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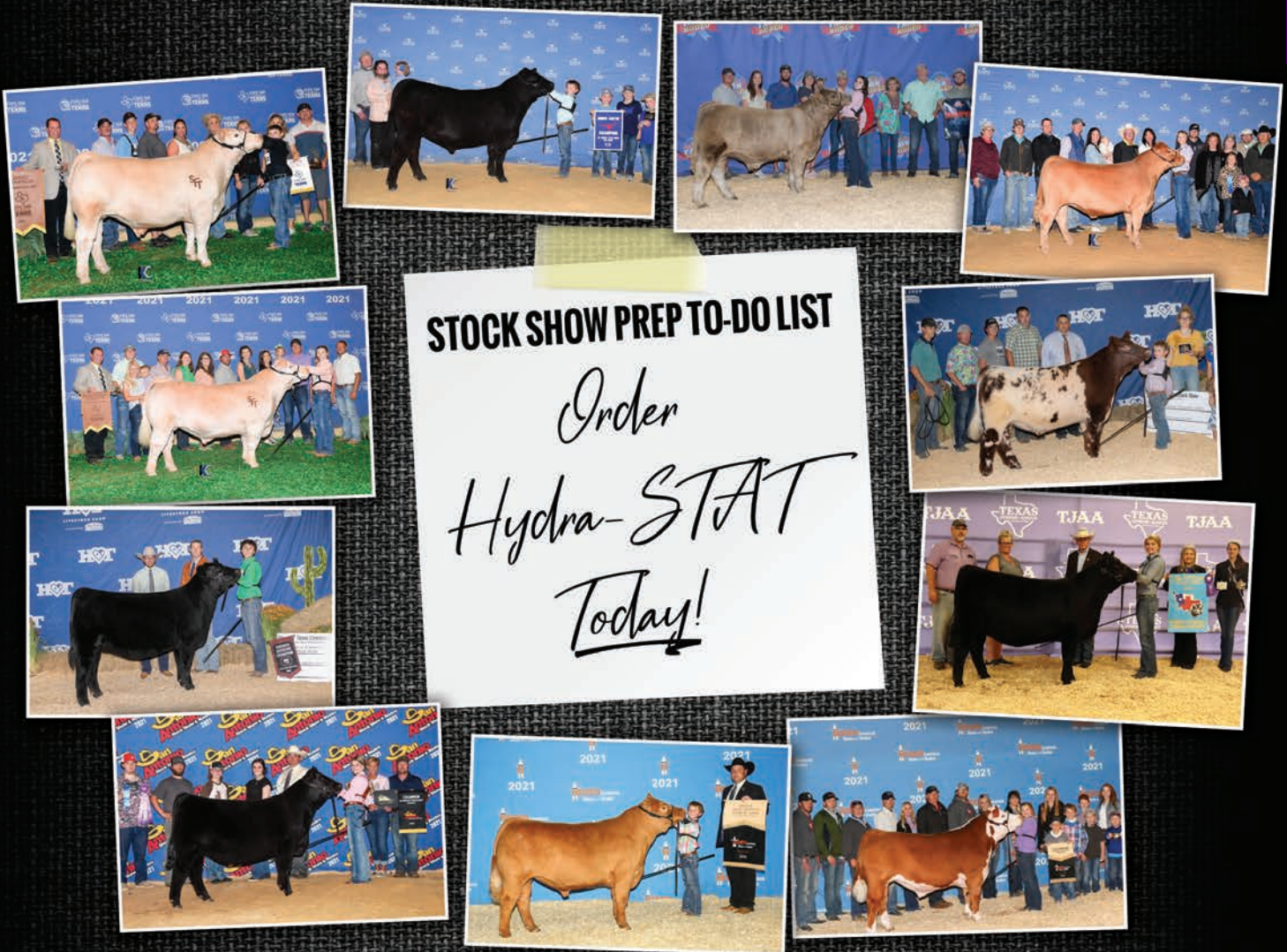
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2022



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VOLUME XXXVIII • DEC. 2021/JAN 2022 • NUMBER 4

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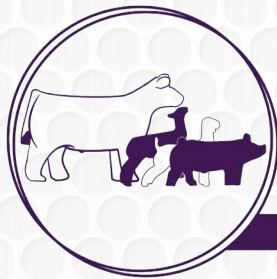
ON THE COVER

THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX HUMMEL LIVESTOCK

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PURPLE CIRCLE

AMERICA'S YOUTH LIVESTOCK MAGAZINE

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MEET MOLLY

WRITER. CONTENT CREATOR. PHOTOGRAPHER

You may be noticing some new faces in and out of the ring here at Purple Circle. As we expand, it is imperative we add top-notch individuals to our team! Molly Johnson exudes exactly what it means to be a member of the PC family. She comes to us from Nazareth, Texas and grew up showing cattle and swine. Currently an Agriculture Media & Communications major at Texas Tech University, Molly is able to collide her student life with show ring life and brings her best to the screen. As a former showman, she has quite the niche in getting great ring shots and creating new content. Through her hard work, Molly is already proving to be a superb team member and will go on to be a great leader after she graduates next May. Please join us in welcoming Molly to the team!

A LETTER FROM MOLLY.

“

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”

-Molly



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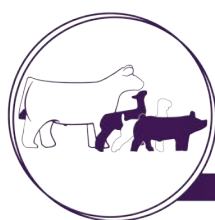
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GOTCHA!

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DECEMBER 2021/JANUARY 2022

MY NAME IS JACK HOYLE.



I am a 17-year-old from south Arkansas and I have been involved with agriculture and livestock for as long as I can remember. I grew up on a small cattle and goat farm with an ag teacher as a mom and veterinarian as a dad, so livestock has just always been part of my life. If I was to put a number on it, I'd probably say I've been in the show ring for about 12 to 13 years. I show goats, sheep, and hogs but definitely spend a good bit more time in the goat and lamb barn. Spending time together in the barn, as a family, has been a huge part of my life.

I got involved in FFA through showing and eventually began competing in creed speaking, parliamentary procedure and Agri Science Fair. Through that involvement, I found that I loved competition and was passionate about FFA. I went on to win the Arkansas State FFA Extemporaneous Speaking LDE, State FFA Ag Issues Discussion Meet, Arkansas State FFA goat production proficiency, and the State FFA Agri Science Fair events as well as being a member of our State FFA Champion Forestry CDE team. I have been blessed to serve as the Taylor high school Student Council President as well as my FFA chapter President. I am also involved in Fellowship of Christian Athletes, National Honor Society, Yearbook Staff, Archery and Golf.

I have been fortunate in my show career to hang some banners in both market shows and showmanship at some great livestock shows such as the Arizona National, Sioux Empire Livestock Show, Mississippi Youth Expo, Arkansas Youth Expo, Arkansas State Fair and National Western Stock Show. Showing livestock and participating in all of these events has allowed me to travel and make many new friends and connections that helped me expand my horizons and interest.

My interests lie in almost every imaginable category and my hobbies follow suit. I've always had a love for working with my hands and over time this has led me to woodworking, blacksmithing, leatherworking, painting, sewing, and just about anything else you could do in a barn or shop. Going through the process of learning these skills really helped me gain a better understanding of the way I learn and how I go about improving. This led me to my current main interests of photography, videography, and graphic design. To me they are the perfect outlet for the way I work, as they constantly present me with new and unique challenges to understand and overcome.

I strive to constantly make the world a more interesting, fun and beautiful place for myself and all those around me. I am very thankful for all the opportunities I have been given in the livestock industry and I will value the relationships and friendships for the rest of my life. I have a personal relationship with God and hope to help all those around me come to know him and find the same peace with him that I have.

WHAT IS THE MOST REWARDING THING FROM SHOWING LIVESTOCK?

The most rewarding thing from showing livestock is the relationships you are able to make. Showing livestock has allowed me to travel all over the country while meeting people and making friendships and connections I would never have the opportunity to otherwise. Those friendships and relationships are more valuable than any prizes you could ever win.



WHAT IS THE MOST CHALLENGING THING ABOUT SHOWING LIVESTOCK?

The most challenging aspect of showing livestock is balancing the time commitment required by caring for livestock with all of the other commitments and responsibilities you have in your life.

IF YOU COULD TELL ONE NEW SHOWMAN SOME WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

If I could tell a new showman anything, I would tell them not to focus so much on winning alone. If you only focus on winning, it won't take you long to lose the spark. The livestock industry will provide innumerable opportunities, and while I do strongly believe in winning and losing, if the only thing you ever focus on is how you did in that class or who beat you, the magic of the experience all drains away and those opportunities slip through your fingertips. The thrill and dedication that goes into competing is fantastic, but it will never hold a candle to the friends you make, places you will go, and experiences you have.



CLASS OF 2021



WHAT VALUES ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU?

The values that are most important to me are dedication and understanding. These are important in and out of the show ring. I have tons of different interests and hobbies and if there is one thing I have learned by being involved with all of these different things, it is that you must be dedicated to whatever you are taking part in. It is easy to exemplify this within the livestock industry. If you aren't dedicated to your project it will never be successful. You have to put in hours of hard work if you want to be competitive and see results. One also needs to form an understanding of the industry. You don't really get it until you start to understand all the different idiosyncrasies of the livestock industry. This could be anything from understanding proper showmanship techniques, understanding what different supplements do for your animal, or even something as simple as why you fit legs a certain way. All of these little pieces of information allow you to start understanding the livestock industry on a deeper level and really start to feel like you're involved in becoming part of a community. I think this understanding and attention to detail is the approach that people should apply in every aspect of their lives.



GIVE US YOUR MOST IMPORTANT SHOWMANSHIP TIP.

The difference between a good showman and a great showman is their presence in the ring. By the time you get in that ring for showmanship that animal should be so dialed in that keeping it set is second nature and you should be focused on having confidence and a commanding presence. Walk into that ring with the knowledge that you are walking out a champion. Confidence is palpable.

WHEN YOU GRADUATE WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE REMEMBERED FOR IN THE STOCK SHOW WORLD?

I would like to be remembered for the lives I touched and people I've helped. The past two summers I was given the opportunity to help coach YGB livestock camps and the thought that 5 or 10 years down the road, I might still be remembered for helping kids to love livestock and become better showmen, makes me really happy.



SUPPOSE YOU COULD TAKE ANY CELEBRITY TO LUNCH AND TALK TO THEM ABOUT FFA/4-H, WHO WOULD YOU TAKE, AND WHAT WOULD YOU TELL THEM?

I think I would enjoy a nice brunch with Chris Pratt. He actually owns a small flock of sheep and processes them himself. I would just love to hear how he went through the crazy ringier of Hollywood life and still got involved with agriculture. I think it could really help me find new ways to approach people who have never been involved with agriculture before and better relate to them.

"I NEVER LET MY SCHOOLING INTERFERE WITH MY EDUCATION."

Mark Wain



IF YOUR FRIENDS COULD DESCRIBE YOU, HOW WOULD THEY?

I like to think I'd be described as outgoing and friendly.



WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS?

Within the next five years I hope to have a degree, and have worked with multiple different photographers, videographers, and graphic designers and have laid the foundations for my own multi-media marketing company.



IMAGINE YOURSELF 10 YEARS FROM TODAY. WHAT GOALS AND AMBITIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR YOURSELF, PERSONALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY?

I can't say exactly where I want to be in 10 years from now, as I wouldn't exactly want myself from 10 years ago to determine where I am now, but I like to think that I'll be doing what makes me happy. I hope to obtain a degree and start my own business. Above all I hope that I'm surrounding myself with the people I truly care about and not letting anything stupid get in the way of making the most of my life.



WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO BE A GOOD LEADER, AND TO PUT FORTH YOUR BEST EFFORT?

I think all relationships with other people should be about bettering one another, and I believe that taking this attitude has motivated me to lead through an aspiration for personal growth while developing a bond with those I am working with.

HOW DO YOU GO ABOUT SETTING GOALS IN ORDER TO BECOME MORE SUCCESSFUL?

Whenever I set a goal I immediately attempt to learn everything about that goal and what I need to do to accomplish it. This helps me to gain a better understanding of the thing I am working for and feel more invested in the processes to achieve it. This makes the whole process much more personal and enjoyable to me as well as helping to motivate me to achieve it.

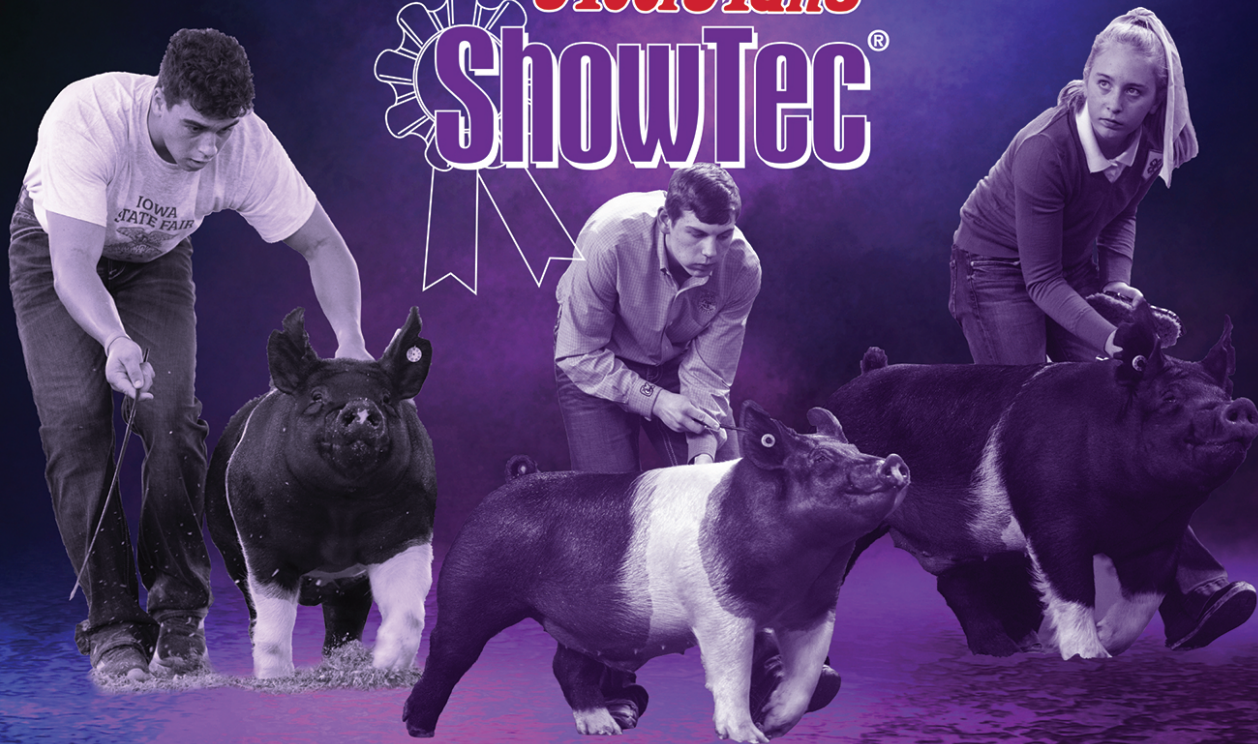


TELL US WHAT *success* MEANS TO YOU

If there is one thing I've learned from my short time on this earth it is that others cannot define success for you. I've had many different ideas of success throughout my life, almost all of which were placed upon me by other people. I've thought that success was simply winning or being the best at something or that it meant doing all the things that people around you want you to do, but the older I got the less successful those things felt. Winning just for the sake of winning or just because other people wanted me to feel empty and draining. It took me a long time to realize this but eventually I understood that success, to me personally, was about self-fulfillment. I felt like I was successful when I set a goal, worked towards it, and accomplished it because I wanted to.

JACK HOYLE

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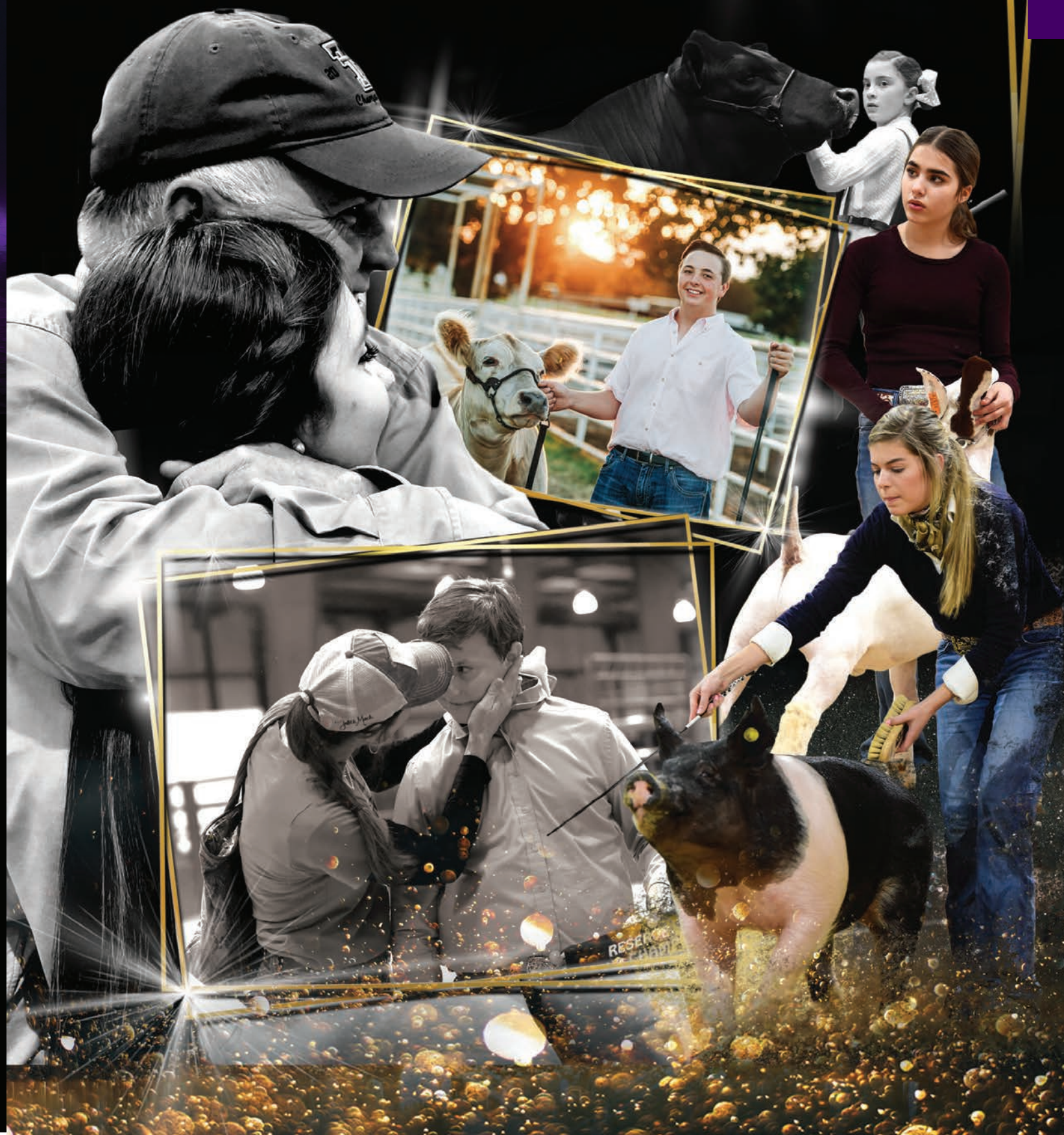
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PURPLE CIRCLE 37





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FORT WORTH STOCK SHOW STOCK SHOW TRAIL

The Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo is a traditional, legendary 23-day event that has taken place since 1896. The event works hard to celebrate the livestock industry. Promoting the agricultural industry and encouraging the youth of Texas is an important aspect of the stock show.

Even though the stock show is a large attraction in the city, it is not the only happening thing in Fort Worth. The Stockyards has been a historic attraction for Fort Worth since 1849. Visiting the Stockyards can provide any entertainment one is looking for. During your stay in Fort Worth, the Stockyards is a good destination to tie into the trip. When in the Stockyards, be sure to stop by H3 Ranch to enjoy a nice steak dinner. The Biscuit Bar is also a good choice to grab some breakfast/brunch.

Fort Worth offers many nice places to stay. We recommend the Hilton Garden Inn Fort Worth Medical Center and the Holiday Inn Express and Suites. Both hotels are good, clean hotels that are close to the grounds.

Along with the attractions and the stock show, there are many good places to grab food in Fort Worth. To enjoy some old-fashioned breakfast, Ol' South Pancake House is a safe choice. The Flying Fish is a great escape from the barn, being right down the road from the stock show. The casual setting and sea food is a great choice. Another good food option is the Rodeo Goat.

HOTELS

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Fort Worth Medical Center

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ACTIVITIES

Fort Worth Zoo
The Stockyards

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UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Interview conducted by Mandy Cowley



CHRIS SKAGGS

Professor & San Antonio Livestock Exposition Chair in Animal Science; Associate Vice Chancellor for Producer Relations and Associate Dean for Student Development, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Texas A&M University

It is hard to measure the breadth of Dr. Chris Skaggs' influence on the competitive livestock industry. In his almost 40 years of work at universities throughout the country, he has coached and mentored many of the more notable names in our industry. His sphere of influence reads like the Who's Who list and includes CEOs of major livestock shows, successful collegiate livestock judging coaches, and top tier livestock producers. Despite his famous connections, his passion continues to be mentoring the next generation of young agriculturalists. At livestock shows, you can find him interacting with students and telling them about the virtues of his favorite university, Texas A&M. Although he does not wear an Aggie ring, there is no doubt that Dr. Skaggs bleeds maroon. Purple Circle is proud to feature this highly respected and humble man.

Presented by



**SULLIVAN
SUPPLY**

CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT WHERE YOU GREW UP AND WHAT THAT WAS LIKE FOR YOU?

I grew up in Pampa, Texas. Both of my parents were teachers; my dad was an agricultural science teacher, and my mom was a family and consumer sciences teacher. I was very involved with the 4-H and FFA programs. I showed steers, heifers, and barrows for nine years. We competed at all the major shows and traveled all over the state showing livestock. I was involved with the leadership and career development events through both 4-H and FFA such as public speaking, chapter conducting, livestock judging and illustrated talks and also served as a District and Area FFA Officer. With two parents as teachers, education was obviously important to our family as I received my Ph.D. in Animal Science from Iowa State University, my sister, Bobbie, received her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Texas, and my brother, Randy, obtained a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Texas A&M University.



AFTER HIGH SCHOOL, WHERE DID YOU ATTEND COLLEGE?

I went to Texas Tech and pursued a double major in animal science and agricultural education. Dr. Jim Heird coached both my livestock and horse judging teams. I judged livestock first on a nationally competitive team that finished fourth at Louisville. I had no experience in judging horses but decided to try it because of Dr. Heird and was on a team that won the spring contest at Colorado State University and the American Quarter Horse Congress. Dr. Heird was a great coach and mentor. As a senior, I was selected as National Block and Bridle Club Outstanding Senior and received the award at the American Society of Animal Science meeting that year in Guelph, Ontario, Canada.

After Texas Tech, I went to Kansas State University. I worked with Dr. Bill Able and Dr. Jeff Stevenson, who were my co-chairs for a study on beef cattle reproductive physiology. I was also the assistant coach for the livestock judging team with Dr. Able. Mark Gardiner from Gardiner Angus Ranch was on the 1982 team, and we had the National Champion Livestock Judging Team in 1983 with a team of Scott Schaake, Kent McCune, Gregg Stewart, Mark Rickabaugh, Randy Rohleder, Bart Allen, Mark Squires, and Lon James.

I then went to Iowa State University and accepted an instructorship position there. My duties included coaching the livestock judging team, serving as an academic advisor, and teaching courses in introductory animal science, livestock judging, and meat animal evaluation. My Ph.D. focused on swine genetics under the direction of Dr. Lauren Christian. Dr. Christian was a nationally and internationally renowned swine geneticist and someone who judged national swine shows. Therefore, a natural connection existed immediately as we shared a passion for judging livestock. It made sense to do my Ph.D. work in swine genetics, as Iowa is such a swine centric state with 25% the nation's hog population found there. At Iowa State, I had the opportunity to coach the 1986 National Champion Collegiate

Livestock Judging Team with a team consisting of Mark Core, Dave Duello, Rex Hoppes, Charlie Peters, and Brian Reiling. It was an amazing team which was most enjoyable to coach.

CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT WHERE YOU GREW UP AND WHAT THAT WAS LIKE FOR YOU?

My initial goal was to become an agricultural science teacher like my dad. While in college, I discovered that I could succeed academically. Success in judging both livestock and horses under the direction of Dr. Heird showed that I could compete on the national stage and enhanced my confidence. My uncle is Dr. Bill Able, who was a professor at Kansas State University in the Department of Animal Science. I always looked up to him while growing up and thought being a professor was something I would like to do. But until you have that academic foundation, you don't really have any idea if you can achieve that goal. Consequently, several things working collectively gave me the realization that a master's and Ph.D. could be in my future.

I THINK MOST PEOPLE KNOW YOU FOR YOUR WORK AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY. HOW DID YOU GET THERE?

I started at Texas A&M in 1992. Dr. John Edwards was the individual who called to inform me that an Assistant Professor position was opening at Texas A&M and encouraged me to investigate it. Many of you know Dr. Edwards and recognize that he is very persuasive. I followed up on the job description and found out it was a teaching-oriented position, which is what I wanted. I travelled to College Station for an interview and was offered the position in teaching, research, and academic advising.

Initially, I did not work with the judging team because Dr. Edwards was the coordinator of the program with Joel Cowley as the coach of the team. I was at Texas A&M for about a year before Dr. John Edwards accepted the Executive Director position with the North American Limousin Foundation. I became the coordinator at that point with Joel continuing his coaching duties.

During the time I served as coordinator of the livestock judging team at Texas A&M, we were fortunate to have six National Champion teams. When you look at the individuals who coached the livestock judging team, it is an impressive group who have gone on to successful and impactful careers in the livestock industry in multiple ways. Joel Cowley, former CEO of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, is currently CEO of the Calgary Stampede. Glen Alan Phillips became the coach after Joel and has had leadership roles at Houston, San Antonio, and American Royal Livestock Shows before being named COO at Rodeo Austin. The next coach was Wes Mason, currently Sales Specialist with Purina in Brenham, Texas and then Dr. Aaron Grant, a Nutrition Service Associates Cattle Consultant in Calgary coached Reserve National Champion Team in 1998. Dr. Chris Boleman, who is the CEO at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo helped me coach the 1999 National Champion Team. Dr. Ryan Rathmann came on board after that to coach National Champion teams in 2002, 2003 and 2004, and he is now at Texas Tech. Dr. Jake Franke followed Ryan and coached the 2006 National Champion team. He is now the South Region District Manager for Anipro Nutrition in Gorman, Texas. Kelton Mason, The Stud swine operation in Montgomery, Texas, and Jeff Thayne, Producer's Coop, New Braunfels, Texas, helped coach with Jake. Dr. Blake Bloomberg coached while he worked on his master's and coached the 2009 Reserve National Champion team before going to Oklahoma State University and now Black Hawk East College in Kewanee, Illinois. Dr. Zach Rambo helped coach with Blake, and Zach is North America Swine Manager at Zinpro Corporation in Eden Prairie, Minnesota. I coordinated the teams through 2009 and then moved over to the Dean's Office.



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WHEN YOU MOVED TO THE DEAN'S OFFICE, WHAT WAS YOUR NEW TITLE?

I became the Associate Dean for Student Development. I work closely with New Student Conferences, orientation courses and the scholarship program for the College, student recruitment, coordination of 4-H and FFA events hosted on campus, and outreach to the major Texas stock shows. I serve as San Antonio Endowed Chairholder for the Department of Animal Science and work closely with San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo activities including the market steer show, Beef Cattle Skillathon, 4-H and FFA Livestock Judging Contest and student interns.

I still hold the Associate Dean for Student Development title, but my new position is Associate Vice Chancellor for Producer Relations started this March. Agriculture in Texas is so diverse and significant to the United States and world agriculture. So, my job is to be the liaison between agricultural industry leaders and Texas A&M.

I have obviously just started in the position but have had the opportunity to meet many agricultural industry leaders to date. I look forward to future interaction with stakeholders across the state.

IN YOUR OPINION, REASONS THAT A STUDENT SHOULD CONSIDER JUDGING AT THE COLLEGIATE LEVEL?

I think it provides invaluable training as it broadens your perspective of animal agriculture. You see livestock production first-hand all over the country and this gives you a broader vision of agriculture. You have a chance to interact with teammates, students from other universities, and industry leaders, and these connections are so important as you transition into the working world. Livestock judging is based on decision-making, critical-thinking, and oral communications skills, all of which are important to job recruiters. You gain a certain confidence from the experience which helps you in the interview process. Livestock judging provides you with skills and background to excel in the next step post-graduation.



WHY DO YOU CONTINUE TO BE SO HEAVILY INVOLVED IN MENTORING COLLEGE STUDENTS?

I enjoy the evolution of students as they start as Freshmen until they graduate as Seniors. Freshmen typically start a little unsure of themselves as perhaps a lack of confidence exists initially. Then as they take more classes, get to know their contemporaries and professors, and make those valuable connections, everything changes. Students obviously mature, engage in experiential learning and develop the critical thinking skills to serve them well in the future. As a Senior, I see someone coming out into the working world with the confidence, educational background, and experiences that will help them be successful. It is definitely very rewarding to serve as a mentor to students and witness that transition first-hand.

As students go through the educational process, there are times that they will experience challenges or maybe speed bumps, and I hope that I can be the type of mentor who cares

about them as an individual and their success to help them navigate through those experiences and come out on the other side stronger and better prepared for the future.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.

My wife, Misty, is the Chief of Staff for the Dean of the College of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, Dr. John August. She is a graduate of Texas A&M with an Agricultural Communications and Journalism degree and grew up in Comfort, TX. We have two daughters.

Miranda is a junior at Rudder High School, and Camryn is a seventh grader at Davila Middle School. Both daughters are involved in 4-H and FFA and show steers, heifers, and barrows.



YOU MENTIONED YOUR WORK AT THE TEXAS MAJOR SHOWS. WHICH SHOWS DO YOU HELP WITH, AND WHY DO YOU CHOOSE TO GIVE YOUR TIME TO THESE ENDEAVORS?

I am Superintendent of the steer show at Dallas and Houston and Assistant Superintendent in San Antonio. I also serve as the Superintendent for the FFA and 4-H Livestock Judging Contest at San Antonio and Superintendent of the Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest in Houston. Also, I am Co-Superintendent of the Beef Skillathon Contest with Dr. Jason Cleere at the State Fair of Texas, San Antonio, and was recently added to Rodeo Austin. I recognize how important the shows are to the exhibitors and parents and to the CEAs and ASTs. Learning what works best and what approach we should take at these shows has been a learning curve. These experiences have helped me to become a better leader at these events and given me the chance to work with the great folks who serve as leaders of the shows. At the end of the day, my goal is to provide a first-class, enjoyable experience for all the exhibitors and competitors involved in the events. That is paramount.

HAS HAVING TWO DAUGHTERS COMPETING IN THE SHOW RING GIVEN YOU A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE ON LIVESTOCK SHOWING?

I think that the benefit to the young people who show is that they begin to develop friendships in every barn with students from all over the state. Their friendship network is much larger than the typical student, so when they go to college, the transition is easier because they already know so many people from shows and competitions.

With my daughters both showing, as I judge shows, I am more aware that it truly is about the interaction with the exhibitor. Do you connect with the exhibitor? When they leave the ring, do they feel like they got a good look from the judge? Were they able to communicate with the judge? As I serve as a Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent at several of the Texas major shows, we work to make sure that the judges at those shows know their interaction with the exhibitors is equally important to placing the livestock. We would like for the judges to interact with each exhibitor as they handle all the steers. We don't want them to rush the process so, at the end of the day, everyone feels they got a fair look from the judge.



THE DR. CHRIS SKAGGS EXCELLENCE ENDOWMENT IN ANIMAL SCIENCE WAS RECENTLY ESTABLISHED TO CELEBRATE YOUR YEARS OF INFLUENCE AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY. CAN YOU TELL US WHAT THE ENDOWMENT'S PURPOSE IS, AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU?

The Lastovica Family established the endowment in my name to support the livestock judging team and the beef cattle graduate program at Texas A&M University. I am so appreciative of the Lastovica family for developing a monetary support system to allow the livestock judging team to compete at the highest level in national contests. Most importantly, the endowment addresses the longevity of the livestock judging program to ensure that future generations of livestock judges have the same opportunities that we had with these programs. The Lastovica family and I, along with many others, recognize the benefits of these programs, and we want these opportunities to continue for future generations of Texas A&M students.

ARE YOU SOMEONE WHO THINKS ABOUT YOUR LEGACY, AND IF SO, WHAT DO YOU WANT THAT TO BE?

To be honest, I do not. At the end of the day, I know how important certain mentors were to me during my lifetime, and I want to be that kind of mentor that students can rely on to help them achieve their hopes and dreams for their future.



CHRIS SKAGGS

Professor & San Antonio Livestock Exposition Chair in Animal Science; Associate Vice Chancellor for Producer Relations and Associate Dean for Student Development, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Texas A&M University

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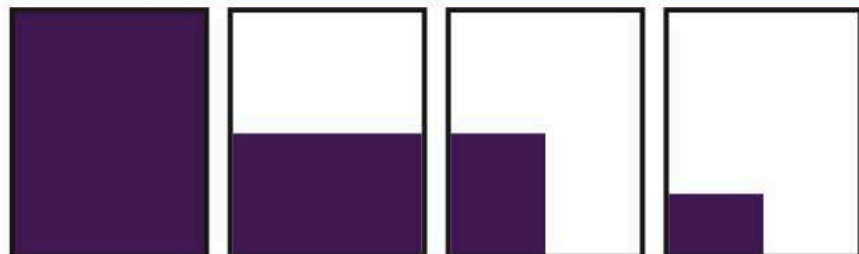
AD SIZE PRINT READY DESIGN RATE

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SEPTEMBER

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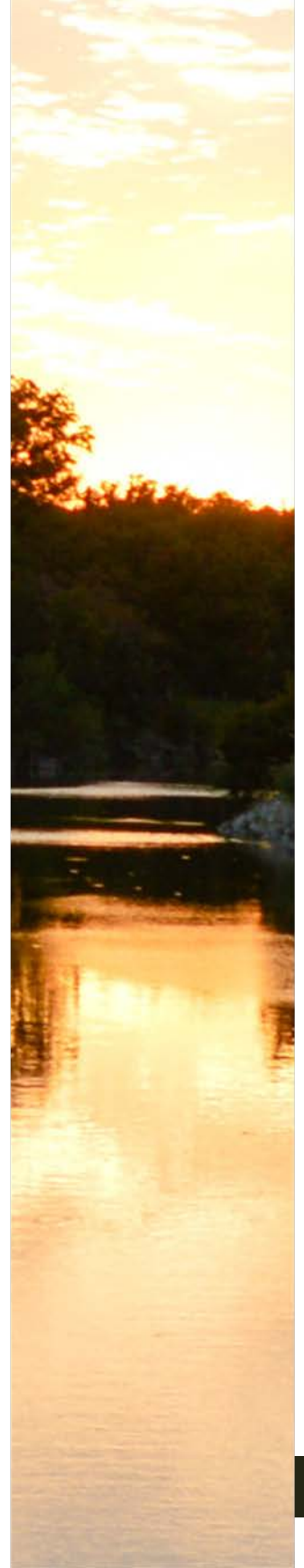
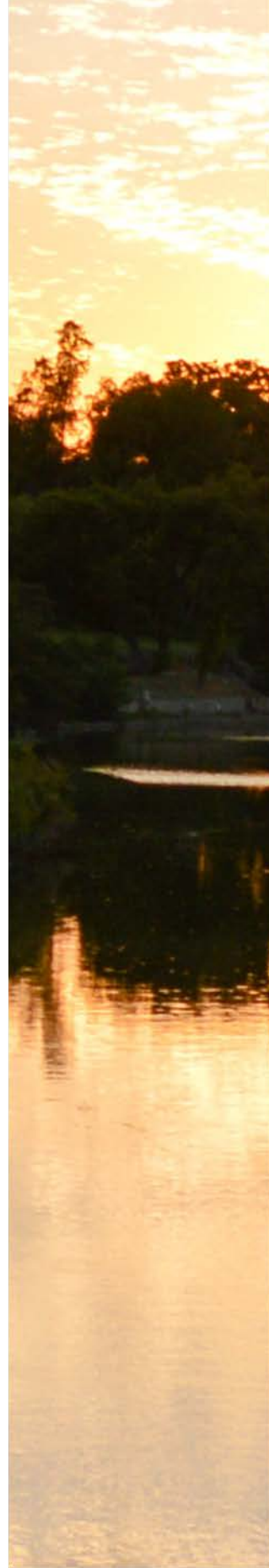
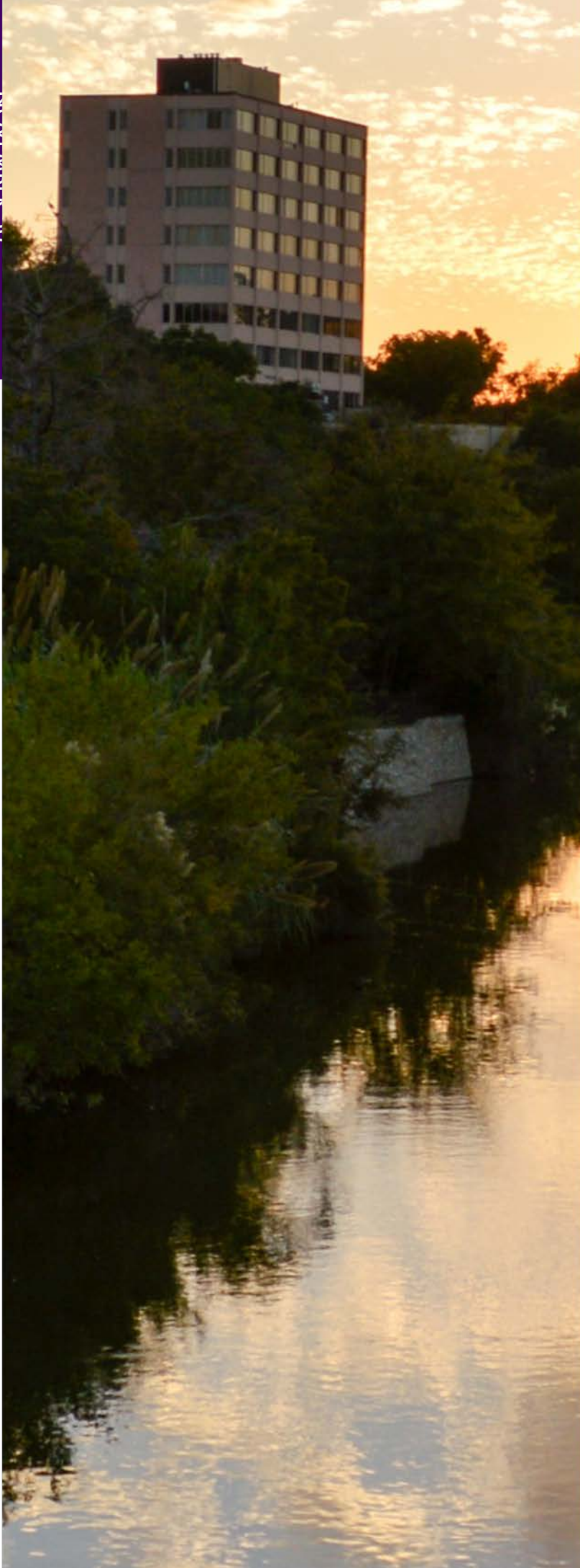
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Breakfast is always a hot topic in the show barn. Roxie's Diner is known as the most popular breakfast in town. For a faster option, swing into Campus Donuts and Kolaches to grab a quick breakfast before heading to the barns. Both have been voted to the top of the breakfast chain in San Angelo.

While in San Angelo, be sure to check out the good Mexican food available. The Original Henry's serves as a good option. For those that cannot decide what kind of food they want, The Western Sky Steakhouse is a good option. The Twisted Root Burger Co. is an easy, quick option that is so good and filling.

For those looking to get away from the barns for a few hours, the Fort Concho Museum is a fun learning experience for the kids. Another popular location is the International Waterlily Collection. It is a brilliant, one-of-a-kind attraction that is close to many restaurants, hotels, and shopping places.

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Fairfield by Marriott

ACTIVITIES

Fort Concho Museum
International Waterlily Collection

BREAKFAST & BRUNCH

Roxie's Diner

The most popular joint in town. A casual diner that serves all the favorite, classic breakfast dishes.

Campus Donuts and Kolaches

In a rush to the barn? Swing into one of the three locations and grab some hot and fresh donuts and kolaches.

The Corner Stop

Typical hole-in-the-wall restaurant that will not disappoint you.

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The Original Henry's

Delicious Mexican food. Also serves good American food. Best of both worlds.

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1

Please give a brief overview of your background, your family, and your childhood in the livestock industry. How'd you get here?

I grew up on a traditional Midwest family farm. We grew corn, soybeans and raised commercial hogs. I started with 4-H and fell in love with everything that had to do with raising pigs and ag. Later, I served as a state FFA officer during my freshman year of college, which kept me close to the farm and showpig operation, Show Me Genetics. After graduating from Culver-Stockton College, I dispersed my sowherd and took a position with Hi Point Genetics. I also spent time working in the meat and insurance industries before realizing that I really wanted to be back on the farm. Eventually, the feeling was too strong to ignore and in the fall of 2006 I purchased gilts, established the HH Brand and started raising show pigs.

2

What is your current occupation and involvement in the livestock industry?

I currently own and operate Heimer Hampshires and lead a team of eight in the full-time production of show pigs. We sell show pigs and show pig genetics nationwide. I am a huge advocate for the junior livestock program and try to support it in every way possible.

3

Who were the most influential people in your life growing up?

My father, Rodney Heimer, and John Drebes. I had the chance to learn how to raise pigs at an early age by watching and helping my dad. John exposed me to the purebred business in a way that led me to fall in love with it. Brent Bolen and all the time I spent at Hi Point, even before I was employed there, was a huge influence on me in my younger years as well.



4

Please give a description of your livestock judging experience.

I judged in 4-H and FFA, but my judging experience as a breeder has been very limited. I have never wanted to sort my own stock or limit showing opportunities for kids we work with. Ultimately, I have always felt like I could make a bigger contribution to the industry from outside the ring. I guess that is why they say "never say never." The opportunity to sift the barrow show at OYE is a unique situation to study pigs and work with kids inside the ring. I am really excited for the chance to work with Mark Hoge, someone that I have always respected.

5

Throughout your tenure, what have been the most significant changes to the junior livestock industry?

The opportunities for young people to compete has drastically increased. The sheer number of shows is astounding and the growth is driving demand for higher quality livestock all over the country. In addition, the internet has really leveled the playing field from a geographical standpoint and allowed buyers and sellers alike the same exposure to the entire marketplace, regardless of their location.

6

Walk us through your process as you evaluate market animals at a major livestock show.

Generally speaking, I am a ground up, rear forward kind of guy. No matter what I'm evaluating, it has to be right at the ground, structurally correctly everything has to fit. From there, it's always a balance between the appreciation for unique, hard to build livestock and the timeless kind that are without fault. At the farm, those who know me best will say that as a breeder, I rely heavily on pedigree and genetic information. I depend on their genetic makeup as much as their phenotypic appearance.

7

What are your preferences that you rank among the most important in regard to market animal evaluation?

In the show livestock industry, they continually find traits that add value and intrigue, but often they do not correlate to the commercial side of the business. I am okay with that because I understand the competitive challenge of breeding, feeding, managing and exhibiting livestock and acknowledge that boundaries have to be stretched in order to find separation. However, in the end, if we are judging market animals, we have to keep basics in perspective and remind ourselves of their eventual endpoint.



PEMF Magna-Wave Therapy

Jesse Heimer

8

How much influence do you feel presentation (i.e. clipping, fitting, hair/hide quality) has on any judges' decisions in the show ring?

In today's very competitive and crowded show ring, the little things make a difference. Presentation is essential in getting the attention that you need to win.

9

What is the most valuable portion of the junior livestock industry?

I honestly believe that the sense of accomplishment that comes with a junior livestock project is incredibly valuable. Depending on where you set your goals, there can always be a sense of accomplishment in finishing it. If you do get lucky enough to win, or set the goal to finish, there is no higher achievement. That sense of accomplishment is paramount to the experience and is one of the ways that the junior livestock industry sets itself apart from other activities that our youth could be involved with.

10

What is the funniest story you can recall in regards to showing or judging?

When I was a kid, at least in Missouri, we were showing for trophies, not buckles or banners. The very first trophy I won was for showmanship at our county fair, I must have been around 12 years old. We got home from the fair that night and we thought someone was in our house; an intruder. When I jumped back in the car and we started to back out of the driveway to leave, the only thing I was worried about was my trophy that had already been taken inside. They say you forget about the trophies, and the memories are what last, but I will never forget about that first trophy.

11

What are your pet peeves in the show ring?

Lack of self-awareness. When kids are not aware of their fellow showmen, where the judge is, and the overall process of what is going on. Overshowing is often detrimental and does not allow a judge to accurately see your project.

Heimer Hampshires



12

Last, but not least, what is your favorite meal? One you could never live without?

I cannot live without potatoes. Also, although I am a pork guy, I am a pretty big fan of a great steak.

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DAYTON Senior Spotlight ALLEN

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DECEMBER 2021/JANUARY 2022

DN

BURLESON, TEXAS



MY NAME IS DAYTON ALLEN.



I am the 17 year old son of Donyelle' and Joe Allen from Burleson TX. I have one older sister, Trystan who is a recent Texas A&M graduate with a degree in Agricultural Economics. I hope to attend Texas A&M next fall.

I started showing pigs at age 9 and have found my passion in the swine and Agriculture industry. In 8th grade, I added show goats to the barn and haven't looked back, showing multiple pigs and goats every year since. I have been a part of the Burleson FFA since 4th grade and Johnson County 4-H. I have held multiple offices in both chapters including, current 4-H Club President and FFA Vice President. I found my place on Greenhand and Senior FFA Quiz teams excelling to state in 2020. I also competed at State for our FFA Environmental and Natural Resources competition in 2021 with a 9th place result. FFA has been a big part of life for the last nine years and I am so honored to have found my passions through it.

I have been fortunate to have had success in the show ring thanks to great breeders who believed in me: Wintex Farms, Cody with Heads Up Genetics, Foote Farms, Gamble Show Goats and 10T Show Goats have been amazing friends and partners throughout the last several years and I cannot thank them enough.

My parents, especially my mom, has been instrumental in all aspects of my stock showing life. She has hauled me all of the state of Texas doing what we love. Going into my final "stock show season" I'd like to thank all of my ag teachers, 4-H agents, club managers, family and friends for their support. I am so grateful for memories and help over the years. I could not do this without each and every one that encouraged me along the way. THANK YOU!!!





WHAT IS THE MOST REWARDING THING FROM SHOWING LIVESTOCK?

Seeing hard work pay off. Either by me or my friends. It is always awesome to see someone who deserves to be recognized for their accomplishments.



WHAT IS THE MOST CHALLENGING THING ABOUT SHOWING LIVESTOCK?

Raising an animal that you thought was going to turn out to be a really good one but ends up falling apart. Time, money, and effort cannot be recouped but a new perspective and experience in the bad can prepare you for the good times.

IF YOU COULD TELL ONE NEW SHOWMAN SOME WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

Never stop. I did terribly when I first started, but I took it, got back up, learned, and excelled using those losses as motivation to do better.

WHAT VALUES ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU?

Self-discipline and accountability. If you can't pick something and stay true to it, you are going to have a hard time in life.



CLASS OF 2021

GIVE US YOUR MOST IMPORTANT SHOWMANSHIP TIP.

Even if you have no clue what you're doing, act like you do. Walk with confidence, look at the judge like you already know they're going to pick you.

WHEN YOU GRADUATE WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE REMEMBERED FOR IN THE STOCK SHOW WORLD?

The San Antonio Jr Gilt Show 2021. It was the highlight of my stock show career, so far.



SUPPOSE YOU COULD TAKE ANY CELEBRITY TO LUNCH AND TALK TO THEM ABOUT FFA/4-H, WHO WOULD YOU TAKE, AND WHAT WOULD YOU TELL THEM?

Whoever the CEO of PETA is. I would tell them all of the great things that animals and livestock do to feed and clothe the world.

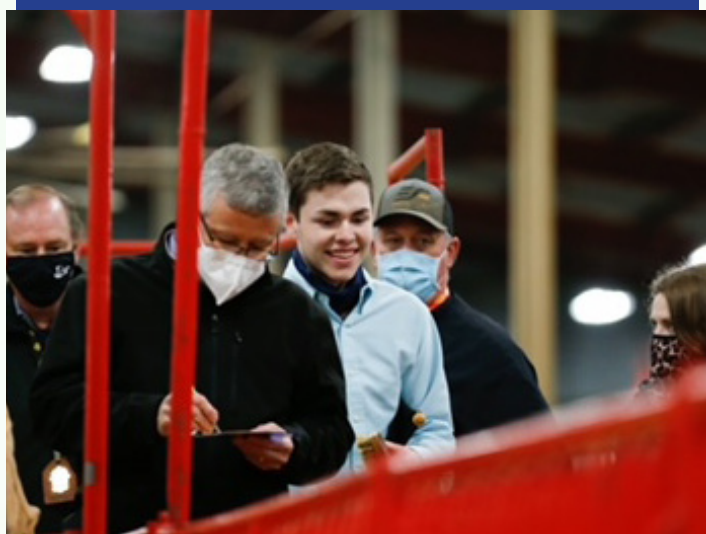


"I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST WHO STRENGTHENS ME."

Philippians 4:13

IF YOUR FRIENDS COULD DESCRIBE YOU, HOW WOULD THEY?

I find myself falling into the role of leadership quite a lot. People tend to see me as a rational voice, one that they want to listen to. I try to see all sides of a situation, analyze and provide feedback.



WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS?

Hopefully wrapping up my senior year at Texas A&M, soon to become an ag teacher.

WHO IS YOUR ROLE MODEL?

My father. He has accomplished great things and provided a great life for me and my family. I hope to emulate his work ethic and family values.



IMAGINE YOURSELF 10 YEARS FROM TODAY. WHAT GOALS AND AMBITIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR YOURSELF, PERSONALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY?

Overall, I hope that I am happy with my career. I do not feel the need to be rich or anything, just comfortable with a beautiful family and a good job that I look forward to going to every day.



WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO BE A GOOD LEADER, AND TO PUT FORTH YOUR BEST EFFORT?

Being able to see someone else prosper partially because of a "push" that I gave them is always a rewarding experience.

HOW DO YOU GO ABOUT SETTING GOALS IN ORDER TO BECOME MORE SUCCESSFUL?

Once I put my mind to something, I make doubly sure that it gets done and done well. I'm very determined, sometimes to a flaw. I'm willing to spend hours upon hours to make sure that whatever task I am doing gets done right.



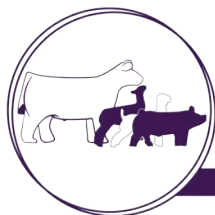
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TAKE HAVE

courage

Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength. When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades." Revelation 1:12-18

How do you see Jesus? When you imagine Him, do you see Him as a baby in a manger? Or do you see Him walking with His disciples? Or do you see Him hanging on the cross? Or do you see Him walking the earth as the Resurrected Savior? Jesus was all these things. Yet, when Jesus revealed Himself to the Apostle John while he was imprisoned on the island of Patmos, Jesus revealed Himself to John in His full glory. No longer was Jesus constrained by the limitations of the flesh or by the nature of earth. Jesus was now where He belonged, seated as the King of Heaven.

John describes Jesus in spectacular terms. Every aspect of his description indicates the authority and majesty of Jesus. He was dressed like a priest, and His appearance was bright and pure. This revelation of Jesus left John terrified. But Jesus, by His gentle touch, reminds John that He was the same one who had walked the earth with him, had communed with him, and revealed the mysteries of heaven and the Father to him. Jesus then speaks and confirms that although John may not have recognized Him by His appearance, He is the one that John had seen crucified and risen.

Although we as believers may not have the privilege to see Jesus in His glory, we are assured by John's description that Jesus is seated in glory and is interceding on our behalf (Romans 8:34). He has freed us from the bondage of sin. He has the power to answer our prayers. No matter our circumstances, Jesus, our perfect High Priest, has shown Himself to be everything we need.



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Christmas

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EXTRA ORDINARY

Showman



**MASON
LEIBHAM**

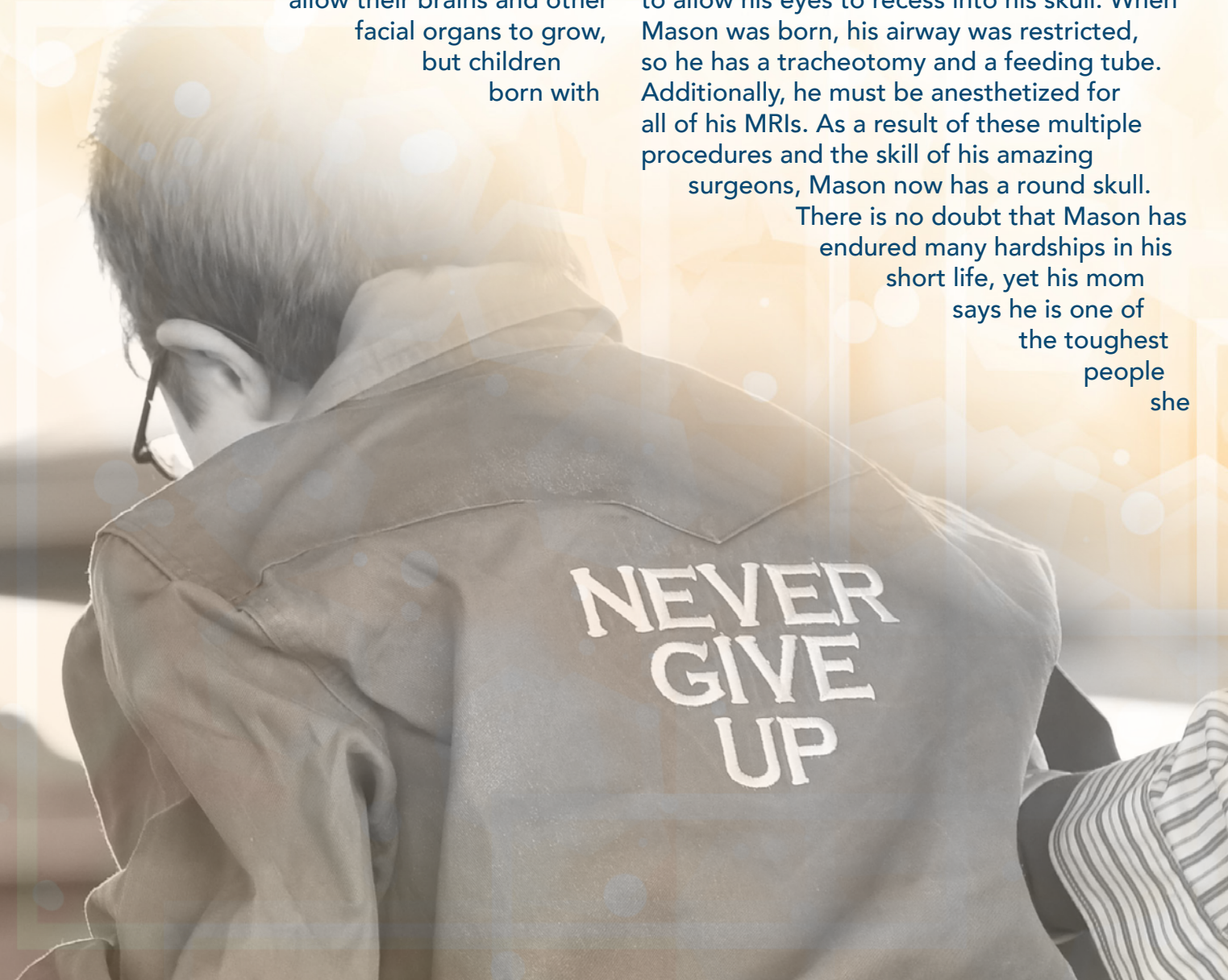
For parents of children with physical and mental disabilities, finding a place where their child is loved and accepted can be an arduous task. This is especially true for parents of children whose disability significantly alters their appearance. For Vanessa Leibham of Adkins, Texas, a single mother of a child with a severe cranio-facial abnormality, finding a place for her son to feel loved and accepted has been a top priority. She wanted somewhere her 14-year-old son Mason could be treated like every other kid, be challenged, and find purpose for his life. She found this place of acceptance in an unlikely place, a pig barn.

Mason was born with Pfeifer Syndrome, a disease which affects cranio-facial development. Pfeifer Syndrome, a rare genetic disorder affecting about 1 in 100,000 people, stems from a genetic mutation that causes the plates in the skull to fuse together. Normally, children have soft skulls that allow their brains and other facial organs to grow, but children born with

Pfeifer Syndrome have rigid skulls that will not allow for normal growth. Because the disease restricts the growth of the skull, it affects the development of all the organs of the head and causes children with the disease to have developmental delays, restricted airways, protruding eyes, hearing loss, acid reflux, and sometimes death. Mason was born with the more severe Type II form of the disease, which is identified at birth by a cloverleaf shape of the face.

In order to live, people born with Pfeifer Syndrome must endure many surgeries to allow the skull to grow as the rest of their body grows. Mason has had a total of 92 surgical procedures. These range from basic imaging procedures to complex cranial surgeries. To allow his brain room to grow, surgeons have performed eight cranial vaults, a procedure where the skull is cut from ear to ear. He has also had eight surgeries on his orbital sockets to allow his eyes to recess into his skull. When Mason was born, his airway was restricted, so he has a tracheotomy and a feeding tube. Additionally, he must be anesthetized for all of his MRIs. As a result of these multiple procedures and the skill of his amazing surgeons, Mason now has a round skull.

There is no doubt that Mason has endured many hardships in his short life, yet his mom says he is one of the toughest people she

A photograph of a person from behind, wearing a dark jacket with the words "NEVER GIVE UP" printed in large, white, block letters on the back. The person is also wearing glasses and has short hair. The background is a warm, out-of-focus indoor setting with soft lighting and geometric patterns.

has ever known. In fact, when Mason was two years old, he had an experience that brought his resilient attitude to life. Following a difficult surgery to repair his stomach, Mason's doctors wanted him to move around to help encourage his bowels to move and speed his recovery.

Yet, Mason was in so much pain, he refused to comply. At the time, Mason loved to watch wrestling, and his favorite wrestler was John Cena. While watching wrestling on the television in the hospital, Vanessa reminded Mason that John Cena wouldn't want Mason to give up because John believed you should never give up. Mason signed the words never give up back to his mom. With that encouragement, he got up and walked. Since that time, "Never Give Up" has been Mason's motto for life.

Around this time, Vanessa and Mason formed a pivotal friendship that would change their lives. Vanessa and Mason were living in the Houston area at the time, and she met the Cormier family through work. The Cormier's children had grown up showing pigs, and they introduced Vanessa and Mason to stock showing. The Cormiers also introduced Vanessa and Mason to several breeders including the Brockmans, the Wendts, and Kelton Mason. Vanessa knew that stock showing was something that would benefit Mason and be a place where he could belong.

"He really enjoyed being outside and working with the animals. But more importantly, it gave him a sense of freedom and normalcy. With sports and academics, Mason was limited. With stock showing, we have seen no limits," says Vanessa.

Mason has been showing now for six years, and showing pigs is his passion.

He loves being with his pigs and bonding with them. He has been known to spend many hours in the

pen with his pigs, laying on them and brushing them.

"I like them because they are cuddly," says Mason.

Mason is known in the ring by his special red shirt. Embroidered on the back of the shirt is Mason's motto, "Never Give Up." Then, a couple of years ago, an addition was made to the sleeve of the shirt to commemorate a special supporter in Mason's life. Marshall Boyd was a mentor to Mason when he first started showing. Sadly, he passed away during the second year Mason showed. Before Mason's county show, he remarked to his mom that this would be the first time Mr. Marshall would not be at the show to watch him. Vanessa suggested that they honor Mr. Marshall by having someone embroider, "In Memory of Mr. Marshall" on the sleeve of Mason's shirt. After Mason came out of the ring at the county show, he told his mom that he did really well because Mr. Marshall was with him.

Mason has been blessed by others who have helped him be successful in the ring. An area family, the Neils, have stepped up in recent years to help manage Mason's pigs. They consult with him on feed changes and the health of his pigs. Recently, Kylie Burns, a fellow swine exhibitor, has spent extra time teaching Mason how to walk his pigs. Kylie and Mason hope that someday Mason will be able to show in the ring unassisted. These are just a few examples of how people have stepped up to assist Mason.

"There seems to be a fight every year to see which kid is going to help Mason. It is a lot of responsibility for these kids to step up and say that they want to help Mason show in the ring. First, they are taking time away from their animal, but they are also making the commitment to help him on practice days and show days. They are also making the commitment to be with Mason in the show ring. The young people who have shown with Mason have done an amazing job at not only showing the animals, but being Mason's protectors," says Vanessa. "We could not do this without our show family tribe, but we have a group of strangers who never knew us who have

"NEVER GIVE UP."

embraced us and helped manage our animals and taught us the stock show life."

A great example of how friends and strangers have come together to help Mason happened last year. Mason had never been able to show in Houston despite having entered the show five years in a row. When it came time for the show last year, it looked like 2021 would be another bust. Mason had spent many days in the hospital and was not due to be released until right before the show. Vanessa had no idea how she could get home from the hospital in Dallas, pick up the pig in Adkins, and make it to Houston. Mason was disappointed because he wanted to show his favorite pig, Bubba. That is when their friends stepped in to help. Old friends, like the Cormiers and the Neils, worked to coordinate a ride for Bubba, as well as find someone who could take care of him at the show. People Vanessa didn't even know offered to help. In the end, Mason and Vanessa were able to leave the hospital and drive to Houston for the show. Mason placed fourth with Bubba and could not have been happier.

Certainly, stock showing is about quality livestock and winning. Yet, stock showing in its purest form is focused on developing friendships and community, helping other exhibitors even if it means giving them an edge, and giving exhibitors a place to develop character and important life skills. Mason Leibham has experienced this pure form of stock showing. Mason has experienced the joy and sense of belonging that comes from having a community around him. He has found a place where people don't see his differences but see him as a fellow competitor.

Vanessa's hope for Mason is that he would live in a world where he, and people like him, are treated with respect and acceptance. For now, she celebrates that Mason can find these things in the show barn. "It is about so much more than a ribbon or a banner. It is about seeing the smile on his face when he is in the ring. It is being able to see him do things with his pigs outside of the show ring. It is about being able to see him included in a group, when so often he is excluded or seen as different. In the stock showing world, he is not. He is seen as every other kid."



If you would like to share the story of an extraordinary showman in your life, please email us at info@purplecircle.com

WORD SEARCH

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Y P X D C G G R O A R U M P L S B Q U B
O Q Z R D G B N W Q E E R L X F O A Q W
I G K W S C I R Z I S H H S A B E C M L
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V M J E N K T Y O T R A C K A S I T Z O
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1/4 Page	\$250	\$75
1/8 Page	\$125	\$50

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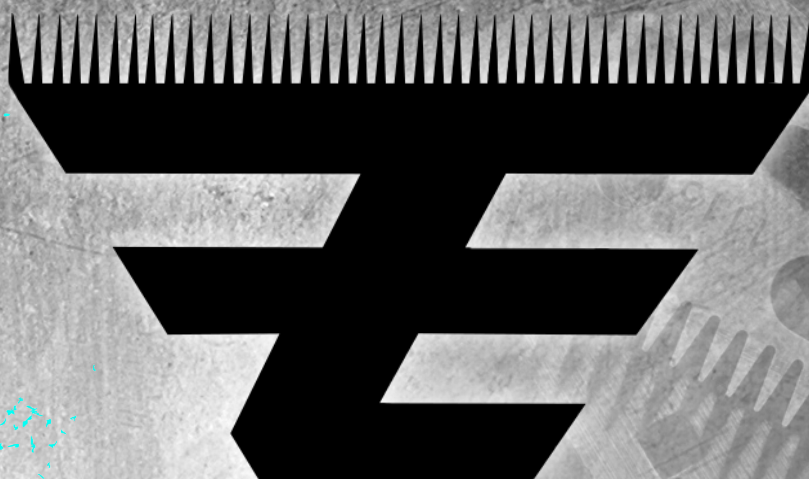
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GOTCHA!

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Cookin' with Friends

Beef Tenderloin with Mushroom Sauce

2 lb beef tenderloin trimmed and tied
(at room temperature for 1-2 hours)
1 1/2 tsp salt
1 tsp pepper
2 garlic cloves minced
1/2 Tbsp fresh thyme, minced
2 Tbsp olive oil

MUSHROOM SAUCE

2 Tbsp unsalted butter
1 Tbsp olive oil
1/2 cup yellow onion finely chopped
16 oz baby Bella mushrooms
2 garlic cloves minced
1/2 Tbsp fresh thyme, minced
1/2 tsp salt or to taste
1/2 tsp black pepper freshly ground
1/2 cup dry red wine
1 cup beef broth
1/2 cup heavy whipping cream

Directions

Preheat oven to 500°F. Pat dry your room temperature tenderloin with paper towels. Tie tenderloin with kitchen string. Combine garlic, thyme, salt and pepper and rub all over roast. Drizzle generously all over with olive oil. Bake for 28-30 minutes for medium doneness. Transfer roast to a cutting board, loosely tent with foil and rest for 15-20 minutes then slice. Meanwhile make the mushroom sauce. Place a large heavy skillet over medium-high heat. Add butter and oil then add sliced mushrooms and onion and sauté together, stirring frequently until onions are soft and mushrooms are lightly browned.

Add minced garlic, thyme, salt and pepper. Stir together for 1 minute until fragrant then transfer mushrooms to a separate bowl. Add 1/2 cup wine and scrape the bottom to deglaze. Continue cooking until most of the wine has evaporated (2 minutes).

Add 1 cup beef broth and boil until reduced by half (5-7 min).

Stir in heavy cream and mushrooms, bring back to a boil then reduce heat and simmer another 2-3 minutes or until sauce reaches desired thickness. Season sauce to taste with salt and pepper.





Cheesy Baked Broccoli

- 2 large heads of broccoli (chopped into bite size pieces)
- 1 cup Italian bread crumbs
- 1 cup grated sharp cheddar cheese
- 1/4 cup fresh grated parmesan cheese
- 3 eggs
- 1 tbsp milk
- 1 tsp garlic powder

Directions

Preheat your oven to 400 degrees and line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

In a medium size bowl, whisk the eggs and milk together.

In a separate bowl, mix the Italian bread crumbs, cheddar cheese, parmesan cheese and garlic powder together.

Dip each piece of broccoli in the egg mixture until well coated, and then dip them in the cheese and bread crumb mixture until completely covered. In order to get good coverage, I sprinkle them well and then really push the broccoli into the bread crumbs to get them to stick.

Place the coated broccoli florets on your lined baking sheet, and bake for 18-25 minutes.

Taco Pasta Salad

- 8 oz short pasta
- 1 lb lean ground beef
- 1/4 cup finely chopped onion
- 2 tablespoons taco seasoning 1 packet
- 2 cups halved cherry tomatoes
- 1 cup 4 oz shredded cheddar cheese
- 15 oz black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 cup French or Catalina dressing

Directions

Cook pasta according to package instructions; drain and rinse in cold water.

While pasta is cooking, in a large skillet, brown the beef. Drain excess oil, if any, then add onion and taco seasoning. Cover and cook over low heat until onions are soft; let cool.

In a large bowl, combine the taco meat, pasta, tomatoes, cheese and beans. Stir well to combine then toss with dressing. Cover and chill until ready to serve.



Pecan Pie Brownies

- 1 box Brownie mix
- 1 cup Sugar
- 1 1/2 cups Light Corn syrup
- 4 Eggs
- 1/4 cup Unsalted butter
- 1 1/2 teaspoon Vanilla extract
- 2 cups Pecans, roughly chopped

Directions: Preheat oven according to brownie package instructions.

Whisk together the sugar, corn syrup, eggs, butter, and vanilla in a small saucepan. Place on the stove top over medium high heat and begin to cook, stirring continuously.

Mix brownies according to package instructions.

Pour brownie batter into a greased 13x9 inch pan and place in oven to bake for 20 minutes.

As the brownies bake the filling in the saucepan should have thickened enough to coat your spoon (about 15 minutes). Stir the pecans into the mixture and continue to cook for 2-3 minutes until the mixture reaches the consistency of runny oatmeal.

When the brownies have finished pre-baking remove them from the oven and pour the pecan pie filling over them spreading it out to cover the brownies completely.

Place them back in the oven and bake for 25-30 minutes or until the filling only jiggles slightly in the middle when you move the pan.

Let cool to room temperature before cutting.



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