

Hang Your Hat In History
OZONA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
& VISITOR CENTER PARK

P.O. Box 1135, 505 15th Street, Ozona, TX 76943
325/392-3737, 325/392-3485 Fax, www.ozona.com



CHAMBER DIALOGUE

Volume 12

Number 11

November 2014

Chamber of Commerce recognizes Ed Collett & Son Gun & Machine Shop as our Business of the Month

The Chamber of Commerce would like to recognize Ed Collett & Son Gun & Machine Shop as our business of the month.

It all started with the first gun he built in fifth grade. “Well, my dad was trying to build a gun. So that I wouldn’t be in his way, he had me build my own.”

Will Collett is a 1971 graduate of Ozona High School. “ After high school I played college

basketball for a year for Ranger Junior College. I came home and worked out in the oilfield for awhile. It was then my dad and I had a sit down! I wanted to be jeweler. My dad was a home hobbyist who liked to build guns. He told me if I went to school to build guns, he would give me a gun shop.”

Will completed a two year program at the Colorado School of Trades where he received his certification in professional gunsmithing. “It is one of only two real gunsmith schools in the nation,” said Will. “The program is still offered today, and Gunsmiths are still in demand.”

Continued on page 2-



Owner of Ed Collett & Son Gun & Machine Shop, Will Collett shows off the first gun (top) he built in fifth grade (single shot, bolt action, .22 rifle), and the gun he later built in gunsmith school (single shot bolt action hand gun).

Business of the Month-Continued from page 1-

“My mom bought the building that used to house Small Fashions. Before that it was Paskal Drug Store. It was a two story building and the upstairs was vacant for a long time. I came back to Ozona after trade school, and I taught my dad how to be a gunsmith. We worked out of a shop at the house for two years. I was thinking when I came back from school that I would just walk in and be a gun shop owner! Instead, my dad took me up to the vacant portion of the building my mom had purchased, and said here you go! Before I knew it, I was co-signing on a note for \$3,900. I put the shop together and opened it in 1976 as Will’s Gun Shop. After dad retired, he came over and worked in the shop for me. We decided to give the shop a more traditional name thinking it would bring more customers, and it did. We changed the name to Ed Collett & Son Gun & Machine Shop. Dad supported me in everything I did and worked with me for 20 years.”

Ed Collett & Son Gun & Machine Shop buys, sells and trades guns that are legal. They also buy, sell and trade ammunition for obsolete weapons. Will builds all types of guns. “My favorite is a single shot revolver, and my specialty is “trickin out” the gun with a nice design. I don’t engrave for the public anymore, but I enjoy it.” The shop specializes in custom gun making. “The difference between buying a gun somewhere else and my shop is, if you have a problem with the gun, I can fix it here rather than sending it back to the manufacturer. If I am not voiding your warranty in any way, I’ll fix it. You can also order a gun from out of state and have it delivered to the shop for pick-up”

Also at the shop is a large inventory of knives, swords, helmets, guns and rifles. Theme helmets and accessories from Lord of the Rings, Spartan, Spartacus, weapons from Persia-Sands of Time, axes, hatchets, gift items in the form of lighters or lanterns, big bang cannons, targets for shooting and more. “Anything related to hunting with the exception of clothing,” said Will.

“I was told many years ago that a business like this would not survive in a town with a population of less than 100,000. I would say that fifty percent of my customers are local, most of which bring their guns in for repair. The other fifty percent are from out of town. I have repaired granddad’s gun, his son’s, and now I am seeing the grandkids. I really appreciate the local support and their doing business with me. I would just say, if you can afford it, try and buy local. We’re losing the small mom and pop shops and that personal service.”

The Chamber of Commerce would like to recognize Ed Collett & Son Gun & Machine Shop for their continued effort to provide quality service and for being an asset to the local business community.

Ed Collett & Son Gun & Machine Shop is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. For more information, you can reach Will Collett at 325/226-5188.



Evening on the Town success for second year

The Ozona Chamber of Commerce and local Chamber member businesses teamed up to host an “Evening on the Town”. With overwhelming support and participation by 18 local businesses, the event featured everything you need to get your holiday shopping started.

The “Evening on the Town” was hosted Thursday, November 13th, from 6:30-9:00pm. Many of the businesses had activities, refreshments, sales, or specials to take advantage of during this festive season. Customers were able to pick up a free ticket at each of the participating businesses to earn a chance to win a door prize. The more businesses you visited, the better your chances to win. Whether you needed trinkets, gifts, or were just hungry along the way, there was something for everyone in the family to enjoy, including watching the local square dance club entertain at the town square gazebo!

The event was a success! 330 people came out and shopped.

Photos provided by
The Ozona Stockman



Welcome new members

G & H Oil & Lube

Hector Gonzales

303 Avenue F

Ozona, TX 76943

325/392-3408

325/450-3177

new tires, flats, repairs,
oil changes, washes &
detail, minor mechanical
repairs; brakes, shocks,
water pumps

Bunger Real Estate Company, LLC

G.L. Bunger, Broker

303 11th Street

Ozona, TX 76943

325/392-5666

325/226-2107

Brokerage Real Estate Firm, Real
Estate Sales

House of Flowers

Blanca Martinez

305 Avenue F

Ozona, TX 76943

354/392-3582

325/259-5024

Flowers, plants, home décor

Bryan's Poco Taco

Bryan Valdez/Tola Valdez

515 11th Street

Ozona, TX 76943

325/392-2525

Breakfast & lunch

burritos and tacos

C & C RV Park & Laundromat

Robert B. (Bryan) & Candace Mendez

404 Pecos Street

Ozona, TX 76943

325/226-0003 or 325/226-9098

10 full service hook-ups, including
water, sewer, electricity, basic cable,
internet, on-site public laundromat

Crockett Taxidermy

Lance Criswell

605 Avenue J

Ozona, TX 76943

325/650-2745

Taxidermy services including
exotics. Call for appointment.

Happy Anniversary

The Ozona Chamber of Commerce would like to wish the following members a **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**, and THANK them for their support of the Chamber organization, its programs and services, and your community. We would like to recognize and express our **SINCERE** appreciation to the following members who joined during the month of **NOVEMBER**:

Crockett Automotive-1999

Crockett County Deerfest Association-1999

Stokes Drilling Company-1999

Harrison Interests, LTD-1999

Perner III, Ginger & Paul-1998

VIP Ranch Company-2001

Sutton County Steakhouse-2006

T & C Wholesale-2008

Western Poster Service, Inc.-2008

West Central Wireless-2008

Diamond P Land & Cattle Company, LLC-2013

Gypsy Chix Boutique-2013

Ed Collett & Son Gun & Machine Shop-2013

Mathews Processing & World Class Taxidermy-2013

The General Store-2013



Chamber Board Elects 2015 Slate of Officers and Board of Directors

During the September board meeting, Chamber Chairman Barbie Myers appointed a Nominating Committee to work to fill open Board of Director positions as well as prepare a Slate of 2015 officers. Chamber By-Laws require this committee to be chaired by the Past Chairman and include two board members and two non-board members. The Nominating Committee was chaired by Past Chairman Susie Bishop. Serving on the committee were board members Paige Tambunga and Robert Crain. Also serving on the committee are non-board members Melissa Perner of The Ozona Stockman and Louise Ledoux of the Crockett County Library.

Following Notification of Nominees to the membership, during the November board meeting, Board of Director candidates Susie Bishop of Wool Growers Central Storage and Heather Claburn of Ozona Mercantile were both elected to serve a second term. The board also approved the 2015 Slate of Officers as follows: Paige Tambunga-Attorney at Law, Chairman, Paul Stroope of OTTER, Vice-Chairman, Susie Bishop of Wool Growers Central Storage, Treasurer, and Barbie Myers of DCP Midstream, Past Chairman. The new Slate of Officers and board take office in January of 2015.



From the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and Staff– Happy Thanksgiving

Barbie Myers-Chairman

Paul Stroope– Vice-Chairman

Heather Claburn-Treasurer

Susie Bishop-Past Chairman

Board of Directors: Paige Tambunga, Robert Crain, Deborah Bourne

Staff

Shanon Biggerstaff –Executive Director

Cathy English-Interactive Media Coordinator

Stephanie Castro & Vicki Davis-

Visitor Center/Member Receptionists



Resident wins \$100 for taking the challenge

The Ozona Chamber of Commerce is constantly looking for activities that can be developed that will appeal both to the local resident and the traveler. Residents had the opportunity to earn a chance to enter a drawing to win \$100 by completing a newly developed GPS Puzzle that leads participants to 19 historical markers and sites, and attractions. We would like to congratulate Madison Castro for taking the challenge and completing her puzzle! How well do YOU know Ozona? To learn more about the Games & Activities available go to www.ozona.com/games.



Who walked into the Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center in October?

Visitor Center

- Walk-in traffic into the Visitor Center in October-342 people
- Walk-in traffic into the Visitor Center January through October-3743.
- Where are they from? Texas visitors-1560, Out of State-1296, Local-550, Foreign- 337
- Top five states visiting Ozona in October- AZ, NM, MN, CA, LA
- Top five cities visiting Ozona in October- San Antonio, Houston, San Angelo, Odessa, Midland
- Chamber related inquiries 24%, Tourism related 76%
- Week days in order of the busiest in October-Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Monday, Tuesday, Saturday
- Top Requested Items in October-Maps, directions, restaurants, Crockett County Interpretive Trail, museum, Davy Crockett Monument
- In 2013, October was ranked the third busiest month of the year, in 2014 it comes in eighth!



Advertising

- Year-to-date the Chamber has filled, in response to our advertising, 12,808 requests for information on Ozona. We have handed out and mailed an additional 3776 to those requesting information.

See what the *Chamber of Commerce web site* is doing on page 7!

IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WILL BEGIN THE PROCESS OF UPDATING OUR MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY. THIS SAME INFORMATION IS USED TO UPDATE OUR WEB SITE.

THIS IS A PAINSTAKING PROCESS THAT REQUIRES YOUR ASSISTANCE TO ENSURE ACCURACY.

WE GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR COOPERATION AND PATIENCE, AND WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR SPEEDY RESPONSE!



What is Ozona.com doing for our members and the community?

For the month of October, ozona.com received 4,709 visits. 3,647 new visits, 1,062 returning

Of 4,709 visits, there were 9,992 page views, of these 8,042 were unique (1st time)

4,709 visits from 60 countries, 4,453 visits were from the US

Top 5 States

Texas	3265
California	162
Florida	86
Arizona	70
Louisiana	67

Top 5 Cities

Houston	495
Dallas	382
Austin	263
San Angelo	188
San Antonio	182

Top 20 Content Searches

1	Ozona Homepage	1830	11	Public Services	182
2	Mobile Homepage	977	12	Events Calendar	178
3	Hunting Leases	800	13	Hot Deals	144
4	Interesting Facts	292	14	County Officials	141
5	Restaurants	258	15	Job Postings	135
6	Day Trips	235	16	Membership Directory	122
7	Lodging	234	17	Article Search	117
8	E-Brochure	197	18	Mobile Hunting Leases	112
9	Local Attractions	195	19	Contact Us	109
10	Location	184	20	Oil & Gas Services	102

Chamber Master (Membership Directory Data Base)

893	Business Directory Searches
215	Hot Deal searches
2948	Member page hits

Chamber Facebook Page

745	Total page likes– Average
89	New likes
223,104	Monthly total reach
7,855	People engaged

Top 10 Searched Service Categories:

Hunting	Advertising & Media	Automotive
Oil & Gas	Pets & Veterinary	Healthcare
Family/Community/Civic Organizations		Non-Profit
Arts, Culture, Entertainment	Business & Professional	Finance & Insurance

What Services are sought on our web page

For the month of October, the Chamber Membership Directory located at ozona.com received 2,948 member page hits! **These are people looking for YOUR services. Following are the top twenty members that received more than 20 or more page hits:**

Ozona Body Shop-104	OTTER-101	Ozona Cable & Broadband-82
Devon Energy Corp.-80	Barnhart Shaw's General Repair-74	Super 8 Motel & RV Park-74
Ozona Insurance-64	Ozona Chamber of Commerce-54	Ozona Flour Mill & Goods-54
Knox Floor Covering-47	Pon Seahorn Real Estate-44	Monty's Maintenance-41
Encino RV Park-40	Will M. Black Real Estate-40	Crockett County Water Dept-37
Ozona Mercantile-34	Dollar General-32	Rusty Gold on the Square-31
Jarrett Juno Ranch-28	Crockett County Abstract-27	KYXX 94.3 True Country-27
Wool Growers-27	Texas Energy Service-26	Dairy Queen of Ozona-25
Eldorado Animal Clinic-25	Holiday Inn-25	Circle Bar Truck Corral-24
Close to our Hearts-24	Discovery Natural Resources-24	Family Health Center-24
Triple C Hardware-23	Twistflower Ranch-23	Catherine Paige Tambunga-Attorney-22
Key Energy Services-21	ASU-SBDC-20	

The Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center is the front door to our community. ***So are you taking advantage of your member services?*** Having a sale? Offering a holiday discount? Have old inventory you would like to move? Do you have a new product to introduce? Hiring?

As an added Chamber member benefit, the Chamber Dialogue is an ideal vehicle to gain additional exposure to 180 businesses and individuals. Simply drop off or e-mail your flyer to the Chamber office by the third week of the month. We will mail your flyer along with the newsletter to all Chamber members. Extras will be distributed to visitors to the Chamber office.

You can also post your special "Hot Deal" or event on the Chamber web site, along with job postings. Please note that during the month of October there were 215 Hot Deal searches and 461 actual Hot Deal hits. Every time a Chamber member posts a new Hot Deal, the membership receives an e-mail updating them to all the local specials available.

Have an event or available job you need to promote? Post it on our web site.

Use your Chambermaster login name and password to post updated member information, or contact us at 392-3737 for help.

HELP US to make your member benefits work for YOU!