

## Leon County Clerk Carla McEachern has roots and family all over the county

By Sherry Matney

Leon County Clerk Carla Neyland McEachern is a home grown Leon County gal who grew up in Old Bowling and graduated from Leon High School. After attending Sam Houston University in Huntsville she graduated from Brayer Business College. She married James Robert McEachern in 1988 and shortly thereafter went to work as a deputy clerk for the county.

In 1995 the County Clerk left an unexpired term and Carla was asked to fill the term, then in 1996 she ran for the position and was elected. McEachern was not a stranger to community service since her father Curtis Neyland was a County Commissioner and upon his death her mother, Thelma, fulfilled his term.

Carla will retire at the end of her current term which expires at the end of the year. She says she has been truly honored to serve her county in this capacity.

When asked about something memorable about her years in the Clerk's office, she said, "In the nineties we were doing early voting on the weekend for one election and I found that the old courthouse was on fire. Not long after that the District Court caught fire and I discovered that too. I became known as the fire bug of the courthouse."

While McEachern has enjoyed her 22 years of service she is looking forward to kicking back with her family. She and James have a son, Bobby, who is a senior at Blinn College in Bryan and a daughter Carlee, a sophomore at Centerville High. Carla says she plans to clean her house and follow her kids around.

Carla McEachern is looking forward to retiring and enjoying time with her family.

Sherry's Shots



## A Woman's Work is.... (sniff, sniff.. What's that smell?)

by Vanessa Goodwyn

I burned the almonds. No surprise to anyone who knows me -- I almost ALWAYS burn the almonds when I try to make Mom's ramen noodle/cole slaw salad. Now I admit: almond toasting is NOT rocket science. And I was valedictorian of my senior class, for goodness sakes! I should be able to handle this assignment, and probably could do so on a fairly regular basis if almond toasting were all that I had on my plate, so to speak.

Seriously. I ask all the women readers: When do we EVER have only ONE thing on our proverbial plate? In my own defense, I was making several dishes for the family reunion, my eyes were burning from chopping onions, and I was mentally calculating what year Grandma's eightieth birthday party was held so I'd have some idea of which box of photo albums in the attic might have the best chance of containing the

picture of late Aunt Roselyn which I need to bring to the reunion. Additionally, I had a load of towels tumbling in the dryer and was putting away the last of the groceries we bought earlier when I smelled the odor of burnt almonds.

Even those of you who are --unlike me-- quite organized are probably nodding in empathy at this point because, Ladies, it's as true today as it was when Mrs. Anonymous first penned those words: "A woman's work is never done". And she seldom has the luxury of focusing on a single task as she juggles her many 'hats' -- wife, mother, employee, home-maker, church member, ranch hand, team mom, etc.

Today's housewife rearing children has a schedule that is mind-boggling. Get 'em up, get 'em to school, get to the pharmacy+vet+post office+dry cleaner+grocery store. Pick 'em up and taxi

SEE Woman's Work page 5C

## Dianne Ryder



Dianne and Byron Ryder returned to Buffalo with their two sons, Jeff and Brent in March of 1984 to take over the family business, Ryder Oil Company which has been at the intersection of Hwy. 75 and 79 since 1957.

Both became very active in the community as well as the Chamber of Commerce. Dianne has served as President of the Chamber, as Board Member, and Stampede Planning Committee. In 1992 she was honored as Woman of the Year.

Dianne served on the Buffalo ISD Board of Trustees from 1994-97 and currently serves on the District Site Base Committee.

In May of 2009 Dianne was elected to serve on the Buffalo City Council. She also works actively with her husband, Judge Ryder on many county activities as well as serving on the Area Workforce Board and Local and County Economic Development Boards.

Dianne is very active in First Baptist Church serving in the choir and as instrumentalist. In her free time she enjoys spending time with her three grandchildren, Bryce, McKenzie and Brylee.



Merry Millar and Tammy Sklar

of food and I enjoy serving others".

The Stagecoach Deli and gift shop is a vision of both women. Tammy had wanted to open a resale shop while Merry was looking into opening a sandwich shop. They met and combined their ideas and lots of hard work later their dreams became a reality. Calamity Jane's Mercantile Mall has a variety of items for sale from local vendors who rent booths to display their inventory. The deli has a different soup each day as well as chili and a variety of sandwiches. Their desserts are freshly made daily and are delicious.

The deli is open from 10:30 am - 4:00 pm Monday through Saturday and the gift shop stays open until 5:00 pm.

Tammy and Merry would love to meet you and fill you up with some good eats and gifts for that special someone.

420 E. Commerce, Buffalo  
903-322-1700

## Allen Real Estate

(Next To Texas Burger & Subway)

## Kathy Allen Teresa Nix



Both Kathy and Teresa are Loving Life in Leon County!

Kathy and husband, Robert, bought their first piece of land in Leon County in 1979. As soon as possible they made plans to get here full time. In 1984 Kathy and Robert made the move and have not regretted it one single bit! Kathy worked for Country Oaks Real Estate for two years and earned her Brokers License with the State of Texas and began "Allen Real Estate". With over 27

years of real estate service Kathy still enjoys serving people and showing off Leon County. Kathy says, "There is no other job I would want to do."

Teresa, on the other hand, moved to the area just 5 years ago. She began working with Kathy part time selling property to friends who came to The Abiding Place Retreat and Conference Center and loved the area and wanted a place to hunt and get away. "Leon County is easy to sell!" says Nix. Teresa enjoys being outdoors and walking the rolling hills, lush pastures and deep woods as she shows clients all that Leon County has to offer. "We just love it here and wish we could have raised all of our children in the county."

Kathy and Teresa both lived in the Houston area before coming to Buffalo.

Kathy's son, Rob, is also a licensed agent along with Teresa's husband, Bob.

Allen Real Estate is proud of our team and how each member brings their own unique talent to the table in order to best serve our clients. Bob takes care of our WEB site - [www.allen-realestate.net](http://www.allen-realestate.net) as well as keeping properties and files up to date for internet clients. Rob knows Leon County well and keeps his finger on the pulse of clients and current activity.

Our Team is ready to serve you whether you are looking to buy or sell...and they love what they do.

Highway 79 East  
Buffalo, Texas  
903-322-3270

## CC's Furniture & Home Decor Cherry Salinas



Before coming to Buffalo six years ago, Dr. Cherry Salinas had quite a different career than owning a furniture store. Salinas, with a doctorate in Educational Leadership, directed organizational development and human resources for the largest mental health and mental retardation authority in Texas. Additionally, she held professorships at various universities for more than twenty years. Having an interest in education and a son in Leon High School Salinas is running for the upcoming open position on the Leon Independent School Board of Trustees.

After moving to Buffalo, she saw a need for economic growth in Buffalo and the surrounding communities and wanted an opportunity to meet people in the communities. Always up for a new challenge, Cherry opened CC's Furniture & Home Décor three years ago.

CC's Furniture offers a wide selection of quality home furniture, decor items, and gifts. CC's also offers a complete line of Serta and Corsicana mattresses. Cherry believes it's important to listen to what customers want for their homes and to offer furniture and décor that meet their needs. Thus, if you don't see what you're looking for in the store, custom ordering is available.

Easy financing options and lay-away are available at CC's Furniture & Home Décor.

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