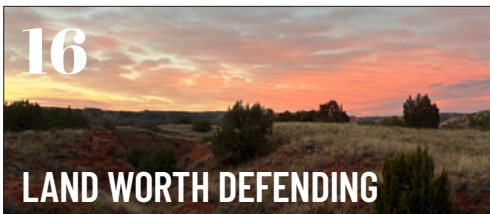


FEATURES



16

LAND WORTH DEFENDING

As America celebrates 250 years of independence, we reflect on the values that built both a nation and the Texas Panhandle. Shaped by hardship, faith, sacrifice, and resilience, this land has long produced people who understand that freedom is precious because it has always come at a cost.

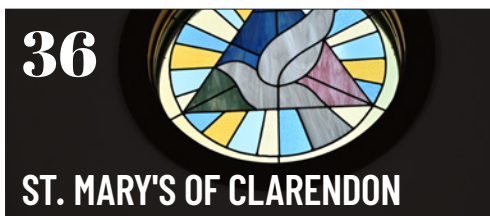


21

LEADING WITH PURPOSE

KAY LYNN McLAUGHLIN

The Plains Land Bank CEO and 2026 Western Legacy Awards honoree has spent a lifetime helping agricultural producers build their dreams. Rooted in a family farm and ranch upbringing, McLaughlin's leadership reflects the values of hard work, stewardship, and service that continue to define rural America.



36

ST. MARY'S OF CLARENDON

Founded in 1892, St. Mary's Catholic Church stands as the oldest Catholic parish in the Texas Panhandle. After nearly a decade of planning, prayer, and fundraising, parishioners will celebrate the dedication of a beautiful new church building while honoring more than 130 years of faith and history.



40

TRAIL TOWNSEND

FROM EARTH TO THE WHITE HOUSE

Raised among cattle, horses, and wide-open spaces just north of Earth, Texas, Trail Townsend never imagined his path would lead to the White House. The Texas Tech graduate shares how a passion for agriculture, public service, and protecting the rural way of life took him from the Texas Panhandle to Washington, D.C., and ultimately back home again.

EVENTS



14

ARMSTRONG OFF THE RAILS

Music, dancing, and community spirit in Claude as supporters gathered for Armstrong County Museum's signature summer fundraiser.



26

COORS COWBOY CLUB RANCH RODEO

Photos from the 38th annual event showcase the competition, camaraderie, and cowboy spirit that make this event a Panhandle tradition.



32

HPRBA SHOW & SALE

Highlights and photos from the High Plains Ranchers and Breeders Association's 27th Annual Sale, 15th Annual Futurity, and 6th Annual Derby.

DEPARTMENTS

- 6 **BUZZWORDS:** Business news, promotions, milestones, and notable achievements from across the Panhandle.
- 8 **CALENDAR:** Fourth of July celebrations • Rodeos • Concerts • TEXAS Outdoor Musical • Sod Poodles Baseball • Summer festivals and family events across the region

SUBSCRIPTIONS: 12 months \$30; 16 months \$36; 25 months \$49, Back issues available at \$5 each. All subscription correspondence should be addressed to: ACCENT WEST, P.O. Box 1504, Amarillo, Texas 79105. Phone: (806) 371-8411.

ACCENT WEST is published each month by Accent West, Inc. (USPS 931-780), Lizabeth Cantrell, President, 1233 S. Rusk Street, Amarillo, Texas 79102. Accent West is printed at 1500 S Polk St, Amarillo, Texas 79101. All rights reserved.

Nothing may be printed in whole or part without the written permission of the publisher. All correspondence should be addressed to P.O. Box 1504, Amarillo, Texas 79105. Postmaster: Send address changes to Accent West, P.O. Box 1504, Amarillo, TX 79105-1504. Advertising rates on request. The magazine does not accept responsibility for unsolicited material.

Periodical Postage paid at Amarillo, Texas.

COLUMNS

12 RUNNIN' THE ROUTE

Patriot Peace Garden

Tucked along Amarillo's eastern edge, this often-overlooked landmark tells a remarkable story of vision, volunteerism, and international friendship.

30 ONE SQUARE INCH

Getting Cleaned Up

Summer reunions often inspire us to present our best selves. But perhaps grace invites us to show up differently—not polished and perfect, but honest, imperfect, and open to the transforming love of Christ.

46 ENTERTAINING IDEAS

Work Smarter, Not Harder

Becky McKinley shares practical shortcuts, make-ahead strategies, and entertaining secrets that allow hosts to spend less time stressing and more time enjoying their guests.

54 CHOMP: Celebrate summer

with a meal out and discover some of the Panhandle's favorite places to gather around the table with family and friends.



Photo by Kay Miller

On the cover:

Old Glory flies across the arena during the Will Rogers Range Riders Rodeo, a beloved Fourth of July tradition just south of Amarillo.