Pleasanton VFW Post 12162 changes name

STEPHANIE PINO
ATASCOSA COUNTY VETERANS COUNCIL

Pleasanton VFW Post 12162 was initiated on September 11, 2017. The Post was franchised with the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Texas (VFW). The VFW Dept. of Texas has over 71,000 members, occupying 318 Posts across the state of Texas and was the logical choice for Post founders. The organization is in need of younger, more active members and recently changed their logo to help attract them.

The VFW Dept. of Texas demographic makeup is overwhelmingly older, with nearly 80 percent of the total 71,000 members being over 65 years of age. When Pleasanton VFW Post 12162 was created, it was designed to be more active in the community to better serve the needs of the younger generation of combat veterans by improving on the known deficiencies of the older VFW posts and offer amenities specifically tailored for them. This strategy has been overwhelmingly successful. In 14 months, the Pleasanton Post went from zero to 110 members climaxing as the youngest and fastest growing VFW Post out of over 6,500 VFW Posts in the world, a title it has held since August 1, 2017.

It has been recognized with numerous awards and the leadership is quickly emerging as pioneers in the VFW. The Post's monthly sustained growth rate was about 6% per month and the Post's youthful atmosphere and community service programs specifically tailored for the youth, attracted a membership core with a combined average age of 48. A whopping 22 percent of the members are female combat veterans, and the majority of our members served multiple tours of duty in the latest desert wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

On November 15, 2018, Pleasanton VFW Post 12162 received a cease and desist letter sent by the VFW Dept. of Texas for receiving donations and conducting community service programs outside of Pleasanton. According to Steve Mueller, Post Commander, it was alleged that the Post violated a rule governing "immediate geographic area." However, no geographic area was ever established for the post at start- up or is contained within articles of incorporation, nor is there any legal document that provides procedural guidance on the establishment, expansion or enforcement of such areas.

LEON ZARAVIA | PLEASANTON EXPRESS

Stephanie Pino and Steve Mueller are the founders of the Atascosa County Veterans Council. Pino serves as the council's public affairs director and Mueller as their commander.

The very section that was referenced allegedly has conflicting guidance contained in the same paragraph, according to Pino. For example: it's unacceptable to solicit donations outside of a geographic area, but it is acceptable to solicit funds with a Go Fund Me account from anywhere in the world. To say the least, it's confusing.

According to Pino, members of the Post voted unanimously to secure legal representation in an attempt to negotiate a solution to the dispute. However, when hearing of this, the VFW Dept. of Texas leadership took a hard line approach. Within 48 hours, they removed the Post's leadership and seized its assets and bank account.

The VFW Dept. of Texas leadership, according to Pino, assigned a committee to run the Post. However, with no other alternative and in the absence of a process to work towards a solution for all parties, the Post members chose to suspend our relationship with the VFW Dept. of Texas.

On the 11th of February, the members voted unanimously to terminate our franchise agreement with the VFW Dept. of Texas. On that very night, the members changed the Post's name to the Atascosa Veterans Council, Pleasanton Post and elected officers. This change will enable the Pleasanton Post to continue to serve the communities in Atascosa County.

Our members have already started to use their talents and energy to establish much needed programs that will further enhance our ability to serve our veterans. The Atascosa County Veterans Food Bank was formed to help collect food and distribute it to hungry veterans throughout our community. The US Veteran Housing Program™ was formed to provide low cost single family housing solutions for veterans and their families and to create construction jobs for our veterans.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead

Q&A

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

for more details.

Presentation on Human Trafficking March 7

Brush Country Republican Women is hosting a presentation Thursday, March 7 at the Pleasanton Civic Center to address the issue of Human Trafficking.

Human Trafficking is one of the fastest growing crimes in America. Organized crime is using at risk children and unsuspecting immigrants for drug and sex trafficking activities. Make no mistake, children are being used as sex workers. Their life expectancy once they are pressed into service is seven years! They are hooked on drugs, beaten and exposed to disease for which they receive zero medical care.

BCRW would like to take a stand against this horrific treatment of people and are doing so by bringing Atascosa County's 81st District Attorney Audrey Gossett Louis and Atascosa County Sherriff David Soward to speak about what is happening in our area, signs to watch for and what we can do as citizens.

The public is kindly invited to attend this event at the Pleasanton Civic Center, Thursday, March 7. Meet and greet is at 6:30 p.m. and the presentation will begin at 7 p.m. Come join us to learn how we can make a difference!

Senior Days March 11

The Pleasanton Express and City of Pleasanton Parks and Recreation Department will once again sponsor Senior Days at the Pleasanton Civic Center.

Join them at 10 a.m. on Monday, March 11 as Retama Manor hosts a craft day, making crosses with palm leaves.

Madison McCleary Memorial Powerlifting Meet

Anytime Fitness in Pleasanton will host the Madison McCleary Memorial Powerlifting Meet on March 16. Weigh- in is scheduled for 8- 9:30 a.m. The meet will begin at 10 a.m. with the Women's Bench Press and men will follow.

Register soon, as the deadline is March 13. There is a $25 entry fee per lifter. There will be three divisions for both women and men. There will be 100 percent payback to the top lifter of each weight division and awards to the top three of each division.

The meet will honor Madison and her passion for powerlifting! It will also be Anytime Fitness Pleasanton's Re- Grand Opening, with door prizes for all attendees to register for as well as a silent auction. All proceeds benefit #spreadkindnessforMandT foundation. Hayden's Homestead Food Truck will also be there!

Come out to lift, watch and support a great cause within our community. If you would like to be a vendor or donate to the silent auction, please contact Vanessa at 210- 685- 5838 or Amanda at 210- 862- 4183.

'Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike' starts March 22 at ACT Theatre

ACT Theatre in Pleasanton will present "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike" by Christopher Durang next month.

Dates will be March 22- 24 and March 29- 31 with showtimes at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday.

Tickets available on eventbrite.com or at the door for $15. For more information, find them at Facebook.com/ACT Theatre Group.

Coffee with a Cop

Mark your calendar: On March 27, from 8:30 a.m.- 10 a.m. we invite you to join us for coffee, juice and donuts at the Jourdanton Police Department for our "Coffee with a Cop" event.

This is a great opportunity for the public to interact with local law enforcement officers in a friendly, informal setting and have an open dialogue about public safety issues that effect our community.

At our March event we have invited the staff of the Atascosa County Animal Control Authority to join us. So come have a cup of java or a bite to eat with us, Wednesday, March 27. We provide the donuts, you provide the questions!

Kicks for Kids March 30

The Atascosa County Child Welfare Board invites you to participate in their 1st Annual Kicks for Kids kickball tournament on March 30, starting at 8 a.m. at the Pleasanton Sports Complex.

The event will be a 10- team double elimination tournament. The event is family- friendly kickball, meaning teams will be comprised of adults and kids. Games will last five innings or 45 minutes, whichever comes first.

Atascosa County Child Welfare Board is a 501(c)(3) non- profit organization serving the foster kids/ families in our county. Its mission is to educate our community about abuse and neglect while creating awareness for the need for more foster and adoptive homes in Atascosa county. We also provide tangible and financial support to meet the needs of our foster children. This event will specifically raise money to purchase new shoes for foster kids to start their 2019- 2020 school year.

Team registration can be found at www.cwbkicksforkids.eventbrite.com or you can pick up a form at the Pleasanton Civic Center. Those with questions may contact Jessica Tom at 210- 382- 3358 / jessicatom09@gmail.com or any CWB member.

CASA of South Texas Color Run on

CASA of South Texas would like to invite you to their 2nd Annual Color Run set for Saturday, April 13 at 8 a.m. at the Pleasanton River Park!

This day will be full of fun and color! All ages are welcome to run - or walk - in this 5K! The first 75 registered participants will receive a dri- fit T- shirt to wear for the run.

A child under 12- years- old can participate at no charge with a paid adult runner. Pre- registration is $40 per person and the cut- off date is March 28. Any registration after March 28 will be $45.

Go to https://www.raceentry.com/races/casa-of- south- texas- color-run/2019/register to register today! If you would like to register another way, please contact Brianna Saroz at 830- 480- 4793 or casa.brianna@att.net.

IF YOU have an event you would like featured in Out and About, email Lifestyles Editor Lisa Luna at lluna@pleasantonexpress.com or call our office at 830-569-6130 or 830-281-2341.

Income Tax Preparation
By Elias Elizondo
Prepared While You Wait In Most Cases • Refund Advances Available
Fees Deducted From Refund • Se Habla Español
E&E Income Tax Service
903 Oak St. • Jourdanton, TX 78026 • 830-769-1497
Office Hours: Mon - Fri 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Sat 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sun. By Appointment Only
12-24c

Now serving Atascosa County
Bustamante Orthopedics

MARIO A. BUSTAMANTE, M.D.
Board Certified Orthopedic Surgeon
Office located at:
1907 Hwy 97 East, Suite 250
Jourdanton, TX 78026
Phone (830) 769-5941
Fax (830) 769-5943
• General Orthopedics
• Surgical Procedures of the Knee, Hip, Ankle, Shoulder, Elbow and Wrist
• Chronic Pain Management
• Regenerative Medicine-Amnion Cell Injections
For a full list of services visit
www.bustamanteorthopedics.com

Atascosa Co. Jail Bookings

The people named in this report have been charged with but not found guilty of the crimes listed. This information is provided by the ACSO under the Texas Public Information Act, Chapter 552.

02/28/19-Alexandra C. Alvarado, 26, was arrested by the ACSO on charges of Possession Marijuana <2oz; Manufactured/Delivery Controlled Substance PG 2 OR 2-A >=4G<400G; Possession Controlled Substance PG 2-A<=2oz.
02/26/19-Eloy A. Alvarado, 22, was arrested by the Poteet PD on a charge of Burglary of Vehicle.
02/28/19-Juan M. Balderas, 33, was arrested by the ACSO on a charge of Criminal Nonsupport.
03/01/19-Giovanni T. Bandy, 21, was arrested by the Jourdanton PD on charges of Possession Controlled Substance PG 1 >=4G <400G; Possession Controlled Substance PG 2 >=4G <400G.
03/01/19-Ramiro T. Betancourt, 47, was arrested by the ACSO on a charge of Driving While Intoxicated 3rd/More.
03/03/19-Gerald L. Bosquez, 18, was arrested by the Pleasanton PD on a charge of Manufactured/Delivery Controlled Substance PG 1 >=1G<4G; Possession Controlled Substance PG 2-A<=2oz.
02/27/19- Saul Bosquez, 37, was arrested by the ACSO on a charge of Possession Controlled Substance PG 1 <1G.
02/27/19-Luis A. Briceno, 24, was arrested by the ACSO on two charges of Assault Causes Bodily Injury Family Member.
03/02/19-Emilio Brown, 60, was arrested by the ACSO on a charge of Criminal Trespass.
02/28/19-Heather R. Brown, 30, was arrested by the ACSO on a charge of Driving While License Invalid W/Previous Conviction.
03/02/19-Karen K. Bryand, 33, was arrested by the DPS on charges of Unlawful Carrying Weapon; Driving While Intoxicated 1st.
02/28/19-Alfredo Carpentier, 60, was arrested by the ACSO on a charge of Driving While Intoxicated 2nd.
03/02/19-Jaccobb C. Carter, 29, was arrested by the Jourdanton PD on charges of Public Intoxication/Pedestria.
02/26/19-Jack M. Cedillo, 43, was arrested by the Pleasanton PD on a charge of Possession Controlled Substance PG 1 <1G.
02/25/19-Mario Dillard, 26, was arrested on charges of Burglary of Habitation; Theft Property >=$2,500<$30K.
02/28/19-Oscar J. Escalante, Jr., 33, was arrested by the Jourdanton PD on charges of Possession Marijuana <2oz.
03/02/19-Rhonda J. Forbus, 54, was arrested by the ACSO on a charge of Injury Child/Elderly/Disable W/Intent Bodily Injury.
03/01/19-Pablo Fuentes, Jr., 39, was arrested by the ACSO on a charge of Theft of Property >=$500<$20,000.
03/01/19-Nicholas X. Garcia, 21, was arrested by the Jourdanton PD on charges of Theft of Firearm; Unlawful Possession Firearm by Felon; Possession Controlled Substance PG 1 <1G.
02/28/19-Jose L. Garza, Jr., Age 35, of Orange Grove, was arrested by the ACSO on a charge of Possession Controlled Substance PG 1 <1G.
03/01/19-Danny R. Gould, 39, was arrested by the ACSO on a charge of Possession Controlled Substance PG 1 >=1G <4G.
03/01/19-Clayton B. Harlos, 29, was arrested by the ACSO on charges of Theft of Firearm.
02/27/19-Veronica A. Hernandez, 24, was arrested by the Pleasanton PD on a charge of Public Intoxication/Pedestria.
03/01/19-Richard E. Mares, 31, was arrested by the Pleasanton PD on charges of Resist Arrest Search or Transport; Driving W/License Invalid W/Previous Conviction/Suspension/W/O Financial Res.; Interfere W/Public Duties; Possession Marijuana <2oz.
02/27/19-Billy J. Martinez, 48, was arrested by the Jourdanton PD on a charge of Assault Causes Bodily Injury Family Member.
02/25/19-Christopher G. Martinez, 38, was arrested by the Poteet PD on charges of Aggravated Sexual Assault Child; two charges of Indecency W/Child Sexual Contact.
03/01/19-Cipriano F. Martinez, III, 41, was arrested by the ACSO on a charge of Possession Marijuana <2oz.
03/02/19-Matthew Martinez, 20, was arrested by the DPS on a charge of Possession Marijuana <2oz.
03/01/19-Eric Morales, 40, was arrested by the Jourdanton PD on charges of Possession Marijuana <2oz.
03/01/19-Jimmy J. Morales, 40, was arrested by the DPS on a charge of Violate Bond/Protective Order.
02/25/19-Jerry C. Pacheco, 52, was arrested by the ACSO on charges of Assault Causes Bodily Injury Family Member; Terroristic Threat of Family/Household.
03/01/19-James S. Prouty, 59, was arrested on a warrant for Forgery Financial Instrument.
03/02/19-Mark R. Reynolds, 29, was arrested by the Jourdanton PD on a charge of Assault by Contact.
02/27/19-Billy J. Rodriguez, 48, was arrested by the Jourdanton PD on a charge of Assault Causes Bodily Injury Family Member.
02/25/19-Javier G. Torres, Jr., 41, was arrested by the ACSO on a charge of Theft of Service >=$100<$750.
02/26/19-Billy R. Truelove, 43, was arrested by the Pleasanton PD on charges of Possession Controlled Substance PG 1 >=4G <200G; Unlawful Use of Criminal Instrument.
02/28/19-Rustin L. Tuttle, 20, was arrested by the ACSO on a charge of Assault Causes Bodily Injury.
02/28/19-Jennifer Villarreal, 37, was arrested by the ACSO on a charge of Reckless Driving.
02/26/19-Reyna V. Villasenor, 36, was arrested by the ACSO on charges of Assault Causes Bodily Injury Family Member.
02/28/19-Desmond A. Whayley, 33, was arrested by the ACSO on a charge of Driving While License Invalid W/Previous Conviction.

CALL STATS REPORTS

The ACSO has been very busy the past six days with more than 227 calls.

PLEASANTON PD

The Pleasanton Police Department was busy with more than 296 calls for service and made 12 arrests during the week of 02/25/19 to 03/03/19.

JOURDANTON PD

The Jourdanton Police Department was busy with more than 65 calls during the week of 02/25/19 to 03/03/19.

POTEET PD

The Poteet Police Department was busy with more than 56 calls during the week of 02/25/19 to 03/03/19.