I go," said Barron. "I've even traveled to Oklahoma to visit family, and people recognized my van and brought me their keys for help." Barron is a mother to three daughters and has four grandkids. Since she battles COPD, she makes changes to her life to try and make her life better so that she can spend more time with her grandkids. Barron says keys are her passion and loves to go to work every day.



Nancy's Keys
LOCKSMITH

24HR EMERGENCY SERVICE AVAILABLE
AUTO - RESIDENTIAL - COMMERCIAL

Re-Key Locks • New Locks • Keys Made
TOLL-FREE: 1-866-789-NANC (6262)
(512) 470-KEYS (5397)
(512) 281-KEYS (5397)

Over 20 Years Experience

nancy@nancyskeys.com



Nancy Barron
B12440

Helping Your Pets Live Long, Healthy & Happy Lives



VCA Elgin is a full-service, AAHA-accredited animal hospital serving cats and dogs in Elgin, Bastrop and surrounding areas.

VCA Elgin Family Pet Center

1399 Hwy 290 W • Elgin, Texas 78621
512-285-3375

We're committed to keeping our clients and staff safe during COVID-19 with NEW attendance and check-out processes.

ELGIN COURIER

Your Community News Source since 1890

Karen Bernstein

Tell me a little about yourself and your position.

I am a documentary media maker and event producer. More about my work can be found at www.bernsteindocumentary.com. I work primarily in documentary film and radio but have been using my wonderful space at The Open Room for community film screenings and discussions. Lately I have been videotaping local histories from Elgin and Bastrop County.



Karen Bernstein

sets. He is a pretty good sound recordist.

What does your job position entail and how did you get there?

I am not the role model for doing things simply. I went to college as a Political Science major and came out doing Theater. Eventually I went to work for a production company in Boston, MA, called Blackside, Inc. That company and PBS taught me everything I know of putting history on film and tape.

What's unique about

the service you provide?

I really hope to provide a dimensional and balanced video history of Elgin and Bastrop County for future generations to study and use through repositories like the Depot Museum. I am also interested in using these video histories to help families make low cost videos of their own life stories and major events like weddings, etc.

What's a typical day look like for you?

Well, it takes me about an hour to feed my son and all the animals ! Then I try to get some exercise and hit the desk and computer by about 11AM. I work a kind of long day since my son and the animals have to be fed and taken care of, eg. Dinner, etc. My favorite time to write and edit is early morning.

How do you motivate yourself and stay moti-

vated?

I love studying history and I love listening to people. I am naturally curious and empathetic.

How did you get where you are today and who/what helped you along the way? Any mentors?

I have had many important mentors in history and story telling, primarily Henry Hampton of Blackside, Susan Lacy of PBS American Masters, Helen Whitney of PBS, Ira Glass

of This American Life and American Public Media, Brooke Gladstone of On The Media, and the great editor, Charlotte Zwerin.

As a mentor yourself, what advice do you want to give young women who want to succeed in the workplace?

I always tell students and interns to find the filmmaker or media maker whose work you most admire, then work for them. You will be expected to

work as an apprentice for a while so it might as well be for someone you most admire.

How has the COVID-19 pandemic effected your business?

My most recent film has been severely impacted because of the slow down in documentary distribution. It is also a very hard time to interview people safely and to have community screenings.

THE OPEN ROOM

IN ELGIN'S FAMED HISTORIC DISTRICT

EVENT • EVENTOS
STUDIO • ESTUDIO
PHOTO • VIDEO • SCREENINGS

117 CENTRAL AVE
ELGIN, TX 78621

THEOPENROOMELGIN@GMAIL.COM
INSTAGRAM: @THE.OPEN.ROOM
FACEBOOK: @THEOPENROOMELGIN

DIRECTOR: KAREN BERNSTEIN
STUDIO MANAGER: VERONICA ORTUÑO

 <p>Jim Beaver Publisher</p>	 <p>Gail Schobey Bookkeeper</p>	 <p>Julianne Hodges News Editor</p>	 <p>Heather Ott Advertising</p>	 <p>Ron Ramirez Sports</p>	 <p>Dock Jackson Reporter</p>	 <p>Mary Lou Gil Reporter</p>	 <p>Jacki Gabryshak Advertising</p>
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

OPEN FOR BUSINESS SINCE 1890

Amidst the chaos, confusion, and fear, we want to reassure our local businesses and readers that we are OPEN FOR BUSINESS, and have been for 130 years. Our newspaper is being printed and distributed as normal, given the COVID-19 situation. Our staff is doing everything it can to get the news out to our communities as quickly as we can, whether it be in the newspaper, on our website or on our Facebook page. We appreciate your continued support in such an unprecedented time, and we look forward to continuing to serve you and your communities for years to come. If there is anything we can help you with, please do not hesitate to let us know



ELGIN COURIER

Includes: **BASTROP COUNTY INSIDER**

Subscribe now thru July and save \$10.

ONLY \$31

for 12-month subscription.
CALL 512-285-3333
for special price in-county price.

ETX TRAVEL

EXPERIENCE THE WORLD
Specializing in Cruises & ALL THINGS DISNEY!



Jennifer Reynolds
512-563-0103
jennifer@etx-travel.com



Sherrill Schier
512-775-3877
sherrill@etx-travel.com



SKIING



Disney CRUISE LINE



PALMS AT GRACE BAY



RIVER CRUISE SHIP



ONE TRIP AT A TIME



11 North Main St • Elgin, TX 78621

ALL AGENTS CAN BE REACHED BY THEIR EMAIL OR PHONE.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO BOOKING YOUR NEXT VACATION!

Hope Hargrove	hope@etx-travel.com	512-913-1006
MacKenzie Ackerman	mackenzie@etx-travel.com	512-413-1205
Stormi Brown	stormi@etx-travel.com	512-422-5169
Erika Ferrales	erika@etx-travel.com	512-689-5347
Olivia Blake	olivia@etx-travel.com	512-769-9329



What does it all mean?!

Let us help you get organized and grow the online presence of your business.

DQB Strategies

www.dqbstrategies.com
danielle@dqbstrategies.com
(512) 285-6196

coaching
product photography
social media management
drone photography



WE PROUDLY SUPPORT THE
PROFESSIONAL WOMEN OF ELGIN!

FIRST NATIONAL BANK

Bastrop County's Bank...Since 1889

Member FDIC

First National Bank – Elgin Branch

1312 US-290 • Elgin, TX 78621 • (512) 321-2561



Danielle Bornowski, DQB Strategies

Tell me a little about yourself and your position.

I have lived in Elgin for three years. I grew up in Marble Falls, which is a small down a lot like Elgin, which makes Elgin feel even more like home. My husband and I think it's a great place to raise our toddler.

How do you achieve work/life balance?

Even though the nature of my business is digital and online, I'm not always connected. I don't actually check work emails from my phone, and I try not to work on the weekends, so I can enjoy time with family and friends. There is always work to be done, so being able to take a break, keeps me from getting lost in projects all the time.

What does your job position entail and how did you get there?

I work with businesses to help them grow online. Social media is ever changing and can be intimidating. I work

with my clients to find the right fit for their business. For some, that means that my team and I handle things for the client. For other clients, we coach them so that they can be self-sufficient on their social media platforms. The answer is definitely not the same for every business.

What's unique about the service you provide?

The scalability of what we do can go in whatever direction our clients need. If they need to increase the services we provide, they can. If they need to slow things down because they are too busy to accept new customers at this time, we can do that, too.

What's a typical day look like for you?

As in most fields, a typical day is not typical. I always start reading the newspaper. I try to spend a few hours a day working on specific projects for clients. I also like to budget at least 30 minutes in to brainstorm,

plan, and think of creative ways we can serve our clients. I usually spend a few hours working with clients, whether it's on-site taking photographs, planning a graphic design project, or strategically planning their marketing.

How do you motivate yourself and stay motivated?

I love working with business owners and taking the stress out of social media and digital marketing for them. Elgin is my home and knowing that my work is helping local businesses provide valuable services is what gets me going every day.

How did you get where you are today and who/ what helped you along the way? Any mentors?

My background is in non-profit public relations and communications. I have met and worked with incredible women in many different fields who inspired me to go after what I wanted

and to embrace change along the way. I still call my boss from my first communications role for advice and encouragement. I also worked with a retired communications professional on an independent study project in high school. He became my mentor on that project and continues in that role today. He pushes me to challenge limits, be bold, and confidently grow.

As a mentor yourself, what advice do you want to give young women who want to succeed in the workplace?

Everything you need in order to be successful exists around you. Ask questions, make time for the things you think are important, be kind and respectful to everyone, speak up with your ideas, and don't be afraid of change.

How has the COVID-19 pandemic effected your business?

With a push to move



business online and reach people through social media, I have seen more people trying to do their business differently through online channels. I am here to help with that transition. Whether it means offering coaching sessions,

getting things organized and set up for my clients to use and manage, or managing things online so my clients can focus on other aspects of their business, I want to help businesses in the community grow and be successful.

Sherrill Schier – ETX Travel

Tell me a little about yourself and your position at ETX Travel.

I am the owner of ETX Travel. My husband and I moved here after we were married 40 years ago.

How do you achieve work/life balance?

I am on call most of the time but I put my phone down during dinner with my family and on Sundays, I garden to help relieve stress and only check my phone 3-4 times throughout the day to give me some down time.

What does your job position entail and how did you get there?

The job is constant research. We have to know the in's and out's of every country and state in the world. We study weather climate as well as culture and economic climate. We have to stay on top of policies for every cruise line and destination we sell. We started by mentoring with large, well-known travel agencies who have been in



business 80+ years to learn the dynamics involved with the travel industry. We immerse ourselves in the business and maintain a core group of agents who specialize in different areas.

What's unique about the service you provide?

There are a lot of agents who charge for their services, but we do not. Also, when you use our services, you know who you are dealing with and where to go and who to contact



if there is a problem. We are not a call center and the agents are trained.

What's a typical day look like for you?

We start by moving through emails first thing to see which suppliers are making the best offers and aligning up the clients who best fit that offer. I get about 200 emails a day. We are in webinars and Zoom meetings to learn how policies affect our clients and their trips. We are taking classes to learn new products, destinations and how to interpret information. On top of that we are fielding calls for vacations and meeting walk-in clients ready to jet off to a new adventure.

How do you motivate yourself and stay motivated?

I am not going to lie. Motivation has been difficult lately. But as with life, you learn to adjust. I try to sift out the negativity and focus on beautiful places I want to visit.

How did you get where you

are today and who/what helped you along the way? Any mentors?

It is a lot of hard work. Everyone thinks being a travel agent is glamorous. They forget to tell you that it really takes 3-4 years to have enough clientele to make a profit of any kind. I had a mentor name Lea Diehle who was paramount in my success and who was constantly pushing me to go beyond what a regular travel agent offers. Then a business coach - Tonya Christiansen, whose suggestion to pray over every booking I made in order to reduce problems that may arise. They are mentors who are also wonderful friends.

As a mentor yourself, what advice do you want to give young women who want to succeed in the workplace?

Be honest. Be confident. Approach your passion with everything in your soul. Mistakes happen, we are only human, but learn from those mistakes and you become the go to person.

How has the COVID-19 pandemic effected your business?

With the pandemic came cancellations across the board. It takes 5 times the amount of time to deal with a cancellation than it does to just book a client and prepare them for a trip. This pandemic may have just elevated the need for a travel agent as many suppliers are difficult to contact and people have learned that sitting on hold 5-6 hours while trying to rebook or cancel is something they never want to deal with again. Also, several suppliers have closed their doors and failed at refunding trips. Unfortunately, quite a few agencies have closed their doors as well as they were not able to sustain a business after such a hard hit since we don't get paid until after a client travels and once suppliers closed or trips were cancelled, there was no money coming in. We are working hard to stay open and would appreciate the chance to book your next vacation when the world reopens.



First National Bank - Jessica Medina, Assistant Branch Manager

Tell me a little about yourself and your position at First National Bank.

I am the Assistant Branch Manager for First National Bank - Elgin Branch. I was born in Chicago, IL but have lived in Manor, TX most of my life. I recently got married and moved to Taylor, TX.

How do you achieve work/life balance?

Balancing work/life/school can be very hard,

but I just try to take one thing at a time.

What does your job position entail and how did you get there?

I started as a part time teller 7 years ago knowing I wanted to grow within the bank. I have put dedication and effort and slowly have advanced. As an Assistant Branch Manager, I make sure the First National Bank is always here to assist and provide for customers with a smile

on our face.

What's unique about the service you provide?

We always try to go the extra mile when helping a customer with anything they may need.

What's a typical day look like for you?

On a normal day, I come in, review my emails, help CSR's with any customer question, help lending with our Spanish speaking customers and just assist in anything that may

be needed.

How do you motivate yourself and stay motivated?

I look up to my higher ups and other business owners to see how they got to where they are at and try to use them as motivation for my career.

How did you get where you are today and who/ what helped you along the way? Any mentors?

I have been so blessed to work for a company that

will always help you advance. All my managers have really helped me along the way.

As a mentor yourself, what advice do you want to give young women who want to succeed in the workplace?

It does not matter what career path you choose, just remember to always give it your all. Do not wait for things to be handed, but instead fight for them. This will really put you ahead of the rest.

How has the COVID-19 pandemic effected your business?

Covid-19 has slowed in person traffic but increased our drive-thru services. We must always look for the good in the bad, and that is exactly what First National Bank has done. We have taken this time to provide customers with more than one way to bank, giving them the piece of mind that their business is still taken care of while in the safety of their own home.

The women at the ELGIN COURIER

Julianne Hodges – Managing Editor

Tell me a little about yourself and your position at the Elgin Courier.

I'm the managing editor at the Elgin Courier. I grew up in Clifton, Texas, a small town (about the size of Smithville) up near Waco.

How do you achieve work/life balance?

Although my work often requires me to cover events and meetings over the weekend or in the evenings, whenever possible I try to unplug from work as much as I can during downtime. As an introvert, I've learned the importance of stepping back and recharging my energy whenever I can so that I can be at my best while I'm working.

What does your job position entail and how did you get there?

My job includes writing much of the news text in the paper, taking photographs at events, looking for stories, updating the articles on the website, sharing articles on social media and gathering and planning out much of the editorial content for each paper.

What's unique about the service you provide?

A lot of people don't have time to go to every city, county or school meeting that interests them, or aren't able to attend every event they want to go to. I try to bring the most important parts of those stories to readers.



What's a typical day look like for you?

Each day tends to be different due to the weekly cycle of the newspaper, and sometimes things come up that I'm not expecting or that I didn't have scheduled. On Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, I usually conduct interviews, review meetings and write as much as I can for the next week's paper. Over the weekend, sometimes I cover events. On Monday, I finish any remaining articles and work with my co-workers to get the paper done. On Tuesday, I update the website, get caught up on less urgent tasks from the past few days and get ready to start the next paper.

How do you motivate yourself and stay motivated?

Whenever I have free time, especially when I'm hitting some writer's block, I like to read other news outlets in the Austin area to see what's going on and help me write better.

How did you get where you are today and who/

what helped you along the way? Any mentors?

My English/journalism teacher in high school was instrumental in encouraging me to try writing and journalism and helping me think critically. I also have several college professors who have taught me valuable professional lessons, and a number of college peers who have encouraged and supported me.

As a mentor yourself, what advice do you want to give young women who want to succeed in the workplace?

Remember to step back and take some time to relax, if you need to; you won't be at your best or be able to accomplish everything you want to if you're burnt out.

How has the COVID-19 pandemic effected your business?

As probably the biggest thing affecting everyone's lives right now in some way or another, COVID-19 has changed a lot about the content that I write for the paper. Since March, and especially in the early months of the pandemic, it seems that every story is touched in some way by this topic. It has also drastically reduced the amount of in-person events I am able to cover, many meetings I attend are now conducted online, and I try to interview people over the phone whenever possible.

Heather Ott – Marketing & Advertising

Tell me a little about yourself and your position at the Elgin Courier.

I was born and raised in Elgin, graduated in 2008 and a 5th generation Texan. I job includes marketing and advertising. Many of my family members actually worked for the Elgin Courier!



How do you achieve work/life balance?

Very carefully and strategically! Having 4 kids and a full-time job can get pretty crazy sometimes.

What does your job position entail and how did you get there?

I have to coordinate and maintain an orderly schedule of print, special section and web display advertisements to many Bastrop County businesses... helping them reach 5,000 viewers every week! My grandmother, Marie, hired me to work in the front office handling bookkeeping, classifieds and subscriptions in 2011; it was Dan Kleiner, ex-publisher, who moved me into the marketing world.

What's unique about the service you provide?

It's all about my client's marketing needs! I assist in ad creation and scheduling for a one-time ad, or I can manage a yearly campaign designed specifically for that business.

What's a typical day look like for you?

Shower, wake up kids, eat, open our computers and start virtual school and work... lunch break... finish up school and work, kids' activity.... Dinner time... Showers, wind down then off to bed.

How do you motivate yourself and stay motivated?

My kids are my motivation! And if you have kids you know the motivation never goes away.

How did you get where you are today and who/ what helped you along the way? Any mentors?

I wouldn't be where I am today without my grandmother. She raised my brother and I from a very young age and has always taught us what a good person should be.

As a mentor yourself, what advice do you want to give young women who want to succeed in the workplace?

Don't let your mind stray... STAY FOCUSED!

How has the COVID-19 pandemic effected your business?

Some good and some bad... On the good side, our online viewership has reached peak levels with community members wanting to stay informed during these times, making it a great time to advertise as a business. But on the bad side, office hours have reduced drastically, so I don't get to see my clients as often as before! I miss getting to see everyone at social gatherings!

Jacki 'G' Gabryshak – Sales/Marketing Elgin Courier Bastrop County Insider/Realtor

Tell me a little about yourself and your position.

My husband and I recently relocated to the Bastrop area from the Rio Grande Valley, after traveling the North West Coast for five months in our motorhome. I have 25 years of Sales/Marketing in print and TV plus I'm a REALTOR.

I found my old publisher of 20+ years ago on facebook and behold he is the Publisher for the Elgin Courier so I couldn't pass up the opportunity to work together once again.

How do you achieve work/life balance?

I moved into my home office three years ago as a REALTOR and it works out great. I find that I have less distractions and able to balance home chores in-between work.

What does your job position entail and how did you get there?

As an account manager, it's my job to help grow my clients business. I need to know what their goals are and plan an advertising campaign that will accomplish that goal. I also need to manage expectations and have excellent follow up.

What's unique about the service you provide?

At the Elgin Courier not only do we reach the Bastrop County through print



but also Social Media and On-Line. I am able to offer different vehicles to accomplish this plus I need to be an expert in.

What's a typical day look like for you?

We work with deadlines all the time. So prioritizing is very important. As we are all practicing social distancing, a typical day has changed. I make more phone calls and email connections than before. I am looking forward to being able to meet with my clients face to face but until that time, we are making it work.

How do you motivate yourself and stay motivated?

Loving what you do is the key. I love to know that I have helped a small business grow! I love to know that I have helped a new home owner find their perfect home. We also love to travel and have been lucky enough to do so.

How did you get where you are today and who/ what helped you along

the way? Any mentors?

I started my career in Missouri as a Hotel Asst. Mgr. My Manager, Cheryl not only helped me as a young business Woman but as a person. And of course, Jim Beaver, Publisher, gave me my break into Newspaper Advertising Sales and from there I was able to move into Television.

As a mentor yourself, what advice do you want to give young women who want to succeed in the workplace?

No matter what your position, it is a very important part of the bigger picture. Always do your best and own up to mistakes. That's how you learn and grow to be the best you can be!

How has the COVID-19 pandemic effected your business?

We moved to this area in February and I quickly jumped into my role with the Elgin Courier and found a new Broker for Real Estate. I joined the Bastrop Chamber of Commerce as an Ambassador. As my career was just starting to Rock n Roll, in March that all changed. I am still Rockin' but the rollin' has become more of a crawl lol! I am doing my part by wearing a mask, social distance and support our local businesses!

Gail Schobey – Elgin Courier

Tell me a little about yourself and your position.

I started with the company in June of 2006 in the office in Taylor. I grew up in Lubbock and have an older sister and an older brother. I moved to Austin in 1971 and then moved to Blue in 1998. I have 4 grown children and 5 grandchildren. The grandchildren range from 25 to 17. The oldest and youngest are boys with the 3 girls in the middle. Our daughter and her son are living with us at the moment. They have all been a joy to my husband and myself.

How do you achieve work/life balance?

I balance work and home life very easily. With my daughter there we can share the household duties which makes it a lot easier.

What does your job position entail and how did you get there?

I am the Office Manager/Bookkeeper at the Elgin Courier. The office in Taylor moved me into this position just before Marie Ott retired.

What's unique about the service you provide?

What is unique about the position I hold here is that I am the first face people see when they come in. I try to greet them with a smile and



help them in any way I can. I also try to reflect a smile in my voice when I answer the phone. I enjoy meeting the people who come in and have enjoyed all the tales they have told me about the history of Elgin.

What's a typical day look like for you?

A typical day for me here is beginning each morning with sending out the Jeopardy answer to one of my colleagues in the Taylor office and to my sister in New Mexico. Then I begin my daily duties of working on the classifieds and keeping up with all the customers in our QuickBooks program.

I stay motivated just because I enjoy working with the customers and my fellow employees here. They all make it an enjoyable experience and I hope I return it to them.

How did you get where you are today and who/ what helped you along the way? Any mentors?

I started working in Tay-

lor in order to help bring in some income. My best mentor was our accounting manager Avis in the Taylor office. She taught be a lot about QuickBooks and spreadsheets. She was also a good friend. Everyone else I have worked with over the years have also been a great help to me when I have needed it.

As a mentor yourself, what advice do you want to give young women who want to succeed in the workplace?

My advice to younger women entering the workplace is to just be yourself and take and receive any advice you can from all your fellow employees. If you work as a team, then that makes your job enjoyable and you can grow as a person.

How has the COVID-19 pandemic effected your business?

The pandemic has effected our business in that so many people are having to work from home and the city has had to cancel so many of the events that everyone enjoyed. By having to cancel these events it has caused everyone involved to have to struggle to keep life going.

Thank you for all you do
Elgin Business Women!

CANDACE ...

From Page 6B

swim and hike. I have started working out and focusing on my health. I also often go back to College Station to spend time with my family there.

What does your job position entail and how did you get there?
My job is to learn about people and what matters most to them! It's always fun to sit down with people and hear their dreams about retirement and what their legacy goals are. It is even better to know we can make sure they're on track with the personalized financial strategies that I build and make sure we keep them there. I knew I wanted to help people. This was how I find my why.

What's unique about the service you provide?
I want to understand what is most important to you. We have an established process to build personalized strategies to help you achieve your goals. Then we partner together throughout your life to help keep you on track. Dee and I work together as a team to serve you. When you work with our office, you get us as a team that gets to know you personally. You won't have to ever press 1 to continue with us!

What's a typical day look like for you?
I start the day checking for any urgent calls that I should make first. Throughout the day, I generally meet with clients to review the progress towards their goals. I am also calling on prospective clients to be a resource for their goals as well.

How do you motivate yourself and stay motivated?
I stay motivated by remembering my why. My why is to help people reach their financial goals. I have some wonderful people that I work with and I do not want to let them down.

How did you get where you are today and who/what helped you along the way? Any mentors?
I am lucky to have a sister-in-law and her father who helped me get here. My sister-in-law is an advisor and her father is now retired. Both encouraged me and set realistic expectations of the work involved. I am grateful to have each of them in my life and that they want to see me succeed.

As a mentor yourself, what advice do you want to give young women who want to succeed in the workplace?
If someone says you can't do it, do not listen to them. Find someone to keep you accountable and that can be your good gas. Always keep moving forward even when you feel you're moving backwards. You'll be amazed at what you can accomplish.

How has the COVID-19 pandemic effected your business?
We want to keep ourselves and our clients safe, so we closed our physical branch to the public in March. Instead, we quickly adapted to a virtual world, offering reviews and meetings by Zoom and WebEx or just by phone. Fortunately, this has not been a huge interrupting factor to how we work with clients. Unfortunately, I do not look forward to wearing heels again!

LOGO ...

From Page 6B

before I hired any employees. I can operate all equipment and perform all functions within the business. Most of my skills are self-taught. I don't seem to be able to tell anyone "No", so sometimes I have had to figure out how to accomplish their project quickly. I have a degree in both physics and math, which I believe gives me license to try anything. We Logo Anything utilizes some pretty sophisticated equipment, which I maintain and repair personally. That 30 years of engineering comes in handy.

What's unique about the service you provide?
95% of what we sell is done right here. Customers deal directly with me, the business owner. We understand that not everyone needs to order hundreds of shirts or has a fleet of vehicles needing graphics. With a few exceptions, we don't have minimums. Because we do the work

in house, turnaround time is very fast. We are honest with customers about what is and is not possible. I want every customer to leave completely satisfied.

What's a typical day look like for you?
I'm up early for lots of coffee and a long walk with my dog. I spend a lot of time at the computer designing graphics and tee shirts for customers. I prioritize the work for the day for my employees. I generally order materials and supplies daily. Hopefully, the day includes a quick trip to the bank, so I at least get out of the office. I usually have some wide format print work every day. I spend time with customers when they come in to help them understand how we can turn their idea into a reality. There are so many options, especially in the tee shirt world. My day usually ends with book-keeping.

How do you motivate yourself and stay motivated?
I really love what I do, so

motivation is easy. I stay motivated by constantly doing research on new trends and processes to bring really unique products to my customers.

How did you get where you are today and who/what helped you along the way? Any mentors?
A lot of hard work got me to where I am today. There is no way around hard work. My husband, Kevin, convinced me that the world would not end if I left my high tech job. He was right--I'm doing just fine.

As a mentor yourself, what advice do you want to give young women who want to succeed in the workplace?
There is no substitute for education, preparation, and hard work. Work ethic really seems to be disappearing in this country among young people. A young person can really set themselves apart by just working hard. Everyone starts at the bottom, but everyone doesn't stay there. The ones who suc-

ceed must have faith in themselves and work hard. If you don't know how to do something, find someone who does and ask for advice.

How has the COVID-19 pandemic effected your business?
As soon as the stay at home order was issues, my business went to zero. I didn't want to lay anyone off and run the risk of not being able to get them back. We made the decision to convert all production to making reusable, washable face masks. We've made over 5000 masks and shipped them all over the US. We're still making masks and customizing them with printing. It allowed us to keep all employees on full salary until we started to recover normal business. We don't really make any money on masks, but we provide a much needed service and everyone is working. Business is of course down significantly, but I'm hopeful that it will slowly recover.

SHELBY ...

From Page 1B

What's unique about the service you provide?
We are the largest property management company east of Austin with over 130 properties. We also have three additional agents who have each had over 20 years of experience in sales in the area.

What's a typical day look like for you?
Get to the office and check with my assistants to make sure that repairs to the properties we manage are being taken care of. Return calls and emails throughout the day, visit properties, both for sale and lease.

How do you motivate yourself and stay motivated?
First of all, I love the work that I do. I love solving challenges and that makes a big difference. I also know that buying and selling a property is a very emotional thing and part of my job is to make it easier for them to get through. I also do a lot of volunteer work in



the community, not only with the Elgin Evening Lions Club, but also as a Board member for CASA and as the President of the Cedar Hills Civic Association.

How did you get where you are today and who/what helped you along the way? Any mentors?
I graduated from college with a degree in Biology and not being able to get a job, I joined VISTA, the domestic side of the Peace Corps. I ended up working with low income families to help them get grants for indoor plumbing and repairs to their homes to make them safer. I liked working in the field of housing and after working for several

Urban Renewal agencies across the country, ended up getting my real estate license. I thought that I would do that for a year until I got back into low income housing and here I am 40 years later. I would have to say that my greatest mentor was Jackie Burke, who taught me what it was like to be a woman in farm and ranch real estate sales.

As a mentor yourself, what advice do you want to give young women who want to succeed in the workplace?
Do not give up on your dreams. And get out of your comfort zone. I worked my way through college in construction

because it paid a lot more than working retail. At that time there were very few women working in construction. It was hard work and it helped me with a better understanding of what goes into construction of buildings. When you have roofed a house, sheet rocked, laid carpet, you have a better feeling for what good construction is.

How has the COVID-19 pandemic effected your business?
We have to be very conscious of making sure that the people coming our office are wearing masks and have continued that process even after the Governor's office pulled the requirement many months ago. I felt that I have an obligation to my staff to keep them safe and if that is what it takes then that is the best way to operate. Of course, some buyers have had to back out of contracts due to financing concerns, however, I have found that there are a lot of families that want to move out of the Austin area and get into smaller community.

SMITH ...

From Page 1B

What's unique about the service you provide?
Knowledge, Experience, and customer service skills

What's a typical day look like for you?
There IS no "typical day".

How do you motivate yourself and stay motivated?
My clients keep me motivated because I want to always be my best for them.

How did you get where you are today and who/

what helped you along the way? Any mentors?
Patience and perseverance! And it's important you have a good broker and a REALTOR team to work with. We share our different strengths.

As a mentor yourself, what advice do you want to give young women who want to succeed in the workplace?
Learn from others. Ask questions. Stay strong. Be flexible. Be kind TO EVERYONE.

Has the COVID-19 pandemic effected your business?
No

CHEMN ...

From Page 6B

How did you get where you are today and who/what helped you along the way? Any mentors?
I've always known I would

own my own business but was not sure quite what that would be, until it all came together one day while I was recovering from an injury, homebound and with time to focus more on my future. One of my biggest mentors is a former boss, Brenda Dash. My mom is my biggest men-

tor in life in general, and my daughter my biggest inspiration to push myself further.

As a mentor yourself, what advice do you want to give young women who want to succeed in the workplace?
If there is ever a time you

feel you may be treated differently, you probably are. Appreciate that in a way that makes you work harder. Be tenacious. Be educated. You can and you will have whatever you want in life. Believe in yourself but never be afraid to ask for or receive help. Learn from others and

appreciate the hard work someone else has accomplished.

How has the COVID-19 pandemic effected your business?
We have seen up to a 40% loss of sales, as well as losing the luxury of

allowing our customers to be seated inside for some time. We have lost one employee due to her childcare being closed and another because there was no longer need for him to be there; the foot traffic slowed down quite a bit.

Get to know the female business owners, entrepreneurs and executives inspiring progress, innovation and success right here at home in our local business community.

Throughout history and today, female professionals have contributed greatly to our country's economic, civic and cultural development. Today, women number 66 million in our nation's workforce and women-owned businesses account for 28 percent of all U.S. businesses. These women are leading CEOs, presidents, vice presidents, accountants and managers in many of our nation's leading corporations.

We salute all of the dedicated women who strive to help our community thrive. From the medical field to motherhood, the courtroom to the conference table, today's women contribute to every area of our nation's success.

To the women whose hard work and achievement improve our world, your example is one we all can be proud to follow.



Thanks for everything you do!





Bank On Us – Frontier Bank of Texas

Frontier Bank of Texas started in 2007, when five area leaders realized the need for a local, independent bank in Bastrop County. They came together and created a vision for a community bank that offers superb customer service, sophisticated financial products and local leadership. These five leaders set out on their own “Frontier” and secured many Organizers of Frontier Bank of Texas. As a result of their hard work, many local shareholders were secured through stock offering that, in turn, support the bank’s growth with their business. Doors were opened for business on June 11, 2007 in Elgin.

Our Mission Statement

Frontier Bank of Texas will strive to efficiently operate a sound, locally based community bank offering consistently superb customer service and community leadership while increasing the value of its stockholder’s investment.

Our Bank’s Focus

We focus on community involvement and personal service while providing customers with the financial sophistication and products typically offered by a larger bank. The bank emphasizes personalized banking services.



Our Customer Service Goal

We want to help the individuals, families, farmers, and ranchers, professionals, businesses, not-for-profit organizations—all the communities we serve—prosper and realize their dreams.

Our Motto
We Have One Level of Service. PERSONAL.

Welcome to a wide-open range of possibilities! Frontier is a bold, forward-thinking community bank serving the most dynamic region in Texas. Founded in rural Bastrop County by respected, local visionaries, Frontier has quickly become the preferred financial partner of businesses, families and communities across Central Texas.

Our traditions, our heart and our ideals are



rooted in Central Texas. And like the people who work and live here, we put a high value on personal relationships and uncommon service. While friendliness is a Texas hallmark, we want our customers to experience much more than that. No matter where you come from or where you bank with us, we want to be on a first name basis.

A Message to our Frontier Bank Family

As the situation with coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to evolve, Frontier Bank is dedicated to doing everything we can to help our customers, employees, and communities through this difficult

time. Frontier Bank continues to review our response plan in real time as circumstances change. We ask all of our employees, customers, and visitors to follow the guidance of the CDC. This includes social distancing, washing your hands frequently, avoid touching your face, and if you are feeling sick please stay home.

We will continue to provide the maximum level of service possible at our locations. Our ATM’s, phone banking (512-281-1555), online, and mobile banking are available for our customers as well.

As SBA Express Lenders, Frontier partners with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to provide greater financing options for community busi-

ness leaders. We are pleased to have assisted many customers secure funds through the SBA’s Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) in order to help them and their employees deal with the effects of COVID-19 pandemic. Frontier Bank will continue to work hard to administer the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and monitor future programs as they become available for customers.

The legacy SBA disaster program is still available as a direct application to the SBA. The application has been simplified. Apply at www.sba.gov/disaster.

We appreciate your vigilance and look forward to continuing to serve you. Please visit us at www.frontierbankoftexas.bank.

Did you know?

The employment outlook for women over the next several years is very good. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, women predominate in many fields that projections suggest will have considerable openings through 2026. In its job openings projections that estimated openings between 2016 and 2026, the BLS found that 13 of the 20 occupations with the best employment outlook employed more women than men in 2016. Childcare workers, registered nurses, nursing assistants, and home health aides were all

professions that were dominated by women, and the BLS anticipated that each profession would have considerable openings through 2026. The field of nursing figures to be especially good to women in the coming years, as the BLS estimated, in its recent “Occupational Outlook Handbook,” that employment of registered nurses was projected to grow by 12 percent between 2018 and 2028. Registered nurses, 90 percent of whom are women according to the BLS, figure to benefit greatly from this rosy employment outlook.



Frontier Women



Danyse Crowder
Sr. VP, Director of Operations, HR



Gloria Hernandez
Bookkeeper Officer



Jennifer Bray
Vice President of Lending



Jan Swenson
Treasury Management Officer



Linda Hoover
AVP, Depository Services



Miriam Teague
AVP, Loan Processing Officer



Rebekah Altmiller
Vice President & Cashier



Shena White
AVP, Loan Processing Officer



Elaine Martin
Chief Operating Officer



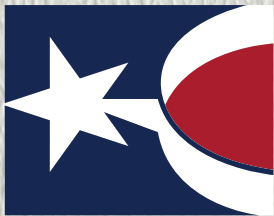
Vicki Dumbeck
Elgin Market President



Karen Cotton
AVP, Treasury Management

A Legacy of Leadership.

From the beginning, Frontier Bank has been conceived, inspired and led by some of the most respected bankers in Texas. The fact that they are women is a source of deep respect and pride for our bank. We congratulate each of these remarkable women who are the heart of Frontier.



Frontier Bank
of Texas

We have one level of service. *Personal.*
FrontierBankOfTexas.bank

Member FDIC | Equal Housing Lender

Elgin Bastrop Austin Manor Leander

Lexy Graham – Broker & Owner, Rainey Real Estate

Tell me a little about yourself and your position at ETX Travel.

I am the Owner/Broker of Rainey Real Estate, born and raised here in Elgin. I have 2 daughters, Rainey and Carter, and my husband, Joey.

How do you achieve work/life balance?

Ha, Ha! That's a good one! It can be pretty challenging, but I seem to have it down. The secret is SYSTEMS. You create flawless systems that work for you and your business.

What does your job position entail and how did you get there?

After years of real estate, I decided to venture on my own. I wanted to create a brokerage that was my more my style and up with today's standards.

What's unique about the service you provide?

We try to keep up with todays marketing and technology. We are probably the most diverse real estate company in town and we love that.

What's a typical day look like for you?

Lots of structure. With 2 girls and running a thriving real estate business, routine is key. Our systems keep us on track. It's fast and furious but I wouldn't have it any other way!

How do you motivate yourself and stay motivated?

Myself and my team attend countless conferences and seminars and we have many team meetings. We are a team and take that very seriously.



How did you get where you are today and who/what helped you along the way? Any mentors?

Hard work, sweat and tears! Not being afraid to fail. Remaining consistent! I have a ton of mentors! Always learning, but my main mentor would be The Man Upstairs!

As a mentor yourself, what advice do you want to give young women who want to succeed in the workplace?

Make goals and don't be afraid of them. Set your goals high & don't stop till you get there. YOU CAN DO ANYTHING!

How has the COVID-19 pandemic effected yourbusiness?

COVID has definitely changed things, but that's ok. We made the adjustments we needed to and we are still killing the real



estate game. My team is amazing at rolling with the punches. It's such a blessing to see how far I've come with my Real Estate career. I've always kept my eye on the prize, and that prize was Rainey Real Estate. I named the company after my first daughter,

Rainey. I always get questioned from people that don't know me. They ask, "Who's Rainey?" I figured if I put my first-borns name on the business there is no way in hell it was going to fail!





Jessica Siemer
REALTOR



Sheila Cates
REALTOR



Rachel Clampfer
REALTOR





Leighton Lundgren
OFFICE MANAGER



Valerie Navejas
REALTOR & DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Find exactly what you want in your new home and your realtor with **RAINEY REAL ESTATE.**

Your full service property specialists!

BUYING • SELLING • FARM & RANCH
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL



101 N Main Street
Elgin, Texas 78621  
512-285-6460
raineyrealestateteam.com
Lexy Graham Gonzalez,
Broker and Owner
 **512-925-5819**

