

BUILDING BONDS - ON AND OFF THE FIELD *by Melanie Cleveland, Assistant City Secretary*

If you search online for "Rodney Tweet," you can find him on several NFL and pro-football websites. His professional career wasn't very long, but his story is interesting and he looks back on it with a smile – and no regrets.

As a child in Austin, Minnesota, Rod and his older brother lived on a block with many kids their ages and their childhoods were filled with sports activities. The Sunday schedule included gathering around the TV to watch the Vikings play, then a trip to the local park for a pick-up game of tackle football. Rod says, "When we were kids, we didn't sit in front of the TV or play video games all day. We were always outside."

Since his mom wouldn't let him play tackle football so young, Rod began his football career playing flag football in 5th grade. But in 6th grade, he was able to play in the tackle football league offered by the local Parks and Recreation Department ... and he would play organized tackle for many years to come.

As a tight end at Austin High School, he was chosen for the varsity team as a junior. Unfortunately, his only play that year was catching one touchdown pass. But as a senior, he was a starter for his team that went 8-0 ... until the final game of the season when one loss kept them from going to the playoffs in the new Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome in Minneapolis. Rod was honored to be chosen as All-Conference that season.

As chance – or destiny – would have it, Rod's high school coach knew the offensive coordinator at the University of South Dakota and placed a call. Ultimately, Rod received a partial football scholarship his freshman year. During spring football that year, he earned a starting wide receiver position for his sophomore year and remained in that position throughout his college career. In 2004, Rod was inducted into the University of South Dakota's Coyote Athletic Hall of Fame. At that time, he held eight school records, including career catches (140) and yards receiving (2,557 in 32 games), as well as touchdown catches in one season (10). He was

also the only 1,000 yard receiver in the school's history.

Rod's four-year college eligibility ended in 1985. He was just a few hours short of receiving his degree when he was approached by an agent from Chicago who felt there may be good opportunities in Rod's football future. The Atlanta Falcons were contacted and, ultimately, Rod signed as a free agent in 1986.

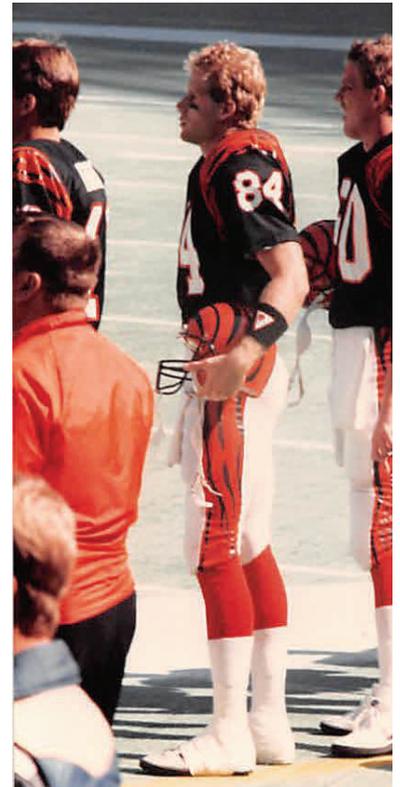
Rod played in the spring and fall camps that year, and played four pre-season games. While attending the camps, the team practiced with other professional teams – most memorably the New York Giants and Miami Dolphins. Rod recalls playing against, and hanging out with, Dan Moreno, Mark Duper and Mark Clayton from Miami, as well as Lawrence Taylor with New York. Another interesting piece of football history is that Rod's time with the Falcons was the final year that Billy "White Shoes" Johnson played there.

Unfortunately in the end, Rod was released by the Falcons. Knowing he was so close to his degree, he returned to South Dakota and finished his bachelor degree in recreation management.

Once he had received his degree, he decided to call his agent again and see if other opportunities might be available. In 1987, Rod signed with the Cincinnati Bengals and was able to play with them during their camps and in pre-season games. During his time with the Bengals, he played with Cris Collinsworth, now an NBC football commentator.

Rod was released by the Bengals, but during the 1987 NFL strike, wanting to get exposure on the field – and because he loves the game – he played during the strike as well.

(continued on back page)



Rodney Tweet, Cincinnati Bengals, 1987.



Above: Rod, #84, on the field with the Cincinnati Bengals, 1987. Left: Rod's NFL player contract with the Atlanta Falcons.

NFL PLAYER CONTRACT

THIS CONTRACT is between Rodney Tweet, hereinafter "Player," and THE FIVE SMITHS, INC., a Georgia corporation (limited partnership) (partnership), hereinafter "Club," operating under the name of the ATLANTA FALCONS as a member of the National Football League, hereinafter "League."

In consideration of the promises made by each to the other, Player and Club agree as follows:
1. TERM. This contract covers one football season, and will begin on the date of execution or February 1, 1986 whichever is later, and end on February 1, 1987 unless extended, terminated, or renewed as specified elsewhere in this contract.

2. EMPLOYMENT AND SERVICES. Club employs Player as a skilled football player. Player accepts such employment. He agrees to give his best efforts and loyalty to the Club, and to conduct himself on and off the field with appropriate recognition of the fact that the success of professional football depends largely on public

Spotlight on Municipal Court

Staff Celebrates Municipal Court Week - November 4-8

by Karla Abernethy-Thetford, Juvenile Services Coordinator

Any weekday at 8 a.m., you will find a line forming at the City's Municipal Court building at 4th Ave. and Taylor St. The Court staff works diligently to ensure a fair, independent and impartial forum for citizens in regard to law violations occurring within the city limits.

The City recognized the work of Municipal Court staff Nov. 4-8. A proclamation was presented by the Mayor and City Commissioners Oct. 29 and there were activities for staff during the following week, including a food day, chair decorating contest, and a staff picture, according to Court Administrator Victoria Medley.

The goal of Municipal Court is "to efficiently process and administer all matters coming into and before the Municipal Court. The Municipal Court strives to promote a high level of public confidence and sense of fairness through efficient and courteous public service."

"Few understand just how many people the staff are in contact with daily and the responsibility they have," Medley said. "Each member of the staff is an excellent example of what it is to be a public servant."

Amarillo's Municipal Court is the 14th largest municipal court in the state of Texas. An estimated 64,000 Class C misdemeanor cases are expected to be filed this fiscal year. Cases include traffic violations such as speeding, as well as criminal charges and city ordinance violations such as possession of drug paraphernalia, animal neglect, disorderly conduct, shooting fireworks in the city - and everything in between. Citizens have the option to pay their fines at the Municipal Court building or online, and can request deferments, perform community service or other methods that may be available based for their case. Juveniles may participate in Amarillo Teen Court, a first offender program that holds teens accountable for their actions by allowing them to serve the community, participate in classes and serve as jurors in lieu of paying a fine.

More than 25,000 cases were heard by the Municipal Court judges (one full-time presiding judge and three part-time judges) during daily walk-in court times this past year. The public may see a judge



Left to right: Donna Knight, Karla Abernethy-Thetford, Cynthia Storey, Robert Ruiz, Julie Rodriguez, Crystal Cantu-Booker, Maria Jimenez, Diane Baca, Mona Noblitt, Bill Allein, Becky Whitehead, Heather Wingert, Karin Lacy, Kym Klarich, Sonya Letson, Sandra Dahl, Chelsea Bowen, Clara Mireles, Miguel Lozano, Deedra King, Michelle Perales, Adriana Rodriguez, Jake Medrano, Deniece Addison-Huff and Victoria Medley. Not pictured: Jennifer Cates, Donald Conley, Inda Crawford, Pamela Denholm, Barbara Bauernfeind, Kerry Tilley, Patti Owen, Kendra Hacker, Jackie Corbin, Steven Hickmott and Juan Lopez.

regarding a case during any of five daily court sessions or in Thursday evening court. Court is also held for appearance dockets and jury trials at least twice each week, as well as video arraignments on Saturday mornings. There are also three prosecuting attorneys that represent the city/state and consult with defendants regarding cases and options.

The court works with citizens in a variety of ways to collect fines owed to the city, including offering payment plans and other options. If fines are not paid, Municipal Court staff processes and tracks warrants issued for non-payment.

Municipal Court has a staff of 37. Through the work of employees in 11 areas, nearly \$8.5 million was collected in fines and court costs during the 2011/2012 fiscal year. Of that, more than \$5.8 million stayed in the city with the remainder distributed to the State of Texas.

"Many people will never be face-to-face with City staff. When they are, many times it is with Municipal Court," Medley said. "The Court staff's ability to be professional, approachable and to represent the city well is an important role for the City of Amarillo."

Library Offers Services from The Benefit Bank

by Stacy Clopton-Yates, Public Relations Coordinator, Public Library

At the downtown and east branch libraries, library staff members trained as counselors for **The Benefit Bank** are quietly helping Amarillo citizens change their lives.

The Benefit Bank is a web-based service that makes it easier for low- and moderate-income families to apply for state and federal benefits such as cash assistance (TANF), SNAP food benefits, medical assistance (Medicaid and CHIP), FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), federal tax returns and federal back taxes, veterans benefits and voter registration.

Working with **The Benefit Bank** reduces the amount of time needed to apply for benefits by streamlining the application process. Once a person has used **The Benefit Bank** for one program (to file federal taxes for example), that information is saved for other applications such as student aid or SNAP.

Billions of dollars in public funds and tax refunds go unclaimed every year

because applying for these benefits is confusing, time-consuming, and often intimidating. Working with a counselor from **The Benefit Bank** helps families become aware of all the benefits for which they are eligible and maximizes benefits and refunds available to them.

Besides the very real difference such assistance can make in the lives of individual families, helping people gain access to these benefits is good for the local economy.

Right now **The Benefit Bank** services are available at the downtown and east branch libraries, but library staff hopes to begin offering services at all five locations in 2014.

To make an appointment with a counselor for **The Benefit Bank** services, call the Downtown Library at 378-3054 and ask for Melody Boren or Lisa White, or call the East Branch Library at 342-1589 and ask for Yvonne Stephenson.



Cpl. Jerry Neufeld Awarded Excellence in Community Service Award

by Brent Barbee, Sergeant - Crime Prevention Unit



Cpl. Neufeld and his wife, Debbie.

Cpl. Jerry Neufeld, a 31-year veteran of the Amarillo Police Department, was awarded the Better Business Bureau's Excellence in Community Service Award at the BBB's Integrity Awards luncheon held at the Civic Center Grand Plaza Oct. 17.

The BBB describes the qualifications for the award by stating that, "The award is presented to an individual who has shown unflinching dedication to serving the

community and brings the core values set forth by the BBB to their everyday practices. The BBB standards set forth valued qualities of doing the right thing, making tough decisions that may not be popular with some but that serve the good of the community at large; values such as trust and integrity."

Cpl. Neufeld has provided 16 years of public education to the BBB, and the public at large, in his role in the APD's Crime Prevention Unit, helping citizens guard against fraud and theft and helping them minimize damage if they do become a victim.

Cpl. Neufeld's name is engraved on a trophy that he will retain for a year before it is passed to next year's recipient. Cpl. Neufeld is another example of a public servant that the City of Amarillo and the Amarillo Police Department can be proud of. Congratulations Jerry!

United Way Chili Throwdown Results

On Friday, Oct. 25, we found out who makes the best chili in the City at the 3rd Annual Chili Throwdown benefiting the United Way of Amarillo and Canyon. Thank you to all the chili cooks and employees that came out to support the United Way campaign. The crowd was great, the music was awesome and the chili was fabulous! Here are the results of the throwdown:



First place winners, Chili without Beans

Chili without beans:

1st place - Chili Con Carnage: Jeremy Parrie and Darron Wright from Director of Utilities

2nd place - Double Trouble Chili: Ray Arias and Rhonda Perry from Park Maintenance

3rd place - Dewey Likes It Hot: Stacy Yates and Amanda Hope from the Library

Chili with beans:

1st place - Firecooks: John Woodward, Crystal McMurry and Terry McKinney from the Fire Department

2nd place - Best of the Beans: Kevin Robison, Lupe Rangel and Jeanette Stiles from Building Safety

3rd place - Big Papi's Chili: J.D. Lopez from Traffic Field Operations



First place winners, Chili with Beans

People's Choice winners:

1st place - Double Trouble

2nd place - Chili Con Carnage

3rd place - Big Papi's Chili



Double Trouble - First place, People's Choice



Judges Greenlee, Harpole and Keller

Thank you also goes to Transit for use of their facility, Dean Yates and Mary Lyn Halley of Insufficient Funds for the music, and to our judges: Mayor Paul Harpole, Fire Chief Jeff Greenlee and ProNews 7's Meredith Keller.

Employees Take First Place in Regional TRAPS Equipment Rodeo

by Clint Stoddard, Parks Superintendent



A team of our Parks & Recreation employees competed in the West Region TRAPS (Texas Recreation and Park Society) Equipment Rodeo Nov. 7 in Odessa. The team placed first overall for the second year in a row, competing against teams from Abilene, Lubbock, Odessa, Midland, and San Angelo. Amarillo had a total of 21 points, followed by Odessa, who placed second and Lubbock, who placed third.

There were a total of seven competitions: Truck and Trailer, Backhoe Operation, Backpack Blower, Mower Obstacle Course, Nail Driving, Irrigation Assembly and Plant and Weed Identification. Two members of our team placed first in their events: Bill Williams, Backhoe

Operation and Shelly Beam, Plant and Weed Identification. These employees qualified to go to the state competition to be held in Corpus Christi next March.

Each year the equipment rodeo competition tests the technical skills employees use in their everyday work and is a fun way to keep them striving to further their skills.

Congratulations to the following on their achievements:

- Bill Williams, Backhoe Operation
- Brent Beam and Shelly Beam, Truck and Trailer
- Tony Kellum, Mower Obstacle and Backpack Blower
- Mike Asbill, Nail Driving
- Marc Straubing and James Hanes, Irrigation Assembly
- Shelly Beam, Plant and Weed Identification

We are very proud of these employees for the way they represent the City of Amarillo and for all of their hard work. Congratulations and job well done!



Pictured left to right: Bill Williams, first place, Backhoe Operation; Tony Kellum, backpack blower; Shelly Beam, first place, Plant and Weed Identification.

Amarillo Firefighters Compete in Physical Endurance Events

by David Kouba, Lieutenant - Amarillo Fire Department

Amarillo Fire Department members have been busy this year competing in very physically challenging events. These firefighters have done things that seem almost impossible to the average person. The Fire Department wants to recognize and congratulate them on maintaining high levels of physical fitness and challenging themselves to compete in these events.

Fire Driver Aaron Sawyer finished the Redman Ironman in September in Oklahoma City. The event consisted of a 2.4 mile swim, 112 mile bike ride and a 26.2 mile run (a full marathon). His total time was 11 hrs. 18 min. Sawyer trained 12 hours each week for six months. Sawyer said of the event, "The hardest part of the race was the run."

On Sept. 14, Firefighters Jered Johnson and David Garcia, Fire Driver Aaron Sawyer and Lt. David Kouba competed in the "Tri to Make a Difference" Sprint Triathlon at Lake Tanglewood. A sprint triathlon is 400 meter swim, 10 mile bike ride and 5K run. Sawyer placed 1st in his age group and Kouba placed 3rd in his age group.

On Oct. 19, Fire Capt. Jeff Kimbrell completed the Palo Duro Canyon 50-mile run. Kimbrell finished the race in 10 hours 17 minutes. This event consisted of four 12.5 mile loops through the major trails in Palo Duro Canyon. Of the run, Kimbrell said, "Once

I started that last loop, I knew I would finish the race." He finished in 20th place and was the only area resident to finish the race.

On Oct. 26, a team of Amarillo firefighters finished a Tough Mudder race in the DFW area. Lt. Dee Lagrone and Fire Drivers Andy Metthem, Jimmy Chavez and Derek Bailey finished the Tough Mudder together as a team. Firefighter Chris Shelburne trained with the team and was planning on competing, but was unable to due to a family emergency. Lt. Lagrone said, "I couldn't have finished without my team."

Firefighters David Garcia and Cody Rankin will be competing in the Spartan Beast event in December. The event is a grueling 13-mile obstacle course. This will be Garcia's second time to compete in this event. Rankin will be competing with the elite level athletes in this event. If you see these guys, wish them luck. And if you see any of these endurance event finishers, give them a pat on the back and tell them "good job." These events are difficult, even when you are in great physical and mental shape. The Amarillo Fire Department is proud of all the event participants!



Tough Mudder participants from left: Lt. Dee Lagrone, Fire Drivers Jimmy Chavez, Derek Bailey, and Andy Metthem



Tanglewood Triathlon participants from left: Firefighter Jered Johnson, Fire Driver Aaron Sawyer, Lt David Kouba, Firefighter David Garcia

City's Charter Centennial Gala Draws Huge Crowd

by Melanie Cleveland, Assistant City Secretary

After several months of planning, the City's Centennial Gala, hosted at the Rick Husband Amarillo International Airport, took place Nov. 9. Attendees included Mayor Paul Harpole and several former mayors, as well as current and past city commissioners.

Mayor Harpole addressed the audience with the following words: "We are here tonight to celebrate the work of the Charter Commission who in 1913 was among the first in the state of Texas to adopt the home rule form of government. Fifteen men served on the Charter Commission to chart our community's future form of governance. These men were: John S. McKnight, Chairman, Thos. Currie, Secretary, F.F. Phillips, E.W. Hardin, J.L. Penry, J.M. Russell, R.M. Walker, A.E. Meyer, E.S. Burgess, J.L. Smith, J.D. Bartlett, N.S. Griggs, D.D. Dewing, R.E. Underwood and M.J.R. Jackson.

One hundred years later, we honor their work on a document that essentially serves as the constitution for the City of Amarillo.

Even with the Charter amendments that were passed Tuesday night, Amarillo's Charter remains one of the least amended charters in the state.

One hundred years of working under the guidance of that document is incredible, and it demonstrates the dedication and foresight of those leaders. They, along with that document, have historically positioned Amarillo to be what it is today - a regional hub larger than some states in the northeast.

Today we enjoy a diversified economy which has Amarillo well positioned for the next 100 years.

We're proud that Amarillo has the highest financial rating available. That's not because of the efforts of today or yesterday, but because of



Mayor Paul Harpole speaks to attendees

an historical effort.

Amarillo was one of the first cities in the state of Texas to have a sales tax for economic development and one of the first in the state to have an events venue district.

Amarillo has weathered storms of multiple wars, the Dustbowl and the unfortunate closing of a strategic air command base. Despite that, our community has continually rebounded, staying strong.

For that, we owe a debt of gratitude to our Charter Commission and those who have followed in their footsteps over the last one hundred years."

Thank you to Blair Snow, the Centennial Gala Committee Chairperson, as well as committee members Sherman Bass, Kathleen Collins, Beth Duke, Commissioners Lilia Escajeda and Ellen Robertson Green, Sonja Gross, Pat Rhodes and Kiley Navarrete. Thank you also to Courtney Goodman-Morris for her assistance with the gala.



From left: Chris and Jana Wright, Finance Director Curtis Bainum and his wife Michaelleen, and Sheryl and Brady Phillips.



Courtney Goodman-Morris and her husband Scott; Blair Snow and her husband Chris

Safety Corner: Safety Dos and Don'ts for Work and Home

by Charlie Sanchez, Safety Manager

Have you ever thought of the dos and don'ts at the workplace and at home? New workers, especially those right out of school, have little work experience and need guidance. Compliance even in our more experienced workers has resulted in near misses and incidents. Below are some guidelines to follow at work and home:

- New employees have far more serious on-the-job injuries than experienced employees. Listen carefully to all instructions and training requirements. Be sure to ask questions if you need further clarification.
- If you are assigned to a new job (or told to use a new machine or tool) and you have not been given thorough and complete safety instructions, speak up. You are entitled to receive thorough safety training on that new operation no matter what your background or level of experience might be.
- Watch out for others, especially newer employees who may not be familiar with workplace hazards. An employee taking shortcuts, whether new or experienced, leads to an increased incident rate.
- Inspect tools, machines and equipment before using them. Stop and inspect the device to make sure it is safe to operate. Pay special attention to guards and other safety devices.
- Keep your work area clean. Objects on the floor can create a slip or trip hazard. Don't walk past a slipping or tripping hazard - even if it is not in your area. Pick it up or report it. Also, pick up after yourself throughout the day. Accumulations of trash are invitations for accidents.
- Don't be afraid to ask. If it's heavy, ask for help. If you are not sure how to do something, ask for guidance. There is no such thing as a dumb question.
- Don't rush, it's better late than never. Many accidents occur in the rush to get something done fast. Take your time, follow all work and safety rules and get the job done safely. Walk don't run. No job is so "hot" that you should disregard safety practices.
- Watch where you're walking. We know of accidents that have occurred when employees did not watch where they were walking and walked into raised forklift forks, sharp corners of sheet metal, the ends of metal pallet bands that were recently cut and into the path of a backing forklift truck.



Eddy Taylor, Water Meter Mechanic I, Water Distribution, keeping his work area neat and orderly.

- If you are not on top of your game, do not do anything hazardous. Didn't get enough sleep? Distracted by a troubling event in your life? Feeling a little lightheaded from prescription medications? If you are not mentally and/or physically sharp and at your peak, tell your supervisor and ask to be taken off of any potentially hazardous job.

- Read the operating manual before using any new power tool or machine. These days there's an operating manual for just about everything. If you don't have a hard copy, you can often find one online. Much of the operating manual will be devoted to safely operating the machine. Read and follow the recommended safety procedures you find in the manual.

- Safety loves consistency. Formal safety procedures are usually in place for those

routine production jobs that most of us perform day in and day out. But when something unusual or unexpected happens, these rules are sometimes not enough to protect you. Anytime there is an equipment breakdown, change in procedures or a surprise, please take a moment to reflect on what new hazards exist and how to address them.

- Plan safety into every single job. Before beginning any job, have the right tools on hand and the needed Personal Protective Equipment.
- "Cleanliness is next to ..." Wash your hands before eating. Don't eat in the work areas. If you spill chemicals on your clothing, immediately change the clothing and wash the affected part of the body.
- Don't use an air hose for cleaning your body or clothing. It could blow particles into your eyes, rupture an ear drum or cause an intestinal embolism.
- Never walk up to an employee who is in the process of operating a machine or power tool. You may startle them and that could lead to an accident. Wait until there's a lull in the action before walking up to the employee.
- Practical jokes have no place in the workplace. It's not funny or acceptable to play jokes on people at work. What you think may be a humorous practical joke could end up seriously hurting someone, maybe even you.
- Do follow these guidelines to ensure a safer work environment! And remember: **"TAKE SAFETY HOME."**

PARK IMPROVEMENT NEWS



Oct. 29 - The most recent installation of a prefabricated concrete restroom building installed just south of the Rick Klein Baseball Complex as part of the multi-use sport field expansion. We now have 28 prefabricated concrete restroom buildings in the park system. The building pictured here weighs in excess of 80,000 lbs.

Promotions/Transfers for October 2013

| Name | OLD Title | Department | NEW Title | Department |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Abdiel Aleman | Transit Dispatcher | Transit | Route Supervisor Assistant | Transit |
| Russell Archer | Building Attendant II | Civic Center | Store Clerk I | Central Stores |
| Brittany Bradfute | Admin Assistant I | Library | Library Assistant I | Library |
| Jody Breasette | Utility Worker, hourly | Street | Utility Worker | Street |
| Brian Brown | Meter Service Rep | Water Distribution | Sewer Foreperson | Wastewater Collection |
| Evaristo Campos | Utility Worker | Wastewater Collection | Utility Maintenance Mechanic | Wastewater Collection |
| Joseph Clements III | Utility Worker, hourly | Solid Waste Collection | Utility Worker | Hollywood Road WWT Plant |
| Gordon Eatley | Officer | Police | Corporal | Police |
| Michael Gallegos | Meter Reader, hourly | Utility Billing | Meter Reader | Utility Billing |
| Janetta Harlow | Admin Assistant IV | Police Civilian Personnel | Administrative Technician | Police Civilian Personnel |
| Aaron Huddleston | Officer | Police | Corporal | Police |
| Silas Inthavongsy | Utility Worker, hourly | Solid Waste Collection | Utility Worker | Solid Waste Collection |
| Joseph Jones | Utility Operator | Wastewater Collection | Sewer Foreperson | Wastewater Collection |
| Kevin McKinley | Utility Worker | Street | Drainage Utility Foreperson | Drainage Utility |
| Terry Mech | Officer | Police | Corporal | Police |
| Jesse Mullins | Utility Worker, hourly | Park Maintenance | Park Technician I | Park Maintenance |
| Luke Nelson | Officer | Police | Corporal | Police |
| Casey Ogden | Officer | Police | Corporal | Police |
| Brittany Patterson | Admin Assistant I | Library | Admin Assistant II | Utility Billing |
| Seth Pearson | Utility Worker, hourly | Surface Water Treatment | Utility Worker | Surface Water Treatment |
| Jeffrey Roden | Officer | Police | Corporal | Police |
| Refugio Rosales | Utility Worker | Street | Treatment Plant Operator | River Road WWT Plant |
| Orlando Sanchez | Utility Worker, hourly | Traffic Field Operations | Utility Worker | Traffic Field Operations |
| Trevor Scherlen | Officer | Police | Corporal | Police |
| Curtis Stone | Transfer Truck Driver, hourly | Solid Waste Disposal | Transfer Truck Driver | Solid Waste Disposal |
| Sheldon West | Officer | Police | Corporal | Police |

Employee Milestones

| NAME | JOB TITLE | DEPARTMENT | YEARS |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------|
| Michael Farmer | Project Representative I | Director of Utilities | 5 |
| John Woodward | Fire Investigator/Inspector II | Fire Civilian Personnel | 5 |
| Stephen Thomas | Assistant Golf Course Superintendent | Ross Rogers Golf Course | 5 |
| Stacey Brown | Utility Worker | Street | 5 |
| Ronny Baldwin | Treatment Plant Operator III | Surface Water Treatment | 5 |
| Shannon Wheat | Library Assistant | Library | 10 |
| Adam Stone | IT Coordinator | IT Infrastructure & Support | 15 |
| Mickie Hastie | Mechanic II | Municipal Garage Operations | 15 |
| Michael Clatworthy | Sergeant | Police | 15 |
| Ricardo Cedillo | Utility Worker | Solid Waste Collection | 15 |
| Carl Martin | Bus Driver | Transit Fixed Route | 15 |
| Michael Brogdon | Asst. Wastewater Treatment Supervisor | River Road Water Reclamation | 20 |
| Gordon Reid | Meter Service Representative | Water Distribution | 20 |
| Shantel Elser | Assistant WIC Director | WIC Administration | 20 |
| Frank Wray | Fire Driver | Fire Operations | 25 |
| Gene Gaston | Solid Waste Service Coordinator | Solid Waste Collection | 30 |



**Congratulations
October Retirees!**

**Jeff Gurney
Airport Police
4 years/ Amarillo
27+ years/TMRS**

**Michael Starks
15 years
Water Production**

Welcome to the COA Team!

| NAME | JOB TITLE | DEPARTMENT |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Vicki Alexander | Admin Assistant V | Transit |
| Desiree Bentley | Custodian I | Aviation |
| Wyshanna Booker | Utility Worker | Street |
| Mark Brantley | Utility Worker | Street |
| Jody Breasette | Utility Worker, hourly | Street |
| Christopher Cipolla | Utility Worker | Drainage Utility |
| Joseph Clements III | Utility Worker | Hollywood Road WWT |
| Sandra Dunn | Utility Maint Mechanic II | Surface Water Treat. |
| Brandy Fernandez | Animal Control Officer | Animal Control |
| Jason Floyd | Asst Golf Course Superintendent | Ross Rogers Golf Course |
| Cassandra Garcia | Admin. Technician, hourly | Accounting |
| LaSha Gibbons | Utility Worker | Drainage Utility |
| Melvin Griego | Bus Driver | Transit |
| Aaron Heyd | Utility Worker | Solid Waste Disposal |
| Silas Inthavongsy | Utility Worker, hourly | Solid Waste Collection |
| Oscar Jiminez-Ortiz | Utility Worker | Drainage Utility |
| Paige Johnson | Custodian I | Facilities |
| Arlise Jones | Bus Driver | Transit |
| Juan Lopez | Bailiff, hourly | Court Security |
| Sarah Martin-Sawyers | Admin Assistant, hourly | AECC |
| Angel Martinez | Res. Equip. Operator, hourly | Solid Waste Collection |
| Andrew Martinez | Utility Worker | Wastewater Collection |
| Randy Melton | Park Technician I | Park Maintenance |
| Travis Morales | Animal Control Officer | Animal Control |
| Nicholas Peacock | Assistant Production Manager | Globe News Center |
| Seth Pearson | Treatment Plant Operator I | Surface Water Treat. |
| Robert Rawls | Inspector, hourly | Building Safety |
| Shandrika Stewart | Utility Worker | Park Maintenance |
| Curtis Stone | Transfer Truck Driver, hourly | Solid Waste Disposal |
| Andrew Tarkington | Athletic Supervisor | Athletic Administration |
| Aty Thongboutsady | Emerg. Comms Specialist, hourly | AECC |
| Nedeljko Urumovic | Utility Worker | Street |
| Sammy Valadez | Utility Worker | Street |
| Jason Welch | Security Operations Agent | Aviation |
| Raul Zamora | Animal Control Officer II | Animal Control |



Thanksgiving holiday
November 28-29

From the Pantry: *Egg and Green Chile Rice Casserole*

by Margaret Payton, MBA, RD



- ¾ cup instant brown rice
- 1¼ cups water
- ½ cup chopped green onion, green and white parts total
- ⅛ teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 can (4 ounces) chopped mild green chiles
- ⅛ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup cholesterol-free egg substitute
- 2 ounces reduced-fat shredded sharp cheddar or Mexican cheese blend
- ¼ cup fresh pico de gallo
- 1 medium lime quartered

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Cook rice according to package directions. Remove from heat, stir in green onions and cumin and spoon into shallow 8-inch square nonstick cake pan coated with cooking spray.
2. Top rice mixture evenly with green chiles and salt. Pour egg substitute evenly over all and bake 30 to 35 minutes or until set.
3. Sprinkle cheese evenly over all. Bake 3 minutes or until cheese melts. Remove from oven and let stand 5 minutes before cutting into 4 squares. Serve with 1 tablespoon pico de gallo and lime wedges.

Makes 4 servings

Tip: If you wish, you can further reduce the amount of sodium in this recipe by rinsing the chiles in a fine-meshed strainer before topping them onto the rice mixture or use frozen diced green chiles.

Dietary Exchanges: 2 Starch, 1 Meat

Nutrients Per Serving: Calories 218, Total Fat 4g, Saturated Fat 2g, Protein 14g, Carbohydrate 33g, Cholesterol 10 mg, Dietary Fiber 2g, Sodium 491mg

We are thankful for everything you do each day to serve the citizens of Amarillo.



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Publication Policy

The ACE employee newsletter is distributed by the City Secretary's office monthly through e-mail, print copies and the City's Intranet site. It is designed to help keep you informed of events and accomplishments throughout the organization you serve. If you have ideas for future stories, features or photo opportunities, or to receive this newsletter electronically, please call or e-mail:

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Items must be received no later than the first of each month to make that month's edition.

All items are subject to space availability and edited for appropriateness.

CITY OF AMARILLO

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Building Bonds ...

(continued from front page)

In 1988, Rod had an offer to play in the Canadian Football League, however, this came at the same time as a job opportunity with the City of Aspen Parks & Recreation Department. After taking a look at his life and his future, considering he had been released twice and came from an "underdog school," he decided to move forward and start his career. He spent the next four years with the City of Aspen where he met more celebrities. He coached singer John Denver's son in football, met Don Johnson and Cher, and spent time with comedian David Brenner.

After his time in Aspen, Rod chose to return to the University of South Dakota to finish his graduate degree. He received his masters in health, physical education and recreation in 1993. Later that year, he was hired by Larry Offerdahl with the City of McKinney, north of Dallas. Larry was later hired by the City of Amarillo ... and Rod joined him in our Parks and Recreation Department in October 2006. Rod worked as Assistant Director in Parks and Recreation until Larry retired. Rod was then promoted to director in October 2012.

Even though Rod's professional football career wasn't as long as he had hoped, he has no regrets. He believes that athletics shapes who you are as a person, helps you learn to win and lose, teaches you a good work ethic, and allows you to learn about yourself through the positive and negative experiences. In short, it prepares you for life. He feels very fortunate to have gotten to play

the game he's loved for so long. Looking back on his football years, he feels that the team camaraderie and bonds that are built working side-by-side ... the excitement of the games ... the cheers of the crowd ... and the adrenaline rush were the best parts of the experience.



A few years after moving to Texas, Rod married Cheryl, now his wife of 18 years. They are parents to daughter Nikke, a junior and JV volleyball player at Amarillo High School; son Logan, a football player on the freshman team at Amarillo High School; and daughter Emily, an 8th grade volleyball player at Crockett Middle School. It is clear to see that the athletic genes remain strong in the family. Of watching his children's sports activities throughout the years, Rod says, "It is much easier to play than to watch your kids going through it. When you play, you are nervous at first, but once the game starts, your nerves subside. When your kids are playing, you're nervous the whole time!"

Through the years, Rod has coached volleyball, flag and tackle football, and youth softball. He thinks of the large Parks and Recreation Department as a team also. Everyone has their job to do and everyone works together to make a successful, cohesive team. That is his goal: That his work team feels that same camaraderie he did playing football as they work side-by-side, building bonds with their teammates.